
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1986 No. 595

The Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986

PART IV

CONSENT TO TREATMENT

Urgent treatment

68.—(1) Articles 63 and 64 shall not apply to any treatment—

- (a) which is immediately necessary to save the patient's life; or
- (b) which (not being irreversible) is immediately necessary to prevent a serious deterioration of his condition; or
- (c) which (not being irreversible or hazardous) is immediately necessary to alleviate serious suffering by the patient; or
- (d) which (not being irreversible or hazardous) is immediately necessary and represents the minimum interference necessary to prevent the patient from behaving violently or being a danger to himself or to others.

(2) Articles 66 and 67(3) shall not preclude the continuation of any treatment or of treatment under any plan pending compliance with Article 63 or 64 if the responsible medical officer considers that the discontinuance of the treatment or of treatment under the plan would cause serious suffering to the patient.

(3) For the purposes of this Article treatment is irreversible if it has unfavourable irreversible physical or psychological consequences and hazardous if it entails significant physical hazard.

(4) Where a patient is given treatment under this Article the responsible medical officer shall immediately notify [^{F1}RQIA] as to—

- (a) the nature of the treatment given to the patient; and
- (b) where treatment is given under paragraph (1), which of sub-paragraphs (a) to (d) of that paragraph applied in relation to the patient.

F1 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. 8\(1\)](#) (subject to [Sch. 6 para. 8\(2\)-\(4\)](#)); S.R. 2009/114, [art. 2](#)

Changes to legislation:

The Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, Section 68 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 18 April 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.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- art. 68(1) word substituted by [2016 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 8 para. 36\(2\)](#)
- art. 68(2) words substituted by [2016 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 8 para. 36\(3\)](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Order associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Order (including any effects on those provisions):

- Sch. 5 Pt. 2 repealed in part by [S.I. 2003/435 \(N.I.\) Sch. 5](#) (text not available on [Legislation.gov.uk](#))
- Sch.05 Pt. 1 rev. in pt. by [1995 c. 35 s. 29\(2\)Sch. 3](#)
- Sch. 5 Pt. 2 rev. in pt. by [1998 c. 47 s. 100\(2\)Sch. 15](#)
- art. 14A inserted by [2016 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 8 para. 10](#)
- art. 36(2)(za) inserted by [2016 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 8 para. 22\(3\)](#)
- art. 36(3)(e) and word inserted by [2016 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 8 para. 22\(4\)\(d\)](#)
- art. 37(1)(za) inserted by [2016 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 8 para. 23\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- art. 37(1A) inserted by [2016 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 8 para. 23\(3\)](#)
- art. 52 rev. by [1996 c. 46 s. 35\(2\)Sch.7 Pt. 3](#)
- art.52 rev. (DrosD,) by [1996 c. 46 s. 35\(2\)Sch.7 Pt.III](#)
- art. 63A63B inserted by [2016 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 8 para. 31](#)
- art. 67(2A) inserted by [2016 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 8 para. 35\(4\)](#)
- art. 83(4A) inserted by [2016 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 8 para. 48\(4\)](#)
- art. 120(4) inserted by [2016 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 8 para. 59\(4\)](#)
- art. 133(2A) inserted by [2016 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 8 para. 68\(4\)](#)