
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1986 No. 595

The Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986

PART X

OFFENCES

Forgery, false statements, etc.

119.—(1) Any person who without lawful authority or excuse has in his custody or under his control any document to which this paragraph applies which is, and which he knows or believes to be, false within the meaning of Part I of the Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) Any person who without lawful authority or excuse makes, or has in his custody or under his control, any document so closely resembling a document to which paragraph (1) applies as to be calculated to deceive shall be guilty of an offence.

(3) Paragraph (1) applies to any document purporting to be—

- (a) an application under Part II;
- (b) any recommendation or report under this Order; and
- (c) any other document required or authorised to be made for any of the purposes of this Order.

(4) Any person who—

- (a) wilfully makes a false entry or statement in any application, recommendation, report, record or other document required or authorised to be made for any of the purposes of this Order; or
- (b) with intent to deceive, makes use of any such entry or statement which he knows to be false,

shall be guilty of an offence.

(5) Any person guilty of an offence under this Article shall be liable—

- (a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum, or to both;
- (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to a fine of any amount, or to both.

Unlawful detention of patients

120.—(1) Any person who knowingly receives and detains otherwise than in accordance with this Order a person suffering from mental disorder shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) Any person who exercises in relation to any patient any power of detention, or any other power conferred on him by or under this Order, after he has knowledge that the power has expired, shall be guilty of an offence.

(3) Any person guilty of an offence under this Article shall be liable—

Status: Point in time view as at 01/04/2009.

Changes to legislation: The Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, PART X is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 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. (See end of Document for details)

- (a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum, or to both;
- (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to a fine of any amount, or to both.

Ill-treatment of patients

121.—(1) Any person who, being an officer on the staff of or otherwise employed in a hospital, private hospital or nursing home or being a member of the^[F1] Board or a director of the [^[F2]HSC trust] managing] a hospital, or a person carrying on a private hospital or nursing home—

- (a) ill-treats or wilfully neglects a patient for the time being receiving treatment for mental disorder as an in-patient in that hospital or nursing home; or
- (b) ill-treats or wilfully neglects, on the premises of which the hospital or nursing home forms part, a patient for the time being receiving such treatment there as an out-patient,

shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) Any individual who ill-treats or wilfully neglects a patient who is for the time being subject to his guardianship under this Order or otherwise in his custody or care (whether by virtue of any legal or moral obligation or otherwise) shall be guilty of an offence.

(3) Any person guilty of an offence under this Article shall be liable—

- (a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum, or to both;
- (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or to a fine of any amount, or to both.

F1 1994 NI 2
F2 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. 1(1)(d)** (with Sch. 6 para. 1(3)); S.R. 2009/114, **art. 2**

Protection of women suffering from severe mental handicap

122. ^{F3}

F3 [Art. 122](#) repealed (2.2.2009) by [Sexual Offences \(Northern Ireland\) Order 2008 \(S.I. 2008/1769 \(N.I. 2\)\)](#), arts. 1(3), 81, 83, **Sch. 1 para. 17(a)**, **Sch. 3** (with transitional and transitory provisions in **Sch. 2 para. 1**); S.R. 2008/510, **art. 2**

Protection of patients

123. ^{F4}

F4 [Art. 123](#) repealed (2.2.2009) by [Sexual Offences \(Northern Ireland\) Order 2008 \(S.I. 2008/1769 \(N.I. 2\)\)](#), arts. 1(3), 81, 83, **Sch. 1 para. 17(b)**, **Sch. 3** (with transitional and transitory provisions in **Sch. 2 para. 1**); S.R. 2008/510, **art. 2**

Assisting patients to absent themselves without leave

124.—(1) Any person who induces or knowingly assists any other person—

(a) being liable under this Order to be detained in a hospital, or being subject to guardianship under this Order, to absent himself without leave; or

(b) being in legal custody by virtue of Article 131 to escape from such custody;

shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) Any person who knowingly harbours a patient who is absent without leave or is otherwise at large and liable to be retaken under this Order, or gives him any assistance with intent to prevent, hinder or interfere with his being taken into custody or returned to the hospital or other place where he ought to be, shall be guilty of an offence.

(3) Any person guilty of an offence under this Article shall be liable—

- (a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum, or to both;
- (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to a fine of any amount, or to both.

Obstruction

125.—(1) Any person who without reasonable cause—

- (a) refuses to allow the inspection of any premises by a person authorised in that behalf by or under this Order;
- (b) refuses to allow the visiting, interviewing or examination of any person by a person so authorised;
- (c) refuses to produce for the inspection of any person so authorised any document or record the production of which is duly required by him; or
- (d) otherwise obstructs any such person in the exercise of his functions,

shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1), any person who insists on being present when requested to withdraw by a person authorised as aforesaid to interview or examine a person in private, shall be guilty of an offence.

(3) Any person guilty of an offence under this Article shall be liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale, or to both.

Consent for certain prosecutions

126. No proceedings shall be instituted for an offence under Article 120, 121, 122 or 123 except by or with the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland.

Status:

Point in time view as at 01/04/2009.

Changes to legislation:

The Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, PART X is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 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.