

# Casey's Law vs. Tim's Law: Understanding the Difference in Kentucky



<b>Purpose</b>	Provides a legal process for involuntary treatment for substance use disorder (addiction).	Provides a legal process for assisted outpatient treatment for a serious mental illness.
<b>Who Can File</b>	Family member, friend, spouse, relative, or guardian (does not need to be biological).	Family member, guardian, qualified mental health professional, or sometimes the mental health center, any concerned individual.
<b>Who It Applies To</b>	Individuals struggling with drug or alcohol addiction that refuse treatment.	Individuals suffers from a serious mental illness (e.g., schizophrenia, bipolar disorder) who need outpatient support but may not meet inpatient hospitalization criteria.
<b>Eligibility Requirements</b>	<p>Must prove:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual suffers from substance use disorder.</li> <li>• Individual presents a danger to themselves or others, OR cannot provide basic needs.</li> </ul>	<p>Must show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have an Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and a history of not following treatment, which has led to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Hospitalization or arrest at least twice within the past 48 months; <b>OR</b> resulted in an act, threat, or attempt of serious harm to themselves or others in the past 24 months.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Court Process</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. File petition in District Court, or Circuit Court (based on the county).</li> <li>2. Evaluations by two qualified professionals (doctor, counselor, licensed social worker).</li> <li>3. Judge reviews and may order treatment.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. File petition in District Court, or Circuit Court (based on the county).</li> <li>2. Court orders evaluation.</li> <li>3. Hearing held; if criteria met, judge orders outpatient treatment.</li> </ol>
<b>Type of Treatment Ordered</b>	Can include detox, inpatient, outpatient, counseling, or long-term recovery programs.	Court-ordered outpatient mental health treatment plan (therapy, medication management, case management).
<b>Financial Responsibility</b>	Treatment costs may be covered by Medicaid/Medicare, private insurance, VA benefits, or financial assistance programs.	Outpatient care for Tim's Law is currently funded by the state legislature though community mental health centers (CMHC)
<b>Goal</b>	Help loved ones access treatment for active addiction before crisis leads to jail, death, or serious harm.	Help individuals with serious mental illness remain stable in the community and reduce hospitalizations or jail time.
<b>Resources &amp; Support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northern Kentucky Helpline: 859-415-9280</li> <li>• KY HELP Call Center: 1-877-318-1871</li> <li>• Caseyslaw.org</li> <li>• Spark Ministries (Eastern KY): 606-612-5125</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NorthKey Community Care: 859-331-3292</li> <li>• Northern Kentucky Helpline: 859-415-9280</li> <li>• KY HELP Call Center: 1-877-318-1871</li> <li>• Local Community Mental Health Centers</li> <li>• NAMI Kentucky</li> </ul>