

How to File Tim's Law in Kentucky

Tim's Law provides a legal avenue to interrupt the revolving door of repeated mental health related hospitalizations, jail stays, or homelessness by ensuring ongoing treatment in the community.



Tim's Law or **Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT)** is Kentucky's Court Assisted Treatment law, passed in 2017. It was named after Tim Morton, a Kentuckian with severe mental illness who died tragically after cycling in and out of hospitals, jails, and homelessness without consistent treatment.

Why It Matters

- Encourages treatment before crises escalate to jail or repeated hospitalizations.
- Offers legal leverage to keep people connected to care.
- Gives families and providers a pathway to support when a loved one resists help.

👉 In short: **Tim's Law** or **AOT** provides a middle ground between doing nothing and waiting until someone becomes so ill they must be hospitalized again.

Eligibility

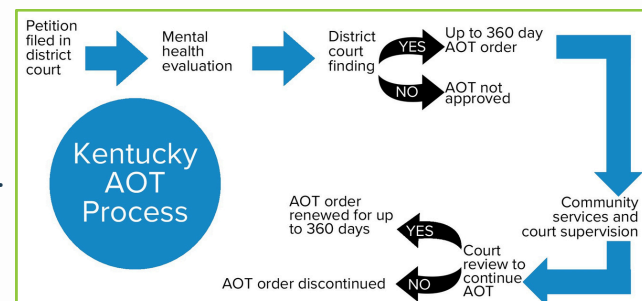
Step 1: Confirm Eligibility

- **Tim's Law** or **AOT** applies to individuals with a serious mental illness who:
 - Have an **Serious Mental Illness (SMI)** and a history of not following treatment, which has led to:
 - hospitalization or arrest at least twice in the past 48 months; **OR**
 - resulted in an act, threat, or attempt of serious harm to themselves or others in the past 24 months.
- The person must be unlikely to survive safely in the community without supervision, but does not currently require inpatient hospitalization.
- The person must be unlikely to follow outpatient treatment voluntarily, based on a mental health professional's assessment of their condition and decision-making ability.
- Require court-ordered **AOT** as the least restrictive and most appropriate treatment option.

Filing Process

Step 2: Follow the Filing Process

- ⚖️ The process begins with a petition filed in district court, followed by a mental health evaluation.
- ⚖️ A district court finding determines whether an AOT order for up to 360 days is approved or not.
- ⚖️ Approved orders lead to community services and court supervision.
- ⚖️ Judge review determines if the order is renewed for up to 360 days or discontinued.



Anyone can file a petition in District Court to request AOT for someone with a Serious Mental Illness (SMI).

- This includes:

- 👤 Qualified Mental Health Professionals
- 👤 County Attorney
- 👤 Relative
- 👤 Guardian
- 👤 Peace Officer
- 👤 Spouse
- 👤 Friend

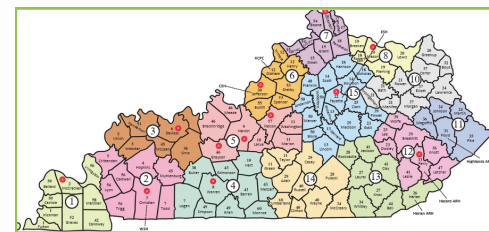
Each Kentucky county handles Tim's Law differently.



- Contact the County Attorney's Office where the individual resides.
- Ask about the county's Tim's Law/AOT process and available guidance.
- Find County Attorneys and Circuit Clerks at: <https://www.kcaa.com/directory/>

Step 3: Contact Assisted Outpatient Treatment Provider in Kentucky

- Find providers using the AOT in Kentucky Map:
 - <https://dbhdid.ky.gov/documents/dbh/aot/AOTInKentuckymap.pdf>
- In Northern Kentucky, the Tim's Law provider is NorthKey Community Care
 - NorthKey offers assessments, guidance, and treatment by calling:
 - Florence, KY: (859) 578-3200
 - Covington, KY: (859) 331-3292
 - or by visiting: <https://www.northkey.org/>
- Outpatient care for Tim's Law is currently funded by the state legislature though community mental health centers (CMHC).



Step 4: Complete the Petition

A copy of the AOC-737 petition can be located by contacting the district or circuit clerk in the county where the individual legally resides

or by visiting:

<https://www.kcaa.com/directory/>

Downloading directly: <https://nkyodcp.org/Tims-law/>

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The petition requires the individual's:

- Full legal name and address
- Summary of mental health history and recent hospitalizations
- Explanation of why outpatient treatment is necessary for safety
- Supporting documentation (if available)

Step 5: Filing the Petition, Court Review & Hearings

- File the petition with the circuit clerk in the county where the individual resides
- Approved orders lead to community services and court supervision.
- A district court finding determines whether an AOT order for up to 360 days is approved or not.

✓ Important: Where to Get Help

- Visit <https://dbhdid.ky.gov/documents/dbh/aot/AOTInKentuckymap.pdf>
- Visit: <https://findhelpnow.org/ky> or call The KY HELP Statewide Call Center at **1-877-318-1871**
- Visit: nkyodcp.org or call The Northern Kentucky Helpline at **859-415-9280**
- Ask your local NAMI Kentucky advocate for recommendations by visiting: <https://namiky.org/>
- Contact your local County Attorney's Office <https://www.kcaa.com/directory/>
- NorthKey Community Care:
 - Florence, KY: (859) 578-3200; Covington, KY: (859) 331-3292
 - <https://www.northkey.org/>
- Team Kentucky AOT Resources:
 - <https://dbhdid.ky.gov/mh/aot>



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