

Admission of mentally disordered persons found in a public place

(Section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983)

Shining a light on the future



| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Patient's name | |
| 2. Name of hospital and ward | |

Why am I in hospital?

You have been brought to this hospital by a police officer because they are concerned that you may have a mental disorder and should be seen by a mental health professional.

You are being kept here under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 so that you can be assessed to see if you need treatment.

How long will I be here?

You can be kept here (or in another place where you will be safe) for up to 72 hours so that you can be seen by a doctor and an approved mental health professional.

An approved mental health professional is someone who has been specially trained to help decide whether people need to be kept in hospital.

If the doctor and the approved mental health professional agree that you need to remain in hospital, a second doctor may be asked to see you to confirm their decision.

During this time you must not leave unless you are told that you may. If you try to go, the staff can stop you, and if you leave you can be brought back.

If the doctors and the approved mental health professional have not seen you by the end of the 72 hours, you will be free to leave. You may decide to stay on as a voluntary patient. But if you do want to leave, please talk to a member of staff first.

In your case the 72 hours end at:

| | |
|------|------|
| Date | Time |
| | |

What happens next?

When the doctors and an approved mental health professional have seen you, they may say that you need to stay in hospital for longer. They will tell you why and for how long this is likely to be. You will be given another leaflet that explains what will happen.

If they decide that you do not have to stay, someone will talk to you about what other help you should have.

Can I appeal?

No. Even if you do not agree that you need to be in hospital, you cannot appeal against the decision to keep you here under section 136.

Will I be given treatment?

The hospital staff will tell you about any treatment they think you need. You have the right to refuse any treatment you do not want. Only in special circumstances, which would be explained to you, can you be given treatment you do not agree to.

Letting your nearest relative know

A copy of this leaflet will be given to the person the Mental Health Act says is your nearest relative.

There is a list of people in the Mental Health Act who are treated as your relatives. Normally, the person who comes highest in that list is your nearest relative. The hospital staff can give you a leaflet which explains this and what rights your nearest relative has in connection with your care and treatment.

In your case, we have been told that your nearest relative is:

If you do not want this person to receive a copy of the leaflet, please tell your nurse or another member of staff.

Changing your nearest relative

If you do not think this person is suitable to be your nearest relative, you can apply to the County Court for someone else to be treated as your nearest relative instead. The hospital staff can give you a leaflet that explains this.

Your letters

All letters sent to you while you are in hospital will be given to you. You can send letters to anyone except someone who has said they do not want to get letters from you. Letters to these people can be stopped by the hospital staff.

Code of Practice

There is a Code of Practice that gives advice to the staff in the hospital about the Mental Health Act and treating people for mental disorder. The staff have to consider what the Code says when they take decisions about your care. You can ask to see a copy of the Code, if you want.

What if I have a comment, suggestion, compliment or complaint about the service?

If you want to make a comment, suggestion, compliment or complaint you can:

- talk to the people directly involved in your care
- complete a feedback card, available on wards. Some areas of the Trust have electronic feedback touch screens, staff can help you to use these. Your feedback allows us to monitor the quality of our services and act upon issues that you or your carers bring to our attention.
- ask a member of staff for a feedback form, or complete a form on the Trust website www.nth.nhs.uk (click on the 'Contact Us' tab)
- telephone the Complaints Department Tel: 0191 245 6672

If you do not feel that the hospital complaints procedure can help you, you can complain to an independent Commission. This is called the Care Quality Commission and it monitors how the Mental Health Act is used, to make sure it is used correctly and that patients are cared for properly while they are in hospital. The hospital staff can give you a leaflet explaining how to contact the Commission.

Further help and information

If there is anything you do not understand about your care and treatment, a member of staff will try to help you. Please ask a member of staff to explain if there is anything in this leaflet you do not understand or if you have other questions that this leaflet has not answered.

Please ask if you would like another copy of this leaflet for someone else.



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Further information about the content, reference sources or production of this leaflet can be obtained from the Patient Information Centre.

This information can be made available in a range of formats on request (eg Braille, audio, larger print, easy read, BSL or other languages). Please contact the Patient Information Centre Tel: 0191 223 2545

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