

229A.5B Escape from custody — penalty.

1. A person who is detained pursuant to [section 229A.5](#) or is subject to an order of civil commitment under [this chapter](#) shall remain in custody unless released by court order or discharged under [section 229A.8](#) or [229A.10](#). A person who has been placed in a transitional release program or who is under release with supervision is considered to be in custody. A person in custody under [this chapter](#) shall not do any of the following:

a. Leave or attempt to leave a facility without the accompaniment of authorized personnel or leave or attempt to leave a facility without authorization.

b. Knowingly and voluntarily be absent from a place where the person is required to be present.

c. Leave or attempt to leave the custody of personnel transporting or guarding the person while the person is away from a facility.

2. A person who violates [subsection 1](#) commits a serious misdemeanor or may be subject to punishment for contempt.

3. If a person commits a violation of [subsection 1](#) and remains unconfined, the attorney general or the chief law enforcement officer of the political subdivision where the violation occurs may make a public announcement that the person is unconfined and may provide relevant information about the person to the community. The attorney general may also notify a victim or the family of a victim of the person that the person is unconfined.

4. [This section](#) shall not be construed to prohibit the use of other lawful means for the return of the person.

[2001 Acts, ch 27, §1](#); [2002 Acts, ch 1139, §4, 27](#); [2015 Acts, ch 12, §1](#); [2018 Acts, ch 1165, §97](#)

Referred to in [§229A.8A](#)

Subsection 1, unnumbered paragraph 1 amended