Involuntary Outpatient Commitment Laws

The Involuntary Outpatient Commitment Laws dataset explores state laws and regulations from January 1, 2000 to March 1, 2016 — laws that require a mentally ill person meeting certain criteria, including posing a danger to themself or others, to accept mental health treatment in an outpatient setting. Specifically, the dataset includes laws that govern who can initiate the involuntary outpatient commitment process, the duration of commitment, whether the patient can refuse or consent to medication, what consequences exist for non-compliance, and whether receiving involuntary outpatient treatment impacts the patient’s eligibility to possess a firearm. Access the full dataset by visiting [www.lawatlas.org](http://www.lawatlas.org).

**Involuntary Outpatient Commitment Laws: March 2016**

Forty-seven states and the District of Columbia have involuntary outpatient commitment laws.

Jurisdictions: 47 (AK, AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, DC, DE, FL, GA, HI, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, ME, MI, MN, MO, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NV, NY, OH, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, WA, WI, WV, WY)

**Involuntary Outpatient Commitment Laws: January 2000**

In January 2000, forty states have laws involuntary outpatient commitment laws.

Jurisdictions: 40 (AK, AL, AR, AZ, CA, GA, HI, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, VT, WA, WI, WV, WY)

**“Potential for Deterioration” required as a criteria for involuntary outpatient commitment**

Twenty-seven states require that an individual be in a situation that creates the potential-for-deterioration before outpatient commitment may be required.

Jurisdictions: 27 (AL, AR, CA, FL, GA, HI, ID, IL, LA, ME, MI, MN, MS, MT, NC, ND, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, TN, VA, VT, WI, WV, WY)