
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1986 No. 595

The Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986

PART II

COMPULSORY ADMISSION TO HOSPITAL AND GUARDIANSHIP

Guardianship

General provisions as to medical recommendations

20.—(1) The medical recommendations required for the purposes of a guardianship application shall be in the prescribed form and shall satisfy the following requirements, namely—

- (a) each recommendation shall be given and signed by a medical practitioner who has personally examined the patient not more than two days before the date on which he signs the recommendation;
- (b) where the medical practitioners have examined the patient separately, not more than 7 days must have elapsed between the days on which the separate examinations took place;
- (c) one recommendation shall be given by a medical practitioner appointed by [F1RQIA] for the purposes of this Part, and the other shall, if practicable, be given by the patient's medical practitioner or by a medical practitioner who has previous acquaintance with the patient;
- (d) neither recommendation shall be given by—
 - (i) the person named as guardian in the guardianship application; or
 - (ii) any of the persons described in Schedule 1.

(2) A guardianship application shall be sufficient if the medical recommendations on which it is founded are given either as separate recommendations, each signed by a medical practitioner, or as a joint recommendation signed by two medical practitioners.

F1 Words in Order substituted (1.4.2009) by [Health and Social Care \(Reform\) Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2009 \(c. 1\)](#), ss. 32, 34(3), [Sch. 6 para. 8\(1\)](#) (subject to [Sch. 6 para. 8\(2\)-\(4\)](#)); S.R. 2009/114, [art. 2](#)

Changes to legislation:

The Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, Section 20 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- [art. 18-26 repealed by 2016 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 8 para. 11](#)[Sch. 11](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Order associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Order (including any effects on those provisions):

- [Sch. 5 Pt. 2 repealed in part by S.I. 2003/435 \(N.I.\) Sch. 5](#) (text not available on [Legislation.gov.uk](#))
- [Sch.05 Pt. 1 rev. in pt. by 1995 c. 35 s. 29\(2\)](#)[Sch. 3](#)
- [Sch. 5 Pt. 2 rev. in pt. by 1998 c. 47 s. 100\(2\)](#)[Sch. 15](#)
- [art. 14A inserted by 2016 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 8 para. 10](#)
- [art. 36\(2\)\(za\) inserted by 2016 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 8 para. 22\(3\)](#)
- [art. 36\(3\)\(e\) and word inserted by 2016 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 8 para. 22\(4\)\(d\)](#)
- [art. 37\(1\)\(za\) inserted by 2016 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 8 para. 23\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- [art. 37\(1A\) inserted by 2016 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 8 para. 23\(3\)](#)
- [art. 52 rev. by 1996 c. 46 s. 35\(2\)](#)[Sch.7 Pt. 3](#)
- [art.52 rev. \(DrosD,\) by 1996 c. 46 s. 35\(2\)](#)[Sch.7 Pt.III](#)
- [art. 63A63B inserted by 2016 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 8 para. 31](#)
- [art. 67\(2A\) inserted by 2016 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 8 para. 35\(4\)](#)
- [art. 83\(4A\) inserted by 2016 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 8 para. 48\(4\)](#)
- [art. 120\(4\) inserted by 2016 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 8 para. 59\(4\)](#)
- [art. 133\(2A\) inserted by 2016 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 8 para. 68\(4\)](#)