

New England Involuntary Civil Commitment Laws by State

State	Who can Petition	Emergency commitment Requirements	Maximum Period of Detention	Are the Laws Currently Utilized?	Is Emergency Commit required Before ICC?
CT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spouse • Relative • Conservator • Physician • Administrator of treatment facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dangerous to him or herself or dangerous to others unless committed • Needs medical treatment for detoxification for potentially life-threatening symptoms of withdrawal • is incapacitated by alcohol 	Up to 180 days	Yes	Yes
ME	Anyone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Lacks the capacity to make an informed decision regarding treatment” • “Is unable or unwilling to comply with recommended treatment” • That the need for the treatment “outweighs the risks and side effects” • That the “recommended treatment is the least intrusive appropriate treatment option.” 	4 months	No	Yes
NH	New Hampshire’s ICC law specifically excludes SUD	NA	NA	NA	NA

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MA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police officer • Physician • Spouse • Blood relative • Guardian • Court official 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A substantial risk of physical harm to the person himself/herself as manifested by evidence of threats of, or attempts at suicide or serious bodily harm; OR • A substantial risk of physical harm to others as manifested by evidence of homicidal or other violent behavior or evidence that others are placed in reasonable fear of violent behavior and serious physical harm to them; OR • A very substantial risk of physical impairment or injury to the person himself/herself as manifested by evidence that such person's judgment is so affected that he/she is unable to protect himself/herself in the community and that reasonable provision for his/her protection is not available in the community. • Imminent danger 	90 days	Yes	No

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RI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spouse • Guardian • Relative • Certifying physician • The administrator in charge of any approved public treatment facility 	<p>The respondent is a person who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has threatened, attempted, or inflicted physical harm on himself or herself or another and that unless committed is likely to inflict physical harm on himself or herself or another • Will continue to suffer abnormal mental, emotional, or physical distress, will continue to deteriorate in ability to function independently if not treated <p>Is unable to make a rational and informed choice as to whether or not to submit to treatment</p>	30 days, can re-petition for up to 90 days	No	Yes
VT	Anyone	<p>The Respondent is a danger to self or others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He or she has inflicted or attempted to inflict bodily harm on another • Placed others in reasonable fear or harm • He or she is a danger to people through action or inaction 	90 days	No	Yes