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# Mental Health Act 1983

# **CHAPTER 20**

# MENTAL HEALTH ACT 1983

#### PART I

# APPLICATION OF ACT

1 Application of Act: "mental disorder".

#### PART II

# COMPULSORY ADMISSION TO HOSPITAL AND GUARDIANSHIP

# Procedure for hospital admission

- 2 Admission for assessment.
- 3 Admission for treatment.
- 4 Admission for assessment in cases of emergency.
- 5 Application in respect of patient already in hospital.
- 6 Effect of application for admission.

# Guardianship

- 7 Application for guardianship.
- 8 Effect of guardianship application, etc.
- 9 Regulations as to guardianship.
- 10 Transfer of guardianship in case of death, incapacity, etc., of guardian.

# General provisions as to applications and recommendations

- 11 General provisions as to applications.
- 12 General provisions as to medical recommendations.
- 12A Conflicts of interest

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- Duty of approved social workers to make applications for admission or guardianship.
- Where a patient is admitted to a hospital in pursuance...
- 15 Rectification of applications and recommendations.

# Position of patients subject to detention or guardianship

- 16 Reclassification of patients.
- 17 Leave of absence from hospital.
- 17A Community treatment orders
- 17B Conditions
- 17C Duration of community treatment order
- 17D Effect of community treatment order
- 17E Power to recall to hospital
- 17F Powers in respect of recalled patients
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  - 18 Return and readmission of patients absent without leave.
  - 19 Regulations as to transfer of patients.
- 19A Regulations as to assignment of responsibility for community patients

## Duration of detention or guardianship and discharge

- 20 Duration of authority.
- 20A Community treatment period
- 20B Effect of expiry of community treatment order
- 21 Special provisions as to patients absent without leave.
- 21A Patients who are taken into custody or return within 28 days.
- 21B Patients who are taken into custody or return after more than 28 days.
  - 22 Special provisions as to patients sentenced to imprisonment, etc.
  - 23 Discharge of patients.
  - 24 Visiting and examination of patients.
  - 25 Restrictions on discharge by nearest relative.

## After-care under supervision

- 25A Application for supervision.
- 25B Making of supervision application.
- 25C Supervision applications: supplementary.
- 25D Requirements to secure receipt of after-care under supervision.
- 25E Review of after-care under supervision etc.
- 25F Reclassification of patient subject to after-care under supervision.
- 25G Duration and renewal of after-care under supervision.
- 25H Ending of after-care under supervision.
- 25I Special provisions as to patients sentenced to imprisonment etc.
- 25J Patients moving from Scotland to England and Wales.

# Functions of relatives of patients

- 26 Definition of "relative" and "nearest relative".
- 27 Children and young persons in care.
- 28 Nearest relative of minor under guardianship, etc.
- 29 Appointment by court of acting nearest relative.
- 30 Discharge and variation of orders under s. 29.

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## Supplemental

- 31 Procedure on applications to county court.
- 32 Regulations for purposes of Part II.
- 33 Special provisions as to wards of court.
- 34 Interpretation of Part II.

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## PATIENTS CONCERNED IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS OR UNDER SENTENCE

### Remands to hospital

- 35 Remand to hospital for report on accused's mental condition.
- 36 Remand of accused person to hospital for treatment.

## Hospital and guardianship orders

- 37 Powers of courts to order hospital admission or guardianship.
- 38 Interim hospital orders.
- 39 Information as to hospitals.
- 39A Information to facilitate guardianship orders.
  - 40 Effect of hospital orders, guardianship orders and interim hospital orders.

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- 41 Power of higher courts to restrict discharge from hospital.
- 42 Powers of Secretary of State in respect of patients subject to restriction orders.
- 43 Power of magistrates' courts to commit for restriction order.
- 44 Committal to hospital under s. 43.
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- 45A Power of higher courts to direct hospital admission.
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46 Persons ordered to be kept in custody during Her Majesty's pleasure.

## Transfer to hospital of prisoners, etc.

- 47 Removal to hospital of persons serving sentences of imprisonment, etc.
- 48 Removal to hospital of other prisoners.
- 49 Restriction on discharge of prisoners removed to hospital.
- 50 Further provisions as to prisoners under sentence.
- 51 Further provisions as to detained persons.
- 52 Further provisions as to persons remanded by magistrates' courts.
- Further provisions as to civil prisoners and persons detained under the Immigration Acts.

## Supplemental

- 54 Requirements as to medical evidence.
- 54A Reduction of period for making hospital orders.

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## 55 Interpretation of Part III.

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- 57 Treatment requiring consent and a second opinion.
- 58 Treatment requiring consent or a second opinion.
- 58A Electro-convulsive therapy, etc.
- 59 Plans of treatment.
- 60 Withdrawal of consent.
- 61 Review of treatment.
- 62 Urgent treatment.
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  - 63 Treatment not requiring consent.
  - 64 Supplementary provisions for Part IV.

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- 64A Meaning of "relevant treatment"
- 64B Adult community patients
- 64C Section 64B: supplemental
- 64D Adult community patients lacking capacity
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65 Mental Health Review Tribunals.

#### *Applications and references concerning Part II patients*

- 66 Applications to tribunals.
- 67 References to tribunals by Secretary of State concerning Part II patients.
- Duty of managers of hospitals to refer cases to tribunal.
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#### Applications and references concerning Part III patients

- 69 Applications to tribunals concerning patients subject to hospital and guardianship orders.
- 70 Applications to tribunals concerning restricted patients.
- 71 References by Secretary of State concerning restricted patients.

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- 73 Power to discharge restricted patients.
- 74 Restricted patients subject to restriction directions.
- 75 Applications and references concerning conditionally discharged restricted patients.

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- 76 Visiting and examination of patients.
- 77 General provisions concerning tribunal applications.
- 78 Procedure of tribunals.
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  - 79 Interpretation of Part V.

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#### Removal to Scotland

- 80 Removal of patients to Scotland.
- 80ZA Transfer of responsibility for community patients to Scotland
- 80A Transfer of responsibility for patients to Scotland.
- 80B Removal of detained patients from Scotland
- 80C Removal of patients subject to compulsion in the community from Scotland
- 80D Transfer of conditionally discharged patients from Scotland

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- 81 Removal of patients to Northern Ireland.
- 81ZA Removal of community patients to Northern Ireland
  - 81A Transfer of responsibility for patients to Northern Ireland.
    - 82 Removal to England and Wales of patients from Northern Ireland.
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- 83 Removal of patients to Channel Islands or Isle of Man.
- 83ZA Removal or transfer of community patients to Channel Islands or Isle of Man
  - 83A Transfer of responsibility for patients to Channel Islands or Isle of Man.
  - 84 Removal to England and Wales of offenders found insane in Channel Islands and Isle of Man.
  - 85 Patients removed from Channel Islands or Isle of Man.
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## Removal of aliens

86 Removal of alien patients.

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# Return of patients absent without leave

- 87 Patients absent from hospitals in Northern Ireland.
- 88 Patients absent from hospitals in England and Wales.
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- 90 Regulations for purposes of Part VI.
- 91 General provisions as to patients removed from England and Wales.
- 92 Interpretation of Part VI.

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- 93 Judicial authorities and Court of Protection.
- 94 Exercise of the judge's functions: "the patient".
- 95 General functions of the judge with respect to property and affairs of patient.
- 96 Powers of the judge as to patient's property and affairs.
- 97 Supplementary provisions as to wills executed under s. 96.
- 98 Judge's powers in cases of emergency.
- 99 Power to appoint receiver.
- 100 Vesting of stock in curator appointed outside England and Wales.
- 101 Preservation of interests in patient's property.
- 102 Lord Chancellor's Visitors.
- 103 Functions of Visitors.
- 104 General powers of the judge with respect to proceedings.
- 105 Appeals.
- 106 Rules of procedure.
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- 108 General provisions as to rules under Part VII.
- 109 Effect and proof of orders, etc.
- 110 Reciprocal arrangements in relation to Scotland and Northern Ireland as to exercise of powers.
- 111 Construction of references in other Acts to judge or authority having jurisdiction under Part VII.
- 112 Interpretation of Part VII.
- Disapplication of certain enactments in relation to persons within the jurisdiction of the judge.

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## MISCELLANEOUS FUNCTIONS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE

## Approved social workers

- 114 Appointment of approved social workers.
- 114A Approval of courses etc for approved mental health professionals
  - 115 Powers of entry and inspection.

#### Visiting patients

Welfare of certain hospital patients.

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## After-care

## 117 After-care.

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- 118 Code of practice.
- 119 Practitioners approved for Part IV and s. 118.
- 120 General protection of detained patients.
- 120A Investigation reports
- 120B Action statements
- 120C Provision of information
- 120D Annual reports
  - 121 Mental Health Act Commission.
  - 122 Provision of pocket money for in-patients in hospital.
  - 123 Transfers to and from special hospitals.
  - 124 Default powers of Secretary of State.
  - 125 Inquiries.

#### **PART IX**

#### **OFFENCES**

- 126 Forgery, false statements, etc.
- 127 Ill-treatment of patients.
- 128 Assisting patients to absent themselves without leave, etc.
- 129 Obstruction.
- 130 Prosecutions by local authorities.

## PART X

#### MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTARY

## Miscellaneous provisions

- 130A Independent mental health advocates
- 130B Arrangements under section 130A
- 130C Section 130A: supplemental
- Duty to give information about independent mental health advocates
  - 131 Informal admission of patients.
- 131A Accommodation, etc. for children
  - Duty of managers of hospitals to give information to detained patients.
- 132A Duty of managers of hospitals to give information to community patients
  - Duty of managers of hospitals to inform nearest relatives of discharge.
  - 134 Correspondence of patients.
- 134A Review of decisions to withhold correspondence
  - Warrant to search for and remove patients.
  - 136 Mentally disordered persons found in public places.
  - 137 Provisions as to custody, conveyance and detention.
  - 138 Retaking of patients escaping from custody.
  - 139 Protection for acts done in pursuance of this Act.
  - Notification of hospitals having arrangements for reception of urgent cases.
  - 141 Members of Parliament suffering from mental illness.
  - 142 Pay, pensions, etc., of mentally disordered persons.

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- 142A Regulations as to approvals in relation to England and Wales
- 142B Delegation of powers of managers of NHS foundation trusts

# Supplemental

- 143 General provisions as to regulations, orders and rules.
- 144 Power to amend local Acts.
- 145 Interpretation.
- 146 Application to Scotland.
- 147 Application to Northern Ireland.
- 148 Consequential and transitional provisions and repeals.
- 149 Short title, commencement and application to Scilly Isles.

### **SCHEDULES**

SCHEDULE 1 — Application of Certain Provisions to Patients Subject to Hospital and Guardianship Orders

- Part I PATIENTS NOT SUBJECT TO SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS
- 1 Sections 9, 10, 17, 21 to 21B, 24(3) and (4),...
- 2 Sections 16, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25A, 25B...
- 2A In section 17D(2)(a) for the reference to section 6(2) above...
- 2B In section 17G—(a) in subsection (2) for the reference...
  - 3 In section 16(1) for references to an application for admission...
  - 4 In section 18 subsection (5) shall be omitted.
- 5 In section 19(2) for the words from "as follows" to...
- 5A In section 19A(2), paragraph (b) shall be omitted.
  - 6 In subsection 20—(a) in subsection (1) for the words...
- 6A In section 20B(1), for the reference to the application for...
  - 7 In section 22 for references to an application for admission...
  - 8 In section 23(2)— (a) in paragraph (a) the words "for...
- 8A In sections 25A(1)(a) and 25B(5)(a) for the words "in pursuance...
- 9 In section 66— (a) in subsection (1), paragraphs (a), (b),...
- 10 In section 68— (a) in subsection (1) paragraph (a) shall...

Part II — PATIENTS SUBJECT TO SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS

- 1 Sections 24(3) and (4), 32 and 76 shall apply in...
- 2 Sections 17 to 19, 22, 23 and 34 shall apply...
- 3 In section 17— (a) in subsection (1) after the word...
- 4 In section 18 there shall be omitted—
- 5 In section 19— (a) in subsection (1) after the word...
- 6 In section 22 subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of subsection...
- 7 In section 23— (a) in subsection (1) references to guardianship...
- 8 In section 34, in subsection (1) the definition of "the...

## SCHEDULE 2 — Mental Health Review Tribunals

- 1 Each of the Mental Health Review Tribunals shall consist of—...
- 1A As part of the selection process for an appointment under...
- 2 Subject to paragraph 2A below, the members of Mental Health Review...
- 2A A member of a Mental Health Review Tribunal shall vacate...
  - 3 One of the legal members of each Mental Health Review...
  - 4 Subject to rules made by the Lord Chancellor under section...
  - 5 A member of a Mental Health Review Tribunal for any...
  - 6 Subject to any rules made by the Lord Chancellor under...

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# SCHEDULE 3 — Enactments Disapplied in Respect of Persons Within Jurisdiction Under Part VII

#### SCHEDULE 4 — Consequential Amendments In the Fines and Recoveries Act 1833— In section 68 of the Improvement of Land Act 1864... In section 10(3) of the Colonial Prisoners Removal Act 1884... In the Trustee Act 1925— (a) in section 36(9) for... 5 In the Law of Property Act 1925— 6 In section 111 of the Land Registration Act 1925— 7 In paragraph (ii) of the proviso to section 41(1) of... 8 In sections 4(1) and 11(3)(b) of the Polish Resettlement Act... In section 1(4) of the U.S.A. Veterans' Pensions (Administration) Act... 10 In section 116(7) of the Army Act 1955 for the... 11 In section 116(7) of the Air Force Act 1955 for... 12 13 In section 71(6) of the Naval Discipline Act 1957 for... 14 In section 1 of the Variation of Trusts Act 1958—... In section 128(1)(b) of the Mental Health Act 1959 for... 15 16 In section 5 of the Administration of Justice Act 1960—... 17 18 In the Criminal Procedure (Insanity) Act 1964— 19 In section 18 of the Administration of Justice Act 1965... 20 In paragraph 1(2)(b) of Schedule 1 to the Compulsory Purchase... 21 In the Criminal Justice Act 1967—(a) in section 72(1)(b)... 22 In section 26(2) of the Leasehold Reform Act 1967 for... In the Criminal Appeal Act 1968—(a) . . .... 23 In the Courts-Martial (Appeals) Act 1968— (a) in sections 20(4)... 24 25 In section 21(4) of the Family Law Reform Act 1969... 26 In the Children and Young Persons Act 1969— 27 In Schedule 1 to the Local Authorities Social Services Act... 28 In section 57(1) of the Courts Act 1971 for the... 29 30 In section 30(2) of the Immigration Act 1971 for the... 31 32 In section 118 of the Local Government Act 1972— 33 In the Costs in Criminal Cases Act 1973— 34 In section 12(d) of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 for... 35 36 In section 3 of the Powers of Criminal Courts Act... 37 In Group D in Schedule 1 to the Juries Act... 38 In the Solicitors Act 1974— (a) in section 12(1)(j) for... 39 In section 5(7) of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974... 40 41 In the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1975— 42 In Part II of Schedule 1 to the House of... 43 44 In section 32(6)(c) of the Adoption Act 1976 for the... 45 46 In section 3(6B) of the Bail Act 1976 for the... 47 In the National Health Service Act 1977— 48 In section 16A(1)(b)(ii) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act... 49

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51	
52	In the Residential Homes Act 1980— (a) in section 1(3)(a)
53	In paragraph 2(a) of Schedule 2 to the Reserve Forces
54	In section 31(2)(c) of the Transport Act 1980 for the
55	In section 38 of the Limitation Act 1980—
56	In section 57(2)(c) of the Public Passenger Vehicles Act 1981
57	In the Contempt of Court Act 1981—
58	In the Supreme Court Act 1981— (a) in section 48(6)(a)
59	In section 13(9) of the Armed Forces Act 1981 or
60	In paragraph 9 of Schedule 1 to the British Nationality
61	In the Mental Health (Amendment) Act 1982—

## SCHEDULE 5 — Transitional and Saving Provisions

- 1 Where any period of time specified in an enactment repealed...
- Nothing in this Act shall affect the interpretation of any...
- 3 Where, apart from this paragraph, anything done under or for...
- 4 (1) Until the expiration of the period of two years...
- 5 If no order has been made under section 11 of...
- 6 This Act shall apply in relation to any authority for...
- 7 This Act shall apply to any application made before 30th...
- 8 (1) Where on 30th September 1983 a person who has...
- 9 (1) Section 20(1) of this Act shall have effect in...
- 10 Section 23(2)(a) of this Act shall have effect in relation...
- Where at any time before 30th September 1983 an application...
- 12 A person— (a) who was admitted to hospital in pursuance...
- 13 Subsection (1) of section 68 of this Act does not...
- 14 Section 69(1)(b) of this Act shall have effect in relation...
- 15 The provisions of this Act which derive from sections 24...
- 16 The words in section 42(1) of this Act which derive...
- 17 Section 91(2) of this Act shall not apply in relation...
- 18 (1) Subsection (3) of section 58 of this Act shall...
- 19 In the case of a patient who is detained at...
- 20 The repeal by the Mental Health (Amendment) Act 1982 of...
- 21 Any direction to which section 71(4) of the Mental Health...
- 22 Notwithstanding the repeal by this Act of section 53(5) of...
- 23 For any reference in any enactment, instrument, deed or other...
- Nothing in this Act shall affect the operation of the...
- Nothing in this Act shall affect the operation of subsection...
- 26 If the person who is the Master of the Court...
- Nothing in this Act shall affect the operation of section...
- 28 References to applications, recommendations, reports and other documents in section...
- 29 The repeal by the Mental Health Act 1959 of the...
- 30 The repeal by the Mental Health Act 1959 of the...
- 31 (1) Any patient who immediately before the commencement of this...
- 32 Any patient who immediately before the commencement of this Act...
- 33 (1) This paragraph applies to patients who at the commencement...
- 34 (1) Any patient who is liable to be detained in...
- 35 (1) The responsible medical officer may record for the purposes...
- 36 Any person who immediately before the commencement of this Act...
- 37 (1) This paragraph applies to patients who immediately before the...
- Any patient who immediately before the commencement of this Act...

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- 39 Upon a restriction direction in respect of a patient who...
- 40 A person who immediately before the commencement of this Act...
- 41 Any opinion recorded by the responsible medical officer under the...
- 42 (1) In the foregoing provisions of this Schedule—
- 43 (1) Any order or appointment made, direction or authority given,...
- Where a person who immediately before 1st November 1960 was...
- 45 Section 101(1) of this Act shall apply in relation to...
- 46 For the purposes of section 15 of the National Health...

SCHEDULE 6 — Repeals

## **Status:**

Point in time view as at 01/10/2007.

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