Summary Report

Short-Term Emergency Commitment Laws

Short-term emergency commitment laws establish the process by which a person suffering from a mental illness in crisis, but resisting treatment, receives emergency care by being admitted to a psychiatric facility without their consent. While every state has an emergency commitment law in place, states diverge on the duration of a short-term commitment, who can initiate an emergency commitment, and what kind of oversights are in place to prevent abuse. This report summarizes key findings from the LawAtlas Short-Term Emergency Commitment Laws Map.

Additional maps and tables are available at www.lawatlas.org.



States with a 72-hour emergency commitment duration period

Currently, 22 states have a 72-hour emergency commitment duration period in place.

Jurisdictions: 22 (AK, AR, CA, CO, CT, FL, IN, KY, LA, MA, MN, MS, NJ, NV, NY, OR, TN, VA, VT, WA, WI, WY)



States that allow police officers to initiate an emergency commitment

Currently, 17 states explicitly allow police officers to initiate a short-term emergency commitment.

Jurisdictions: 17 (AL, CT, FL, HI, KS, LA, MA, MO, MT, NV, NY, OH, RI, TN, WA, WI, WY)



States that restrict gun rights because of an emergency commitment

Currently, 23 states restrict a person's ability to possess a firearm if he or she has been subject to an emergency commitment.

Jurisdictions: 23 (AL, AR, CA, CT, DC, DE, GA, HI, IL, KS, MA, MD, MI, MN, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OK, SD, TN, TX, WY)