

**Fact Sheet: Involuntary Treatment Act (Mental Health Civil Commitment Services)**

Updated: October 16, 2016

<p><b>Overview</b></p>	<p>The Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) provides for the investigation and evaluation of individuals who may need to be detained in an Evaluation and Treatment unit. Referrals result from concerns regarding the individual's safety, history, and presentation of mental health symptoms. Individuals are assessed and a determination is made as to their likelihood of serious harm to self, others, or grave disability. Activities are part of an essential legal process to balance constitutional rights against individual and community safety.</p> <p>The activities under the ITA services include: conducting investigations and evaluations; assessing criteria for emergent and non-emergent detentions, revocations of individuals who are on Less Restrictive Alternatives (LRA) orders; writing petitions; testifying in court hearings, enforcing and modifying Less Restrictive Orders, Conditional Release Orders, and Assisted Outpatient Treatment Orders.</p> <p>ITA services ensure safety and safeguard constitutional rights. Civil commitment activities to ensure due process rights are not mental health treatment services in and of themselves. Such activities are not billable to Medicaid, Medicare, or third-party insurance.</p>
<p><b>Eligibility Requirements</b></p>	<p>Activities under the Involuntary Treatment Act may be initiated for anyone within the state of Washington who presents with mental health symptoms and resulting behaviors which indicate that, without involuntary treatment, there is a likelihood of serious harm to self or others, or that they are gravely disabled.</p>
<p><b>Authority</b></p>	<p>RCW 71.05 (Adults) RCW 71.34 (Minors age 13-17)</p>
<p><b>Budget</b></p>	<p>Total funding amount and years: Current FFY or SFY budget: Funding source: These services are funded through the Behavioral Health Organization GFS contracts.</p>
<p><b>Rates</b></p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Costs and Numbers Served</b></p>	<p>In FY 2014 19,637 mental health Involuntary Treatment investigations were conducted.</p>

<b>Partners</b>	BHOs, MCOs and ASOs, community mental health agencies, law enforcement agencies, community hospitals, first responders, emergency transportation services, psychiatric treatment facilities, county prosecutors, public defenders, Washington State Superior Courts, Associated Office of the Courts, Washington Association of Designated Mental Health Professionals
<b>Oversight</b>	Oversight provided by the ongoing review process conducted by the DBHR Licensure Team.
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