

Client Documentation  
 Whispering Waters Wellbeing  
 Converse, Texas  
[whisperingwaterswellbeing@gmail.com](mailto:whisperingwaterswellbeing@gmail.com)  
 605-650-2064

---

To Whom It May Concern-

June 27, 2025 1500 Hrs

My name is Cynthia Lawson and I'm a Clinical Social Worker (therapist) and licensed in the states of Washington, Texas, South Dakota & Iowa. I'm writing this letter out of concern for my client, Mr. Tom Purcell. Since 2019, I have worked with many individuals required by a court to attend therapy for various reasons and there are specific goals to be met. In every court order before this situation, there is some specificity provided with the order, such as a time frame or the order is a result of the client being involved in something negative like domestic violence or drug use. I'm extremely concerned about this situation due to the lack of specificity provided in the order, the lack of mental health consultation by the court and the amount of time that Mr. Purcell has been going to therapy on a long-term basis.

I will elaborate with the following information: no expert from the field of mental health has been consulted as to why Tom requires mental health counseling. Next, the mandated counseling has been going on for 34 months. I'm confused about these orders since the following information is listed at <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.574.htm>

Maybe the courts can provide some clarification?

In the HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE TITLE 7. MENTAL HEALTH AND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY SUBTITLE C. TEXAS MENTAL HEALTH CODE CHAPTER 574. COURT-ORDERED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

“Sec. 574.0355. ORDER FOR EXTENDED OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

(a) The judge may order a proposed patient to receive court-ordered extended outpatient mental health services only if:

(1) the judge finds that appropriate mental health services are available to the proposed patient; and

(2) the judge or jury finds, from **clear and convincing evidence, that:**

(A) the proposed patient is a person with severe and persistent mental illness;

(B) as a result of the mental illness, the proposed patient will, if not treated, experience deterioration of the ability to function independently to the extent that the proposed patient will be unable to live safely in the community without court-ordered outpatient mental health services;

(C) outpatient mental health services are needed to prevent a relapse that would likely result in serious harm to the proposed patient or others;

(D) the proposed patient has an inability to participate in outpatient treatment services effectively and voluntarily, demonstrated by:

(i) any of the proposed patient's actions occurring within the two-year period that immediately precedes the hearing; or

(ii) specific characteristics of the proposed patient's clinical condition that significantly impair the proposed patient's ability to make a rational and informed decision whether to submit to voluntary outpatient treatment;

(E) the proposed patient's condition is expected to continue for more than 90 days; and

(F) the proposed patient has received:

(i) court-ordered inpatient mental health services under this subtitle or under Subchapter D or E, Chapter 46B, Code of Criminal Procedure, for a total of at least 60 days during the preceding 12 months; or

(ii) court-ordered outpatient mental health services under this subtitle or under Subchapter D or E, Chapter 46B, Code of Criminal Procedure, during the preceding 60 days.

(b) The jury or judge is not required to make the finding under Subsection (a)(2)(F) if the proposed patient has already been subject to an order for extended mental health services.

**(c) To be clear and convincing under Subsection (a)(2), the evidence must include expert testimony and evidence of a recent overt act or a continuing pattern of behavior that tends to confirm:**

(1) the deterioration of the ability to function independently to the extent that the proposed patient will be unable to live safely in the community;

(2) the need for outpatient mental health services to prevent a relapse that would likely result in serious harm to the proposed patient or others; and

(3) the proposed patient's inability to participate in outpatient treatment services effectively and voluntarily.

**(d) An order for extended outpatient mental health services must provide for a period of treatment not to exceed 12 months.**

(e) A judge may not issue an order for extended outpatient mental health services for a proposed patient who is charged with a criminal offense that involves an act, attempt, or threat of serious bodily injury to another person (State of Texas, n.d.).”

Tom does not meet the criteria in Sec. 574.0355 as I have previous noted in my March 2025 letter to the court. He is not in distress, on the date of this letter Tom is alert and oriented 4 by 4, or A & O by 4. Or oriented to person, place, time and event. Tom has been oriented A & O by 4 in every meeting we have ever had. He is not a danger to himself or anyone else, & he does not have a “serious mental illness.” Secondly, who decided Tom’s mental health status & that he needed mental health counseling? Because a mental health professional was not consulted as to Tom’s status. Thirdly who decided the appropriateness of the 34 months of mental health counseling? Because again Tom does not meet the criteria, and a mental health professional was never consulted. Also, the above statute states that outpatient mental health services cannot

exceed 12 months. So why would Tom be forced to go to therapy for 34 months? What has been the goal and purpose of almost three years in therapy? My other question is who in the court can diagnose a mental health condition if no expert from the field of mental health is consulted?

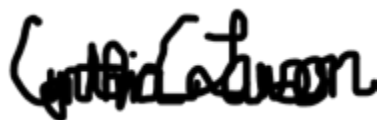
Mr. Tom Purcell has been seen via telehealth for mental health services on a regular basis from Dec 19, 2024, to June 27, 2025, by Cynthia C Lawson, LCSW, LISW, CSW-PIP. Tom has been diagnosed with generalized anxiety disorder or GAD (ICD Code: 300.02) by Cynthia C. Lawson, LCSW on 12/20/24. This diagnosis was made by client reports, diagnosis criteria and standardized questionnaires. The main focus of this evaluation was on GAD.

The source of Tom's anxiety has been the long-term stressful situations, more specifically the long-term custody battle. Tom has made great progress under my care. Tom does not have any mental health concerns that require long-term or maintenance therapy. For someone to require long-term therapy, they would need to have a serious mental health disorder found in say cluster A, B or C personality disorders as an example. It is my professional recommendation that Tom is discharged from therapy effective June 27, 2025.

There is no longer clinical justification or medical necessity for Tom to continue therapy. I petition the court to consider my clinical recommendations and that Mr. Tom Purcell be discharged from his order for continued therapy effective immediately. For someone to just be told to go to therapy for 34 months without any consultation by a mental health professional by the court becomes a serious ethical concern according to NASW standards. NASW code of ethics Section 1.17 states the following: "(a) Social workers should terminate services to clients and professional relationships with them when such services and relationships are no longer required or no longer serve the clients' needs or interests (NASW.org)." There is no clinical justification or medical necessity for the continuation of therapy for Tom. He does not have serious mental health condition, he does not meet the criteria in Sec. 574.0355, and the 34 months he has been forced to go to therapy highly exceeds the 12-month time frame as stated above.

To be clear, Tom is more than welcome to consult with me at any time should his needs change. Kindly reach out if there are any concerns. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cynthia C. Lawson". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "C" and a cursive "L".

Cynthia C. Lawson, LCSW, LISW, CSW-PIP

## References

National Association of Social Workers. (2025). Social Workers Ethical Responsibilities To Clients. Retrieved from <https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English/Social-Workers-Ethical-Responsibilities-to-Clients>

State Of Texas. (n.d.). HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

TITLE 7. MENTAL HEALTH AND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

SUBTITLE C. TEXAS MENTAL HEALTH CODE

CHAPTER 574. COURT-ORDERED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

SUBCHAPTER A. APPLICATION FOR COMMITMENT AND PREHEARING

PROCEDURES. Retrieved from

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.574.htm>