

PENNSYLVANIA - Quality of Laws: F / Use of Laws: C-

QUALITY OF LAWS (24/80): Grade F		
Inpatient commitment law (12/34: Grade F)		
Criteria	(3/25)	
Gravely disabled standard	(3/10)	Yes, but requires "reasonable probability that death, serious bodily injury or serious physical debilitation would occur w/in 30 days." 50 PA. CONS. STAT. ANN. § 7301(b)(2)(i).
Need for treatment standard	(0/15)	No.
Citizen's right to petition	(5/5)	
May family member directly petition court for inpatient commitment?	(3/3)	Yes. "Any responsible party." 50 PA. CONS. STAT. ANN. § 7304(c)(1).
May other lay adult directly petition court for inpatient commitment?	(2/2)	Yes.
Duration	(4/4)	
Allow initial commitment order to exceed 14 days?	(1/1)	Yes. 90 days. 50 PA. CONS. STAT. ANN. § 7304(g)(1).
Allow initial commitment order to exceed 30 days?	(3/3)	Yes.
Outpatient commitment law (4/34: Grade F)		
Statutory authority for outpatient commitment?	(4/4)	Yes. 50 PA. CONS. STAT. ANN. §
Criteria sufficiently broad to provide access?	(0/20)	No. Shared criteria with inpatient, even less useful in outpatient context.
Procedures sufficiently explained to guide practice?	(0/5)	Little or no outpatient-specific detail provided.
Allow initial order to exceed 90 days?	(0/2)	No. 90 days. 50 PA. CONS. STAT. ANN. § 7304(g)(1).
Allow initial order to exceed 180 days?	(0/2)	No.
Allow renewal to exceed 180 days?	(0/1)	No. 180 days. 50 PA. CONS. STAT. ANN. § 7305(a)
Emergency Evaluation (8/12: Grade C)		
Criteria aligned with state commitment standard?	(8/8)	Yes. 50 PA. CONS. STAT. ANN. § 7301.
Citizens' right to petition?	(0/4)	No. "warrant upon application by a physician or other authorized person." 50 PA. CONS. STAT. ANN. § 7302(a).

USE OF LAWS (4/14): Grade C-		
From Pennsylvania mental health practioner sources		
inpatient laws	0/5	Inpatient commitments are RARELY OR NEVER pursued on grounds other than imminent risk of violence or suicide.
outpatient laws	0/5	Outpatient commitment is RARELY OR NEVER practiced in the state.
conditional release	2/2	Conditional release is generally practiced in the state.
waits for beds	No penalty	Persons admitted to hospitals for mental health treatment are NOT commonly forced to wait for hospital beds to become available.
medication over objection	2-pt bonus	The delay between an involuntary inpatient's refusal of therapeutic medication and the administration of such medication is typically less than one week.