



Rhode Island Treatment Law Report Card

Last Updated: January 2026

Method and scoring: *State involuntary civil commitment laws* are evaluated using a 100-point grading scale. The scoring criteria are in accordance with TAC's values and policy recommendations. Up to 50 points are awarded to a state based on the quality of its inpatient commitment law, and up to 50 points are awarded based on the quality of its outpatient commitment law. *Grades reflect solely what is written in law and not how those laws are implemented or applied.* Final letter grades are computed using the following scale:

97 or above	A+	87–89	B+	77–79	C+	67–69	D+	59 or below	F
93–96	A	83–86	B	73–76	C	63–66	D		
90–92	A-	80–82	B-	70–72	C-	60–62	D-		

PART ONE: Inpatient Commitment Statute (up to 50 points)			
Criterion	Citation	Specifications	Points
1. Citizen access to court, emergency evaluation (5 pts)	R.I. Gen. Laws § 40.1-5-7(a)	☐ Authorizes family/enumerated adults (3 pts) ☐ Authorizes any responsible adult (2 pts)	0
2. Quality of emergency petition process (5 pts)	R.I. Gen. Laws § 40.1-5-7	☒ Process specified and reasonable (2 pts) ☒ Timelines specified and reasonable (2 pts) ☒ Responsible entities identified (1 pt) ☐ Requires certification by more than one professional (-2 pts) ☐ Emergency evaluation criteria inconsistent with inpatient commitment criteria (-5 pts)	5
3. Emergency hold duration (5 pts)	R.I. Gen. Laws § 40.1-5-7(f)	☒ At least 48-hour hold allowed (3 pts) ☒ At least 72-hour hold allowed (2 pts) Maximum of 10 days without court order	5
4. Citizen access to court, inpatient petition (5 pts)	R.I. Gen. Laws § 40.1-5-8(a)	☒ Authorizes family/enumerated adults (3 pts) ☐ Authorizes any responsible adult (2 pts)	3
5. Quality of criteria for harm or violence to self or others (up to 10 pts)	R.I. Gen. Laws § 40.1-5-2(8)	☒ Contains explicit criteria (10 pts) ☐ Language is vague/ambiguous (-3 pts) ☐ Harm must be imminent (-3 pts)	10
6. Quality of criteria for grave disability/basic needs (up to 10 pts)	R.I. Gen. Laws § 40.1-5-2(8)(iii)	☒ Contains explicit criteria (10 pts) ☒ Language is vague/ambiguous (-3 pts) ☒ Endangerment must be imminent (-3 pts) ☐ Criteria require family to turn person out of home to receive treatment (-3 pts) (See comment 1 below)	4
7. Quality of criteria for psychiatric deterioration (up to 10 pts)		☐ Contains explicit criteria (up to 10 pts) ☐ Language is vague/ambiguous (-3 pts)	0
SUBTOTAL			27
PART ONE: Extra Credit			
1. Specifies court to petition for inpatient commitment (1 pt)	R.I. Gen. Laws § 40.1-5-8	District court	1
PART ONE TOTAL			28

PART TWO: Outpatient Commitment Statute (up to 50 points)			
Criterion	Citation	Specifications	Points
1. AOT explicitly authorized (5 pts)	R.I. Gen. Laws § 40.1-5-2(2)	☐ Requires local government to adopt (-3 pts) Referred to as "alternative to admission or certification"	5

2. Citizen access to court for AOT (5 pts)	R.I. Gen. Laws § 40.1-5-8	☒ Authorizes family/enumerated adults (3 pts) ☐ Authorizes any responsible adult (2 pts) ☐ Authorizes citizen petition to mental health system only (-2 pts)	3
3. Criteria sufficiently broad to provide actual access (up to 10 pts)	R.I. Gen. Laws § 40.1-5-8	Evaluate applicable provision only: ☒ If inpatient/outpatient criteria are the same: ☐ Inpatient criteria include psychiatric deterioration standard (10 pts) <u>or</u> ☒ No psychiatric deterioration standard, adequate grave disability standard (5 pts) (<i>See comment 2 below</i>) <u>or</u> ☐ If outpatient criteria distinct from inpatient: ☐ Allows consideration of length of treatment history ≥ 36 months (2 pts) ☐ Does not exclude periods of incarceration or hospitalization (-1 pt) ☐ Does not limit application to individuals who are currently dangerous or unstable (4 pts) ☐ Does not limit application to patients who are refusing service or currently lacking insight (4 pts)	5
4. Authorizes AOT directly from community (5 pts)	R.I. Gen. Laws § 40.1-5-8		5
5. Procedures sufficiently detailed to guide practitioners (up to 5 pts)	R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 40.1-5-8, 40.1-5-11	☐ Process specified and reasonable (1 pt) ☐ Timelines specified and reasonable (1 pt) ☐ Responsible entities identified (1 pt) ☐ Periodic reporting to court required (1 pt) ☐ Renewal process expressly specified (1 pt)	1
6. Procedures require the treatment plan to be shared with the court (5 pts)			0
7. Specifies procedures and for nonadherence (5 pts)			0
8. Duration of initial order	R.I. Gen. Laws § 40.1-5-8(j)	☐ = 90 days (2 pts) <u>or</u> ☒ > 90 days (5 pts) Up to 6 months	5
9. Duration of continued order	R.I. Gen. Laws § 40.1-5-11(c)	☒ = 180 days (2 pts) <u>or</u> ☐ > 180 days (5 pts) Up to 6 months	5
SUBTOTAL			29
PART TWO: Extra Credit			
1. Specifies in which court a petition for outpatient commitment shall be filed (1 pt)	R.I. Gen. Laws § 40.1-5-8	District court	1
2. Court monitoring of voluntary settlement agreements (5 pts)			
Extra Credit			1
PART TWO TOTAL			30

FINAL SCORE	
PART ONE TOTAL	28
PART TWO TOTAL	30
TOTAL	58
TREATMENT LAW GRADE	F

Comments:

1. R.I. Gen. Laws § 40.1-5-2(8)(iii) includes grave disability criteria but lacks specificity regarding the behaviors that constitute such disability. This limitation is partially mitigated by the statute's definition of "psychiatric disability," which references failure to care for personal needs and is incorporated into the treatment criteria.
2. Grave disability language requires "present" danger, making it challenging to impose AOT upon hospital discharge when individual is presumably ready for release.