

**MINA' TRENTAI TRES NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN
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Bill No. 115 -33 (COR)

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AN ACT TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 82A TO DIVISION 4, AND TO ADD A NEW §82201(h) TO CHAPTER 82, BOTH OF TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, TO PROVIDE FOR ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH CERTAIN MENTAL ILLNESSES, WHICH SHALL BE KNOWN AS THE BABY ALEXYA LAW.

1 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**

2 **Section 1.** A new Chapter 82A is added to Division 4, Title 10, Guam Code
3 Annotated, to read:

4 **“Chapter 82A.**

5 **Assisted Outpatient Treatment**

- 6 Article 1. Legislative Finding and Intent; Baby Alexya Law
- 7 Article 2. Definitions
- 8 Article 3. Voluntary Treatment
- 9 Article 4. Petition for Assisted Outpatient Treatment
- 10 Article 5. Assisted Treatment Hearing Procedures

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11 **Article 1. Legislative Finding and Intent; Baby Alexya Law**

12 § 82A101. Legislative Finding and Intent. Assisted Outpatient Treatment is
13 practiced in forty-five (45) States as an extension of inpatient treatment, while
14 allowing the qualified patient with a treatable mental illness or condition to receive
15 court ordered treatment on an outpatient basis. It is also known in some states as
16 outpatient commitment. A detailed six month study of New York’s Kendra’s Law
17 documented a striking decline in the rate of hospitalization among participants.
18 AOT recipients were hospitalized at less than half the rate they were hospitalized
19 in the six months prior to receiving AOT (i.e., the hospitalization rate dropped
20 from 74 percent to 36 percent). Further, when they were hospitalized, the length of
21 the stay was greatly reduced. Studies in other states have demonstrated similar
22 benefits.

23 The continued treatment and management of the patient’s condition on an
24 outpatient basis has also been determined to greatly reduce incidents of violence
25 and arrests. Without AOT, the patient’s condition often deteriorates directly due to

1 a lack of treatment compliance and the continuing exhibition of “good” adherence
2 to their medication treatment plan.

3 Another tragic consequence for many individuals with untreated mental
4 illnesses is homelessness. At any given time, there are more people with untreated
5 severe psychiatric illnesses living on America’s streets than are receiving care in
6 hospitals. In New York, when compared to three years prior to participation in the
7 program, 74 percent fewer AOT recipients experienced homelessness (New York
8 State Office of Mental Health 2005). New York and other states have incurred
9 enormous costs in the provision of public assistance for housing assistance and re-

10 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that the consequences of untreated mental
11 illness are as apparent as they are devastating: homelessness, criminalization,
12 suicide, violence, victimization, lost productivity, permanently decreased
13 medication responses, and the incalculable costs of unnecessary suffering. Due to
14 advances in recent years, treatment is now available that can eliminate or
15 substantially alleviate the symptoms of mental illness for most who suffer from it.
16 People with treated mental illness can now reclaim their lives. But first, there must
17 be treatment.

18 Treatment voluntarily embraced is always preferable. However, mental
19 illness is a biologically based disease that attacks the brain. As a result, mental
20 illness renders many people incapable of voluntarily entering treatment because
21 they are unable to make rational decisions or unaware that they are ill. When this
22 occurs, such people may require assisted treatment to protect their lives as well as
23 avoid tragic personal and societal consequences.

24 This Act is designed to be the legal framework for the provision of care to
25 individuals who, due to the symptoms of severe mental illness, become either

1 dangerous or incapable of making informed medical decisions concerning their
2 treatment.

3 The procedural components of this Act is intended to create a flexible
4 mechanism that can be used to secure treatment for those who most need it while
5 still distinguishing those for whom intervention is inappropriate. Paramount are
6 the strict and plentiful safeguards which this Act establishes to protect both the
7 rights and well-being of those subject to it.

8 It is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to provide for a missing but
9 necessary treatment component in our mental healthcare system. As was the case
10 in New York City in the establishment of Kendra’s Law, it took the tragic death of
11 Ms. Kendra Webdale, a young woman who died in January 1999 after being
12 pushed in front of a New York City subway train by a person who was living in the
13 community at the time, but was not receiving treatment for his mental illness. On
14 Guam, we had the recent case of ten (10) month old baby Alexya being punched in
15 the face while in the arms of her mother under similar circumstances by a person
16 not receiving treatment for her mental illness.

17 § 82A102. This Act shall be cited as the “Baby Alexya Law”.

18 **Article 2. Definitions; as used in this Chapter.**

19 § 82A201. Assisted treatment: the provision of treatment, in accordance
20 with this Act, to individuals who are either dangerous or incapable of making
21 informed medical decisions because of the effects of severe mental illness.

22 § 82A202. Assisted outpatient treatment (AOT): assisted treatment on an
23 outpatient basis.

1 § 82A203. Certificate: form filed with the court by a psychiatrist or other
2 physician to request an assisted treatment hearing for an individual currently in
3 emergency treatment/observation.

4 § 82A204. Chronically disabled: may be shown by establishing that the
5 person is incapable of making an informed medical decision and, based on the
6 person's psychiatric history, the person is unlikely to comply with treatment and,
7 as a consequence, the person's current condition is likely to deteriorate until his or
8 her psychiatric disorder significantly impairs the person's judgment, reason,
9 behavior or capacity to recognize reality and has a substantial probability of
10 causing him or her to suffer or continue to suffer severe psychiatric, emotional or
11 physical harm.

12 § 82A205. Court: the Superior Court of Guam *shall* be the court of judicial
13 review designated to accept petitions and certificates for assisted treatment and
14 related filings, decide on preliminary and ex parte motions, and all other functions
15 assigned to it pursuant to this Act.

16 §82A206. Danger to himself or herself: may be shown by establishing that,
17 by his or her behavior, a person is in the reasonably foreseeable future likely to
18 either attempt suicide, to inflict bodily harm on himself or herself or, because of
19 his or her actions or inaction, to suffer serious physical harm in the near future. The
20 person's past behavior may be considered.

21 § 82A207. Danger to others: may be shown by establishing that, by his or
22 her behavior, a person is in the reasonably foreseeable future likely to cause or
23 attempt to cause harm to another. Evidence that a person is a danger to others may
24 include, but is not limited to:

- 1 1. that he or she has inflicted, attempted or threatened in an objectively
2 serious manner to inflict bodily harm on another;
- 3 2. that by his or her actions or inactions, he or she has presented a danger to
4 a person in his or her care; or
- 5 3. that he or she has recently and intentionally caused significant damage to
6 the substantial property of others.

7 § 82A208. Gravely disabled, as defined in 10 GCA § 82101(c),: may be
8 shown by establishing that a person is incapable of making an informed medical
9 decision and has behaved in such a manner as to indicate that he or she is unlikely,
10 without supervision and the assistance of others, to satisfy his or her need for either
11 nourishment, personal or medical care, shelter, or self-protection and safety so that
12 it is probable that substantial bodily harm, significant psychiatric deterioration or
13 debilitation, or serious illness will result unless adequate treatment is afforded.

14 § 82A209. Incapable of making an informed medical decision: means that a
15 person is unaware of the effects of his or her psychiatric disorder or that the person
16 lacks the capacity to make a well-reasoned, willful, and knowing decision
17 concerning his or her medical or psychiatric treatment. Any history of the person's
18 non-compliance with treatment or of criminal acts related to his or her mental
19 illness shall, if available, be considered.

20 § 82A210. Petition: form filed with a court to request an assisted treatment
21 hearing based on the good faith belief of the petitioner that the subject of the
22 petition is eligible for assisted treatment pursuant to the provisions of this Act.

23 § 82A211. Petitioner. Shall *only* mean the Director of the Guam Behavioral
24 Health and Wellness Center or his or her designee, in conjunction with the treating

1 psychiatrist or physician who has examined the respondent, and who shall file the
2 petition.

3 § 82A212. Respondent: the person who is the subject of a petition or
4 certificate.

5 § 82A213. Severe psychiatric disorder: a substantial impairment of a
6 person's thought processes (e.g., delusions), sensory input (e.g., hallucinations),
7 mood balance (e.g., mania or severe depression), memory (e.g., dementia), or
8 ability to reason that substantially interferes with a person's ability to meet the
9 ordinary demands of living. Severe psychiatric disorders are distinguished from:

- 10 1. conditions which are primarily due to drug abuse or alcoholism, although
11 severe psychiatric disorders may co-exist with these disorders;
- 12 2. other known neurological disorders such as epilepsy, multiple sclerosis,
13 Parkinson's disease, or Alzheimer's disease although such neurological
14 disorders may also have psychotic features similar to those found in
15 severe psychiatric disorders;
- 16 3. normal age-related changes in the brain;
- 17 4. brain changes related to terminal medical conditions;
- 18 5. personality disorders as defined by the American Psychiatric
19 Association's "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders"
20 (APA-DSM);
- 21 6. moderate, severe and profound mental retardation as defined by the
22 APA-DSM; and
- 23 7. pervasive developmental disorders, including autistic disorder, Rett's
24 disorder and Asperger's disorder as defined by the APA-DSM.

1 § 82A214. Treating professional, professional staff, professional person or
2 qualified mental health professional *shall* mean a licensed professional qualified by
3 training or experience in the diagnosis of mental or related illness. The following
4 licensed professionals shall be so designated:

- 5 (1) a psychiatrist;
- 6 (2) a clinical psychologist;
- 7 (3) a certified psychiatric nurse at the Master’s level; or
- 8 (4) a physician.

9 § 82A215. Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC). The
10 public agency designated by the Territory to diagnose or treat persons with mental
11 health disorders.

12 **Article 3. Voluntary Treatment**

13 § 82A301. Admission to voluntary treatment. A person in need of
14 psychiatric care should be admitted into treatment voluntarily whenever possible.

15 § 82A302. Discharge from voluntary treatment. A voluntary patient may
16 seek discharge at any time. Unless properly invoking provisions of this Act
17 allowing for their retention, the psychiatric treatment facility must release
18 voluntary patients who request to be discharged within 48 hours, not including
19 Saturdays, Sundays or holidays.

20 **Article 4. Petition for Assisted Outpatient Treatment**

21 § 82A401. Criteria. (a) A person may be ordered to receive assisted
22 outpatient treatment (AOT) if the court finds that such person:

- 23 (1) Is eighteen years of age or older; and

- 1 (2) Is suffering from mental illness; and
- 2 (3) Is an inpatient client or a client transitioning out of Mental
3 Health Court; or
- 4 (4) Is an outpatient client or was a former client who is being
5 treated or has been treated for mental illness at the GBHWC;
6 and
- 7 (5) Is unlikely to survive safely in the community without
8 supervision, based on clinical determination; and
- 9 (6) Has a history of poor treatment compliance for mental illness
10 that has:
 - 11 (i) Been a significant factor in his or her being in a hospital,
12 prison or jail at least twice within the last thirty-six
13 months or;
 - 14 (ii) Resulted in one or more acts, attempts or threats of
15 serious violent behavior toward self or other within the
16 last forty-eight months; and
- 17 (7) As a result of mental illness, is unlikely to voluntarily
18 participate in outpatient treatment that would enable him or her
19 to live safely in the community; and
- 20 (8) Be, in view of his or her treatment and current behavior, in need
21 of assisted outpatient treatment in order to prevent relapse or
22 deterioration which would likely result in:
 - 23 (i) A substantial risk of physical harm to the consumer as
24 manifested by threats or attempts at suicide or serious
25 bodily harm or conduct demonstrating that the consumer
26 is dangerous to himself or herself, or

1 (ii) A substantial risk of physical harm to other persons as
2 manifested by homicidal or other violent behavior by
3 which others are placed in reasonable fear of serious
4 physical harm; and

5 (9) Be likely to benefit from assisted outpatient treatment.

6 (b) A petition for an AOT order may be sought within the 72 hour hold as
7 provided when initiated pursuant to § 82201(h) of Chapter 82, 10 GCA.

8 **Article 5. Assisted Treatment Hearing Procedures**

9 § 82A501. Continuance. The court may, for good cause, order a
10 continuance of up to 48 hours or, if this period ends on a Saturday, Sunday or
11 holiday, to the end of the next day on which the court is open. The continuance
12 shall extend the emergency treatment/observation period or any temporary
13 treatment order until the time of the hearing.

14 § 82A502. Location of assisted treatment hearing. For those currently
15 admitted to an inpatient facility operated by the Guam Behavioral Health and
16 Wellness Center, or its designee, assisted treatment hearings shall be held at the
17 court.

18 § 82A503. Attendance at hearing. The hearing shall be open to anyone
19 unless the respondent requests that it be closed, at which point only parties and
20 their counsels, witnesses, members and staff of the GBHWC, and court personnel
21 may be present. However, the court may approve a motion of an individual to
22 attend the trial upon a showing that the person has a substantial interest in the
23 proceeding.

1 § 82A505. Expert testimony required at hearing. For a hearing on a
2 certificate, a treating professional who has examined respondent since he or she
3 was placed under emergency treatment/observation shall testify.

4 For a hearing on a petition, the testimony of a treating professional who has
5 examined the respondent more recently than seven (7) calendar days before the
6 petition was filed is required. Such testimony may be presented by affidavit, unless
7 respondent's counsel requests of the petitioner or petitioner's counsel, in writing,
8 the presence of such a treating professional at the assisted treatment hearing. A
9 copy of this request must be filed with the court and made at least 72 hours,
10 excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, prior to the hearing. If planning to
11 present the examining treating professional's testimony by affidavit, counsel for
12 the petitioner must present a copy of the affidavit either to respondent's counsel or
13 at the office of respondent's counsel at least 24 hours, excluding Saturdays,
14 Sundays and holidays, prior to the hearing. The procedures applicable when the
15 respondent has not been examined prior to the hearing are delineated in § 87A701.

16 § 82A506. Evidence admissible at hearing. The court may review any
17 information it finds relevant, material, and reliable, even if normally excluded
18 under rules of evidence.

19 § 82A507. Record of hearing. No transcript is required to be kept of
20 hearings before the court.

21 § 82A508. Rights of family members. A family member may file a motion
22 for participation in the hearing. The court may approve the preliminary motion of
23 such an individual to participate in the hearing upon a showing that the person has
24 a substantial interest in the proceeding. If the Psychiatrist or physician so approves,

1 the family member may have the right to representation by counsel at his or her
2 own expense, present evidence, cross-examine witnesses, and appeal.

3 **Article 6. Assisted Treatment Hearing Disposition**

4 § 82A601. Procedure after failure to comply with ordered evaluation. If the
5 respondent presents good and credible reason why he or she was not present for an
6 ordered evaluation, the court shall continue the proceeding and issue another order
7 for examination. A hearing concerning an individual who fails to comply, without
8 good reason, with a court's evaluation order shall still proceed. An individual's
9 refusal, without good reason, to comply with an evaluation order may be used as
10 evidence of his or her need for treatment and incapability of making an informed
11 medical decision. If a continuance is ordered, the respondent shall be placed in a
12 designated psychiatric facility and evaluated by a treating professional. The
13 continuance shall be for no more than 72 hours or, if this period ends on a
14 Saturday, Sunday or holiday, until the end of the next day on which the court is
15 open.

16 § 82A602. Consent order. At the hearing, the petitioner and respondent may
17 proffer a mutually agreed upon proposed assisted treatment order. The terms of the
18 order must be consistent with those of an initial order for assisted treatment made
19 pursuant to this Act. The proposed order must be accompanied by the testimony,
20 which may be by affidavit, of a treating professional qualifying under § 82A605
21 that the suggested order is clinically appropriate for the respondent. At its
22 discretion, the court may enter the proposed order without a full hearing. Once
23 entered, the consent order has the same effect as an assisted treatment order issued
24 pursuant to § 82A401.

1 § 82A603. Assisted treatment order. An order for assisted treatment, for its
2 duration, subordinates the individual's right to refuse the administration of
3 medication or other minor medical treatment to the GBHWC, its designee, or any
4 other medical provider obligated to care for the person by the court in its order.
5 The treatment setting shall be the least restrictive possible appropriate alternative.
6 An initial order for assisted treatment on an outpatient basis may be for up to 180
7 calendar days.

8 § 82A604. Services included in order for assisted outpatient treatment. An
9 initial assisted treatment order directing care on an outpatient basis must include
10 provisions for intensive case management. The order may also require the patient
11 make use of and care providers to supply any or all of the following categories of
12 services to the individual:

- 13 1. medication;
- 14 2. periodic blood tests or urinalysis to determine compliance with treatment;
- 15 3. individual or group therapy;
- 16 4. day or partial day programming activities;
- 17 5. educational and vocational training or activities;
- 18 6. alcohol or substance abuse treatment and counseling, and periodic tests
19 for the presence of alcohol or illegal drugs for persons with a history of
20 alcohol or substance abuse;
- 21 7. supervision of living arrangements; and
- 22 8. any other services prescribed to treat the person's mental illness and to
23 assist the person in living and functioning in the community, or to
24 attempt to prevent a relapse or deterioration.

1 Any material modifications of the provisions of the assisted treatment order
2 to which the patient does not agree must be approved by the court.

3 § 82A605. Effect of assisted treatment determination on other rights. The
4 determination that a person is in need of assisted treatment as an outpatient, is not a
5 determination that the patient is legally incompetent or incapacitated for any
6 purpose other than those set out in this Act.

7 **Article 7. Appeals**

8 § 82A701. Appeal or review of assisted treatment decision or status. Except
9 where specifically prohibited by this Act, a decision of the psychiatrist or physician
10 may be appealed to an appropriate court of record within 10 calendar days of being
11 entered. The hearing of an appeal is *de novo* and must be held within seven (7)
12 calendar days of the filing of the appeal. The subject of the assisted treatment
13 decision, the petitioner, and family members allowed as parties pursuant to §
14 82A608 have the right to appeal. The court of record may review any information
15 it finds relevant, material, and reliable, even if normally excluded under rules of
16 evidence.

17 **Article 8. Safeguards**

18 § 82A801. Thirty-day review for medication side effects. Each patient
19 receiving medication pursuant to an assisted treatment order shall be examined
20 every 30 days for serious side effects by his or her treating psychiatrist.

21 § 82A802. Recommendation for alternative appropriate treatment. After an
22 examination described in § 82A801 determines, in his or her clinical judgment,
23 that the patient has serious side effects from his or her current medication shall

1 suggest, if available, an alternative appropriate treatment that will have fewer side
2 effects.

3 § 82A803. Grievance procedure. There shall be a one-step grievance
4 procedure made available to patients on assisted outpatient treatment status.
5 Grievances concerning treatment may be made to the medical director of each
6 inpatient facility. Grievances about a patient's treatment regimen may be brought
7 by the patient or on the patient's behalf by his or her legal guardian or conservator;
8 his or her patient advocate; any party at a hearing for the institution of or renewal
9 of assisted treatment; or his or her spouse, parent, adult child or, if there is no
10 relative of such degree, his or her closest living relative. The grievance of a patient
11 whose treating psychiatrist is the facility's medical director shall be ruled on by a
12 medical professional generally appointed for this purpose by the GBHWC or its
13 designee.

14 § 82A804. Appeal of grievance. Grievances that are disallowed may be
15 appealed to the court, which shall hear the appeal within 14 calendar days. All
16 rulings on appeals of grievances by the court are final. If the appeal of a grievance
17 is denied, the patient it was brought either by or for is barred from appealing, and
18 others from doing so on his or her behalf, any other grievances to the court for a
19 period of 90 days. This limitation of appeal does not otherwise alter the patient's
20 right to bring grievances in accordance with the provisions of § 82A803.

21 **Article 9. Assisted Outpatient Treatment**

22 § 82A901. Enforcement of assisted outpatient treatment order. An assisted
23 outpatient treatment order's requirement to maintain treatment can be enforced for
24 non-compliance. On the signature of a supervising psychiatrist, the order may be

1 enforced either at the patient's residence or a treatment center designated by the
2 GBHWC or its designee, whichever the patient chooses. Patients who physically
3 resist or fail to select a treatment location shall be treated at a designated treatment
4 center.

5 § 82A902. Transfer to inpatient care. The procedures used to determine
6 whether a patient under an assisted treatment order who is on outpatient status
7 should be placed in inpatient care are the same as those for initial placement in
8 assisted treatment. A patient who meets the criteria for emergency treatment shall
9 immediately be given care in an inpatient facility, but a hearing is still necessary to
10 confirm this transfer to inpatient status. At the hearing, the court shall order the
11 patient's transfer to or continued placement in inpatient care, depending on his or
12 her status pending the hearing, if such treatment setting is the least restrictive form
13 that will meet the patient's clinical needs. A patient's failure to comply with an
14 order for assisted treatment while in the community may be used as evidence that
15 outpatient placement is not an appropriate treatment setting for that individual.

16 **Article 10. Review of Status**

17 § 82A1001. Request for review of assisted treatment status. If the time for
18 appeal of his or her most recent assisted treatment order or renewal has expired, a
19 patient may request a review of his or her assisted treatment status by the treating
20 psychiatrist or qualified mental health professional. The psychiatrist or qualified
21 mental health professional must review the request within 14 calendar days. A
22 patient may request a review of status hearing no more than once every 180 days.

23 § 82A1002. Notice of status review hearing. Notice of the status review
24 hearing shall be mailed at least seven (7) calendar days in advance to the patient;

1 patient's legal guardian or conservator, if known; patient's counsel, if known; an
2 adult member of the patient's household, if known; and anyone recognized as a
3 party at the initial assisted treatment hearing or any subsequent renewal hearings.
4 Timely actual notice shall fulfill the notice requirement for any given individual.

5 **Article 11. Renewals**

6 § 82A1101. Renewal of assisted treatment order. The process for renewing
7 an assisted treatment order is the same as for the application for an original assisted
8 treatment order by petition except that notice of the renewal hearing, as provided in
9 § 82A505, shall also be sent to anyone recognized as a party at the initial assisted
10 treatment hearing or any subsequent renewal hearings.

11 § 82A1102. Duration of renewal period. The first renewal for an assisted
12 outpatient treatment period may last up to 180 days and subsequent renewals up to
13 360 days thereafter. A subsequent renewal for an assisted outpatient treatment
14 period may last up to 360 days.

15 **Article 12. Procedures for Discharge**

16 § 82A1201. Discharge prior to the expiration of assisted treatment period.
17 A patient in assisted outpatient treatment may be discharged on the signature of
18 both the treating medical professional and the medical director of the facility. A
19 patient under an assisted treatment order who is on outpatient status may be
20 discharged on the signature of the treating medical professional and the director of
21 the outpatient program.

22 § 82A1202. Notice of discharge. Notice of discharge from an assisted
23 treatment order shall be mailed at least 72 hours before the planned discharge to

1 the petitioner; patient’s legal guardian or conservator, if known; patient’s counsel,
2 if known; an adult member of the patient’s household, if known; and anyone
3 recognized as a party at the initial assisted treatment hearing or any subsequent
4 renewal hearings.

5 § 82A1203. Discharge plan requirement. Any patient placed on assisted
6 outpatient treatment must be given a treatment plan at the time of discharge from
7 inpatient care and placement on an assisted outpatient treatment program for a
8 period anticipated being greater than 72 hours. An outpatient treatment plan may
9 include, but is not limited to suggested medication; individual or group therapy;
10 day or partial day programming activities; services and training, including
11 educational and vocational activities; residential supervision; intensive case
12 management services; and living arrangements.

13 § 82A1204. Early discharge hearing. A hearing before the court to
14 determine the appropriateness of the discharge of a patient prior to the expiration
15 of his or her assisted treatment period may be demanded as a matter of right by the
16 petitioner; the patient’s legal guardian or conservator, if known; an adult member
17 of the patient’s household, if known; and anyone recognized as a party at the initial
18 assisted treatment hearing or any subsequent renewal hearings.

19 **Article 13. Emergency Treatment / Observation – Certification.**

20 § 82A1301. Emergency treatment initiated by law enforcement officers. At
21 the request of the treating physician or at the discretion of any law enforcement
22 officer with the power of arrest or any person generally designated to do so by the
23 Territory may bring to a designated facility for evaluation any person on assisted
24 outpatient treatment the officer has reasonable cause to believe has a severe

1 psychiatric disorder and, because of the disorder, is a danger to himself, herself or
2 to others or is gravely disabled. If a physician determines that someone under an
3 AOT order is non-compliant with the court order and may need involuntary
4 hospitalization, the physician may arrange for the individual to be transported to a
5 hospital and retained for an evaluation not to exceed 72 hours to determine if
6 inpatient care and treatment are necessary.

7 § 82A1302. Emergency treatment initiated by others. Any psychiatrist,
8 other physician, or qualified mental health professional as designated pursuant to
9 10 GCA §82101(g), who has been generally designated to do so by the Territory or
10 GBHWC may initiate emergency treatment/observation based on a good faith
11 belief that because of a severe psychiatric disorder a person is either a danger to
12 himself or herself, a danger to others or gravely disabled. Any such person who
13 determines the need for emergency treatment/observation but who is not
14 authorized to transport such individuals to a psychiatric facility may direct any
15 person enumerated in § 82A403 to do so.

16 § 82A1303. Transportation to emergency facility. Transporting individuals
17 may only be transported by either law enforcement officers with the power of
18 arrest or others who have been designated to perform this function by the Territory.

19 § 82A1304. Evaluation. A psychiatrist or other physician shall evaluate an
20 individual in emergency treatment/observation within twenty-four (24) six (6)
21 hours of the individual's placement in a designated psychiatric facility.

22 § 82A1305. Immediate release. An individual shall be released from
23 emergency treatment/observation unless the psychiatrist or other physician who

1 performs the evaluation determines that the individual is either a danger to himself,
2 herself or others or is gravely disabled.

3 § 82A1306. Certification. If the examining psychiatrist or other physician
4 who performs the evaluation determines, in his or her clinical opinion, that the
5 individual is a danger to himself, herself or to others or is gravely disabled, he or
6 she must file, or cause to be filed by another psychiatrist or other physician who
7 has also examined the individual, a certificate with the court. The certificate must
8 be filed with the court within 24 hours of the initial examination , not including
9 Saturdays, Sundays or holidays .

10 § 82A1307. Requirements of Certificate. The certificate shall be in writing,
11 executed under oath, and shall include the following information:

12 1. the name and address, if known, of the respondent;

13 2. the name and address, if known, of the respondent's spouse,
14 legal counsel, conservator or guardian and next-of-kin;

15 3. the name and address, if known, of anyone currently providing
16 psychiatric care to the respondent;

17 4. the names and addresses, if known, of other persons with
18 knowledge of respondent's mental illness who may be called as witnesses at
19 the assisted treatment hearing;

20 5. the name and work address of the certifying psychiatrist or
21 other physician;

1 6. the name and address of the facility in which the respondent is
2 undergoing emergency treatment/observation;

3 7. the certifying psychiatrist or other physician's statement that he
4 or she has examined the respondent since the respondent was placed in
5 emergency treatment/observation; and

6 8. the certifying psychiatrist or other physician's statement that, in
7 his or her clinical opinion, the respondent is a danger to himself, herself or to
8 others or gravely disabled and the clinical basis for this opinion.

9 § 82A1308. Criminal penalty. It shall be a crime to knowingly file, or cause
10 to be filed, a certificate that contains a false material statement or information.

11 § 82A1309. Initial responsibilities of court after certificate is filed. After
12 the filing of the certificate, the court must:

13 1. schedule a hearing on the certificate that will occur no more
14 than 72 hours, not including Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, after the
15 initial examination; and

16 2. designate counsel for the respondent no less than 24 hours prior
17 to the hearing.

18 § 82A1310. Notice of hearing on certificate. The court shall notify the
19 certifying psychiatrist or other physician, respondent, and the respondent's legal
20 guardian or conservator, if known, of the scheduled hearing on the certificate at
21 least 24 hours in advance. The court must also attempt to notify of the pending
22 hearing, at least 24 hours in advance, an adult member of respondent's household,
23 if known, and up to five individuals of the respondent's choice. Notice may be

1 either by mail, personal delivery, telephone, or reliable electronic means. Timely
2 actual notice shall fulfill the notice requirement for any given individual.

3 § 82A1311. Duration of emergency treatment/observation. Absent the
4 exercise of other applicable provisions of this Act, the period of emergency
5 treatment/observation may last no more than 72 hours after the initial examination,
6 not including Saturdays, Sundays or holidays. Anyone who is determined by the
7 examining or a treating physician not to be a danger to himself, herself, or others or
8 gravely disabled must be released from emergency treatment/observation. The
9 initial assisted treatment hearing shall take place before the end of the
10 treatment/observation period.

11 § 82A1312. Treatment during emergency treatment/observation. During the
12 emergency treatment/observation period, treatment may be administered if the
13 person is, in the clinical opinion of a treating professional, a danger to himself,
14 herself, or others or is gravely disabled.

15 **Article 14. Accountability**

16 § 82A1401. Treatment provider liability. In addition to other limitations on
17 liability set out elsewhere in this Chapter or applicable law, persons providing care
18 to patients placed in assisted treatment pursuant to this section shall only be liable
19 for harm subsequently caused by or to individuals who are discharged from
20 assisted outpatient treatment if the discharge of the individual was reckless or
21 grossly negligent.

22 **Article 15. Patient Bill of Rights**

1 § 82A1501. Rights of all individuals in assisted treatment. All patients
2 placed in assisted treatment pursuant to this chapter have the following rights:

- 3 1. The right to appointed counsel at the initial assisted treatment hearing,
4 reviews of status, subsequent renewal hearings of orders for assisted
5 treatment, and appeals of these proceedings.
- 6 2. The right for the patient and his or her legal guardian or conservator, if
7 known, to receive a written list of all rights enumerated in this chapter.
- 8 3. The right to appropriate treatment, which shall be administered skillfully,
9 safely, and humanely. Each patient placed in assisted treatment pursuant
10 to this chapter shall receive treatment suited to his or her needs, which
11 shall include such medical, vocational, social, educational, and
12 rehabilitative services as the patient's condition requires.
- 13 4. The right at all times to be treated with consideration and respect for his
14 or her privacy and dignity.”

15 **Section 3.** A new subsection (h) is added to § 82201 of Chapter 82 of
16 Division 4, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, to read:

17 “(h) If in the judgment of the qualified health professional providing the
18 evaluation or treatment, the person can be properly treated without being detained,
19 the person shall be provided an evaluation, crisis intervention and referral for other
20 services under an Assisted Outpatient Treatment Order when:

- 21 (1) Is a current or former client of GBHWC suffering from a
22 mental illness; and

1 (2) As a result of mental illness, is unlikely to voluntarily
2 participate in outpatient treatment that would enable him or her to live safely
3 in the community; and

4 (3) Has a history of poor treatment compliance for mental illness;
5 and

6 (4) Be, in view of his or her treatment and current behavior, in need
7 of assisted outpatient treatment in order to prevent relapse or deterioration
8 which would likely result in:

9 (i) A substantial risk of physical harm to the consumer as
10 manifested by threats or attempts at suicide or serious bodily harm or
11 conduct demonstrating that the consumer is dangerous to himself or
12 herself, or

13 (ii) A substantial risk of physical harm to other persons as
14 manifested by homicidal or other violent behavior by which others are
15 placed in reasonable fear of serious physical harm.”

16 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to
17 any person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such
18 invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Act which can be
19 given effect without the invalid provisions or application, and to this end the
20 provisions of this Act are severable.

21 **Section 4. Effective Date.** This Act shall be immediately effective upon
22 enactment.