



Mental Health Act 2007

2007 CHAPTER 12

PART 1

AMENDMENTS TO MENTAL HEALTH ACT 1983

CHAPTER 3

SAFEGUARDS FOR PATIENTS

Advocacy

30 Independent mental health advocates

- (1) Part 10 of the 1983 Act (miscellaneous and supplementary) is amended as follows.
- (2) Before section 131 insert—

“130A Independent mental health advocates

- (1) The appropriate national authority shall make such arrangements as it considers reasonable to enable persons (“independent mental health advocates”) to be available to help qualifying patients.
- (2) The appropriate national authority may by regulations make provision as to the appointment of persons as independent mental health advocates.
- (3) The regulations may, in particular, provide—
 - (a) that a person may act as an independent mental health advocate only in such circumstances, or only subject to such conditions, as may be specified in the regulations;
 - (b) for the appointment of a person as an independent mental health advocate to be subject to approval in accordance with the regulations.

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (4) In making arrangements under this section, the appropriate national authority shall have regard to the principle that any help available to a patient under the arrangements should, so far as practicable, be provided by a person who is independent of any person who is professionally concerned with the patient's medical treatment.
- (5) For the purposes of subsection (4) above, a person is not to be regarded as professionally concerned with a patient's medical treatment merely because he is representing him in accordance with arrangements—
 - (a) under section 35 of the Mental Capacity Act 2005; or
 - (b) of a description specified in regulations under this section.
- (6) Arrangements under this section may include provision for payments to be made to, or in relation to, persons carrying out functions in accordance with the arrangements.
- (7) Regulations under this section—
 - (a) may make different provision for different cases;
 - (b) may make provision which applies subject to specified exceptions;
 - (c) may include transitional, consequential, incidental or supplemental provision.

130B Arrangements under section 130A

- (1) The help available to a qualifying patient under arrangements under section 130A above shall include help in obtaining information about and understanding—
 - (a) the provisions of this Act by virtue of which he is a qualifying patient;
 - (b) any conditions or restrictions to which he is subject by virtue of this Act;
 - (c) what (if any) medical treatment is given to him or is proposed or discussed in his case;
 - (d) why it is given, proposed or discussed;
 - (e) the authority under which it is, or would be, given; and
 - (f) the requirements of this Act which apply, or would apply, in connection with the giving of the treatment to him.
- (2) The help available under the arrangements to a qualifying patient shall also include—
 - (a) help in obtaining information about and understanding any rights which may be exercised under this Act by or in relation to him; and
 - (b) help (by way of representation or otherwise) in exercising those rights.
- (3) For the purpose of providing help to a patient in accordance with the arrangements, an independent mental health advocate may—
 - (a) visit and interview the patient in private;
 - (b) visit and interview any person who is professionally concerned with his medical treatment;

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- (c) require the production of and inspect any records relating to his detention or treatment in any hospital or registered establishment or to any after-care services provided for him under section 117 above;
 - (d) require the production of and inspect any records of, or held by, a local social services authority which relate to him.
- (4) But an independent mental health advocate is not entitled to the production of, or to inspect, records in reliance on subsection (3)(c) or (d) above unless—
- (a) in a case where the patient has capacity or is competent to consent, he does consent; or
 - (b) in any other case, the production or inspection would not conflict with a decision made by a donee or deputy or the Court of Protection and the person holding the records, having regard to such matters as may be prescribed in regulations under section 130A above, considers that—
 - (i) the records may be relevant to the help to be provided by the advocate; and
 - (ii) the production or inspection is appropriate.
- (5) For the purpose of providing help to a patient in accordance with the arrangements, an independent mental health advocate shall comply with any reasonable request made to him by any of the following for him to visit and interview the patient—
- (a) the person (if any) appearing to the advocate to be the patient’s nearest relative;
 - (b) the responsible clinician for the purposes of this Act;
 - (c) an approved mental health professional.
- (6) But nothing in this Act prevents the patient from declining to be provided with help under the arrangements.
- (7) In subsection (4) above—
- (a) the reference to a patient who has capacity is to be read in accordance with the Mental Capacity Act 2005;
 - (b) the reference to a donee is to a donee of a lasting power of attorney (within the meaning of section 9 of that Act) created by the patient, where the donee is acting within the scope of his authority and in accordance with that Act;
 - (c) the reference to a deputy is to a deputy appointed for the patient by the Court of Protection under section 16 of that Act, where the deputy is acting within the scope of his authority and in accordance with that Act.

130C Section 130A: supplemental

- (1) This section applies for the purposes of section 130A above.
- (2) A patient is a qualifying patient if he is—
 - (a) liable to be detained under this Act (otherwise than by virtue of section 4 or 5(2) or (4) above or section 135 or 136 below);
 - (b) subject to guardianship under this Act; or
 - (c) a community patient.

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (3) A patient is also a qualifying patient if—
- (a) not being a qualifying patient falling within subsection (2) above, he discusses with a registered medical practitioner or approved clinician the possibility of being given a form of treatment to which section 57 above applies; or
 - (b) not having attained the age of 18 years and not being a qualifying patient falling within subsection (2) above, he discusses with a registered medical practitioner or approved clinician the possibility of being given a form of treatment to which section 58A above applies.
- (4) Where a patient who is a qualifying patient falling within subsection (3) above is informed that the treatment concerned is proposed in his case, he remains a qualifying patient falling within that subsection until—
- (a) the proposal is withdrawn; or
 - (b) the treatment is completed or discontinued.
- (5) References to the appropriate national authority are—
- (a) in relation to a qualifying patient in England, to the Secretary of State;
 - (b) in relation to a qualifying patient in Wales, to the Welsh Ministers.
- (6) For the purposes of subsection (5) above—
- (a) a qualifying patient falling within subsection (2)(a) above is to be regarded as being in the territory in which the hospital or registered establishment in which he is liable to be detained is situated;
 - (b) a qualifying patient falling within subsection (2)(b) above is to be regarded as being in the territory in which the area of the responsible local social services authority within the meaning of section 34(3) above is situated;
 - (c) a qualifying patient falling within subsection (2)(c) above is to be regarded as being in the territory in which the responsible hospital is situated;
 - (d) a qualifying patient falling within subsection (3) above is to be regarded as being in the territory determined in accordance with arrangements made for the purposes of this paragraph, and published, by the Secretary of State and the Welsh Ministers.

130D Duty to give information about independent mental health advocates

- (1) The responsible person in relation to a qualifying patient (within the meaning given by section 130C above) shall take such steps as are practicable to ensure that the patient understands—
- (a) that help is available to him from an independent mental health advocate; and
 - (b) how he can obtain that help.
- (2) In subsection (1) above, “the responsible person” means—
- (a) in relation to a qualifying patient falling within section 130C(2)(a) above (other than one also falling within paragraph (b) below), the managers of the hospital or registered establishment in which he is liable to be detained;

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- (b) in relation to a qualifying patient falling within section 130C(2)(a) above and conditionally discharged by virtue of section 42(2), 73 or 74 above, the responsible clinician;
 - (c) in relation to a qualifying patient falling within section 130C(2)(b) above, the responsible local social services authority within the meaning of section 34(3) above;
 - (d) in relation to a qualifying patient falling within section 130C(2)(c) above, the managers of the responsible hospital;
 - (e) in relation to a qualifying patient falling within section 130C(3) above, the registered medical practitioner or approved clinician with whom the patient first discusses the possibility of being given the treatment concerned.
- (3) The steps to be taken under subsection (1) above shall be taken—
- (a) where the responsible person falls within subsection (2)(a) above, as soon as practicable after the patient becomes liable to be detained;
 - (b) where the responsible person falls within subsection (2)(b) above, as soon as practicable after the conditional discharge;
 - (c) where the responsible person falls within subsection (2)(c) above, as soon as practicable after the patient becomes subject to guardianship;
 - (d) where the responsible person falls within subsection (2)(d) above, as soon as practicable after the patient becomes a community patient;
 - (e) where the responsible person falls within subsection (2)(e) above, while the discussion with the patient is taking place or as soon as practicable thereafter.
- (4) The steps to be taken under subsection (1) above shall include giving the requisite information both orally and in writing.
- (5) The responsible person in relation to a qualifying patient falling within section 130C(2) above (other than a patient liable to be detained by virtue of Part 3 of this Act) shall, except where the patient otherwise requests, take such steps as are practicable to furnish the person (if any) appearing to the responsible person to be the patient's nearest relative with a copy of any information given to the patient in writing under subsection (1) above.
- (6) The steps to be taken under subsection (5) above shall be taken when the information concerned is given to the patient or within a reasonable time thereafter.”
- (3) In section 134 (patients' correspondence), in subsection (3A), for paragraph (b) substitute—
- “(b) “independent advocacy services” means services provided under—
 - (i) arrangements under section 130A above;
 - (ii) arrangements under section 248 of the National Health Service Act 2006 or section 187 of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006; or
 - (iii) arrangements of a description prescribed as mentioned in paragraph (a) above.”