

Sixty-fourth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1040

Introduced by

Legislative Management

(Health Care Reform Review Committee)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 25-03.1-02, 25-03.1-04, 25-03.1-06,  
2 25-03.1-07, 25-03.1-08, 25-03.1-10, 25-03.1-11, 25-03.1-16, 25-03.1-17, 25-03.1-18.1, and  
3 25-03.1-19, subsection 3 of section 25-03.1-21, and sections 25-03.1-23, 25-03.1-25,  
4 25-03.1-26, 25-03.1-27, 25-03.1-41, and 25-03.1-42 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating  
5 to scope of practice in involuntary commitment proceedings; and to provide a penalty.

6 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

7 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-03.1-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
8 amended and reenacted as follows:

9 **25-03.1-02. Definitions.**

10 In this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise:

- 11 1. "Advanced practice registered nurse" means an individual who is licensed as an  
12 advanced practice registered nurse under chapter 43-12.1 within the role of certified  
13 nurse practitioner or certified clinical nurse specialist, who has completed the  
14 requirements for a minimum of a master's degree in psychiatric and mental health  
15 nursing from an accredited program, and who is functioning within the scope of  
16 practice in one of the population foci as approved by the state board of nursing. This  
17 chapter does not expand the scope of practice of an advanced practice registered  
18 nurse beyond the scope of practice established by the state board of nursing.
- 19 2. "Alternative treatment order" means an involuntary outpatient order for a treatment  
20 program, other than hospitalization, which may include treatment with a prescribed  
21 medication.
- 22 ~~2.3.~~ "Chemically dependent person" or "person who is chemically dependent" means an  
23 individual with an illness or disorder characterized by a maladaptive pattern of usage

1 of alcohol or drugs, or a combination thereof, resulting in social, occupational,  
2 psychological, or physical problems.

3 ~~3.4.~~ "Consent" means voluntary permission that is based upon full disclosure of facts  
4 necessary to make a decision and which is given by an individual who has the ability  
5 to understand those facts.

6 ~~4.5.~~ "Court" means, except when otherwise indicated, the district court serving the county  
7 in which the respondent resides.

8 ~~5.6.~~ "Department" means the department of human services.

9 ~~6.7.~~ "Director" means the director of a treatment facility or the director's designee.

10 ~~7.8.~~ "Expert examiner" means a licensed physician, physician assistant, psychiatrist,  
11 psychologist trained in a clinical program, advanced practice registered nurse, or  
12 licensed addiction counselor appointed by the court to examine the respondent and to  
13 provide an evaluation of whether the respondent is a person requiring treatment.

14 ~~8.9.~~ "Independent expert examiner" means a licensed physician, physician assistant,  
15 psychiatrist, psychologist trained in a clinical program, advanced practice registered  
16 nurse, or licensed addiction counselor, chosen at the request of the respondent to  
17 provide an independent evaluation of whether the respondent is a person requiring  
18 treatment.

19 ~~9.10.~~ "Magistrate" means the judge of the appropriate district or juvenile court or a judge  
20 assigned by the presiding judge of the judicial district.

21 ~~10.11.~~ "Mental health professional" means:

- 22 a. A psychologist with at least a master's degree who has been either licensed or  
23 approved for exemption by the North Dakota board of psychology examiners.
- 24 b. A social worker with a master's degree in social work from an accredited  
25 program.
- 26 c. ~~A registered nurse with a master's degree in psychiatric and mental health~~  
27 ~~nursing from an accredited program~~ An advanced practice registered nurse.
- 28 d. A registered nurse with a minimum of two years of psychiatric clinical experience  
29 under the supervision of ~~a registered nurse as defined by subdivision c~~ or of an  
30 expert examiner.
- 31 e. A licensed addiction counselor.

1 f. A licensed professional counselor with a master's degree in counseling from an  
2 accredited program who has either successfully completed the advanced training  
3 beyond the master's degree as required by the national academy of mental  
4 health counselors or a minimum of two years of clinical experience in a mental  
5 health agency or setting under the supervision of a psychiatrist or psychologist.

6 g. A physician assistant.

7 ~~44.12.~~ "Mentally ill person" or "person who is mentally ill" means an individual with an  
8 organic, mental, or emotional disorder ~~which~~that substantially impairs the capacity to  
9 use self-control, judgment, and discretion in the conduct of personal affairs and social  
10 relations. ~~"Mentally ill person"~~The term does not include an individual with an  
11 intellectual disability of significantly subaverage general intellectual functioning  
12 ~~which~~that originates during the developmental period and is associated with  
13 impairment in adaptive behavior, although ~~a person~~an individual who is intellectually  
14 disabled may also suffer from a mental illness. Chemical dependency does not per se  
15 constitute mental illness, although ~~persons suffering from that condition~~a person who  
16 is chemically dependent may also be ~~suffering from mental illness~~a person who is  
17 mentally ill.

18 ~~42.13.~~ "Person requiring treatment" means a person who is mentally ill or a person who is  
19 chemically dependent, and there is a reasonable expectation that if the  
20 ~~person~~individual is not treated for the mental illness or chemical dependency there  
21 exists a serious risk of harm to that ~~person~~individual, others, or property. ~~"Serious risk-~~  
22 ~~of harm"~~ means a substantial likelihood of:  
23 a. ~~Suicide, as manifested by suicidal threats, attempts, or significant depression-~~  
24 ~~relevant to suicidal potential;~~  
25 b. ~~Killing or inflicting serious bodily harm on another person or inflicting significant-~~  
26 ~~property damage, as manifested by acts or threats;~~  
27 c. ~~Substantial deterioration in physical health, or substantial injury, disease, or-~~  
28 ~~death, based upon recent poor self-control or judgment in providing one's shelter,~~  
29 ~~nutrition, or personal care; or~~  
30 d. ~~Substantial deterioration in mental health which would predictably result in-~~  
31 ~~dangerousness to that person, others, or property, based upon evidence of~~

1                    ~~objective facts to establish the loss of cognitive or volitional control over the~~  
2                    ~~person's thoughts or actions or based upon acts, threats, or patterns in the~~  
3                    ~~person's treatment history, current condition, and other relevant factors, including~~  
4                    ~~the effect of the person's mental condition on the person's ability to consent.~~

5 ~~13-14.~~ "Physician assistant" means an individual licensed to practice as a physician assistant  
6 under chapter 43-17, who is authorized by the state board of medical examiners to  
7 practice in the field of psychiatry, holds a certification in psychiatry approved by the  
8 board, and is practicing under the supervision of a psychiatrist licensed to practice  
9 medicine in this state. This chapter does not expand the scope of practice of a  
10 physician assistant beyond the scope of practice authorized by the state board of  
11 medical examiners.

12 15. "Private treatment facility" means any facility established under chapter 10-19.1 or  
13 10-33 and licensed under chapter 23-16 or 50-31.

14 ~~14-16.~~ "Psychiatrist" means a licensed physician who has completed a residency program in  
15 psychiatry.

16 ~~15-17.~~ "Public treatment facility" means any treatment facility not falling under the definition of  
17 a private treatment facility.

18 ~~16-18.~~ "Qualified service organization" means a person ~~or entity~~ that provides services to a  
19 treatment facility such as data processing, bill collecting, dosage preparation,  
20 laboratory analysis, or legal, medical, accounting, or other professional services, and  
21 which agrees that in dealing with patient records, it is bound by the confidentiality  
22 restrictions of this chapter, except as otherwise provided for by law.

23 ~~17-19.~~ "Respondent" means a ~~person~~ an individual subject to petition for involuntary  
24 treatment.

25 20. "Serious risk of harm" means a substantial likelihood of:

26 a. Suicide, as manifested by suicidal threats, attempts, or significant depression  
27 relevant to suicidal potential;

28 b. Killing or inflicting serious bodily harm on another individual or inflicting significant  
29 property damage, as manifested by acts or threats;

1           c. Substantial deterioration in physical health or substantial injury, disease, or death  
2           based upon recent poor self-control or judgment in providing one's shelter,  
3           nutrition, or personal care; or

4           d. Substantial deterioration in mental health which would predictably result in  
5           dangerousness to that individual, others, or property, based upon evidence of  
6           objective facts to establish the loss of cognitive or volitional control over the  
7           individual's thoughts or actions or based upon acts, threats, or patterns in the  
8           individual's treatment history, current condition, and other relevant factors,  
9           including the effect of the individual's mental condition on the individual's ability to  
10          consent.

11 ~~18-21.~~ "Superintendent" means the state hospital superintendent or the superintendent's  
12          designee.

13 ~~19-22.~~ "Third-party payer" means a person or entity ~~who~~that pays, or agrees to pay, for  
14          diagnosis or treatment furnished to a patient on the basis of a contractual relationship  
15          with the patient or a member of the patient's family, or on the basis of the patient's  
16          eligibility for federal, state, or local governmental benefits, and includes any person or  
17          entity providing audit or evaluation activities for the third-party payer.

18 ~~20-23.~~ "Treatment facility" or "facility" means any hospital, including the state hospital at  
19          Jamestown, or any evaluation and treatment facility that provides directly, or by direct  
20          arrangement with other public or private agencies, emergency evaluation and  
21          treatment, outpatient care, and inpatient care to ~~persons~~individuals suffering from a  
22          mental disorder or chemical dependency.

23          **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-03.1-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
24          amended and reenacted as follows:

25          **25-03.1-04. Screening and admission to a public treatment facility.**

26          Under rules adopted by the department, screening of an individual to a public treatment  
27          facility for observation, diagnosis, care, or treatment for mental illness or chemical dependency  
28          must be performed, in person ~~whenever~~when reasonably practicable, by a regional human  
29          service center. This screening must be performed in the region where the individual is physically  
30          located. Upon the request of a court, a law enforcement official, a qualified mental health  
31          professional, the individual's legal guardian, a minor's parent or legal custodian, or the individual

1 requesting services, the regional human service center shall conduct a screening. If a request  
2 for screening is made by a qualified mental health professional and the individual that is the  
3 subject of the screening does not authorize the disclosure of the individual's protected health  
4 information, upon the request of the regional human service center, any mental health  
5 professional who has treated the individual within the previous six months shall disclose,  
6 subject to the requirements of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations, part 2, to the human  
7 service center any relevant protected health information regarding that treatment. Upon receipt  
8 of the request, the regional human service center shall arrange for a screening of the individual  
9 and must, if appropriate, treat the applicant, or refer the applicant to the appropriate treatment  
10 facility. Upon admittance to a public treatment facility, the superintendent or director shall  
11 immediately designate a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, advanced practice registered  
12 nurse, or mental health professional to examine the individual.

13 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-03.1-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
14 amended and reenacted as follows:

15 **25-03.1-06. Right to release on application - Exception - Judicial proceedings.**

16 Any ~~person~~individual voluntarily admitted for inpatient treatment to any treatment facility or  
17 the state hospital must be orally advised of the right to release and must be further advised in  
18 writing of the rights under this chapter. A voluntary patient who requests release must be  
19 immediately released. However, if the superintendent or the director determines that the patient  
20 is a person requiring treatment, the release may be postponed until judicial proceedings for  
21 involuntary treatment have been held in the county where the hospital or facility is located. The  
22 patient must be served the petition within twenty-four hours, exclusive of weekends and  
23 holidays, from the time release is requested, unless extended by the magistrate for good cause  
24 shown. The treatment hearing must be held within seven days from the time the petition is  
25 served.

26 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-03.1-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
27 amended and reenacted as follows:

28 **25-03.1-07. Involuntary admission standards.**

29 ~~A person~~An individual may be involuntarily admitted under this chapter to the state hospital  
30 or another treatment facility only if it is determined that the individual is a person requiring  
31 treatment.

1       **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-03.1-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3       **25-03.1-08. Application to state's attorney or retained attorney - Petition for**  
4 **involuntary treatment - Investigation by qualified mental health professional.**

5       1. Any ~~person~~individual eighteen years of age or over shall present the information  
6 necessary for the commitment of an individual for involuntary treatment to the state's  
7 attorney of the county where the respondent is presently located, or which is the  
8 respondent's place of residence, or to an attorney retained by that ~~person~~applicant to  
9 represent the applicant throughout the proceedings. The attorney shall assist the  
10 ~~person~~applicant in completing the petition. The petition must be verified by affidavit of  
11 the applicant and contain assertions that the respondent is a person requiring the  
12 treatment; the facts, in detail, that are the basis of that assertion; the names,  
13 telephone numbers, and addresses, if known, of any witnesses to those facts; and, if  
14 known, the name, telephone number, and address of the nearest relative or guardian  
15 of the respondent, or, if none, of a friend of the respondent.

16       2. The petition may be accompanied by any of the following:

17       1.a. A written statement supporting the petition from a psychiatrist, physician,  
18 physician assistant, psychologist, advanced practice registered nurse, or  
19 addiction counselor who is practicing within the professional scope of practice  
20 and who has personally examined the respondent within forty-five days of the  
21 date of the petition.

22       2.b. One or more supporting affidavits otherwise corroborating the petition.

23       3. In assisting the ~~person~~applicant in completing the petition, the state's attorney may  
24 direct a qualified mental health professional designated by the regional human service  
25 center to investigate and evaluate the specific facts alleged by the applicant. The  
26 investigation must be completed as promptly as possible and include observations of  
27 and conversation with the respondent, unless the respondent cannot be found or  
28 refuses to meet with the mental health professional. A written report of the results of  
29 the investigation must be delivered to the state's attorney. Copies of the report must  
30 be made available upon request to the respondent, the respondent's counsel, and any  
31 expert examiner conducting an examination under section 25-03.1-11. The state's

1 attorney or retained attorney shall file the petition if the information provided by the  
2 petitioner or gathered by investigation provides probable cause to believe that the  
3 subject of the petition is a person requiring treatment. A state's attorney who  
4 determines there are insufficient grounds for filing a petition may refer the applicant to  
5 other community resources. A state's attorney's decision not to institute proceedings  
6 may be reviewed under section 11-16-06.

7 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-03.1-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
8 amended and reenacted as follows:

9 **25-03.1-10. Involuntary treatment - Court-ordered examination.**

10 If the petition is not accompanied by a written supportive statement of a psychiatrist,  
11 physician, physician assistant, psychologist, advanced practice registered nurse, or addiction  
12 counselor who has examined the respondent within the last forty-five days, the court shall order  
13 the respondent to be examined by an expert examiner of the respondent's own choice or one  
14 appointed by the court. The order must state the date and time within which the respondent  
15 must appear; the address to which the respondent is to report; a statement that if the  
16 respondent fails to appear at the appointed place at or before the ordered date and time, the  
17 respondent may be involuntarily taken into custody and transported to the appointed place; and  
18 a statement that the expert examiner may consult with or request participation in the  
19 examination by a qualified mental health professional and may include with the written  
20 examination report any findings or observations by that mental health professional.  
21 Accompanying the order must be an explanation of the intended uses and possible effects of  
22 this examination. The examination may be conducted at a treatment facility, at the respondent's  
23 home, or at any other suitable place in the community. A request for examination at the state  
24 hospital must be screened and approved by a regional human service center. The respondent  
25 may be accompanied by one or more relatives or friends at the place of the examination. The  
26 costs of the court-ordered examination must be borne by the county that is the respondent's  
27 place of residence.

28 **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-03.1-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
29 amended and reenacted as follows:

1           **25-03.1-11. Involuntary treatment - Examination - Report.**

- 2           1. The respondent must be examined within a reasonable time by an expert examiner as  
3           ordered by the court. If the respondent is taken into custody under the emergency  
4           treatment provisions of this chapter, the examination must be conducted within  
5           twenty-four hours, exclusive of holidays, of custody. Any expert examiner conducting  
6           an examination under this section may consult with or request participation in the  
7           examination by any qualified mental health professional and may include with the  
8           written examination report any findings or observations by that mental health  
9           professional. This examination report, and that of the independent examiner, if one  
10          has been requested, must be filed with the court. The report must contain:
- 11          a. Evaluations of the respondent's physical condition and mental status.
  - 12          b. A conclusion as to whether the respondent is a person requiring treatment, with a  
13          clear explanation of how that conclusion was derived from the evaluation.
  - 14          c. If the report concludes that the respondent is a person requiring treatment, a list  
15          of available forms of care and treatment that may serve as alternatives to  
16          involuntary hospitalization.
  - 17          d. The signature of the examiner who prepared the report.
- 18          2. For purposes of any examination conducted pursuant to this section:
- 19          a. An evaluation of a respondent's physical condition may be made only by a  
20          licensed physician ~~or, physician assistant, psychiatrist, or advanced practice~~  
21          registered nurse.
  - 22          b. An evaluation of a respondent's mental status may be made only by a licensed  
23          physician, physician assistant, psychiatrist, advanced practice registered nurse,  
24          or psychologist trained in a clinical program.
  - 25          c. An evaluation of whether the respondent is chemically dependent may be made  
26          only by a licensed physician, physician assistant, psychiatrist, advanced practice  
27          registered nurse, licensed addiction counselor, or licensed psychologist trained in  
28          a clinical program.
- 29          3. If the expert examiner concludes that the respondent is not a person requiring  
30          treatment, the court may without taking any other additional action terminate the  
31          proceedings and dismiss the petition. If the expert examiner concludes that the

1           respondent is a person requiring treatment, or makes no conclusion thereon, the court  
2           shall set a date for hearing and shall give notice of hearing to the persons designated  
3           in section 25-03.1-12. If the respondent is in custody and is alleged to be suffering  
4           from mental illness or a combination of mental illness and chemical dependency, the  
5           preliminary hearing date must be within four days, exclusive of weekends and  
6           holidays, of the date respondent was taken into custody through emergency  
7           commitment under section 25-03.1-25 unless a delay or continuance is concurred in  
8           by the respondent or unless extended by the magistrate for good cause shown. If a  
9           preliminary hearing is not required, the treatment hearing must be held within four  
10          days, exclusive of weekends and holidays, of the date the court received the expert  
11          examiner's report, not to exceed fourteen days from the time the petition was served.

12          **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-03.1-16 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
13          amended and reenacted as follows:

14          **25-03.1-16. Medication pending treatment order.**

15          A patient who has requested release or a ~~person~~an individual who is the subject of a  
16          petition for treatment has the right to refuse medication and other forms of treatment before the  
17          preliminary or treatment hearing. However, a physician may prescribe medication or a less  
18          restrictive alternative if it is necessary to prevent bodily harm to the respondent or others or to  
19          prevent imminent deterioration of the respondent's physical or mental condition. The patient has  
20          the right to be free of the effects of medication at the preliminary or treatment hearing by  
21          discontinuance of medication no later than twenty-four hours before the hearing unless, in the  
22          opinion of the prescribing physician, the need for the medication still exists or discontinuation  
23          would hamper the respondent's preparation for and participation in the proceedings.

24          **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-03.1-17 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
25          amended and reenacted as follows:

26          **25-03.1-17. Involuntary treatment - Right to preliminary hearing.**

27          A respondent who is in custody under section 25-03.1-25 and who is alleged to be mentally  
28          ill or to be suffering from a combination of chemical dependency and mental illness is entitled to  
29          a preliminary hearing. At the preliminary hearing the magistrate shall review the medical report.  
30          During the hearing the petitioner and the respondent must be afforded an opportunity to testify  
31          and to present and cross-examine witnesses, and the court may receive the testimony of any

1 other interested person. The magistrate may receive evidence that would otherwise be  
2 inadmissible at a treatment hearing. At the conclusion of the hearing, if the court does not find  
3 probable cause to believe that the individual is a person requiring treatment, the petition must  
4 be dismissed. The ~~person~~individual must be ordered discharged from the treatment facility if  
5 that ~~person~~individual has been detained before the hearing. If the court finds probable cause to  
6 believe that the respondent is a person requiring treatment, it shall consider less restrictive  
7 alternatives to involuntary detention and treatment. The court may then order the respondent to  
8 undergo up to fourteen days' treatment under a less restrictive alternative or, if it finds that  
9 alternative treatment is not in the best interests of the respondent or others, it shall order the  
10 respondent detained for up to fourteen days for involuntary treatment in a treatment facility.

11 The court shall specifically state to the respondent and give written notice that if involuntary  
12 treatment beyond the fourteen-day period is to be sought, the respondent will have the right to a  
13 treatment hearing as required by this chapter.

14 **SECTION 10. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-03.1-18.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
15 amended and reenacted as follows:

16 **25-03.1-18.1. Court-authorized involuntary treatment with prescribed medication.**

17 1. a. Upon notice and hearing, a treating psychiatrist may request authorization from  
18 the court to treat a ~~person~~an individual under a mental health treatment order  
19 with prescribed medication. The request may be considered by the court in an  
20 involuntary treatment hearing. As a part of the request, the treating psychiatrist  
21 and another licensed physician ~~or, physician assistant, psychiatrist, or advanced~~  
22 practice registered nurse not involved in the current diagnosis or treatment of the  
23 patient shall certify:

- 24 (1) That the proposed prescribed medication is clinically appropriate and  
25 necessary to effectively treat the patient and that the patient is a person  
26 requiring treatment;
- 27 (2) That the patient was offered that treatment and refused it or that the patient  
28 lacks the capacity to make or communicate a responsible decision about  
29 that treatment;
- 30 (3) That prescribed medication is the least restrictive form of intervention  
31 necessary to meet the treatment needs of the patient; and

- 1                   (4) That the benefits of the treatment outweigh the known risks to the patient.
- 2           b. The court shall inquire whether the patient has had a sufficient opportunity to
- 3                   adequately prepare to meet the issue of involuntary treatment with prescribed
- 4                   medication and, at the request of the patient, the court may continue the
- 5                   involuntary treatment hearing for a period not exceeding seven days or may
- 6                   appoint an independent expert examiner as provided in subsection 4.
- 7           2. a. Evidence of the factors certified under subsection 1 may be presented to the
- 8                   court at an involuntary treatment hearing held pursuant to sections 25-03.1-19
- 9                   and 25-03.1-22, or at a separate hearing after motion and notice. The court in
- 10                  ruling on the requested authorization for involuntary treatment with prescribed
- 11                  medication shall consider all relevant evidence presented at the hearing,
- 12                  including:
- 13                  (1) The danger the patient presents to self or others;
- 14                  (2) The patient's current condition;
- 15                  (3) The patient's treatment history;
- 16                  (4) The results of previous medication trials;
- 17                  (5) The efficacy of current or past treatment modalities concerning the patient;
- 18                  (6) The patient's prognosis; and
- 19                  (7) The effect of the patient's mental condition on the patient's capacity to
- 20                  consent.
- 21           b. Involuntary treatment with prescribed medication may not be authorized by the
- 22                  court solely for the convenience of facility staff or for the purpose of punishment.
- 23           3. If the factors certified under subsection 1 have been demonstrated by clear and
- 24                  convincing evidence, the court may include in its involuntary treatment order a
- 25                  provision, or it may issue a separate order after notice and hearing, authorizing the
- 26                  treating psychiatrist to involuntarily treat the patient with prescribed medication on
- 27                  such terms and conditions as are appropriate. The order for involuntary treatment with
- 28                  prescribed medication, however, may not be in effect for more than ninety days.
- 29           4. If a patient has requested an examination by an independent expert examiner under
- 30                  this chapter, and if the treating psychiatrist has requested authorization for involuntary

1 treatment with prescribed medication, only a psychiatrist may independently examine  
2 the patient as to the issue of involuntary treatment with prescribed medication.

3 **SECTION 11. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-03.1-19 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
4 amended and reenacted as follows:

5 **25-03.1-19. Involuntary treatment hearing.**

6 The involuntary treatment hearing, unless waived by the respondent or the respondent has  
7 been released as a person not requiring treatment, must be held within fourteen days of the  
8 preliminary hearing. If the preliminary hearing is not required, the involuntary treatment hearing  
9 must be held within four days, exclusive of weekends and holidays, of the date the court  
10 received the expert examiner's report, not to exceed fourteen days from the time the petition  
11 was served. The court may extend the time for hearing for good cause. The respondent has the  
12 right to an examination by an independent expert examiner if so requested. If the respondent is  
13 indigent, the county of residence of the respondent shall pay for the cost of the examination and  
14 the respondent may choose an independent expert examiner.

15 The hearing must be held in the county of the respondent's residence or location or the  
16 county where the state hospital or treatment facility treating the respondent is located. At the  
17 hearing, evidence in support of the petition must be presented by the state's attorney, private  
18 counsel, or counsel designated by the court. During the hearing, the petitioner and the  
19 respondent must be afforded an opportunity to testify and to present and cross-examine  
20 witnesses. The court may receive the testimony of any other interested person. All  
21 ~~persons~~individuals not necessary for the conduct of the proceeding must be excluded, except  
22 that the court may admit ~~persons~~individuals having a legitimate interest in the proceeding. The  
23 hearing must be conducted in as informal a manner as practical, but the issue must be tried as  
24 a civil matter. Discovery and the power of subpoena permitted under the North Dakota Rules of  
25 Civil Procedure are available to the respondent. The court shall receive all relevant and material  
26 evidence ~~which~~that may be offered as governed by the North Dakota Rules of Evidence. There  
27 is a presumption in favor of the respondent, and the burden of proof in support of the petition is  
28 upon the petitioner.

29 If, upon completion of the hearing, the court finds that the petition has not been sustained  
30 by clear and convincing evidence, ~~the court~~ shall deny the petition, terminate the proceeding,

1 and order that the respondent be discharged if the respondent has been hospitalized before the  
2 hearing.

3 **SECTION 12. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 3 of section 25-03.1-21 of the North Dakota  
4 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

5 3. If a peace officer, physician either in person or directing an emergency medical  
6 services professional, psychiatrist, physician assistant, clinical psychologist, advanced  
7 practice registered nurse, or any mental health professional reasonably believes that  
8 the respondent is not complying with an order for alternative treatment, that the  
9 alternative treatment is not sufficient to prevent harm or injuries to the respondent or  
10 others, and that considerations of time and safety do not allow intervention by a court,  
11 the designated professional may cause the respondent to be taken into custody and  
12 detained at a treatment facility as provided in subsection 3 of section 25-03.1-25 and,  
13 within twenty-four hours, shall file a notice with the court stating the circumstances and  
14 factors of the case. The state hospital or public treatment facility ~~must~~shall  
15 immediately accept, if appropriately screened and medically stable, and a private  
16 treatment facility may accept, the respondent on a provisional basis. The  
17 superintendent or director shall require an immediate examination of the respondent  
18 and, within twenty-four hours after admission, shall either release the respondent  
19 subject to the conditions of the original order or file a notice with the court stating in  
20 detail the circumstances and factors of the case. The court shall, within forty-eight  
21 hours of receipt of the notice of the superintendent or director, after a hearing and  
22 based on the evidence presented and other available information:

- 23 a. Release the individual from hospitalization and continue the alternative treatment  
24 order;
- 25 b. Consider other alternatives to hospitalization, modify its original order, and direct  
26 the individual to undergo another program of alternative treatment for the  
27 remainder of the commitment period; or
- 28 c. Enter a new order directing that the respondent remain hospitalized until  
29 discharged from the hospital under section 25-03.1-30.

30 **SECTION 13. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-03.1-23 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
31 amended and reenacted as follows:

1           **25-03.1-23. Petition for continuing treatment orders.**

2           A petition for an order authorizing continuing treatment must contain a statement setting  
3 forth the reasons for the determination that the patient continues to be a person requiring  
4 treatment; a statement describing the treatment program provided to the patient and the results  
5 of that treatment; and a clinical estimate as to how long further treatment will be required. The  
6 petition must be accompanied by a certificate executed by a physician, physician assistant,  
7 psychiatrist, psychologist, advanced practice registered nurse, or licensed addiction counselor,  
8 any of whom is practicing within that individual's professional scope of practice.

9           **SECTION 14. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-03.1-25 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
10 amended and reenacted as follows:

11           **25-03.1-25. Detention or hospitalization - Emergency procedure.**

- 12           1. When a peace officer, physician either in person or directing an emergency medical  
13 services professional, psychiatrist, physician assistant, psychologist, advanced  
14 practice registered nurse, or mental health professional has reasonable cause to  
15 believe that an individual is a person requiring treatment and there exists a serious risk  
16 of harm to that ~~person~~individual, ~~other person~~others, or property of an immediate  
17 nature that considerations of safety do not allow preliminary intervention by a  
18 magistrate, the peace officer, physician either in person or directing an emergency  
19 medical services professional, psychiatrist, physician assistant, psychologist,  
20 advanced practice registered nurse, or mental health professional, using the screening  
21 process set forth in section 25-03.1-04, may cause the ~~person~~individual to be taken  
22 into custody and detained at a treatment facility as provided in subsection 3, and  
23 subject to section 25-03.1-26, except that if emergency conditions exist that prevent  
24 the immediate conveyance of the individual to a public treatment facility, a private  
25 facility that has adequate resources and capacity to hold that individual may hold the  
26 individual in anticipation of conveyance to a public treatment facility for up to  
27 twenty-three hours:
- 28           a. Without conducting an immediate examination required under section  
29           25-03.1-26; and
- 30           b. Without following notice and hearing requirements for a transfer to another  
31           treatment facility required under subsection 3 of section 25-03.1-34.

- 1           2. If a petitioner seeking the involuntary treatment of a respondent requests that the  
2           respondent be taken into immediate custody and the magistrate, upon reviewing the  
3           petition and accompanying documentation, finds probable cause to believe that the  
4           respondent is a person requiring treatment and there exists a serious risk of harm to  
5           the respondent, ~~other persons~~others, or property if allowed to remain at liberty, the  
6           magistrate may enter a written order directing that the respondent be taken into  
7           immediate custody and be detained as provided in subsection 3 until the preliminary or  
8           treatment hearing, which must be held no more than seven days after the date of the  
9           order.
- 10          3. Detention under this section may be:
- 11           a. In a treatment facility where the director or superintendent must be informed of  
12           the reasons why immediate custody has been ordered. The facility may provide  
13           treatment that is necessary to preserve the respondent's life or to appropriately  
14           control behavior by the respondent which is likely to result in physical injury to  
15           self or to others if allowed to continue, but may not otherwise provide treatment to  
16           the respondent without the respondent's consent; or
- 17           b. In a public or private facility in the community which is suitably equipped and  
18           staffed for the purpose. Detention in a jail or other correctional facility may not be  
19           ordered except in cases of actual emergency when no other secure facility is  
20           accessible, and then only for a period of not more than twenty-four hours and  
21           under close supervision.
- 22          4. Immediately upon being taken into custody, the ~~person~~individual must be advised of  
23           the purpose of custody, of the intended uses and possible effects of any evaluation  
24           that the ~~person~~individual undergoes, and of the ~~person's~~individual's rights to counsel  
25           and to a preliminary or treatment hearing.
- 26          5. Upon arrival at a facility the peace officer, physician, physician assistant, psychiatrist,  
27           psychologist, advanced practice registered nurse, or mental health professional who  
28           conveyed the ~~person~~individual or who caused the ~~person~~individual to be conveyed  
29           shall complete an application for evaluation and shall deliver a detailed written report  
30           from the peace officer, physician, physician assistant, psychiatrist, psychologist,  
31           advanced practice registered nurse, or the mental health professional who caused the

1            ~~person~~individual to be conveyed. The written report must state the circumstances  
2            under which the ~~person~~individual was taken into custody. The report must allege in  
3            detail the overt act that constituted the basis for the beliefs that the individual is a  
4            person requiring treatment and that, because of that ~~person's~~individual's condition,  
5            there exists a serious risk of harm to that ~~person~~individual, ~~another person~~others, or  
6            property if the ~~person~~individual is not immediately detained.

7            **SECTION 15. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-03.1-26 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
8            amended and reenacted as follows:

9            **25-03.1-26. Emergency procedure - Acceptance of petition and individual - Notice -**  
10          **Court hearing set.**

- 11            1. A public treatment facility immediately shall accept and a private treatment facility may  
12            accept on a provisional basis the application and the ~~person~~individual admitted under  
13            section 25-03.1-25. The superintendent or director shall require an immediate  
14            examination of the subject and, within twenty-four hours after admission, shall either  
15            release the ~~person~~individual if the superintendent or director finds that the subject  
16            does not meet the emergency commitment standards or file a petition if one has not  
17            been filed with the court of the ~~person's~~individual's residence or the court which  
18            directed immediate custody under subsection 2 of section 25-03.1-25, giving notice to  
19            the court and stating in detail the circumstances and facts of the case.
- 20            2. Upon receipt of the petition and notice of the emergency detention, the magistrate  
21            shall set a date for a preliminary hearing, if the respondent is alleged to be suffering  
22            from mental illness or from a combination of mental illness and chemical dependency,  
23            or a treatment hearing, if the respondent is alleged to be suffering from chemical  
24            dependency, to be held no later than four days, exclusive of weekends and holidays,  
25            after detention unless the person has been released as a person not requiring  
26            treatment, has been voluntarily admitted for treatment, has requested or agreed to a  
27            continuance, or unless the hearing has been extended by the magistrate for good  
28            cause shown. The magistrate shall appoint counsel if one has not been retained by  
29            the respondent.

30            **SECTION 16. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-03.1-27 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
31            amended and reenacted as follows:

1       **25-03.1-27. Notice and statement of rights.**

- 2       1. ~~Whenever any person~~When an individual is detained for emergency evaluation and  
3       treatment under this chapter, the superintendent or director shall cause both the  
4       patient and, if possible, a responsible member of the patient's immediate family, a  
5       guardian, or a friend, if any, to receive:
- 6       a. A copy of the petition which asserted that the individual is a person requiring  
7       treatment.
  - 8       b. A written statement explaining that the individual will be examined by an expert  
9       examiner within twenty-four hours of hospitalization, excluding holidays.
  - 10      c. A written statement in simple terms explaining the rights of the individual alleged  
11      to be suffering from mental illness or from a combination of mental illness and  
12      chemical dependency to a preliminary hearing, to be present at the hearing, and  
13      to be represented by legal counsel, if the individual is certified by an expert  
14      examiner or examiners as a person requiring treatment.
  - 15      d. A written statement in simple terms explaining the rights of the individual to a  
16      treatment hearing, to be present at the hearing, to be represented by legal  
17      counsel, and the right to an independent medical evaluation.
- 18      2. If the individual is unable to read or understand the written materials, every reasonable  
19      effort must be made to explain ~~them~~the written material in a language the individual  
20      understands, and a note of the explanation and by whom made must be entered into  
21      the patient record.

22       **SECTION 17. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-03.1-41 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
23      amended and reenacted as follows:

24       **25-03.1-41. Limitations and restrictions of patient's rights.**

25       The rights enumerated in subsections 5, 6, 7, and 8 of section 25-03.1-40 may be limited or  
26      restricted by the treating physician, physician assistant, psychiatrist, advanced practice  
27      registered nurse, or psychologist trained in a clinical program, if in that ~~person's~~individual's  
28      professional judgment to do so would be in the best interests of the patient and the rights are  
29      restricted or limited in the manner authorized by the rules adopted pursuant to section  
30      25-03.1-46. ~~Whenever~~When a physician, physician assistant, psychiatrist, advanced practice  
31      registered nurse, or psychologist trained in a clinical program responsible for treatment of a

1 particular patient imposes a special restriction on the rights of the patient as authorized by the  
2 rules, a written order specifying the restriction and the reasons for the restriction must be signed  
3 by the physician, physician assistant, psychiatrist, advanced practice registered nurse, or  
4 psychologist trained in a clinical program and attached to the patient's chart. These restrictions  
5 must be reviewed at intervals of not more than fourteen days and may be renewed by following  
6 the procedure set out in this section.

7 **SECTION 18. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-03.1-42 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
8 amended and reenacted as follows:

9 **25-03.1-42. Limitation of liability - Penalty for false petition.**

- 10 1. A person acting in good faith upon either actual knowledge or reliable information  
11 ~~whewhich~~ makes the petition for involuntary treatment of ~~another person~~an individual  
12 under this chapter is not subject to civil or criminal liability.
- 13 2. A physician, physician assistant, psychiatrist, psychologist, advanced practice  
14 registered nurse, mental health professional, employee of a treatment facility, state's  
15 attorney, or peace officer who in good faith exercises professional judgment in fulfilling  
16 an obligation or discretionary responsibility under this chapter is not subject to civil or  
17 criminal liability for acting unless it can be shown that it was done in a negligent  
18 manner.
- 19 3. A person ~~whethat~~ makes a petition for involuntary treatment of ~~another person~~an  
20 individual without having good cause to believe that the ~~other person~~individual is  
21 suffering from mental illness or chemical dependency and as a result is likely to cause  
22 serious harm to self or others is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.