



Mental Health Act 1959

1959 CHAPTER 72

PART V

ADMISSION OF PATIENTS CONCERNED IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS, ETC., AND TRANSFER OF PATIENTS UNDER SENTENCE

*Provisions for compulsory admission or guardianship
of patients convicted of criminal offences, etc.*

66 Powers of Secretary of State in respect of patients subject to restriction orders

- (1) If the Secretary of State is satisfied that an order restricting the discharge of a patient is no longer required for the protection of the public, he may direct that the patient shall cease to be subject to the special restrictions set out in section sixty-five of this Act; and where the Secretary of State so directs, the order restricting the discharge of the patient shall cease to have effect, and subsection (5) of the last foregoing section shall apply accordingly.
- (2) At any time while an order restricting the discharge of a patient is in force, the Secretary of State may, if he thinks fit, by warrant discharge the patient from hospital, either absolutely or subject to conditions; and where a person is absolutely discharged under this subsection, he shall thereupon cease to be liable to be detained by virtue of the relevant hospital order, and the order restricting his discharge shall cease to have effect accordingly.
- (3) The Secretary of State may at any time during the continuance in force of an order restricting the discharge of a patient who has been conditionally discharged under the last foregoing subsection, by warrant recall the patient to such hospital as may be specified in the warrant; and thereupon—
 - (a) if the hospital so specified is not the hospital from which the patient was conditionally discharged, the hospital order and the order restricting his discharge shall have effect as if the hospital specified in the warrant were substituted for the hospital specified in the hospital order;

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- (b) in any case, the patient shall be treated for the purposes of section forty of this Act as if he had absented himself without leave from the hospital specified in the warrant, and if the order restricting his discharge was made for a specified period, that period shall not in any event expire until the patient returns to the hospital or is returned to the hospital under that section.
- (4) If an order restricting the discharge of a patient ceases to have effect after the patient has been conditionally discharged under this section, the patient shall, unless previously recalled under the last foregoing subsection, be deemed to be absolutely discharged on the date when the order ceases to have effect, and shall cease to be liable to be detained by virtue of the relevant hospital order accordingly.
- (5) The Secretary of State may, if satisfied that the attendance at any place in Great Britain of a patient who is subject to an order restricting discharge is desirable in the interests of justice or for the purposes of any public inquiry, direct him to be taken to that place; and where a patient is directed under this subsection to be taken to any place he shall, unless the Secretary of State otherwise directs, be kept in custody while being so taken, while at that place and while being taken back to the hospital in which he is liable to be detained.
- (6) The Secretary of State may at any time refer to a Mental Health Review Tribunal for their advice the case of a patient who is for the time being subject to an order restricting his discharge, and, where so requested in writing in accordance with the following provisions of this section by such a patient who is detained in hospital, shall do so within the period of two months beginning with the receipt of the request unless during that period the patient is discharged absolutely or conditionally under subsection (2) of this section or the order restricting his discharge ceases to have effect.
- (7) A patient shall not be entitled to make a request to the Secretary of State under the last foregoing subsection before the expiration of the period of one year beginning with the date of the relevant hospital order, but subject as aforesaid may make one such request during each period during which he could have made an application to a Mental Health Review Tribunal if he had been subject to a hospital order "without an order restricting his discharge and the authority for his detention had been renewed at the requisite intervals.
- (8) Where a patient subject to an order restricting his discharge has been conditionally discharged under subsection (2) of this section and subsequently recalled to hospital, the last foregoing subsection shall apply as if the relevant hospital order had been made on the day on which he returns or is returned to hospital, but he may also make one such request as aforesaid between the expiration of the period of six months and the expiration of the period of one year beginning with that day.