



QUESTIONS FOR PSYCHIATRIC SECURITY REVIEW BOARD NOMINEE

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PSYCHIATRIC SECURITY REVIEW BOARD (PSRB)

The PSRB holds hearings to determine the appropriate level of supervision and treatment for people acquitted of crimes due to a mental disease or defect. These individuals are called "acquittees." Depending on the danger an acquittee poses, the board may order confinement in a maximum-security facility or psychiatric hospital, approve temporary leave or conditional release, or, in appropriate cases, transfer custody to the Department of Developmental Services. In addition, the board makes court recommendations when an acquittee petitions to be discharged from supervision.

The board consists of six members appointed by the governor and confirmed by either house of the General Assembly: a psychiatrist, a psychologist, someone with experience in probation, a Connecticut attorney, and two public members, one of whom is experienced in victim advocacy. Its activities are governed by CGS §§ [17a-580](#) through [17a-603](#).

QUESTIONS

1. The law specifies that the board's primary concern is to protect society. How should the board balance that concern against the rights of acquittees?
2. Victims may give statements at board hearings, either in person or in writing. How much consideration should the board give to a victim's statement?
3. What factors does the board consider when deciding whether to recommend an acquittee be discharged from custody? Should the law specify additional factors that the board should weigh when making such decisions?
4. The law requires the board to conduct hearings and review the status of an acquittee at least every two years. Is that often enough or too frequent or infrequent?

5. Connecticut is among a small number of states without an outpatient civil commitment law. Generally, these laws provide for court-ordered, community-based treatment for people with untreated severe mental illness, often focused on those with a history of medication and treatment noncompliance. This issue was among those studied by the Behavioral Health Task Force established by [PA 13-3](#); that group recommended that a separate task force be established to further study the issue. What are your views on outpatient commitment?

6. According to the most recent report available on the board's website, at the end of the 2012-2013 fiscal year, there were 26 individuals on conditional release status, and during that fiscal year, there were no arrests of individuals under the board's jurisdiction. What are the statistics on these matters since then?

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