

1 2	An act to increase the scope of the Duty to Warn provision of KRS202a
3 4	Be it enacted by the Youth Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky
5 6 7	Section I: The Duty to Warn provision is defined as a health professional's obligation to breach patient confidentiality to warn third parties of the danger of their being assaulted or of contracting a serious infection. KRS202a only applies to mental health cases in which there is an intended target.
8 9 10 11 12 13	Section II:This act will extend the scope of the Duty to Warn provision of KRS202a to allow protection of physicians/therapists regarding doctor-patient confidentiality to all mental health patients suspected of potential acts of violence without a clear intended target, as opposed to the current Duty to Warn provision, which only requires action if there is an intended target.
14 15 16 17	Section III: A patient must exhibit one or more of the following behaviors before the physician or therapist can report to law enforcement. Potential Acts of violence without a clear intended target include the following and must occur while the patient is in therapy. It does not pertain to past offenses.
18 19	a. Premature discontinuation of prescribed medicine without consent from a physician.
20 21	b. Any behavior indicating imminent acts of violence at the physician/therapist's discretion.
22 23 24	c. Sudden discontinuation of treatment by Physician/Therapist without a formal release from physician/therapist
25 26 27 28 29	Section IV: A physician/therapist will report these potential acts of violence without an intended target to a designated representative of the local law enforcement. A second mental health physician would be necessary to confirm the suspicion of the original physician in order for law enforcement to consider issuing a "mental health warrant".
30	Section V: This law will go into effect 1 year after passage.