

1 AN ACT relating to court-ordered mental health treatment.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 202A.0811 is amended to read as follows:

- 4 (1) Proceedings for court-ordered assisted outpatient treatment of a person shall be  
5 initiated by the filing of a verified petition for that purpose in District Court.
- 6 (2) The petition and all subsequent court documents shall be entitled: "In the interest of  
7 (name of respondent)."
- 8 (3) The petition shall be filed by a qualified mental health professional; peace officer;  
9 county attorney; Commonwealth's attorney; spouse, relative, friend, or guardian of  
10 the person concerning whom the petition is filed; or any other interested person.
- 11 (4) The petition shall set forth:
- 12 (a) Petitioner's relationship to the respondent;
- 13 (b) Respondent's name, residence, and current location, if known;
- 14 (c) Petitioner's belief, including the factual basis therefor, that the respondent  
15 meets the criteria for court-ordered assisted outpatient treatment as set forth in  
16 KRS 202A.0817; and
- 17 (d) Whether, within five (5) days prior to the filing of the petition, the respondent  
18 has been evaluated~~examined~~ by a qualified mental health professional to  
19 determine whether the respondent meets the criteria for court-ordered assisted  
20 outpatient treatment pursuant to KRS 202A.0815.
- 21 (5) Upon receipt of the petition, the court shall examine the petitioner under oath as to  
22 the contents of the petition. If the petitioner is a qualified mental health  
23 professional, the court may dispense with the examination.
- 24 (6) If, after reviewing the allegations contained in the petition and examining the  
25 petitioner under oath, it appears to the court that there is probable cause to believe  
26 the respondent should be court-ordered to assisted outpatient treatment, the court  
27 shall:

- 1 (a) Order the respondent to be evaluated~~[examined]~~ without unnecessary delay by  
 2 a qualified mental health professional to determine whether the respondent  
 3 meets the criteria for court-ordered assisted outpatient treatment set forth in  
 4 KRS 202A.0815, unless the court has already received the certified findings of  
 5 such an evaluation~~[examination]~~ conducted no earlier than five (5) days prior  
 6 to the filing of the petition. The qualified mental health professional shall  
 7 certify his or her findings to the court within seventy-two (72) hours from  
 8 receipt of the order, excluding weekends and holidays; and
- 9 (b) Set a date for a hearing within six (6) days from the date of the filing of the  
 10 petition~~[examination]~~ under the provisions of this section, excluding  
 11 weekends and holidays, to determine if the respondent should be court-  
 12 ordered to assisted outpatient treatment.
- 13 (7) If the court finds there is no probable cause to believe the respondent should be  
 14 court-ordered to assisted outpatient treatment, the proceedings against the  
 15 respondent shall be dismissed.

16 ➔Section 2. KRS 202A.0815 is amended to read as follows:

17 No person shall be court-ordered to assisted outpatient mental health treatment unless the  
 18 person:

- 19 (1) ~~[Has been involuntarily hospitalized pursuant to KRS 202A.051 at least two (2)~~  
 20 ~~times in the past twenty-four (24) months;~~
- 21 ~~(2)~~—]Is diagnosed with a serious mental illness;
- 22 (2)(3) *Has a history of repeated nonadherence with mental health treatment,*  
 23 *which has:*
- 24 (a) *At least twice within the last forty-eight (48) months, been a significant*  
 25 *factor in necessitating hospitalization or arrest of the person; or*
- 26 (b) *Within the last twenty-four (24) months, resulted in an act, threat, or*  
 27 *attempt at serious physical injury to self or others;*

- 1 **(3)** Is unlikely to adequately adhere to outpatient treatment on a voluntary basis based  
2 on a qualified mental health professional's:
- 3 (a) Clinical observation; ***and***
- 4 (b) ~~[Review of treatment history, including the person's prior history of repeated~~  
5 ~~treatment nonadherence; and~~
- 6 (c) ~~]~~Identification of specific characteristics of the person's clinical condition ***that***  
7 ***significantly impair the person's ability to make and maintain a rational***  
8 ***and informed decision as to whether to engage in outpatient treatment***  
9 ***voluntarily***~~[ described as anosognosia, or failure to recognize his or her~~  
10 ~~diagnosis of serious mental illness]; and~~
- 11 (4) Is in need of court-ordered assisted outpatient treatment as the least restrictive  
12 alternative mode of treatment presently available and appropriate.