

**CIVIL COMMITMENT AMENDMENTS**

2012 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Bradley M. Daw**

Senate Sponsor: Margaret Dayton

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill amends Title 62A, Chapter 15, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Act, by including harmful sexual conduct as grounds for a civil commitment.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ defines the term "harmful sexual conduct";
- ▶ amends the definition of "substantial danger";
- ▶ amends the process for civil commitment; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**62A-15-602**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2003, Chapters 22 and 303

**62A-15-631**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2011, Chapter 366

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **62A-15-602** is amended to read:

**62A-15-602. Definitions.**

As used in this part, Part 7, Commitment of Persons Under Age 18 to Division of

30 Substance Abuse and Mental Health, Part 8, Interstate Compact on Mental Health, Part 9, Utah  
31 Forensic Mental Health Facility, and Part 10, Declaration for Mental Health Treatment:

32 (1) "Adult" means a person 18 years of age or older.

33 (2) "Commitment to the custody of a local mental health authority" means that an adult  
34 is committed to the custody of the local mental health authority that governs the mental health  
35 catchment area in which the proposed patient resides or is found.

36 (3) "Designated examiner" means a licensed physician familiar with severe mental  
37 illness, preferably a psychiatrist, designated by the division as specially qualified by training or  
38 experience in the diagnosis of mental or related illness or another licensed mental health  
39 professional designated by the division as specially qualified by training and at least five years'  
40 continual experience in the treatment of mental or related illness. At least one designated  
41 examiner in any case shall be a licensed physician. No person who is the applicant, or who  
42 signs the certification, under Section 62A-15-631 may be a designated examiner in the same  
43 case.

44 (4) "Designee" means a physician who has responsibility for medical functions  
45 including admission and discharge, an employee of a local mental health authority, or an  
46 employee of an agency that has contracted with a local mental health authority to provide  
47 mental health services under Section 17-43-304.

48 (5) "Harmful sexual conduct" means any of the following conduct upon an individual  
49 without the individual's consent, or upon an individual who cannot legally consent to the  
50 conduct including under the circumstances described in Subsections 76-5-406(1) through (12):

51 (a) sexual intercourse;

52 (b) penetration, however slight, of the genital or anal opening of the individual;

53 (c) any sexual act involving the genitals or anus of the actor or the individual and the  
54 mouth or anus of either individual, regardless of the gender of either participant; or

55 (d) any sexual act causing substantial emotional injury or bodily pain.

56 [~~5~~] (6) "Institution" means a hospital, or a health facility licensed under the  
57 provisions of Section 26-21-9.

58           ~~[(6)]~~ (7) "Licensed physician" means an individual licensed under the laws of this state  
59 to practice medicine, or a medical officer of the United States government while in this state in  
60 the performance of official duties.

61           ~~[(7)]~~ (8) "Local comprehensive community mental health center" means an agency or  
62 organization that provides treatment and services to residents of a designated geographic area,  
63 operated by or under contract with a local mental health authority, in compliance with state  
64 standards for local comprehensive community mental health centers.

65           (9) "Mental health facility" means the Utah State Hospital or other facility that  
66 provides mental health services under contract with the division, a local mental health  
67 authority, or organization that contracts with a local mental health authority.

68           (10) "Mental health officer" means an individual who is designated by a local mental  
69 health authority as qualified by training and experience in the recognition and identification of  
70 mental illness, to interact with and transport persons to any mental health facility.

71           ~~[(8)]~~ (11) "Mental illness" means a psychiatric disorder as defined by the current  
72 edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders published by the  
73 American Psychiatric Association which substantially impairs a person's mental, emotional,  
74 behavioral, or related functioning.

75           ~~[(11)]~~ (12) "Patient" means an individual under commitment to the custody or to the  
76 treatment services of a local mental health authority.

77           ~~[(12)]~~ (13) "Serious bodily injury" means bodily injury which involves a substantial  
78 risk of death, unconsciousness, extreme physical pain, protracted and obvious disfigurement, or  
79 protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty.

80           ~~[(13)]~~ (14) "Substantial danger" means the person, by his or her behavior, due to  
81 mental illness:

82           (a) is at serious risk to:

83           (i) commit suicide[;];

84           (ii) inflict serious bodily injury on himself or herself; or

85           (iii) because of his or her actions or inaction, suffer serious bodily injury because he or

86 she is incapable of providing the basic necessities of life, such as food, clothing, and shelter; or  
 87 (b) is at serious risk to cause or attempt to cause serious bodily injury[~~;~~or] or engage in  
 88 harmful sexual conduct.

89 [~~(c) has inflicted or attempted to inflict serious bodily injury on another.~~]

90 [(14)] (15) "Treatment" means psychotherapy, medication, including the administration  
 91 of psychotropic medication, and other medical treatments that are generally accepted medical  
 92 and psychosocial interventions for the purpose of restoring the patient to an optimal level of  
 93 functioning in the least restrictive environment.

94 Section 2. Section **62A-15-631** is amended to read:

95 **62A-15-631. Involuntary commitment under court order -- Examination --**  
 96 **Hearing -- Power of court -- Findings required -- Costs.**

97 (1) Proceedings for involuntary commitment of an individual who is 18 years of age or  
 98 older may be commenced by filing a written application with the district court of the county in  
 99 which the proposed patient resides or is found, by a responsible person who has reason to know  
 100 of the condition or circumstances of the proposed patient which lead to the belief that the  
 101 individual has a mental illness and should be involuntarily committed. That application shall  
 102 be accompanied by:

103 (a) a certificate of a licensed physician or a designated examiner stating that within a  
 104 seven-day period immediately preceding the certification the physician or designated examiner  
 105 has examined the individual, and that the physician or designated examiner is of the opinion  
 106 that the individual is mentally ill and should be involuntarily committed; or

107 (b) a written statement by the applicant that:

108 (i) the individual has been requested to, but has refused to, submit to an examination of  
 109 mental condition by a licensed physician or designated examiner;

110 (ii) is sworn to under oath; and

111 (iii) states the facts upon which the application is based.

112 (2) Before issuing a judicial order, the court may require the applicant to consult with  
 113 the appropriate local mental health authority, or may direct a mental health professional from

114 that local mental health authority to interview the applicant and the proposed patient to  
115 determine the existing facts and report them to the court.

116 (3) If the court finds from the application, from any other statements under oath, or  
117 from any reports from a mental health professional that there is a reasonable basis to believe  
118 that the proposed patient has a mental illness which poses a substantial danger, as defined in  
119 Section 62A-15-602, to self[;] or others[~~, or property~~] requiring involuntary commitment  
120 pending examination and hearing; or, if the proposed patient has refused to submit to an  
121 interview with a mental health professional as directed by the court or to go to a treatment  
122 facility voluntarily, the court may issue an order, directed to a mental health officer or peace  
123 officer, to immediately place the proposed patient in the custody of a local mental health  
124 authority or in a temporary emergency facility as provided in Section 62A-15-634 to be  
125 detained for the purpose of examination. Within 24 hours of the issuance of the order for  
126 examination, a local mental health authority or its designee shall report to the court, orally or in  
127 writing, whether the patient is, in the opinion of the examiners, mentally ill, whether the patient  
128 has agreed to become a voluntary patient under Section 62A-15-625, and whether treatment  
129 programs are available and acceptable without court proceedings. Based on that information,  
130 the court may, without taking any further action, terminate the proceedings and dismiss the  
131 application. In any event, if the examiner reports orally, the examiner shall immediately send  
132 the report in writing to the clerk of the court.

133 (4) Notice of commencement of proceedings for involuntary commitment, setting forth  
134 the allegations of the application and any reported facts, together with a copy of any official  
135 order of detention, shall be provided by the court to a proposed patient before, or upon,  
136 placement in the custody of a local mental health authority or, with respect to any individual  
137 presently in the custody of a local mental health authority whose status is being changed from  
138 voluntary to involuntary, upon the filing of an application for that purpose with the court. A  
139 copy of that order of detention shall be maintained at the place of detention.

140 (5) Notice of commencement of those proceedings shall be provided by the court as  
141 soon as practicable to the applicant, any legal guardian, any immediate adult family members,

142 legal counsel for the parties involved, and any other persons whom the proposed patient or the  
143 court shall designate. That notice shall advise those persons that a hearing may be held within  
144 the time provided by law. If the patient has refused to permit release of information necessary  
145 for provisions of notice under this subsection, the extent of notice shall be determined by the  
146 court.

147 (6) Proceedings for commitment of an individual under the age of 18 years to the  
148 division may be commenced by filing a written application with the juvenile court in  
149 accordance with the provisions of Part 7, Commitment of Persons Under Age 18 to Division of  
150 Substance Abuse and Mental Health.

151 (7) The district court may, in its discretion, transfer the case to any other district court  
152 within this state, provided that the transfer will not be adverse to the interest of the proposed  
153 patient.

154 (8) (a) Within 24 hours, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, of the  
155 issuance of a judicial order, or after commitment of a proposed patient to a local mental health  
156 authority under court order for detention or examination, the court shall appoint two designated  
157 examiners to examine the proposed patient. If requested by the proposed patient's counsel, the  
158 court shall appoint, as one of the examiners, a reasonably available qualified person designated  
159 by counsel. The examinations, to be conducted separately, shall be held at the home of the  
160 proposed patient, a hospital or other medical facility, or at any other suitable place that is not  
161 likely to have a harmful effect on the patient's health.

162 (b) The examiner shall inform the patient if not represented by an attorney that, if  
163 desired, the patient does not have to say anything, the nature and reasons for the examination,  
164 that it was ordered by the court, that any information volunteered could form part of the basis  
165 for his or her involuntary commitment, and that findings resulting from the examination will be  
166 made available to the court.

167 (c) A time shall be set for a hearing to be held within 10 calendar days of the  
168 appointment of the designated examiners, unless those examiners or a local mental health  
169 authority or its designee informs the court prior to that hearing date that the patient is not

170 mentally ill, that the patient has agreed to become a voluntary patient under Section  
171 62A-15-625, or that treatment programs are available and acceptable without court  
172 proceedings, in which event the court may, without taking any further action, terminate the  
173 proceedings and dismiss the application.

174 (9) (a) Before the hearing, an opportunity to be represented by counsel shall be  
175 afforded to every proposed patient, and if neither the patient nor others provide counsel, the  
176 court shall appoint counsel and allow counsel sufficient time to consult with the patient before  
177 the hearing. In the case of an indigent patient, the payment of reasonable attorney fees for  
178 counsel, as determined by the court, shall be made by the county in which the patient resides or  
179 was found.

180 (b) The proposed patient, the applicant, and all other persons to whom notice is  
181 required to be given shall be afforded an opportunity to appear at the hearing, to testify, and to  
182 present and cross-examine witnesses. The court may, in its discretion, receive the testimony of  
183 any other person. The court may allow a waiver of the patient's right to appear only for good  
184 cause shown, and that cause shall be made a matter of court record.

185 (c) The court is authorized to exclude all persons not necessary for the conduct of the  
186 proceedings and may, upon motion of counsel, require the testimony of each examiner to be  
187 given out of the presence of any other examiners.

188 (d) The hearing shall be conducted in as informal a manner as may be consistent with  
189 orderly procedure, and in a physical setting that is not likely to have a harmful effect on the  
190 mental health of the proposed patient.

191 (e) The court shall consider all relevant historical and material information which is  
192 offered, subject to the rules of evidence, including reliable hearsay under Rule 1102, Utah  
193 Rules of Evidence.

194 (f) (i) A local mental health authority or its designee, or the physician in charge of the  
195 patient's care shall, at the time of the hearing, provide the court with the following information:

196 (A) the detention order;

197 (B) admission notes;

- 198 (C) the diagnosis;
- 199 (D) any doctors' orders;
- 200 (E) progress notes;
- 201 (F) nursing notes; and
- 202 (G) medication records pertaining to the current commitment.

203 (ii) That information shall also be supplied to the patient's counsel at the time of the  
204 hearing, and at any time prior to the hearing upon request.

205 (10) The court shall order commitment of an individual who is 18 years of age or older  
206 to a local mental health authority if, upon completion of the hearing and consideration of the  
207 information presented in accordance with Subsection (9)(e), the court finds by clear and  
208 convincing evidence that:

- 209 (a) the proposed patient has a mental illness;
- 210 (b) because of the proposed patient's mental illness the proposed patient poses a  
211 substantial danger, as defined in Section 62A-15-602, ~~[of physical injury]~~ to self or others,  
212 which may include the inability to provide the basic necessities of life such as food, clothing,  
213 and shelter, if allowed to remain at liberty;
- 214 (c) the patient lacks the ability to engage in a rational decision-making process  
215 regarding the acceptance of mental treatment as demonstrated by evidence of inability to weigh  
216 the possible risks of accepting or rejecting treatment;
- 217 (d) there is no appropriate less-restrictive alternative to a court order of commitment;
- 218 and
- 219 (e) the local mental health authority can provide the individual with treatment that is  
220 adequate and appropriate to the individual's conditions and needs. In the absence of the  
221 required findings of the court after the hearing, the court shall forthwith dismiss the  
222 proceedings.

223 (11) (a) The order of commitment shall designate the period for which the individual  
224 shall be treated. When the individual is not under an order of commitment at the time of the  
225 hearing, that period may not exceed six months without benefit of a review hearing. Upon



226 such a review hearing, to be commenced prior to the expiration of the previous order, an order  
227 for commitment may be for an indeterminate period, if the court finds by clear and convincing  
228 evidence that the required conditions in Subsection (10) will last for an indeterminate period.

229 (b) The court shall maintain a current list of all patients under its order of commitment.  
230 That list shall be reviewed to determine those patients who have been under an order of  
231 commitment for the designated period. At least two weeks prior to the expiration of the  
232 designated period of any order of commitment still in effect, the court that entered the original  
233 order shall inform the appropriate local mental health authority or its designee. The local  
234 mental health authority or its designee shall immediately reexamine the reasons upon which the  
235 order of commitment was based. If the local mental health authority or its designee determines  
236 that the conditions justifying that commitment no longer exist, it shall discharge the patient  
237 from involuntary commitment and immediately report that to the court. Otherwise, the court  
238 shall immediately appoint two designated examiners and proceed under Subsections (8)  
239 through (10).

240 (c) The local mental health authority or its designee responsible for the care of a patient  
241 under an order of commitment for an indeterminate period, shall at six-month intervals  
242 reexamine the reasons upon which the order of indeterminate commitment was based. If the  
243 local mental health authority or its designee determines that the conditions justifying that  
244 commitment no longer exist, that local mental health authority or its designee shall discharge  
245 the patient from its custody and immediately report the discharge to the court. If the local  
246 mental health authority or its designee determines that the conditions justifying that  
247 commitment continue to exist, the local mental health authority or its designee shall send a  
248 written report of those findings to the court. The patient and his counsel of record shall be  
249 notified in writing that the involuntary commitment will be continued, the reasons for that  
250 decision, and that the patient has the right to a review hearing by making a request to the court.  
251 Upon receiving the request, the court shall immediately appoint two designated examiners and  
252 proceed under Subsections (8) through (10).

253 (12) In the event that the designated examiners are unable, because a proposed patient

254 refuses to submit to an examination, to complete that examination on the first attempt, the  
255 court shall fix a reasonable compensation to be paid to those designated examiners for their  
256 services.

257           (13) Any person committed as a result of an original hearing or a person's legally  
258 designated representative who is aggrieved by the findings, conclusions, and order of the court  
259 entered in the original hearing has the right to a new hearing upon a petition filed with the court  
260 within 30 days of the entry of the court order. The petition must allege error or mistake in the  
261 findings, in which case the court shall appoint three impartial designated examiners previously  
262 unrelated to the case to conduct an additional examination of the patient. The new hearing  
263 shall, in all other respects, be conducted in the manner otherwise permitted.

264           (14) Costs of all proceedings under this section shall be paid by the county in which the  
265 proposed patient resides or is found.