

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

4 ENGROSSED SENATE
5 BILL NO. 497

By: Weaver of the Senate

and

Turner of the House

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8
9 An Act relating to criminal procedure; amending 22
10 O.S. 2021, Section 1161, which relates to acts
11 committed by persons with mental illness or mental
12 defect; requiring Forensic Review Board to provide
13 certain notice to district attorney; updating
14 statutory language; and providing an effective date.

15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

16 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 22 O.S. 2021, Section 1161, is
17 amended to read as follows:

18 Section 1161. A. 1. An act committed by a person in a state
19 of mental illness or mental defect shall be adjudicated as guilty
20 with mental defect or as not guilty by reason of mental illness.

21 2. If a person is found guilty with mental defect or enters a
22 plea of guilty with mental defect which is accepted by the court,
23 the court at the time of sentencing shall impose any sentence that
24 could be imposed by law upon a person who is convicted of the same

1 offense, and the person shall serve the sentence in custody of a
2 county jail or the Oklahoma Department of Corrections.

3 3. If a person who is found guilty with mental defect is placed
4 on probation under the jurisdiction of the sentencing court as
5 provided by law, the court shall immediately issue an order for the
6 person to be examined by the Department of Mental Health and
7 Substance Abuse Services. The time and place of such examination
8 shall be determined by the Department. Within forty-five (45) days,
9 the Department shall provide to the court a recommendation of
10 treatment for the person, which shall be made a condition of
11 probation. Reports as specified by the trial judge shall be filed
12 with the probation officer and the sentencing court. Failure to
13 continue treatment, except by agreement with the treating agency and
14 the sentencing court, is grounds for revocation of probation.
15 Treatment shall be provided by an agency of the Department or, with
16 the approval of the sentencing court and at the expense of the
17 person, by private agencies, private physicians or other mental
18 health personnel. A psychiatric report shall be filed with the
19 probation officer and the sentencing court every six (6) months
20 during the period of probation.

21 4. When in any criminal action by indictment or information,
22 the defense of mental illness is raised, but the defendant is not
23 acquitted on the ground that the defendant was mentally ill at the
24 time of the commission of the crime charged, an issue concerning

1 such defense may be raised on appeal. If the appellate court finds
2 relief is required, the appellate court shall not have authority to
3 modify the judgment or sentence, but will only have the authority to
4 order a new trial or order resentencing without recommendations to
5 sentencing.

6 5. When in any criminal action by indictment or information the
7 defense of mental illness is interposed either singly or in
8 conjunction with some other defense, the jury shall state in the
9 verdict, if it is one of acquittal, whether or not the defendant is
10 acquitted on the ground of mental illness. When the defendant is
11 acquitted on the ground that the defendant was mentally ill at the
12 time of the commission of the crime charged, the person shall not be
13 discharged from custody until the court has made a determination
14 that the person is not dangerous to the public peace and safety and
15 is a person requiring treatment.

16 B. 1. To assist the court in its determination, the court
17 shall immediately issue an order for the person to be examined by
18 the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services at a
19 facility the Department has designated to examine and treat forensic
20 individuals. Upon the issuance of the order, the sheriff shall
21 deliver the person to the designated facility.

22 2. Within forty-five (45) days of the court entering such an
23 order, a hearing shall be conducted by the court to ascertain
24 whether the person is dangerous to the public peace or safety

1 because the person is a person requiring treatment or, if not, is in
2 need of continued supervision as a result of unresolved symptoms of
3 mental illness or a history of treatment noncompliance. During the
4 required period of hospitalization, the Department of Mental Health
5 and Substance Abuse Services shall have the person examined by two
6 qualified psychiatrists or one such psychiatrist and one qualified
7 clinical psychologist whose training and experience enable the
8 professional to form expert opinions regarding mental illness,
9 competency, dangerousness and criminal responsibility.

10 C. 1. Each examiner shall, within thirty-five (35) days of
11 hospitalization, individually prepare and submit to the court, the
12 district attorney and the trial counsel of the person a report of
13 the psychiatric examination findings of the person and an evaluation
14 concerning whether the person is dangerous to the public peace or
15 safety.

16 2. If the court is dissatisfied with the reports or if a
17 disagreement on the issue of mental illness and dangerousness exists
18 between the two examiners, the court may designate one or more
19 additional examiners and have them submit their findings and
20 evaluations as specified in paragraph 1 of this subsection.

21 3. a. Within ten (10) days after the reports are filed, the
22 court must conduct a hearing to determine the present
23 condition of the person as to the issue of whether:
24

1 (1) the person is dangerous to the public peace or
2 safety because the person is a person requiring
3 treatment, or

4 (2) if not believed to be dangerous to the public
5 peace or safety, the person is in need of
6 continued supervision as a result of unresolved
7 symptoms of mental illness or a history of
8 treatment noncompliance.

9 b. The district attorney must establish the foregoing by
10 a preponderance of the evidence. At this hearing the
11 person shall have the assistance of counsel and may
12 present independent evidence.

13 D. 1. If the court finds that the person is not dangerous to
14 the public peace or safety because the person is a person requiring
15 treatment and is not in need of continued supervision as a result of
16 unresolved symptoms of mental illness or a history of treatment
17 noncompliance, it shall immediately discharge the person from
18 hospitalization.

19 2. If the court finds that the person is dangerous to the
20 public peace and safety, it shall commit the person to the custody
21 of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.
22 The person shall then be subject to discharge pursuant to the
23 procedure set forth in this section.
24

1 a. During the period of hospitalization, the Department
2 of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services may
3 administer or cause to be administered to the person
4 such psychiatric, medical or other therapeutic
5 treatment as in its judgment should be administered.

6 b. The person shall be subject to discharge or
7 conditional release pursuant to the procedures set
8 forth in this section.

9 E. If at any time the court finds the person is not dangerous
10 to the public peace or safety because the person is a person
11 requiring treatment, but is in need of continued supervision as a
12 result of unresolved symptoms of mental illness or a history of
13 treatment noncompliance, the court may:

14 1. Discharge the person pursuant to the procedure set forth in
15 this section;

16 2. Discharge the person, and upon the motion of the court or
17 the district attorney commence civil involuntary commitment
18 proceedings against the person pursuant to the provisions of Title
19 43A of the Oklahoma Statutes; or

20 3. Order conditional release, as set forth in subsection F of
21 this section.

22 F. There is hereby created a Forensic Review Board to be
23 composed of seven (7) members appointed by the Governor with the
24 advice and consent of the Senate. The Board members shall serve for

1 a term of five (5) years except that for members first appointed to
2 the Board: one shall serve for a term ending December 31, 2008, two
3 shall serve for a term ending December 31, 2009, two shall serve a
4 term ending December 31, 2010, and two shall serve for a term ending
5 December 31, 2011.

6 1. The Board shall be composed of:

- 7 a. four licensed mental health professionals with
8 experience in treating mental illness, at least one of
9 whom is licensed as a Doctor of Medicine, a Doctor of
10 Osteopathy, or a licensed clinical psychologist and
11 shall be appointed from a list of seven names
12 submitted to the Governor by the Department of Mental
13 Health and Substance Abuse Services,
 - 14 b. one member who shall be an attorney licensed to
15 practice in this state and shall be appointed from a
16 list of not less than three names submitted to the
17 Governor by the Board of Governors of the Oklahoma Bar
18 Association,
 - 19 c. one member who shall be a retired judge licensed to
20 practice in this state and shall be appointed from a
21 list of not less than three names submitted to the
22 Governor by the Judicial Nominating Committee, and
 - 23 d. one at-large member.
- 24

1 The attorney and retired judge members of the Board shall be
2 prohibited from representing in the courts of this state persons
3 charged with felony offenses while serving on the Board.

4 2. The Board shall meet as necessary to determine which
5 individuals confined with the Department of Mental Health and
6 Substance Abuse Services are eligible for therapeutic visits,
7 conditional release or discharge and whether the Board wishes to
8 make such a recommendation to the court of the county where the
9 individual was found not guilty by reason of insanity or not guilty
10 by reason of mental illness for those persons adjudicated as such
11 upon or after November 1, 2016.

12 a. Forensic Review Board meetings shall not be considered
13 subject to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act and are not
14 open to the public. Other than the Forensic Review
15 Board members, only the following individuals shall be
16 permitted to attend Board meetings:

17 (1) the individual the Board is considering for
18 therapeutic visits, conditional release or
19 discharge, his or her treatment advocate, and
20 members of his or her treatment team,

21 (2) the Commissioner of Mental Health and Substance
22 Abuse Services or designee,

23 (3) the Advocate General for the Department of Mental
24 Health and Substance Abuse Services or designee,

1 (4) the General Counsel for the Department of Mental
2 Health and Substance Abuse Services or designee,
3 and

4 (5) any other persons the Board and Commissioner of
5 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services wish
6 to be present.

7 b. The Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
8 Services shall provide administrative staff to the
9 Board to take minutes of meetings and prepare
10 necessary documents and correspondence for the Board
11 to comply with its duties as set forth in this
12 section. The Department of Mental Health and
13 Substance Abuse Services shall also transport the
14 individuals being reviewed to and from the Board
15 meeting site.

16 c. The Board shall provide notice to the district
17 attorney of the county where the individual was found
18 not guilty by reason of mental illness at least forty-
19 five (45) days before meeting to determine eligibility
20 for therapeutic visits, conditional release, or
21 discharge.

22 d. The Board shall promulgate rules concerning the
23 granting and structure of therapeutic visits,
24 conditional releases and discharge.

1 ~~d.~~ e. For purposes of this subsection, "therapeutic visit"
2 means a scheduled time period off campus which
3 provides for progressive tests of the ability of the
4 consumer to maintain and demonstrate coping skills.

5 3. The Forensic Review Board shall submit any recommendation
6 for therapeutic visit, conditional release or discharge to the court
7 and district attorney of the county where the person was found not
8 guilty by reason of mental illness, the trial counsel of the person,
9 the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and the
10 person at least fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled visit.

11 a. The district attorney may file an objection to a
12 recommendation for a therapeutic visit within ten (10)
13 days of receipt of the notice.

14 b. If an objection is filed, the therapeutic visit is
15 stayed until a hearing is held. The court shall hold
16 a hearing not less than ten (10) days following an
17 objection to determine whether the therapeutic visit
18 is necessary for treatment, and if necessary, the
19 nature and extent of the visit.

20 4. During the period of hospitalization, the Department of
21 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services shall submit an annual
22 report on the status of the person to the court, the district
23 attorney and the patient advocate general of the Department of
24 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

1 G. Upon motion by the district attorney or upon a
2 recommendation for conditional release or discharge by the Forensic
3 Review Board, the court shall conduct a hearing to ascertain if the
4 person is dangerous and a person requiring treatment. This hearing
5 shall be conducted under the same procedure as the first hearing and
6 must occur not less than ten (10) days following the motion or
7 request by the Forensic Review Board.

8 1. If the court determines that the person continues to be
9 dangerous to the public peace and safety because the person is a
10 person requiring treatment, it shall order the return of the person
11 to the hospital for additional treatment.

12 2. If the court determines that the person is not dangerous but
13 subject to certain conditions, the court may conditionally release
14 the person subject to the following:

- 15 a. the Forensic Review Board has made a recommendation
16 for conditional release, including a written plan for
17 outpatient treatment and a list of recommendations for
18 the court to place as conditions on the release,
- 19 b. in its order of conditional release, the court shall
20 specify conditions of release and shall direct the
21 appropriate agencies or persons to submit annual
22 reports regarding the compliance of the person with
23 the conditions of release and progress in treatment,

- 1 c. the person must agree, in writing, that during the
2 period the person is granted conditional release and
3 is subject to the provisions thereof, there shall be
4 free transmission of all pertinent information,
5 including clinical information regarding the person,
6 among the Department of Mental Health and Substance
7 Abuse Services, the appropriate community mental
8 health centers and the appropriate district attorneys,
9 law enforcement and court personnel,
- 10 d. the order of the court placing the person on
11 conditional release shall include notice that the
12 conditional release of the person may be revoked upon
13 good cause. The person placed on conditional release
14 shall remain under the supervision of the Department
15 of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services until
16 the committing court enters a final discharge order.
17 The Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
18 Services shall assess the person placed on conditional
19 release annually and shall have the authority to
20 recommend discharge of the person to the Board, and
- 21 e. any agency or individual involved in providing
22 treatment with regard to the conditional release plan
23 of the person may prepare and file an affidavit under
24 oath if the agency or individual believes that the

1 person has failed to comply with the conditions of
2 release or that such person has progressed to the
3 point that inpatient care is appropriate.

4 (1) Any peace officer who receives such an affidavit
5 shall take the person into protective custody and
6 return the person to the forensic unit of the
7 state hospital.

8 (2) A hearing shall be conducted within three (3)
9 days, excluding holidays and weekends, after the
10 person is returned to the forensic unit of the
11 state hospital to determine if the person has
12 violated the conditions of release, or if full-
13 time hospitalization is the least restrictive
14 alternative consistent with the needs of the
15 person and the need for public safety. Notice of
16 the hearing shall be issued, at least twenty-four
17 (24) hours before the hearing, to the hospital
18 superintendent, the person, trial counsel for the
19 person, and the patient advocate general of the
20 Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
21 Services. If the person requires hospitalization
22 because of a violation of the conditions of
23 release or because of progression to the point
24

1 that inpatient care is appropriate, the court may
2 then modify the conditions of release.

3 3. If the court determines that the person is not dangerous to
4 the public peace or safety because the person is not a person
5 requiring treatment, it shall order that the person be discharged
6 from the custody of the Department of Mental Health and Substance
7 Abuse Services.

8 H. As used in this section:

9 1. "Antisocial personality disorder" means antisocial
10 personality disorder as defined by the Diagnostic and Statistical
11 Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th Edition (DSM-5), or subsequent
12 editions;

13 2. "Court" or "sentencing court" means the court sitting in the
14 county where the person has been found to be not guilty by reason of
15 mental illness or guilty with mental defect;

16 3. "Dangerous" means a person who because of mental illness
17 poses a substantial risk of physical harm in the near future to
18 another person or persons. Dangerousness shall be determined by
19 such factors as whether the person has placed another person or
20 persons in a reasonable fear of violent behavior, and medication and
21 treatment compliance;

22 4. "Guilty with mental defect" means the person committed the
23 act and was either unable to understand the nature and consequences
24 of his or her actions or was unable to differentiate right from

1 wrong, and has been diagnosed with antisocial personality disorder
2 which substantially contributed to the act for which the person has
3 been charged;

4 5. "Mental defect" means the person has been diagnosed with
5 antisocial personality disorder which substantially contributed to
6 the act for which the person has been charged;

7 6. "Mental illness" means a substantial disorder of thought,
8 mood, perception, psychological orientation or memory that
9 significantly impairs judgment, behavior, capacity to recognize
10 reality or ability to meet the ordinary demands of life;

11 7. "Not guilty by reason of mental illness" means the person
12 committed the act while mentally ill and was either unable to
13 understand the nature and consequences of his or her actions or was
14 unable to differentiate right from wrong, and has not been diagnosed
15 with antisocial personality disorder which substantially contributed
16 to the act for which the person has been charged; and

17 8. a. "Person requiring treatment" means a person who
18 because of mental illness:

- 19 (1) poses a substantial risk of physical harm to self
20 as manifested by evidence or serious threats of
21 or attempts at suicide or other significant self-
22 inflicted bodily harm,
23 (2) poses a substantial risk of physical harm to
24 another person or persons as manifested by

evidence of violent behavior directed toward
another person or persons,

(3) has placed another person or persons in
reasonable fear of serious physical harm or
violent behavior directed toward such person or
persons as manifested by serious and immediate
threats,

(4) is in a condition of severe deterioration such
that, without immediate intervention, there
exists a substantial risk that severe impairment
or injury will result to the person, or

(5) poses a substantial risk of serious physical
injury to self or death as manifested by evidence
that the person is unable to provide for and is
not providing for his or her basic physical
needs.

b. The mental health or substance abuse history of the
person may be used as part of the evidence to
determine whether the person is a person requiring
treatment. The mental health or substance abuse
history of the person shall not be the sole basis for
this determination.

1 c. Unless a person also meets the criteria established in
2 subparagraph a of this paragraph, "person requiring
3 treatment" shall not mean:

4 (1) a person whose mental processes have been
5 weakened or impaired by reason of advanced years,
6 dementia or Alzheimer's disease,

7 (2) a person with intellectual or developmental
8 disability as defined in Title 10 of the Oklahoma
9 Statutes,

10 (3) a person with seizure disorder, or

11 (4) a person with a traumatic brain injury.

12 I. Proceedings hereunder may be held in conformance with the
13 provisions of Section 3006 of Title 20 of the Oklahoma Statutes for
14 allowable use of videoconferencing.

15 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

16 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC
17 SAFETY, dated - 04/17/2025 - DO PASS.