

**RCW 71.05.445 Court-ordered behavioral health treatment of persons subject to department of corrections supervision—Initial assessment inquiry—Required notifications—Rules.**

(1) (a) When a behavioral health service provider conducts its initial assessment for a person receiving court-ordered treatment, the service provider shall inquire and shall be told by the offender whether he or she is subject to supervision by the department of corrections.

(b) When a person receiving court-ordered treatment or treatment ordered by the department of corrections discloses to his or her behavioral health service provider that he or she is subject to supervision by the department of corrections, the behavioral health service provider shall notify the department of corrections that he or she is treating the offender and shall notify the offender that his or her community corrections officer will be notified of the treatment, provided that if the offender has received relief from disclosure pursuant to RCW 9.94A.562 or 71.05.132 and the offender has provided the behavioral health service provider with a copy of the order granting relief from disclosure pursuant to RCW 9.94A.562 or 71.05.132, the behavioral health service provider is not required to notify the department of corrections that the behavioral health service provider is treating the offender. The notification may be written or oral and shall not require the consent of the offender. If an oral notification is made, it must be confirmed by a written notification. For purposes of this section, a written notification includes notification by email or facsimile, so long as the notifying behavioral health service provider is clearly identified.

(2) The information to be released to the department of corrections shall include all relevant records and reports, as defined by rule, necessary for the department of corrections to carry out its duties.

(3) The authority and the department of corrections, in consultation with behavioral health administrative services organizations, managed care organizations, behavioral health service providers as defined in RCW 71.05.020, behavioral health consumers, and advocates for persons with behavioral health disorders, shall adopt rules to implement the provisions of this section related to the type and scope of information to be released. These rules shall:

(a) Enhance and facilitate the ability of the department of corrections to carry out its responsibility of planning and ensuring community protection with respect to persons subject to sentencing under chapter 9.94A or 9.95 RCW, including accessing and releasing or disclosing information of persons who received behavioral health services as a minor; and

(b) Establish requirements for the notification of persons under the supervision of the department of corrections regarding the provisions of this section.

(4) The information received by the department of corrections under this section shall remain confidential and subject to the limitations on disclosure outlined in this chapter, except as provided in RCW 72.09.585.

(5) No behavioral health service provider or individual employed by a behavioral health service provider shall be held responsible for information released to or used by the department of corrections under the provisions of this section or rules adopted under this section.

(6) Whenever federal law or federal regulations restrict the release of information and records related to behavioral health

services for any patient who receives treatment for alcoholism or drug dependency, the release of the information may be restricted as necessary to comply with federal law and regulations.

(7) This section does not modify the terms and conditions of disclosure of information related to sexually transmitted diseases under chapter 70.24 RCW.

(8) The authority shall, subject to available resources, electronically, or by the most cost-effective means available, provide the department of corrections with the names, last dates of services, and addresses of specific behavioral health administrative services organizations, managed care organizations, and behavioral health service providers that delivered behavioral health services to a person subject to chapter 9.94A or 9.95 RCW pursuant to an agreement between the authority and the department of corrections. [2020 c 302 § 48; 2019 c 325 § 3009; 2018 c 201 § 3021. Prior: 2014 c 225 § 86; 2014 c 220 § 14; 2013 c 200 § 31; 2009 c 320 § 4; 2005 c 504 § 711; 2004 c 166 § 4; 2002 c 39 § 2; 2000 c 75 § 3.]

**Effective date—2019 c 325:** See note following RCW 71.24.011.

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2018 c 201:** See notes following RCW 41.05.018.

**Effective date—2014 c 225:** See note following RCW 71.24.016.

**Effective date—2014 c 220:** See note following RCW 70.02.290.

**Effective date—2013 c 200:** See note following RCW 70.02.010.

**Conflict with federal requirements—2009 c 320:** See note following RCW 71.05.020.

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

**Alphabetization—Correction of references—2005 c 504:** See note following RCW 71.05.020.

**Severability—Effective dates—2004 c 166:** See notes following RCW 71.05.040.

**Intent—2000 c 75:** "It is the intent of the legislature to enhance and facilitate the ability of the department of corrections to carry out its responsibility of planning and ensuring community protection with respect to persons subject to sentencing under chapter 9.94A RCW by authorizing access to, and release or disclosure of, necessary information related to mental health services. This includes accessing and releasing or disclosing information of persons who received mental health services as a minor. The legislature does not intend this act to readdress access to information and records regarding continuity of care.

The legislature recognizes that persons with mental illness have a right to the confidentiality of information related to mental health services, including the fact of their receiving such services, unless there is a state interest that supersedes this right. It is the intent

of the legislature to balance that right of the individual with the state interest to enhance public safety." [2000 c 75 § 1.]