

WHY DO COMMITMENTS OCCUR?

According to Wisconsin state law, a person must meet three criteria to receive involuntary treatment (same criteria for outpatient and inpatient):

1. THE PERSON HAS A MENTAL ILLNESS, DRUG DEPENDENCY OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY, defined as a substantial disorder of thought, mood, perception, orientation, or memory, which grossly impairs judgment, behavior, capacity to recognize reality, or ability to meet the demands of life.

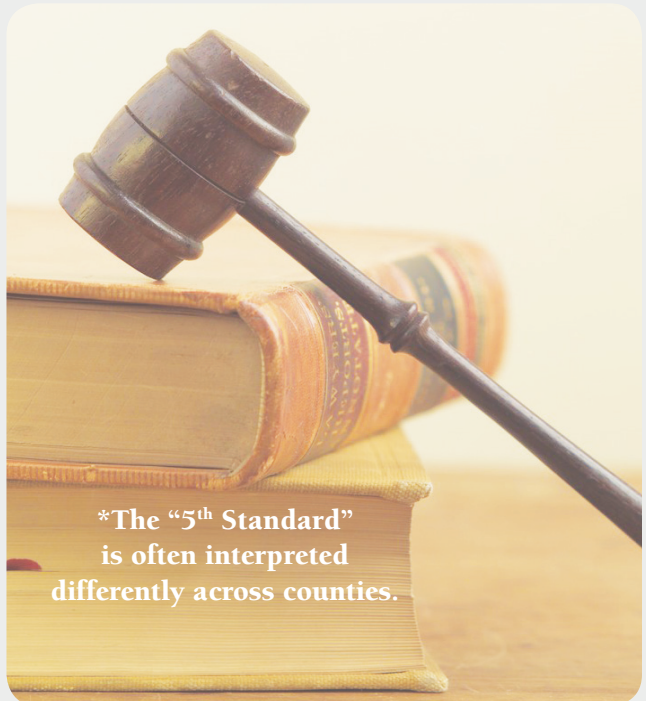
2. THE PERSON'S ILLNESS IS TREATABLE. This applies to all people with mental illness.

3. THE PERSON MEETS ONE OF THE FOLLOWING FIVE STANDARDS OF DANGEROUSNESS:

- 1) Recent acts, attempts or threats of suicide or serious bodily harm to self.
- 2) Recent acts, attempts, or threats of serious bodily harm to others, or violent behavior which places others in reasonable fear of serious physical harm.
- 3) A pattern of recent acts or omissions which evidences impaired judgment causing the individual to be an inadvertent danger to self or others.

4) Mental illness causes the individual to be so gravely disabled that he/she is unable to satisfy basic needs for nourishment, medical care, shelter or safety.

5)* Individual's psychiatric treatment history, coupled with his/her present mental deterioration due to incompetent decision to refuse psychotropic medication, causes likelihood that the individual will lose ability to function independently in the community.



*The "5th Standard"
is often interpreted
differently across counties.