
HOUSE BILL 1678

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Irwin and Jinkins

1 AN ACT Relating to allowing involuntary treatment act evaluations
2 by video; amending RCW 71.05.150, 71.05.150, 71.05.153, and
3 71.05.153; reenacting and amending RCW 71.05.020; providing an
4 effective date; and providing an expiration date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 71.05.020 and 2018 c 305 s 1, 2018 c 291 s 1, and
7 2018 c 201 s 3001 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

8 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
9 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

10 (1) "Admission" or "admit" means a decision by a physician,
11 physician assistant, or psychiatric advanced registered nurse
12 practitioner that a person should be examined or treated as a patient
13 in a hospital;

14 (2) "Alcoholism" means a disease, characterized by a dependency
15 on alcoholic beverages, loss of control over the amount and
16 circumstances of use, symptoms of tolerance, physiological or
17 psychological withdrawal, or both, if use is reduced or discontinued,
18 and impairment of health or disruption of social or economic
19 functioning;

20 (3) "Antipsychotic medications" means that class of drugs
21 primarily used to treat serious manifestations of mental illness

1 associated with thought disorders, which includes, but is not limited
2 to atypical antipsychotic medications;

3 (4) "Approved substance use disorder treatment program" means a
4 program for persons with a substance use disorder provided by a
5 treatment program certified by the department as meeting standards
6 adopted under chapter 71.24 RCW;

7 (5) "Attending staff" means any person on the staff of a public
8 or private agency having responsibility for the care and treatment of
9 a patient;

10 (6) "Authority" means the Washington state health care authority;

11 (7) "Chemical dependency" means:

12 (a) Alcoholism;

13 (b) Drug addiction; or

14 (c) Dependence on alcohol and one or more psychoactive chemicals,
15 as the context requires;

16 (8) "Chemical dependency professional" means a person certified
17 as a chemical dependency professional by the department under chapter
18 18.205 RCW;

19 (9) "Commitment" means the determination by a court that a person
20 should be detained for a period of either evaluation or treatment, or
21 both, in an inpatient or a less restrictive setting;

22 (10) "Conditional release" means a revocable modification of a
23 commitment, which may be revoked upon violation of any of its terms;

24 (11) "Crisis stabilization unit" means a short-term facility or a
25 portion of a facility licensed or certified by the department under
26 RCW 71.24.035, such as an evaluation and treatment facility or a
27 hospital, which has been designed to assess, diagnose, and treat
28 individuals experiencing an acute crisis without the use of long-term
29 hospitalization;

30 (12) "Custody" means involuntary detention under the provisions
31 of this chapter or chapter 10.77 RCW, uninterrupted by any period of
32 unconditional release from commitment from a facility providing
33 involuntary care and treatment;

34 (13) "Department" means the department of health;

35 (14) "Designated crisis responder" means a mental health
36 professional appointed by the county, an entity appointed by the
37 county, or the behavioral health organization to perform the duties
38 specified in this chapter;

39 (15) "Detention" or "detain" means the lawful confinement of a
40 person, under the provisions of this chapter;

1 (16) "Developmental disabilities professional" means a person who
2 has specialized training and three years of experience in directly
3 treating or working with persons with developmental disabilities and
4 is a psychiatrist, physician assistant working with a supervising
5 psychiatrist, psychologist, psychiatric advanced registered nurse
6 practitioner, or social worker, and such other developmental
7 disabilities professionals as may be defined by rules adopted by the
8 secretary of the department of social and health services;

9 (17) "Developmental disability" means that condition defined in
10 RCW 71A.10.020(5);

11 (18) "Director" means the director of the authority;

12 (19) "Discharge" means the termination of hospital medical
13 authority. The commitment may remain in place, be terminated, or be
14 amended by court order;

15 (20) "Drug addiction" means a disease, characterized by a
16 dependency on psychoactive chemicals, loss of control over the amount
17 and circumstances of use, symptoms of tolerance, physiological or
18 psychological withdrawal, or both, if use is reduced or discontinued,
19 and impairment of health or disruption of social or economic
20 functioning;

21 (21) "Evaluation and treatment facility" means any facility which
22 can provide directly, or by direct arrangement with other public or
23 private agencies, emergency evaluation and treatment, outpatient
24 care, and timely and appropriate inpatient care to persons suffering
25 from a mental disorder, and which is licensed or certified as such by
26 the department. The authority may certify single beds as temporary
27 evaluation and treatment beds under RCW 71.05.745. A physically
28 separate and separately operated portion of a state hospital may be
29 designated as an evaluation and treatment facility. A facility which
30 is part of, or operated by, the department of social and health
31 services or any federal agency will not require certification. No
32 correctional institution or facility, or jail, shall be an evaluation
33 and treatment facility within the meaning of this chapter;

34 (22) "Gravely disabled" means a condition in which a person, as a
35 result of a mental disorder, or as a result of the use of alcohol or
36 other psychoactive chemicals: (a) Is in danger of serious physical
37 harm resulting from a failure to provide for his or her essential
38 human needs of health or safety; or (b) manifests severe
39 deterioration in routine functioning evidenced by repeated and
40 escalating loss of cognitive or volitional control over his or her

1 actions and is not receiving such care as is essential for his or her
2 health or safety;

3 (23) "Habilitative services" means those services provided by
4 program personnel to assist persons in acquiring and maintaining life
5 skills and in raising their levels of physical, mental, social, and
6 vocational functioning. Habilitative services include education,
7 training for employment, and therapy. The habilitative process shall
8 be undertaken with recognition of the risk to the public safety
9 presented by the person being assisted as manifested by prior charged
10 criminal conduct;

11 (24) "Hearing" means any proceeding conducted in open court. For
12 purposes of this chapter, at any hearing the petitioner, the
13 respondent, the witnesses, and the presiding judicial officer may be
14 present and participate either in person or by video, as determined
15 by the court. The term "video" as used herein shall include any
16 functional equivalent. At any hearing conducted by video, the
17 technology used must permit the judicial officer, counsel, all
18 parties, and the witnesses to be able to see, hear, and speak, when
19 authorized, during the hearing; to allow attorneys to use exhibits or
20 other materials during the hearing; and to allow respondent's counsel
21 to be in the same location as the respondent unless otherwise
22 requested by the respondent or the respondent's counsel. Witnesses in
23 a proceeding may also appear in court through other means, including
24 telephonically, pursuant to the requirements of superior court civil
25 rule 43. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the court, upon its own
26 motion or upon a motion for good cause by any party, may require all
27 parties and witnesses to participate in the hearing in person rather
28 than by video. In ruling on any such motion, the court may allow in-
29 person or video testimony; and the court may consider, among other
30 things, whether the respondent's alleged mental illness affects the
31 respondent's ability to perceive or participate in the proceeding by
32 video;

33 (25) "History of one or more violent acts" refers to the period
34 of time ten years prior to the filing of a petition under this
35 chapter, excluding any time spent, but not any violent acts
36 committed, in a mental health facility, a long-term alcoholism or
37 drug treatment facility, or in confinement as a result of a criminal
38 conviction;

39 (26) "Imminent" means the state or condition of being likely to
40 occur at any moment or near at hand, rather than distant or remote;

1 (27) "Individualized service plan" means a plan prepared by a
2 developmental disabilities professional with other professionals as a
3 team, for a person with developmental disabilities, which shall
4 state:

5 (a) The nature of the person's specific problems, prior charged
6 criminal behavior, and habilitation needs;

7 (b) The conditions and strategies necessary to achieve the
8 purposes of habilitation;

9 (c) The intermediate and long-range goals of the habilitation
10 program, with a projected timetable for the attainment;

11 (d) The rationale for using this plan of habilitation to achieve
12 those intermediate and long-range goals;

13 (e) The staff responsible for carrying out the plan;

14 (f) Where relevant in light of past criminal behavior and due
15 consideration for public safety, the criteria for proposed movement
16 to less-restrictive settings, criteria for proposed eventual
17 discharge or release, and a projected possible date for discharge or
18 release; and

19 (g) The type of residence immediately anticipated for the person
20 and possible future types of residences;

21 (28) "Information related to mental health services" means all
22 information and records compiled, obtained, or maintained in the
23 course of providing services to either voluntary or involuntary
24 recipients of services by a mental health service provider. This may
25 include documents of legal proceedings under this chapter or chapter
26 71.34 or 10.77 RCW, or somatic health care information;

27 (29) "Intoxicated person" means a person whose mental or physical
28 functioning is substantially impaired as a result of the use of
29 alcohol or other psychoactive chemicals;

30 (30) "In need of assisted outpatient behavioral health treatment"
31 means that a person, as a result of a mental disorder or substance
32 use disorder: (a) Has been committed by a court to detention for
33 involuntary behavioral health treatment during the preceding thirty-
34 six months; (b) is unlikely to voluntarily participate in outpatient
35 treatment without an order for less restrictive alternative
36 treatment, based on a history of nonadherence with treatment or in
37 view of the person's current behavior; (c) is likely to benefit from
38 less restrictive alternative treatment; and (d) requires less
39 restrictive alternative treatment to prevent a relapse,
40 decompensation, or deterioration that is likely to result in the

1 person presenting a likelihood of serious harm or the person becoming
2 gravely disabled within a reasonably short period of time;

3 (31) "Judicial commitment" means a commitment by a court pursuant
4 to the provisions of this chapter;

5 (32) "Legal counsel" means attorneys and staff employed by county
6 prosecutor offices or the state attorney general acting in their
7 capacity as legal representatives of public mental health and
8 substance use disorder service providers under RCW 71.05.130;

9 (33) "Less restrictive alternative treatment" means a program of
10 individualized treatment in a less restrictive setting than inpatient
11 treatment that includes the services described in RCW 71.05.585;

12 (34) "Licensed physician" means a person licensed to practice
13 medicine or osteopathic medicine and surgery in the state of
14 Washington;

15 (35) "Likelihood of serious harm" means:

16 (a) A substantial risk that: (i) Physical harm will be inflicted
17 by a person upon his or her own person, as evidenced by threats or
18 attempts to commit suicide or inflict physical harm on oneself; (ii)
19 physical harm will be inflicted by a person upon another, as
20 evidenced by behavior which has caused such harm or which places
21 another person or persons in reasonable fear of sustaining such harm;
22 or (iii) physical harm will be inflicted by a person upon the
23 property of others, as evidenced by behavior which has caused
24 substantial loss or damage to the property of others; or

25 (b) The person has threatened the physical safety of another and
26 has a history of one or more violent acts;

27 (36) "Medical clearance" means a physician or other health care
28 provider has determined that a person is medically stable and ready
29 for referral to the designated crisis responder;

30 (37) "Mental disorder" means any organic, mental, or emotional
31 impairment which has substantial adverse effects on a person's
32 cognitive or volitional functions;

33 (38) "Mental health professional" means a psychiatrist,
34 psychologist, physician assistant working with a supervising
35 psychiatrist, psychiatric advanced registered nurse practitioner,
36 psychiatric nurse, or social worker, and such other mental health
37 professionals as may be defined by rules adopted by the secretary
38 pursuant to the provisions of this chapter;

39 (39) "Mental health service provider" means a public or private
40 agency that provides mental health services to persons with mental

1 disorders or substance use disorders as defined under this section
2 and receives funding from public sources. This includes, but is not
3 limited to, hospitals licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW, evaluation
4 and treatment facilities as defined in this section, community mental
5 health service delivery systems or behavioral health programs as
6 defined in RCW 71.24.025, facilities conducting competency
7 evaluations and restoration under chapter 10.77 RCW, approved
8 substance use disorder treatment programs as defined in this section,
9 secure detoxification facilities as defined in this section, and
10 correctional facilities operated by state and local governments;

11 (40) "Peace officer" means a law enforcement official of a public
12 agency or governmental unit, and includes persons specifically given
13 peace officer powers by any state law, local ordinance, or judicial
14 order of appointment;

15 (41) "Physician assistant" means a person licensed as a physician
16 assistant under chapter 18.57A or 18.71A RCW;

17 (42) "Private agency" means any person, partnership, corporation,
18 or association that is not a public agency, whether or not financed
19 in whole or in part by public funds, which constitutes an evaluation
20 and treatment facility or private institution, or hospital, or
21 approved substance use disorder treatment program, which is conducted
22 for, or includes a department or ward conducted for, the care and
23 treatment of persons with mental illness, substance use disorders, or
24 both mental illness and substance use disorders;

25 (43) "Professional person" means a mental health professional,
26 chemical dependency professional, or designated crisis responder and
27 shall also mean a physician, physician assistant, psychiatric
28 advanced registered nurse practitioner, registered nurse, and such
29 others as may be defined by rules adopted by the secretary pursuant
30 to the provisions of this chapter;

31 (44) "Psychiatric advanced registered nurse practitioner" means a
32 person who is licensed as an advanced registered nurse practitioner
33 pursuant to chapter 18.79 RCW; and who is board certified in advanced
34 practice psychiatric and mental health nursing;

35 (45) "Psychiatrist" means a person having a license as a
36 physician and surgeon in this state who has in addition completed
37 three years of graduate training in psychiatry in a program approved
38 by the American medical association or the American osteopathic
39 association and is certified or eligible to be certified by the
40 American board of psychiatry and neurology;

1 (46) "Psychologist" means a person who has been licensed as a
2 psychologist pursuant to chapter 18.83 RCW;

3 (47) "Public agency" means any evaluation and treatment facility
4 or institution, secure detoxification facility, approved substance
5 use disorder treatment program, or hospital which is conducted for,
6 or includes a department or ward conducted for, the care and
7 treatment of persons with mental illness, substance use disorders, or
8 both mental illness and substance use disorders, if the agency is
9 operated directly by federal, state, county, or municipal government,
10 or a combination of such governments;

11 (48) "Release" means legal termination of the commitment under
12 the provisions of this chapter;

13 (49) "Resource management services" has the meaning given in
14 chapter 71.24 RCW;

15 (50) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of health,
16 or his or her designee;

17 (51) "Secure detoxification facility" means a facility operated
18 by either a public or private agency or by the program of an agency
19 that:

20 (a) Provides for intoxicated persons:

21 (i) Evaluation and assessment, provided by certified chemical
22 dependency professionals;

23 (ii) Acute or subacute detoxification services; and

24 (iii) Discharge assistance provided by certified chemical
25 dependency professionals, including facilitating transitions to
26 appropriate voluntary or involuntary inpatient services or to less
27 restrictive alternatives as appropriate for the individual;

28 (b) Includes security measures sufficient to protect the
29 patients, staff, and community; and

30 (c) Is licensed or certified as such by the department of health;

31 (52) "Serious violent offense" has the same meaning as provided
32 in RCW 9.94A.030;

33 (53) "Social worker" means a person with a master's or further
34 advanced degree from a social work educational program accredited and
35 approved as provided in RCW 18.320.010;

36 (54) "Substance use disorder" means a cluster of cognitive,
37 behavioral, and physiological symptoms indicating that an individual
38 continues using the substance despite significant substance-related
39 problems. The diagnosis of a substance use disorder is based on a

1 pathological pattern of behaviors related to the use of the
2 substances;

3 (55) "Therapeutic court personnel" means the staff of a mental
4 health court or other therapeutic court which has jurisdiction over
5 defendants who are dually diagnosed with mental disorders, including
6 court personnel, probation officers, a court monitor, prosecuting
7 attorney, or defense counsel acting within the scope of therapeutic
8 court duties;

9 (56) "Treatment records" include registration and all other
10 records concerning persons who are receiving or who at any time have
11 received services for mental illness, which are maintained by the
12 department of social and health services, the department, the
13 authority, behavioral health organizations and their staffs, and by
14 treatment facilities. Treatment records include mental health
15 information contained in a medical bill including but not limited to
16 mental health drugs, a mental health diagnosis, provider name, and
17 dates of service stemming from a medical service. Treatment records
18 do not include notes or records maintained for personal use by a
19 person providing treatment services for the department of social and
20 health services, the department, the authority, behavioral health
21 organizations, or a treatment facility if the notes or records are
22 not available to others;

23 (57) "Triage facility" means a short-term facility or a portion
24 of a facility licensed or certified by the department under RCW
25 71.24.035, which is designed as a facility to assess and stabilize an
26 individual or determine the need for involuntary commitment of an
27 individual, and must meet department residential treatment facility
28 standards. A triage facility may be structured as a voluntary or
29 involuntary placement facility;

30 (58) "Video" means the delivery of health care services through
31 the use of interactive audio and video technology, permitting real-
32 time communication between a person and a designated crisis
33 responder, for the purpose of evaluation. "Video" does not include
34 the use of audio-only telephone, facsimile, email, or store and
35 forward technology. "Store and forward technology" means use of an
36 asynchronous transmission of a person's medical information from a
37 mental health service provider to the designated crisis responder
38 which results in medical diagnosis, consultation, or treatment;

1 (59) "Violent act" means behavior that resulted in homicide,
2 attempted suicide, nonfatal injuries, or substantial damage to
3 property.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 71.05.150 and 2018 c 291 s 4 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) When a designated crisis responder receives information
7 alleging that a person, as a result of a mental disorder, substance
8 use disorder, or both presents a likelihood of serious harm or is
9 gravely disabled, or that a person is in need of assisted outpatient
10 behavioral health treatment; the designated crisis responder may,
11 after investigation and evaluation of the specific facts alleged and
12 of the reliability and credibility of any person providing
13 information to initiate detention or involuntary outpatient
14 treatment, if satisfied that the allegations are true and that the
15 person will not voluntarily seek appropriate treatment, file a
16 petition for initial detention under this section or a petition for
17 involuntary outpatient behavioral health treatment under RCW
18 71.05.148. Before filing the petition, the designated crisis
19 responder must personally interview the person, unless the person
20 refuses an interview, and determine whether the person will
21 voluntarily receive appropriate evaluation and treatment at an
22 evaluation and treatment facility, crisis stabilization unit, triage
23 facility, or approved substance use disorder treatment program. The
24 interview performed by the designated crisis responder may be
25 conducted by video provided that a licensed health care professional
26 who can adequately and accurately assist with obtaining any necessary
27 information is available at the time of the interview.

28 (2) (a) An order to detain a person with a mental disorder to a
29 designated evaluation and treatment facility, or to detain a person
30 with a substance use disorder to a secure detoxification facility or
31 approved substance use disorder treatment program, for not more than
32 a seventy-two-hour evaluation and treatment period may be issued by a
33 judge of the superior court upon request of a designated crisis
34 responder, subject to (d) of this subsection, whenever it appears to
35 the satisfaction of a judge of the superior court:

- 36 (i) That there is probable cause to support the petition; and
37 (ii) That the person has refused or failed to accept appropriate
38 evaluation and treatment voluntarily.

1 (b) The petition for initial detention, signed under penalty of
2 perjury, or sworn telephonic testimony may be considered by the court
3 in determining whether there are sufficient grounds for issuing the
4 order.

5 (c) The order shall designate retained counsel or, if counsel is
6 appointed from a list provided by the court, the name, business
7 address, and telephone number of the attorney appointed to represent
8 the person.

9 (d) A court may not issue an order to detain a person to a secure
10 detoxification facility or approved substance use disorder treatment
11 program unless there is an available secure detoxification facility
12 or approved substance use disorder treatment program that has
13 adequate space for the person.

14 (3) The designated crisis responder shall then serve or cause to
15 be served on such person, his or her guardian, and conservator, if
16 any, a copy of the order together with a notice of rights, and a
17 petition for initial detention. After service on such person the
18 designated crisis responder shall file the return of service in court
19 and provide copies of all papers in the court file to the evaluation
20 and treatment facility, secure detoxification facility, or approved
21 substance use disorder treatment program, and the designated
22 attorney. The designated crisis responder shall notify the court and
23 the prosecuting attorney that a probable cause hearing will be held
24 within seventy-two hours of the date and time of outpatient
25 evaluation or admission to the evaluation and treatment facility,
26 secure detoxification facility, or approved substance use disorder
27 treatment program. The person shall be permitted to be accompanied by
28 one or more of his or her relatives, friends, an attorney, a personal
29 physician, or other professional or religious advisor to the place of
30 evaluation. An attorney accompanying the person to the place of
31 evaluation shall be permitted to be present during the admission
32 evaluation. Any other individual accompanying the person may be
33 present during the admission evaluation. The facility may exclude the
34 individual if his or her presence would present a safety risk, delay
35 the proceedings, or otherwise interfere with the evaluation.

36 (4) The designated crisis responder may notify a peace officer to
37 take such person or cause such person to be taken into custody and
38 placed in an evaluation and treatment facility, secure detoxification
39 facility, or approved substance use disorder treatment program. At
40 the time such person is taken into custody there shall commence to be

1 served on such person, his or her guardian, and conservator, if any,
2 a copy of the original order together with a notice of rights and a
3 petition for initial detention.

4 **Sec. 3.** RCW 71.05.150 and 2018 c 291 s 5 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) When a designated crisis responder receives information
7 alleging that a person, as a result of a mental disorder, substance
8 use disorder, or both presents a likelihood of serious harm or is
9 gravely disabled, or that a person is in need of assisted outpatient
10 behavioral health treatment; the designated crisis responder may,
11 after investigation and evaluation of the specific facts alleged and
12 of the reliability and credibility of any person providing
13 information to initiate detention or involuntary outpatient
14 treatment, if satisfied that the allegations are true and that the
15 person will not voluntarily seek appropriate treatment, file a
16 petition for initial detention under this section or a petition for
17 involuntary outpatient behavioral health treatment under RCW
18 71.05.148. Before filing the petition, the designated crisis
19 responder must personally interview the person, unless the person
20 refuses an interview, and determine whether the person will
21 voluntarily receive appropriate evaluation and treatment at an
22 evaluation and treatment facility, crisis stabilization unit, triage
23 facility, or approved substance use disorder treatment program. The
24 interview performed by the designated crisis responder may be
25 conducted by video provided that a licensed health care professional
26 who can adequately and accurately assist with obtaining any necessary
27 information is available at the time of the interview.

28 (2) (a) An order to detain a person with a mental disorder to a
29 designated evaluation and treatment facility, or to detain a person
30 with a substance use disorder to a secure detoxification facility or
31 approved substance use disorder treatment program, for not more than
32 a seventy-two-hour evaluation and treatment period may be issued by a
33 judge of the superior court upon request of a designated crisis
34 responder whenever it appears to the satisfaction of a judge of the
35 superior court:

36 (i) That there is probable cause to support the petition; and
37 (ii) That the person has refused or failed to accept appropriate
38 evaluation and treatment voluntarily.

1 (b) The petition for initial detention, signed under penalty of
2 perjury, or sworn telephonic testimony may be considered by the court
3 in determining whether there are sufficient grounds for issuing the
4 order.

5 (c) The order shall designate retained counsel or, if counsel is
6 appointed from a list provided by the court, the name, business
7 address, and telephone number of the attorney appointed to represent
8 the person.

9 (3) The designated crisis responder shall then serve or cause to
10 be served on such person, his or her guardian, and conservator, if
11 any, a copy of the order together with a notice of rights, and a
12 petition for initial detention. After service on such person the
13 designated crisis responder shall file the return of service in court
14 and provide copies of all papers in the court file to the evaluation
15 and treatment facility, secure detoxification facility, or approved
16 substance use disorder treatment program, and the designated
17 attorney. The designated crisis responder shall notify the court and
18 the prosecuting attorney that a probable cause hearing will be held
19 within seventy-two hours of the date and time of outpatient
20 evaluation or admission to the evaluation and treatment facility,
21 secure detoxification facility, or approved substance use disorder
22 treatment program. The person shall be permitted to be accompanied by
23 one or more of his or her relatives, friends, an attorney, a personal
24 physician, or other professional or religious advisor to the place of
25 evaluation. An attorney accompanying the person to the place of
26 evaluation shall be permitted to be present during the admission
27 evaluation. Any other individual accompanying the person may be
28 present during the admission evaluation. The facility may exclude the
29 individual if his or her presence would present a safety risk, delay
30 the proceedings, or otherwise interfere with the evaluation.

31 (4) The designated crisis responder may notify a peace officer to
32 take such person or cause such person to be taken into custody and
33 placed in an evaluation and treatment facility, secure detoxification
34 facility, or approved substance use disorder treatment program. At
35 the time such person is taken into custody there shall commence to be
36 served on such person, his or her guardian, and conservator, if any,
37 a copy of the original order together with a notice of rights and a
38 petition for initial detention.

1 **Sec. 4.** RCW 71.05.153 and 2016 sp.s. c 29 s 212 are each amended
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) When a designated crisis responder receives information
4 alleging that a person, as the result of a mental disorder, presents
5 an imminent likelihood of serious harm, or is in imminent danger
6 because of being gravely disabled, after investigation and evaluation
7 of the specific facts alleged and of the reliability and credibility
8 of the person or persons providing the information if any, the
9 designated crisis responder may take such person, or cause by oral or
10 written order such person to be taken into emergency custody in an
11 evaluation and treatment facility for not more than seventy-two hours
12 as described in RCW 71.05.180.

13 (2) When a designated crisis responder receives information
14 alleging that a person, as the result of substance use disorder,
15 presents an imminent likelihood of serious harm, or is in imminent
16 danger because of being gravely disabled, after investigation and
17 evaluation of the specific facts alleged and of the reliability and
18 credibility of the person or persons providing the information if
19 any, the designated crisis responder may take the person, or cause by
20 oral or written order the person to be taken, into emergency custody
21 in a secure detoxification facility or approved substance use
22 disorder treatment program for not more than seventy-two hours as
23 described in RCW 71.05.180, if a secure detoxification facility or
24 approved substance use disorder treatment program is available and
25 has adequate space for the person.

26 (3)(a) Subject to (b) of this subsection, a peace officer may
27 take or cause such person to be taken into custody and immediately
28 delivered to a triage facility, crisis stabilization unit, evaluation
29 and treatment facility, secure detoxification facility, approved
30 substance use disorder treatment program, or the emergency department
31 of a local hospital under the following circumstances:

32 (i) Pursuant to subsection (1) or (2) of this section; or

33 (ii) When he or she has reasonable cause to believe that such
34 person is suffering from a mental disorder or substance use disorder
35 and presents an imminent likelihood of serious harm or is in imminent
36 danger because of being gravely disabled.

37 (b) A peace officer's delivery of a person, based on a substance
38 use disorder, to a secure detoxification facility or approved
39 substance use disorder treatment program is subject to the
40 availability of a secure detoxification facility or approved

1 substance use disorder treatment program with adequate space for the
2 person.

3 (4) Persons delivered to a crisis stabilization unit, evaluation
4 and treatment facility, emergency department of a local hospital,
5 triage facility that has elected to operate as an involuntary
6 facility, secure detoxification facility, or approved substance use
7 disorder treatment program by peace officers pursuant to subsection
8 (3) of this section may be held by the facility for a period of up to
9 twelve hours, not counting time periods prior to medical clearance.

10 (5) Within three hours after arrival, not counting time periods
11 prior to medical clearance, the person must be examined by a mental
12 health professional. Within twelve hours of notice of the need for
13 evaluation, not counting time periods prior to medical clearance, the
14 designated crisis responder must determine whether the individual
15 meets detention criteria. The interview performed by the designated
16 crisis responder may be conducted by video provided that a licensed
17 health care professional who can adequately and accurately assist
18 with obtaining any necessary information is available at the time of
19 the interview. If the individual is detained, the designated crisis
20 responder shall file a petition for detention or a supplemental
21 petition as appropriate and commence service on the designated
22 attorney for the detained person. If the individual is released to
23 the community, the mental health service provider shall inform the
24 peace officer of the release within a reasonable period of time after
25 the release if the peace officer has specifically requested
26 notification and provided contact information to the provider.

27 (6) Dismissal of a commitment petition is not the appropriate
28 remedy for a violation of the timeliness requirements of this section
29 based on the intent of this chapter under RCW 71.05.010 except in the
30 few cases where the facility staff or designated mental health
31 professional has totally disregarded the requirements of this
32 section.

33 **Sec. 5.** RCW 71.05.153 and 2016 sp.s. c 29 s 213 are each amended
34 to read as follows:

35 (1) When a designated crisis responder receives information
36 alleging that a person, as the result of a mental disorder, presents
37 an imminent likelihood of serious harm, or is in imminent danger
38 because of being gravely disabled, after investigation and evaluation
39 of the specific facts alleged and of the reliability and credibility

1 of the person or persons providing the information if any, the
2 designated crisis responder may take such person, or cause by oral or
3 written order such person to be taken into emergency custody in an
4 evaluation and treatment facility for not more than seventy-two hours
5 as described in RCW 71.05.180.

6 (2) When a designated crisis responder receives information
7 alleging that a person, as the result of substance use disorder,
8 presents an imminent likelihood of serious harm, or is in imminent
9 danger because of being gravely disabled, after investigation and
10 evaluation of the specific facts alleged and of the reliability and
11 credibility of the person or persons providing the information if
12 any, the designated crisis responder may take the person, or cause by
13 oral or written order the person to be taken, into emergency custody
14 in a secure detoxification facility or approved substance use
15 disorder treatment program for not more than seventy-two hours as
16 described in RCW 71.05.180.

17 (3) A peace officer may take or cause such person to be taken
18 into custody and immediately delivered to a triage facility, crisis
19 stabilization unit, evaluation and treatment facility, secure
20 detoxification facility, approved substance use disorder treatment
21 program, or the emergency department of a local hospital under the
22 following circumstances:

23 (a) Pursuant to subsection (1) or (2) of this section; or

24 (b) When he or she has reasonable cause to believe that such
25 person is suffering from a mental disorder or substance use disorder
26 and presents an imminent likelihood of serious harm or is in imminent
27 danger because of being gravely disabled.

28 (4) Persons delivered to a crisis stabilization unit, evaluation
29 and treatment facility, emergency department of a local hospital,
30 triage facility that has elected to operate as an involuntary
31 facility, secure detoxification facility, or approved substance use
32 disorder treatment program by peace officers pursuant to subsection
33 (3) of this section may be held by the facility for a period of up to
34 twelve hours, not counting time periods prior to medical clearance.

35 (5) Within three hours after arrival, not counting time periods
36 prior to medical clearance, the person must be examined by a mental
37 health professional. Within twelve hours of notice of the need for
38 evaluation, not counting time periods prior to medical clearance, the
39 designated crisis responder must determine whether the individual
40 meets detention criteria. The interview performed by the designated

1 crisis responder may be conducted by video provided that a licensed
2 health care professional who can adequately and accurately assist
3 with obtaining any necessary information is available at the time of
4 the interview. If the individual is detained, the designated crisis
5 responder shall file a petition for detention or a supplemental
6 petition as appropriate and commence service on the designated
7 attorney for the detained person. If the individual is released to
8 the community, the mental health service provider shall inform the
9 peace officer of the release within a reasonable period of time after
10 the release if the peace officer has specifically requested
11 notification and provided contact information to the provider.

12 (6) Dismissal of a commitment petition is not the appropriate
13 remedy for a violation of the timeliness requirements of this section
14 based on the intent of this chapter under RCW 71.05.010 except in the
15 few cases where the facility staff or designated mental health
16 professional has totally disregarded the requirements of this
17 section.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 2 and 4 of this act expire July
19 1, 2026.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 3 and 5 of this act take effect
21 July 1, 2026.

--- END ---