

HOUSE BILL 576

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4lr0150
CF SB 453

By: **The Speaker (By Request – Administration) and Delegates S. Johnson, Allen, Alston, Amprey, Anderton, Bagnall, Bartlett, Bhandari, Boaf, Bouchat, Boyce, Charkoudian, Crutchfield, Ebersole, Fennell, Foley, Forbes, Grossman, Guyton, Guzzone, Harris, Harrison, Henson, Hill, Hornberger, Jackson, A. Johnson, D. Jones, Kaiser, Kaufman, Kipke, J. Long, Lopez, Love, Martinez, McCaskill, Munoz, Palakovich Carr, Pasteur, Patterson, Phillips, Pruski, Roberson, Roberts, Ruff, Ruth, Simmons, Simpson, Spiegel, Taveras, Taylor, Toles, Tomlinson, Turner, Valderrama, Watson, Williams, ~~and Wu~~ Wu, R. Lewis, Pena-Melnyk, Cullison, Chisholm, Hutchinson, Kerr, M. Morgan, Rosenberg, White Holland, Woods, Reilly, and Szeliga**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2024

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 23, 2024

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Mental Health – Emergency Evaluation and Involuntary Admission Procedures**
3 **and Assisted Outpatient Treatment Programs**

4 FOR the purpose of ~~requiring a peace officer, when the peace officer receives a petition for~~
5 ~~emergency evaluation for an individual, to transport the emergency evaluatee to a~~
6 ~~nearby emergency facility, rather than the nearest emergency facility;~~ authorizing a
7 psychiatric nurse practitioner to evaluate an emergency evaluatee for purposes of
8 involuntary admission; authorizing ~~the Maryland Department of Health to require~~
9 ~~the admission of an emergency evaluatee to an appropriate facility, rather than~~
10 ~~requiring the Department to provide for the admission within a certain time period;~~
11 ~~requiring~~ each county to establish an assisted outpatient treatment program;
12 requiring the Maryland Department of Health to establish an assisted outpatient
13 treatment program in a county that does not opt to establish a program; requiring
14 the Office of the Public Defender to provide representation in assisted outpatient

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 treatment proceedings; and generally relating to the procedures for emergency
2 evaluation and involuntary admission and assisted outpatient treatment programs.

3 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
4 Article – Health – General
5 Section 10–624 and 10–625
6 Annotated Code of Maryland
7 (2023 Replacement Volume)

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Criminal Procedure
10 Section 16–204(b)(1)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

13 BY adding to
14 Article – Criminal Procedure
15 Section 16–204(c)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

18 BY adding to
19 Article – Health – General
20 Section 10–6A–01 through ~~10–6A–11~~ 10–6A–12 to be under the new subtitle
21 “Subtitle 6A. Assisted Outpatient Treatment Programs”
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2023 Replacement Volume)

24 Preamble

25 WHEREAS, A seamless behavioral health continuum of care that provides access to
26 high quality, equitable behavioral health care is necessary for the further development of
27 mental health services in Maryland; and

28 WHEREAS, Allowing for more options to serve individuals in crisis will help further
29 strengthen Maryland’s crisis response system and better serve individuals in crisis; and

30 WHEREAS, Intensive outpatient services, such as assisted outpatient treatment,
31 function to reduce homelessness, needless hospitalizations, arrests, and incarcerations; and

32 WHEREAS, A small but persistent subset of individuals with severe mental illness
33 struggle to engage voluntarily in treatment necessary to live safely in the community, in
34 many cases due to an inability through no fault of their own to maintain awareness or
35 understanding of their mental illness; and

1 WHEREAS, When individuals with severe mental illness remain untreated, they
2 suffer needlessly from homelessness, poverty, repeated hospitalizations, repeated arrests,
3 trauma, and suicide; and

4 WHEREAS, Civil commitment to outpatient care combined with adequate resources
5 for treatment and monitoring, known in many states as “assisted outpatient treatment”, is
6 a federally recognized best practice for improving treatment adherence and outcomes
7 among individuals with histories of repeated psychiatric crises while reducing systemic
8 costs through avoided hospitalization; and

9 WHEREAS, Maryland is one of only three remaining states without statutory
10 authority for a civil court to order an individual to adhere to outpatient care; now, therefore,

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
12 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

13 **Article – Health – General**

14 10–624.

15 (a) (1) A peace officer shall take an emergency evaluee to ~~the nearest~~ ~~A~~
16 ~~NEARBY~~ emergency facility if the peace officer has a petition under Part IV of this subtitle
17 that:

18 (i) Has been endorsed by a court within the last 5 days; or

19 (ii) Is signed and submitted by a physician, psychologist, clinical
20 social worker, licensed clinical professional counselor, clinical nurse specialist in
21 psychiatric and mental health nursing, psychiatric nurse practitioner, licensed clinical
22 marriage and family therapist, health officer or designee of a health officer, or peace officer.

23 (2) The petition required under paragraph (1) of this subsection may be:

24 (i) In the form of an electronic record; and

25 (ii) Transmitted and received electronically.

26 (3) To the extent practicable, a peace officer shall notify the emergency
27 facility in advance that the peace officer is bringing an emergency evaluee to the emergency
28 facility.

29 (4) After a peace officer brings the emergency evaluee to an emergency
30 facility, the peace officer need not stay unless, because the emergency evaluee is violent,
31 emergency facility personnel ask the supervisor of the peace officer to have the peace officer
32 stay.

1 (5) A peace officer shall stay until the supervisor responds to the request
2 for assistance. If the emergency evaluatee is violent, the supervisor shall allow the peace
3 officer to stay.

4 (6) If emergency facility personnel ask that a peace officer stay, a physician
5 **OR A PSYCHIATRIC NURSE PRACTITIONER** shall examine the emergency evaluatee as
6 promptly as possible.

7 (b) (1) If the petition is executed properly, the emergency facility shall accept
8 the emergency evaluatee.

9 (2) The petition required under paragraph (1) of this subsection may be:

10 (i) In the form of an electronic record; and

11 (ii) Transmitted and received electronically.

12 (3) Within 6 hours after an emergency evaluatee is brought to an emergency
13 facility, a physician **OR A PSYCHIATRIC NURSE PRACTITIONER** shall examine the
14 emergency evaluatee, to determine whether the emergency evaluatee meets the requirements
15 for involuntary admission.

16 (4) Promptly after the examination, the emergency evaluatee shall be
17 released unless the emergency evaluatee:

18 (i) Asks for voluntary admission; or

19 (ii) Meets the requirements for involuntary admission.

20 (5) An emergency evaluatee may not be kept at an emergency facility for
21 more than 30 hours.

22 10-625.

23 (a) If an emergency evaluatee meets the requirements for an involuntary admission
24 and is unable or unwilling to agree to a voluntary admission under this subtitle, the
25 examining physician **OR PSYCHIATRIC NURSE PRACTITIONER** shall take the steps
26 needed for involuntary admission of the emergency evaluatee to an appropriate facility, which
27 may be a general hospital with a licensed inpatient psychiatric unit.

28 (b) (1) If the examining physician **OR PSYCHIATRIC NURSE PRACTITIONER**
29 is unable to have the emergency evaluatee admitted to a facility, the physician **OR**
30 **PSYCHIATRIC NURSE PRACTITIONER** shall notify the Department.

31 (2) ~~Within 6 hours after notification, the~~ ~~THE~~ Department ~~shall provide~~
32 ~~for~~ ~~MAY REQUIRE~~ admission of the emergency evaluatee to an appropriate facility.

1 (c) (1) Within 30 hours after the emergency facility completes an application
2 for the involuntary admission of an emergency evaluatee, the emergency facility shall notify
3 the Mental Health Division in the Office of the Public Defender, by e-mail or facsimile, of
4 the completion of the application.

5 (2) The notice required under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall include
6 any legal documents relating to the acceptance of the emergency evaluatee into the
7 emergency facility, including the emergency petition, application for involuntary
8 admission, and certification for involuntary admission.

9 (3) The notice required under paragraph (1) of this subsection does not
10 apply to a patient who agrees to voluntary admission.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read
12 as follows:

13 **Article – Criminal Procedure**

14 16–204.

15 (b) (1) Indigent defendants or parties shall be provided representation under
16 this title in:

17 (i) a criminal or juvenile proceeding in which a defendant or party
18 is alleged to have committed a serious offense;

19 (ii) a criminal or juvenile proceeding in which an attorney is
20 constitutionally required to be present prior to presentment being made before a
21 commissioner or judge;

22 (iii) a postconviction proceeding for which the defendant has a right
23 to an attorney under Title 7 of this article;

24 (iv) any other proceeding in which confinement under a judicial
25 commitment of an individual in a public or private institution may result;

26 (v) a proceeding involving children in need of assistance under §
27 3–813 of the Courts Article; [or]

28 (vi) a family law proceeding under Title 5, Subtitle 3, Part II or Part
29 III of the Family Law Article, including:

30 1. for a parent, a hearing in connection with guardianship or
31 adoption;

1 (G) "PROGRAM" MEANS AN ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT PROGRAM.

2 (H) "SERIOUS AND PERSISTENT MENTAL ILLNESS" MEANS A ~~SUBSTANTIAL~~
3 ~~DISORDER OF THOUGHT, MOOD, OR ORIENTATION THAT:~~

4 ~~(1) SIGNIFICANTLY IMPAIRS JUDGMENT, BEHAVIOR, OR CAPACITY TO~~
5 ~~RECOGNIZE REALITY OR TO REASON OR UNDERSTAND; AND~~

6 ~~(2) IF NOT TREATED, CREATES A SUBSTANTIAL RISK OF SERIOUS~~
7 ~~HARM TO THE INDIVIDUAL OR HARM TO OTHERS~~ MENTAL ILLNESS THAT IS SEVERE
8 IN DEGREE AND PERSISTENT IN DURATION, THAT CAUSES A SUBSTANTIALLY
9 DIMINISHED LEVEL OF FUNCTIONING IN THE PRIMARY ASPECTS OF DAILY LIVING
10 AND AN INABILITY TO MEET THE ORDINARY DEMANDS OF LIFE, AND THAT MAY LEAD
11 TO AN INABILITY TO MAINTAIN INDEPENDENT FUNCTIONING IN THE COMMUNITY
12 WITHOUT INTENSIVE TREATMENT AND SUPPORT.

13 (I) "TREATMENT PLAN" MEANS A PLAN DEVELOPED BY A CARE
14 COORDINATION TEAM THAT:

15 (1) INCORPORATES ALL OUTPATIENT TREATMENT SERVICES THAT
16 ARE DETERMINED TO BE ESSENTIAL AND AVAILABLE FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF AN
17 INDIVIDUAL'S HEALTH AND SAFETY; AND

18 (2) INCLUDES, AT A MINIMUM:

19 (I) SERVICES OF A TREATING PSYCHIATRIST;

20 (II) CASE MANAGEMENT ~~OR ASSERTIVE COMMUNITY~~
21 ~~TREATMENT SERVICES; AND~~

22 ~~(III) IF RESOURCES PERMIT, SERVICES OF A CERTIFIED PEER~~
23 ~~RECOVERY SPECIALIST;~~

24 (III) SERVICES OF A CERTIFIED PEER RECOVERY SPECIALIST;
25 AND

26 (IV) IF CLINICALLY APPROPRIATE, ASSERTIVE COMMUNITY
27 TREATMENT SERVICES.

28 10-6A-02.

29 (A) THIS SUBTITLE MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO ABRIDGE THE RIGHTS OF A
30 RESPONDENT.

1 **(B) ANY RIGHT NORMALLY AFFORDED TO AN INDIVIDUAL IN A CIVIL OR**
2 **CRIMINAL MATTER SHALL APPLY.**

3 ~~10-6A-02.~~ 10-6A-03.

4 **(A) (1) ~~A~~ ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, A COUNTY SHALL ~~MAY~~ ESTABLISH**
5 **AN ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS**
6 **SUBTITLE.**

7 **(2) A COUNTY MAY PARTNER WITH ANOTHER COUNTY TO ESTABLISH**
8 **AN ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT PROGRAM.**

9 **(B) AN ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED**
10 **UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE APPROVED AND OVERSEEN BY**
11 **THE COUNTY'S LOCAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AUTHORITY OR CORE SERVICE AGENCY.**

12 **(C) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH AN**
13 **ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT PROGRAM IN ANY COUNTY THAT DOES NOT OPT**
14 **TO ESTABLISH AN ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT PROGRAM.**

15 ~~10-6A-03.~~ 10-6A-04.

16 **(A) A PETITION FOR ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT MAY BE MADE**
17 **UNDER THIS SUBTITLE BY THE DIRECTOR OF A MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM**
18 **RECEIVING STATE FUNDING UNDER SUBTITLE 9, PART I OF THIS TITLE, OR BY ANY**
19 **INDIVIDUAL AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD WHO HAS A LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN THE**
20 **WELFARE OF THE RESPONDENT.**

21 **(B) THE PETITION FOR ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT SHALL BE IN**
22 **WRITING, SIGNED BY THE PETITIONER, AND STATE:**

23 **(1) THE PETITIONER'S NAME, ADDRESS, AND RELATIONSHIP, IF ANY,**
24 **TO THE RESPONDENT;**

25 **(2) THE NAME AND ANY KNOWN ADDRESS OF THE RESPONDENT;**

26 **(3) THAT THE PETITIONER HAS REASON TO BELIEVE THE**
27 **RESPONDENT MEETS THE CRITERIA FOR ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT IN ~~§~~**
28 **~~10-6A-04~~ § 10-6A-05 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND**

29 **(4) FOR EACH CRITERION FOR ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT IN**
30 **~~§ 10-6A-04~~ § 10-6A-05 OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS OF FACT**

1 THAT SUPPORT THE PETITIONER'S BELIEF THAT THE RESPONDENT MEETS THE
2 CRITERION.

3 (C) THE PETITION FOR ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT SHALL BE
4 ACCOMPANIED BY AN AFFIDAVIT OR AFFIRMATION OF ~~THE RESPONDENT'S~~
5 ~~TREATING~~ A PSYCHIATRIST, STATING THAT THE PSYCHIATRIST IS WILLING AND
6 ABLE TO TESTIFY AT THE HEARING ON THE PETITION AND HAS:

7 (1) EXAMINED THE RESPONDENT WITHIN 30 DAYS BEFORE THE DATE
8 OF THE PETITION; AND

9 (2) CONCLUDED THAT THE RESPONDENT MEETS THE CRITERIA FOR
10 ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT IN ~~§ 10-6A-04~~ § 10-6A-05 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

11 (D) (1) A PETITION FOR ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT SHALL BE
12 FILED IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE RESPONDENT
13 RESIDES OR IN THE COUNTY OF THE LAST KNOWN RESIDENCE OF THE RESPONDENT.

14 (2) ON THE FILING OF A PETITION UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS
15 SUBSECTION, THE CIRCUIT COURT SHALL NOTIFY THE FOLLOWING OF THE FILING
16 OF THE PETITION:

17 (I) THE RESPONDENT;

18 (II) THE MENTAL HEALTH DIVISION IN THE OFFICE OF THE
19 PUBLIC DEFENDER;

20 (III) ~~THE~~ AS APPLICABLE, THE LOCAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
21 AUTHORITY OR, THE COUNTY'S CORE SERVICE AGENCY, OR THE DEPARTMENT;

22 (IV) THE COUNTY ATTORNEY; AND

23 (V) IF APPLICABLE AND KNOWN, THE RESPONDENT'S
24 GUARDIAN AND HEALTH CARE AGENT.

25 (E) A PETITION FILED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE SHALL BE HELD UNDER SEAL
26 AND MAY NOT BE PUBLISHED ON MARYLAND JUDICIARY CASE SEARCH.

27 ~~10-6A-04.~~ 10-6A-05.

28 (A) THE COURT MAY ORDER THE RESPONDENT TO RECEIVE ASSISTED
29 OUTPATIENT TREATMENT ON A FINDING BY CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE
30 THAT:

1 (1) THE RESPONDENT IS AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD;

2 (2) THE RESPONDENT HAS A SERIOUS AND PERSISTENT MENTAL
3 ILLNESS;

4 (3) THE RESPONDENT HAS DEMONSTRATED A LACK OF ADHERENCE
5 WITH TREATMENT FOR THE SERIOUS AND PERSISTENT MENTAL ILLNESS THAT HAS:

6 (I) AT LEAST TWICE WITHIN THE 36-MONTH PERIOD
7 IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE FILING OF THE PETITION, BEEN A SIGNIFICANT
8 FACTOR IN NECESSITATING ~~HOSPITAL INPATIENT PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES~~
9 INPATIENT ADMISSION TO A PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL FOR AT LEAST 48 HOURS OR
10 RECEIPT OF PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES IN A CORRECTIONAL FACILITY; OR

11 (II) AT LEAST ONCE WITHIN THE 36-MONTH PERIOD
12 IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE FILING OF THE PETITION, RESULTED IN AN ACT OF
13 SERIOUS VIOLENT BEHAVIOR TOWARD SELF OR OTHERS, OR ~~CREDIBLE THREAT OF,~~
14 ~~OR ATTEMPT AT, SERIOUS PHYSICAL HARM TO THE INDIVIDUAL OR HARM TO~~
15 ~~OTHERS; OR~~ PATTERNS OR THREATS OF, OR ATTEMPTS AT, SERIOUS PHYSICAL
16 HARM TO SELF OR OTHERS;

17 ~~(III) RESULTED IN THE ISSUANCE OF AN ORDER IN THE STATE~~
18 ~~FOR ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT THAT EXPIRED WITHIN THE 6 MONTH~~
19 ~~PERIOD IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE FILING OF THE PETITION AND IN THE~~
20 ~~INTERIM HAS CAUSED A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN SYMPTOMS OF MENTAL ILLNESS~~
21 ~~THAT HAS RESULTED IN HARM TO THE INDIVIDUAL OR HARM TO OTHERS;~~

22 (4) IN VIEW OF THE RESPONDENT'S TREATMENT HISTORY AND
23 BEHAVIOR AT THE TIME THE PETITION IS FILED, THE RESPONDENT IS IN NEED OF
24 ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT IN ORDER TO PREVENT A RELAPSE OR
25 DETERIORATION THAT WOULD CREATE A SUBSTANTIAL RISK OF SERIOUS HARM TO
26 THE INDIVIDUAL OR HARM TO OTHERS;

27 (5) THE RESPONDENT IS UNLIKELY TO ADEQUATELY ADHERE TO
28 OUTPATIENT TREATMENT ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS, AS DEMONSTRATED BY THE
29 RESPONDENT'S:

30 ~~(I) HISTORY~~ HISTORY OF TREATMENT NONADHERENCE IN THE
31 36-MONTH PERIOD IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE FILING OF THE PETITION THAT
32 IS NOT DUE TO FINANCIAL, TRANSPORTATION, OR LANGUAGE ISSUES IN THE
33 IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING 36-MONTH PERIOD; OR

34 ~~(II) INABILITY TO MAKE RATIONAL AND INFORMED DECISIONS~~
35 ~~REGARDING MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT; AND~~

1 **(6) IN CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS (1) THROUGH (5) OF THIS**
 2 **SUBSECTION, ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT IS THE LEAST RESTRICTIVE**
 3 **ALTERNATIVE APPROPRIATE TO MAINTAIN THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE**
 4 **RESPONDENT.**

5 **(B) TIME THAT THE RESPONDENT SPENT HOSPITALIZED OR INCARCERATED**
 6 **MAY NOT BE INCLUDED WHEN CALCULATING THE TIME PERIOD UNDER SUBSECTION**
 7 **(A)(3)(I) OR (II) OF THIS SECTION.**

8 ~~10-6A-05.~~ 10-6A-06.

9 **(A) (1) AFTER THE FILING OF THE PETITION WITH THE COURT UNDER §**
 10 ~~10-6A-03~~ § 10-6A-04 **OF THIS SUBTITLE, BUT NOT LATER THAN THE DATE OF THE**
 11 **PSYCHIATRIST'S TESTIMONY REQUIRED UNDER §** ~~10-6A-06~~ § 10-6A-07 **OF THIS**
 12 **SUBTITLE, THE CARE COORDINATION TEAM SHALL DEVELOP A TREATMENT PLAN**
 13 **AND PROVIDE A COPY IN WRITING TO:**

14 **(I) THE RESPONDENT;**

15 **(II) THE RESPONDENT'S ATTORNEY; AND**

16 **(III) IF APPLICABLE AND KNOWN, THE RESPONDENT'S**
 17 **GUARDIAN AND HEALTH CARE AGENT.**

18 **(2) A TREATMENT PLAN DEVELOPED BY THE CARE COORDINATION**
 19 **TEAM SHALL BE:**

20 **(I) RECOVERY-ORIENTED; AND**

21 **(II) CONSISTENT WITH EVIDENCE-BASED AND EVOLVING BEST**
 22 **PRACTICES IN THE TREATMENT OF SERIOUS AND PERSISTENT MENTAL ILLNESS.**

23 ~~(2)~~ **(3) FOR EACH SERVICE LISTED IN THE TREATMENT PLAN, A**
 24 **COMMUNITY-BASED PROVIDER THAT HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE THE SERVICE TO**
 25 **THE RESPONDENT SHALL BE IDENTIFIED TO PROVIDE THE SERVICE.**

26 ~~(3)~~ **(4) A TREATMENT PLAN MAY INCLUDE MEDICATION.**

27 **(B) (1) THE CARE COORDINATION TEAM SHALL GIVE THE RESPONDENT,**
 28 **THE RESPONDENT'S GUARDIAN, THE RESPONDENT'S HEALTH CARE AGENT, AND ANY**
 29 **INDIVIDUAL DESIGNATED BY THE RESPONDENT A REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY TO**
 30 **PARTICIPATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TREATMENT PLAN.**

1 (2) IF THE RESPONDENT HAS EXECUTED A MENTAL HEALTH ADVANCE
2 DIRECTIVE, THE CARE COORDINATION TEAM SHALL ~~CONSIDER~~ HONOR ANY
3 DIRECTIONS INCLUDED IN THE ADVANCE DIRECTIVE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
4 TREATMENT PLAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH §§ 5-602(A)(2) AND 5-611(A) AND (B) OF
5 THIS ARTICLE.

6 (3) (I) ~~THE RESPONDENT MAY ELECT TO STIPULATE AT THE~~
7 ~~HEARING TO THE TREATMENT PLAN IN LIEU OF A CONTESTED HEARING AND THE~~
8 ~~RESULTING ORDER GIVEN FORCE AND EFFECT SHALL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO~~
9 VOLUNTARILY AGREE TO THE TREATMENT PLAN.

10 (II) IF THE RESPONDENT VOLUNTARILY AGREES TO THE
11 TREATMENT PLAN, THE PETITIONER'S ATTORNEY SHALL:

12 1. NOTIFY THE COURT THAT THE PARTIES ARE
13 DISMISSING THE CASE IN ACCORDANCE WITH MARYLAND RULE 2-506; AND

14 2. FILE A STIPULATED AGREEMENT THAT INCLUDES
15 THE TREATMENT PLAN.

16 (4) THE CARE COORDINATION TEAM SHALL PROVIDE TO THE
17 RESPONDENT, THE COUNTY ATTORNEY, AND THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC
18 DEFENDER THE TREATMENT PLAN AND THE PROVIDERS THAT ARE INCLUDED IN
19 THE TREATMENT PLAN.

20 ~~(4)~~ (5) IF THE CARE COORDINATION TEAM CHANGES THE
21 TREATMENT PLAN OR THE PROVIDERS INCLUDED IN THE TREATMENT PLAN BEFORE
22 THE HEARING CONDUCTED UNDER ~~§ 10-6A-06~~ § 10-6A-07 OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE
23 CARE COORDINATION TEAM SHALL PROMPTLY NOTIFY THE FOLLOWING OF THE
24 CHANGE AND THE JUSTIFICATION OF THE CHANGE:

25 (I) THE RESPONDENT;

26 (II) THE RESPONDENT'S ATTORNEY;

27 (III) THE COUNTY ATTORNEY; AND

28 (IV) IF APPLICABLE AND KNOWN, THE RESPONDENT'S
29 GUARDIAN AND HEALTH CARE AGENT.

30 ~~10-6A-06.~~ 10-6A-07.

1 (A) (1) ON RECEIPT OF A PETITION FOR ASSISTED OUTPATIENT
2 TREATMENT THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF ~~§ 10-6A-03~~ § 10-6A-04 OF THIS
3 SUBTITLE, THE COURT SHALL SCHEDULE THE DATE FOR A HEARING.

4 (2) THE COURT MAY GRANT A CONTINUANCE OR POSTPONEMENT
5 ONLY FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN AND IN CONSIDERATION OF THE NEED TO PROVIDE
6 ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT EXPEDITIOUSLY.

7 (3) A HEARING SHALL BE SCHEDULED ONLY IF THE RESPONDENT HAS
8 NOT AGREED TO ENTER VOLUNTARY TREATMENT.

9 (B) (1) THE RESPONDENT SHALL BE ENTITLED TO BE REPRESENTED BY
10 COUNSEL OF THE RESPONDENT'S CHOICE AT THE HEARING AND AT ALL STAGES OF
11 THE PROCEEDINGS.

12 (2) IF THE RESPONDENT IS UNABLE TO AFFORD AN ATTORNEY, OR IS
13 UNABLE TO OBTAIN AN ATTORNEY DUE TO THE RESPONDENT'S MENTAL ILLNESS,
14 REPRESENTATION SHALL BE PROVIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH §§ 16-204 AND
15 16-208 OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ARTICLE.

16 (3) ALL RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE SHALL APPLY TO CASES FILED
17 UNDER THIS SUBTITLE ~~TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY DO NOT CONFLICT WITH~~
18 ~~PROCEDURES OR TIMELINESS REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.~~

19 (4) RESPONDENTS MAY NOT BE REQUIRED TO GIVE TESTIMONY AT
20 HEARINGS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

21 (5) PARTICIPATION IN ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT MAY NOT
22 BE USED AGAINST A RESPONDENT IN A SUBSEQUENT LEGAL MATTER THAT CARRIES
23 NEGATIVE COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES.

24 (C) AT THE HEARING, THE RESPONDENT SHALL BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY
25 TO PRESENT EVIDENCE, TO CALL WITNESSES ON THE RESPONDENT'S BEHALF, AND
26 TO CROSS-EXAMINE ADVERSE WITNESSES.

27 (D) (1) THE PETITIONER'S PRESENTATION OF EVIDENCE SHALL INCLUDE
28 THE TESTIMONY OF ~~THE RESPONDENT'S TREATING~~ A PSYCHIATRIST WHOSE MOST
29 RECENT EXAMINATION OF THE RESPONDENT OCCURRED WITHIN 30 DAYS BEFORE
30 THE DATE OF THE PETITION ~~AND WHO RECOMMENDS ASSISTED OUTPATIENT~~
31 ~~TREATMENT.~~

32 (2) THE PSYCHIATRIST SHALL STATE THE FACTS AND CLINICAL
33 DETERMINATIONS PROVIDING THE BASIS FOR THE PSYCHIATRIST'S OPINION THAT

1 THE RESPONDENT MEETS EACH OF THE CRITERIA FOR ASSISTED OUTPATIENT
2 TREATMENT IN ~~§ 10-6A-04~~ § 10-6A-05 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

3 (E) (1) THE PETITIONER'S PRESENTATION OF EVIDENCE SHALL INCLUDE
4 THE TESTIMONY OF A PSYCHIATRIST TO EXPLAIN THE TREATMENT PLAN, WHO:

5 (I) MAY BE BUT NEED NOT BE THE EXAMINING PSYCHIATRIST
6 WHO TESTIFIED UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION; AND

7 (II) HAS MET WITH THE RESPONDENT OR HAS MADE A GOOD
8 FAITH EFFORT TO MEET WITH THE RESPONDENT, IS FAMILIAR WITH THE RELEVANT
9 HISTORY, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, AND HAS EXAMINED THE TREATMENT
10 PLAN.

11 (2) FOR EACH CATEGORY OF PROPOSED TREATMENT, THE
12 PSYCHIATRIST SHALL STATE THE CLINICAL BASIS FOR THE DETERMINATION THAT
13 THE TREATMENT IS ESSENTIAL TO THE MAINTENANCE OF THE RESPONDENT'S
14 HEALTH OR SAFETY.

15 (3) THE PSYCHIATRIST SHALL TESTIFY AS TO THE PARTICIPATION, IF
16 ANY, OF THE RESPONDENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TREATMENT PLAN.

17 (4) IF THE RESPONDENT HAS EXECUTED A MENTAL HEALTH ADVANCE
18 DIRECTIVE, THE PSYCHIATRIST SHALL STATE THE CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO ANY
19 DIRECTION INCLUDED IN THE ADVANCE DIRECTIVE IN DEVELOPING THE
20 TREATMENT PLAN.

21 ~~10-6A-07.~~ 10-6A-08.

22 (A) IF, AFTER HEARING ALL RELEVANT EVIDENCE, THE COURT DOES NOT
23 FIND BY CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAT THE RESPONDENT MEETS THE
24 CRITERIA FOR ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT, THE COURT SHALL DENY THE
25 PETITION.

26 (B) (1) IF, AFTER HEARING ALL RELEVANT EVIDENCE, THE COURT FINDS
27 BY CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAT THE RESPONDENT MEETS THE
28 CRITERIA FOR ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT, THE COURT SHALL ORDER THE
29 RESPONDENT TO COMPLY WITH ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT FOR A PERIOD
30 NOT TO EXCEED 1 YEAR.

31 (2) THE ORDER OF THE COURT SHALL INCORPORATE A TREATMENT
32 PLAN THAT:

1 **(I) IS LIMITED IN SCOPE TO THE ELEMENTS INCLUDED IN THE**
2 **TREATMENT PLAN PRESENTED TO THE COURT UNDER ~~§ 10-6A-05~~ § 10-6A-06 OF**
3 **THIS SUBTITLE; AND**

4 **(II) INCLUDES ONLY THOSE ELEMENTS THAT THE COURT FINDS**
5 **BY CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE TO BE ESSENTIAL TO THE MAINTENANCE OF**
6 **THE RESPONDENT'S HEALTH OR SAFETY.**

7 ~~10-6A-08.~~ 10-6A-09.

8 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, "MATERIAL CHANGE" MEANS AN ADDITION OR A**
9 **DELETION OF A CATEGORY OF SERVICES TO OR FROM THE TREATMENT PLAN.**

10 **(B) AT ANY TIME DURING THE PERIOD OF AN ORDER FOR ASSISTED**
11 **OUTPATIENT TREATMENT, A PETITIONER, A CARE COORDINATION TEAM MEMBER,**
12 **OR A RESPONDENT MAY MOVE THAT THE COURT STAY, VACATE, OR MODIFY THE**
13 **ORDER.**

14 **(C) A RESPONDENT UNDER AN ORDER UNDER THIS SUBTITLE IS NOT**
15 **REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH A MATERIAL CHANGE TO THE TREATMENT PLAN**
16 **UNLESS THE MATERIAL CHANGE IS EXPLICITLY AUTHORIZED IN ADVANCE BY THE**
17 **TERMS OF THE ORDER OR INCORPORATED BY THE COURT ON A FINDING BY CLEAR**
18 **AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAT THE MATERIAL CHANGE IS ESSENTIAL TO THE**
19 **MAINTENANCE OF THE RESPONDENT'S HEALTH OR SAFETY.**

20 **(D) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, NOT LATER**
21 **THAN 30 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING A MOTION, AND ANY TIMELY REPLIES TO THE**
22 **MOTION, FOR A MATERIAL CHANGE TO THE INCORPORATED TREATMENT PLAN, THE**
23 **COURT SHALL ~~HOLD A HEARING~~ RESPOND TO THE MOTION.**

24 **(2) IF THE RESPONDENT INFORMS THE COURT THAT THE**
25 **RESPONDENT AGREES TO THE PROPOSED MATERIAL CHANGE, THE COURT MAY**
26 **INCORPORATE THE MATERIAL CHANGE INTO THE TREATMENT PLAN ~~WITHOUT A~~**
27 **~~HEARING.~~**

28 **(E) A RESPONDENT UNDER AN ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT ORDER**
29 **IS REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH NONMATERIAL CHANGES TO THE TREATMENT PLAN**
30 **WITHOUT FURTHER ACTION BY THE COURT.**

31 **(F) (1) THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO REQUIRE A TREATING**
32 **PSYCHIATRIST TO DELAY CHANGES TO THE RESPONDENT'S TREATMENT PLAN AS**
33 **CIRCUMSTANCES MAY IMMEDIATELY REQUIRE.**

1 **(2) IF A TREATING PSYCHIATRIST MAKES A CHANGE TO A TREATMENT**
 2 **PLAN DUE TO IMMEDIATE NECESSITY, A CARE COORDINATION TEAM MEMBER SHALL**
 3 **NOTIFY THE FOLLOWING:**

4 **(I) THE RESPONDENT;**

5 **(II) THE RESPONDENT'S ATTORNEY;**

6 **(III) THE ATTORNEYS FOR THE PETITIONER; AND**

7 **(IV) IF APPLICABLE AND KNOWN, THE RESPONDENT'S**
 8 **GUARDIAN AND HEALTH CARE AGENT.**

9 ~~10-6A-09.~~ 10-6A-10.

10 ~~**(A) IF, AFTER REASONABLE EFFORTS TO SOLICIT TREATMENT ADHERENCE,**~~
 11 ~~**THE RESPONDENT HAS MATERIALLY FAILED TO COMPLY WITH AN ORDER OF**~~
 12 ~~**ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT UNDER THIS SUBTITLE, AND THE FAILURE TO**~~
 13 ~~**ADHERE IS RELEVANT TO THE FACTORS GIVING RISE TO THE PETITION, THE**~~
 14 ~~**FAILURE TO ADHERE MAY BE CONSIDERED, TOGETHER WITH ANY OTHER RELEVANT**~~
 15 ~~**FACTORS, IN DETERMINING WHETHER THE RESPONDENT MEETS THE CRITERIA FOR**~~
 16 ~~**AN EMERGENCY EVALUATION UNDER § 10-622 OF THIS TITLE.**~~

17 ~~**(B)**~~ **(A) IF THE CARE COORDINATION TEAM HAS KNOWLEDGE OF A**
 18 **PETITION FOR EMERGENCY EVALUATION THAT WAS FILED FOR THE RESPONDENT, A**
 19 **CARE COORDINATION TEAM MEMBER SHALL NOTIFY THE COURT IN WRITING OF THE**
 20 **REASONS FOR AND FINDINGS OF THE EVALUATION.**

21 ~~**(C)**~~ **(B) IN RESPONSE TO THE NOTICE OR AT ANY TIME DURING THE**
 22 **PERIOD OF THE ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT ORDER AND ON ITS OWN**
 23 **MOTION, THE COURT MAY CONVENE THE PARTIES FOR A CONFERENCE TO REVIEW**
 24 **THE PROGRESS OF THE RESPONDENT.**

25 ~~**(D)**~~ **(C) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, IF A PETITION FOR EMERGENCY**
 26 **EVALUATION OF THE RESPONDENT IS FILED OR IF THE RESPONDENT IS THE**
 27 **SUBJECT OF OTHER COURT INVOLVEMENT, THE PETITIONER SHALL NOTIFY THE**
 28 **RESPONDENT'S CARE COORDINATION TEAM OF THE PETITION OR OTHER COURT**
 29 **INVOLVEMENT.**

30 ~~**(E)**~~ **(D) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN ORDER OF ASSISTED OUTPATIENT**
 31 **TREATMENT IS NOT GROUNDS FOR A FINDING OF CONTEMPT OF COURT OR FOR**
 32 **INVOLUNTARY ADMISSION UNDER THIS TITLE.**

33 ~~10-6A-10.~~ 10-6A-11.

1 ~~(A) WITHIN 30 DAYS BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF AN ORDER OF ASSISTED~~
2 ~~OUTPATIENT TREATMENT, A PETITIONER MAY PETITION THE COURT TO ORDER~~
3 ~~CONTINUED ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED 1~~
4 ~~YEAR FROM THE DATE OF THE EXPIRATION OF THE CURRENT ORDER. THE~~
5 ~~RESPONDENT'S CARE COORDINATION TEAM SHALL PROVIDE THE RESPONDENT~~
6 ~~WITH A PLAN FOR CONTINUED TREATMENT, IF CONSIDERED NECESSARY.~~

7 ~~(B) IF THE COURT'S DISPOSITION OF A PETITION FILED UNDER SUBSECTION~~
8 ~~(A) OF THIS SECTION DOES NOT OCCUR BEFORE THE DATE OF THE EXPIRATION OF~~
9 ~~THE CURRENT ORDER, THE CURRENT ORDER SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL THE~~
10 ~~DISPOSITION.~~

11 ~~(C) THE PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING ANY ORDER UNDER THIS SECTION~~
12 ~~SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE.~~

13 ~~(D) IF AN ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT ORDER IS VACATED OR~~
14 ~~ALLOWED TO EXPIRE, THE CARE COORDINATION TEAM SHALL PROVIDE THE~~
15 ~~RESPONDENT WITH A PLAN FOR RECOMMENDED CONTINUED TREATMENT AND~~
16 ~~ASSIST WITH ANY NECESSARY TRANSFER TO APPROPRIATE PROVIDERS.~~

17 ~~10-6A-11. 10-6A-12.~~

18 (A) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR, THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL
19 SUBMIT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE
20 STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, A REPORT ON EACH PROGRAM ESTABLISHED
21 UNDER THIS SUBTITLE THAT INCLUDES:

22 (1) THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE ORDERED TO RECEIVE
23 ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT DURING THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING
24 12-MONTH PERIOD;

25 (2) FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL ORDERED TO RECEIVE AN ASSISTED
26 OUTPATIENT TREATMENT DURING THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING 12-MONTH
27 PERIOD, THE DE-IDENTIFIED DATA ON THE FOLLOWING FOR THE 12-MONTH
28 PERIOD IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT ORDER
29 AND THE MOST RECENT 12-MONTH PERIOD FOLLOWING THE ASSISTED OUTPATIENT
30 TREATMENT ORDER:

31 (I) INCIDENCES OF HOSPITALIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE
32 NUMBER OF DAYS SPENT HOSPITALIZED;

33 (II) ARRESTS; AND

1 (III) NUMBER OF DAYS SPENT INCARCERATED; AND

2 ~~(IV) NUMBER OF DAYS SPENT UNHOUSED; AND~~

3 (3) PROGRAM STATISTICS FOR THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING
4 12-MONTH PERIOD, INCLUDING:

5 (I) THE NUMBER OF PETITIONS FILED;

6 (II) THE NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS UNDER AN ORDER FOR
7 ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT, INCLUDING THOSE UNDER ORDER BY
8 STIPULATED AGREEMENT;

9 (III) THE NUMBER OF ~~RESPONDENTS UNDER RENEWED ORDERS~~
10 ~~FOR ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT, INCLUDING THOSE UNDER ORDER BY~~
11 ~~STIPULATED AGREEMENT~~ VOLUNTARY AGREEMENTS MADE BY RESPONDENTS TO
12 COMPLY WITH A TREATMENT PLAN;

13 (IV) DE-IDENTIFIED DEMOGRAPHIC DATA FOR ASSISTED
14 OUTPATIENT TREATMENT PROGRAM RECIPIENTS, INCLUDING ~~RACE AND~~
15 ~~ETHNICITY~~, TO THE EXTENT AVAILABLE:

16 1. AVERAGE AGE;

17 2. LIVING SITUATION AT THE TIME OF THE ISSUANCE OF
18 THE ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT ORDER;

19 3. LIVING SITUATION AT THE TIME OF THE EXPIRATION
20 OF THE ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT ORDER;

21 4. GENDER;

22 5. MARITAL STATUS;

23 6. RACE AND ETHNICITY;

24 7. RELIGION;

25 8. FAMILIAL STATUS;

26 9. NATIONAL ORIGIN;

27 10. SEXUAL ORIENTATION;

28 11. GENDER IDENTITY; AND

1 **12. DISABILITY;**

2 **(V) DE-IDENTIFIED INFORMATION ON DIAGNOSES OF ASSISTED**
3 **OUTPATIENT TREATMENT RECIPIENTS;**

4 **(VI) DE-IDENTIFIED RESULTS FROM THE USE OF A CLINICALLY**
5 **VALIDATED SYMPTOM TOOL TO ASSESS RESPONSIVENESS OF RESPONDENTS TO**
6 **TREATMENT; AND**

7 **~~(v)~~ (VII) A DE-IDENTIFIED RESULTS OF A SURVEY OF THE**
8 **SATISFACTION OF RESPONDENTS UNDER AN ORDER FOR ASSISTED OUTPATIENT**
9 **TREATMENT.**

10 **(B) EACH COUNTY SHALL PROVIDE INFORMATION TO THE**
11 **ADMINISTRATION THAT THE ADMINISTRATION DETERMINES IS NECESSARY FOR**
12 **THE PURPOSE OF COMPLYING WITH SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.**

13 **(C) THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO PROHIBIT OR PREVENT THE**
14 **COLLECTION OF ADDITIONAL DATA, INCLUDING ADDITIONAL DEMOGRAPHIC**
15 **INFORMATION OR OTHER DATA NECESSARY FOR PROGRAM EVALUATION OR**
16 **IMPROVEMENT, AS REQUESTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR THE EXECUTIVE**
17 **BRANCH OF STATE GOVERNMENT.**

18 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before January 1, 2025,
19 a county shall notify the Maryland Department of Health regarding whether the county
20 intends to establish an assisted outpatient treatment program under § 10-6A-03(a)(1) of
21 the Health – General Article, as enacted by Section 2 of this Act.

22 SECTION ~~3~~ 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall
23 take effect July 1, 2025.

24 SECTION ~~4~~ 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in
25 Section ~~3~~ 4 of this Act, this Act shall take effect July 1, 2024.