

Circular on provision of the law as to single insane persons

Publication/Creation

1876

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/a96p8dw2>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution, Non-commercial license.

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

Mr. Seaton

TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CHARGE OF SINGLE INSANE PERSONS.

THE Law relating to Single Insane Patients, and defining the duties and responsibilities of those who undertake to receive such Patients to reside with them, being in general very imperfectly understood, and frequently violated, your attention is urgently requested to the subjoined Statement of the various provisions of the Statutes, which the Commissioners intend, in future, most strictly to enforce.

PROVISIONS OF THE LAW AS TO SINGLE PATIENTS.

Order and Certificates
8 & 9 Vic. c. 100,
s. 90; and 16 & 17
Vic. c. 96, ss. 4, 8.

No person deriving profit from the charge, can receive into any house, or take care or charge of, a Patient as a Lunatic (including an Idiot or a person of unsound mind), or alleged Lunatic, without an order for reception, and two Medical Certificates.

Copies, &c., to be sent
to Commissioners.
Ibid.
25 & 26 Vic. c. 111,
s. 28.

Within one clear day after receiving a Patient, true copies of the order and certificates, together with a statement of the date of reception, and of the situation and designation of the house into which the Patient has been received, as well as of the Christian and Surname of the owner or occupier thereof, must be forwarded to the Office of the Commissioners in Lunacy, No. 19, Whitehall Place, London, S.W.

Statement.
25 & 26 Vic. c. 111,
s. 41.

In addition to these documents, there must also be forwarded to the Office of the Commissioners a statement of the condition of the Patient, signed by his medical attendant, after two clear days and before the expiration of seven clear days from the day of reception, according to a prescribed form.

Persons disqualified
from signing.
25 & 26 Vic. c. 111,
s. 24.
16 & 17 Vic. c. 96,
s. 12.

The order and certificates must not be signed by any person receiving a per-centage on or otherwise interested in the payments for the Patient, nor by the medical attendant as defined by the Act 8 and 9 Vict. chapter 100; nor must the certificates be signed by the father, brother, son, partner, or assistant of a medical man having the care or charge of the Patient.

Fortnightly Visits.
8 & 9 Vic. c. 100,
s. 90.

The Patient must be visited, at least once in two weeks, by a Physician, Surgeon, or Apothecary, who did not sign either of the certificates of insanity, and who derives no profit, and who is not a partner, father, son, or brother of any person deriving profit, from the care or charge of the Patient.

Entries.
Ibid.

Such medical man must at each visit enter in a book to be kept at the house, according to the subjoined Form, and to be called the "Medical Visitation Book," a statement of the condition of the Patient's health, both mental and bodily, and also of the condition of the house.

Less frequent Visits.
16 & 17 Vic. c. 96,
s. 14.

These visits may, by special permission of the Commissioners, be made less frequently than once in every two weeks; but in such case, where the Patient is under the care or charge of a medical man, such medical man must himself make an entry once at the least in every two weeks in a book to be called the "Medical Journal."

Annual Reports.
16 & 17 Vic. c. 96,
s. 16.

Every Physician, Surgeon, or Apothecary, who visits a single Patient, or under whose care a single Patient may be, must, on the 10th of January, or within seven days thereof, in every year, report in writing to the Commissioners the state of health, mental and bodily, of the Patient, and such other circumstances as he may deem necessary to be communicated. Each Annual Report should give all these particulars fully, even although no change may have occurred since the previous report.

"Medical Visitation
Book, &c.
8 & 9 Vic. c. 100, s.
90, and 16 & 17 Vic. c.
96, s. 14.

"The Medical Visitation Book" and "Medical Journal," and the order and certificates, must be so kept that they may be accessible to the Commissioners whenever they may visit the Patient.

Notices.
8 & 9 Vic. c. 100, s.
53, 54, 55, and 90,
Continued & extended
16 & 17 Vic. c.
96, s. 21-22.
25 & 26 Vic. c. 111,
s. 44.

Notice must be forwarded to the Office of the Commissioners in case of the death, discharge, removal, escape and recapture of a Patient.

Notice of the death of the Patient must also be forwarded to the Coroner of the District.

Transfers.
16 & 17 Vic. c.
96, s. 20.

If it is proposed to remove the Patient to the care or charge of another person, the consent to an order of transfer must previously be obtained from the Commissioners, otherwise a fresh order and certificates will be necessary.

Changes of Residence.
16 & 17 Vic. c.
96, s. 22.

When any person, having the care of a single Patient, proposes to change his residence, and remove the Patient to such new residence, seven clear days' notice of the proposed change, with the exact address and designation of the new residence, must be sent to the Commissioners, and to the person who signed the order for reception of the Patient.

Removals for Health.
Ibid.

If it should be desired to give the Patient liberty of absence anywhere, for a definite time, for improvement of his health, or for a trial of his powers of self-control, the consent of the Commissioners must first be obtained; the written consent of the person who signed the order must accompany the application, as well as a statement by the medical attendant showing the fitness of the Patient for such trial.

Penalties for neglect
or violation of the
Law
8 & 9 Vic. c. 100,
s. 90.

The attention of every person having charge of a single Patient, is especially drawn to the concluding paragraphs of the 90th section of the 8 and 9 Vict. cap. 100, by which he will see, that if he shall receive a Patient without a proper order and certificates, or if, having such certificates, he neglect to transmit copies to the Commissioners in Lunacy, or if he fail to cause such Patient to be visited fortnightly by a medical man (not disqualified as above), or if he make any untrue entry in the "Medical Visitation Book," he shall be guilty of a misdemeanour.

N.B. A Licence for the house becomes necessary only where more than one Patient is received.

FORM OF MEDICAL VISITATION BOOK OR MEDICAL JOURNAL:

DATE.	Mental State and Progress	Bodily Health and Condition.	Restraint or Seclusion since last entry. When and how long? By what means; and for what reasons.	Visits of Friends.	State of House, Bed, and Bedding, &c.

* * A common Copy book, having a few pages ruled neatly to this pattern, and with the proper head lines written in, is quite sufficient.

FORM OF NOTICE OF DEATH.

I hereby give you Notice, That
a Private Patient, received into this house on the _____ day of _____
18____, died therein on the _____ day of _____
187____, and I further Certify, that
was present at the Death of the said _____
and that the apparent Cause of Death of _____
the said _____
(a)
was _____

Signed, _____
(b) _____

Dated this _____ day of _____ One
Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy
To the Commissioners in Lunacy.

(a) Ascertained by post mortem examination, if so.

(b) Medical Proprietor of _____ house, or Medical
Attendant.

FORM OF NOTICE OF DISCHARGE.

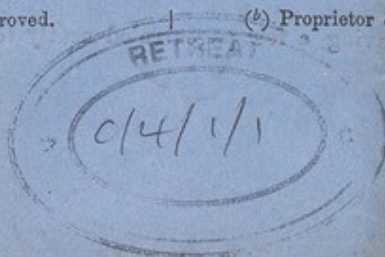
I hereby give you Notice, That
a Private Patient, received into this house on the _____ day of _____
18____ was discharged therefrom (a)
by the Authority of _____
on the _____ day of _____ 187____

Signed, _____
(b) _____

Dated this _____ day of _____ One
Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy
To the Commissioners in Lunacy.

(a) Recovered, or relieved, or not improved.

(b) Proprietor of _____ house.



694