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§ 321. Definitions

For the purposes of this chapter except as the context may otherwise require—

(a) The term "Department" means the Department of Health and Human Services.

(b) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(c) The term "State" means a State or Territory of the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or the District of Columbia.

(d) The term "eligible person" means an individual with respect to whom the following certificates are furnished to the Secretary:

(1) A certificate of the Secretary of State that such individual is a national of the United States; and

(2) Either (A) a certificate obtained or transmitted by the Secretary of State that such individual has been legally adjudged insane in a named foreign country, or (B) a certificate of an appropriate authority or person (as determined in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services) stating that at the time of such certification such individual was in a named foreign country and was in need of care and treatment in a mental hospital.

(e) The term "residence" means residence as determined under the applicable law or regulations of a State or political subdivision for the purpose of determining the eligibility of an individual for hospitalization in a public mental hospital.

(Pub. L. 86-571, §1, July 5, 1960, 74 Stat. 308; Pub. L. 96-88, title V, §509(b), Oct. 17, 1979, 93 Stat. 695.)

CHANGE OF NAME

"Department of Health and Human Services" substituted for "Department of Health, Education, and Welfare" in subsec. (a) and "Secretary of Health and Human Services" substituted for "Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare" in subsecs. (b) and (d)(2), pursuant to section 509(b) of Pub. L. 96-88 which is classified to section 3508(b) of Title 20, Education.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 11 of Pub. L. 86-571 provided that: "This Act [enacting this chapter and repealing sections 191a and 196a of this title] shall, except as otherwise specified, take effect on the date of its enactment [July 5, 1960]."

§ 322. Reception of eligible persons at ports of entry or debarkation

(a) Arrangements for care, treatment, and assistance

Upon request of the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Health and Human Services is authorized (directly or through arrangements under this subsection) to receive any eligible

person at any port of entry or debarkation upon arrival from a foreign country and, to the extent he finds it necessary, to temporarily care for and treat at suitable facilities (including a hospital), and otherwise render assistance to, such person pending his transfer or hospitalization pursuant to other sections of this chapter. For the purpose of providing such care and treatment and assistance, the Secretary is authorized to enter into suitable arrangements with appropriate State or other public or nonprofit agencies. Such arrangements shall be made without regard to section 5 of title 41, and may provide for payment by the Secretary either in advance or by way of reimbursement.

(b) Payment or reimbursement for care, treatment, or assistance

The Secretary may, to the extent deemed appropriate, equitable, and practicable by him, (1) require any person receiving care and treatment or assistance pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to pay, in advance or by way of reimbursement, for the cost thereof or (2) obtain reimbursement for such cost from any State or political subdivision responsible for the cost of his subsequent hospitalization.

(Pub. L. 86-571, §2, July 5, 1960, 74 Stat. 308; Pub. L. 96-88, title V, §509(b), Oct. 17, 1979, 93 Stat. 695.)

CHANGE OF NAME

"Secretary of Health and Human Services" substituted in text for "Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare" pursuant to section 509(b) of Pub. L. 96-88 which is classified to section 3508(b) of Title 20, Education.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 323, 324, 325, 326 of this title.

§ 323. Transfer and release to State of residence or legal domicile, or to relative

If, at the time of arrival in the United States, the residence or the legal domicile of an eligible person appearing to be in need of care and treatment in a mental hospital is known to be in a State, or whenever thereafter such a person's residence or legal domicile in a State is ascertained, the Secretary shall, if the person is then under his care (whether directly or pursuant to a contract or other arrangement under section 322 or 324 of this title), endeavor to arrange with the proper authorities of such State, or of a political subdivision thereof, for the assumption of responsibility for the care and treatment of such person by such authorities and shall, upon the making of such arrangement in writing, transfer and release such person to such authorities. In the event the State of the residence or legal domicile of an eligible person cannot be ascertained, or the Secretary is unable to arrange with the proper authorities of such State, or of a political subdivision thereof, for the assumption of responsibility for his care and treatment, the Secretary may, if he determines that the best interests of such person will be served thereby, transfer and release the eligible person to a relative who agrees in writing to assume responsibility for such person after having been fully informed as to his condition.

(Pub. L. 86-571, § 3, July 5, 1960, 74 Stat. 308.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 324, 327, 329 of this title.

§ 324. Care and treatment of eligible persons until transfer and release

(a) Place of hospitalization

Until the transfer and release of an eligible person pursuant to section 323 of this title, the Secretary is authorized to provide care and treatment for such person at any Federal hospital within or (pursuant to agreement) outside of the Department, or (under contract or other arrangements made without regard to section 5 of title 41) at any other public or private hospital in any State and, for such purposes, to transfer such person to any such hospital from a place of temporary care provided pursuant to section 322 of this title. In determining the place of such hospitalization, the Secretary shall give due weight to the best interests of the patient.

(b) Ineligible persons

The authority of the Secretary to provide hospitalization for any person under this section shall not apply to any person for whose medical care and treatment any agency of the United States is responsible.

(Pub. L. 86-571, § 4, July 5, 1960, 74 Stat. 309; Pub. L. 98-621, § 10(r), Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3381.)

AMENDMENTS

1984—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 98-621 substituted “any” for “Saint Elizabeth Hospital, at any other” after “for such person” in first sentence.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1984 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 98-621 effective Oct. 1, 1987, see section 12(b) of Pub. L. 98-621 set out as an Effective Date note under section 225 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 168b, 323, 325, 326, 327, 328 of this title.

§ 325. Examination of persons admitted

(a) Time and frequency of examination; discharge

Any person admitted to any hospital pursuant to section 322 or section 324 of this title shall, as soon as practicable, but in no event more than five days after the day of such admission, be examined by qualified members of the medical staff of the hospital and, unless found to be in need of hospitalization by reason of mental illness, shall be discharged. Any person found upon such examination to be in need of such hospitalization shall thereafter, as frequently as practicable but not less often than every six months, be reexamined and shall, whenever it is determined that the conditions justifying such hospitalization no longer obtain, be discharged or, if found to be in the best interests of the patient, be conditionally released.

(b) Notice to legal guardian, etc.

Whenever any person is admitted to a hospital pursuant to this chapter, his legal guardian, spouse, or next of kin shall, if known, be immediately notified.

(Pub. L. 86-571, § 5, July 5, 1960, 74 Stat. 309.)

§ 326. Release of patient

(a) Request; determination of right to retain; retention after request

If a person who is a patient hospitalized under section 322 or 324 of this title, or his legal guardian, spouse, or adult next of kin, requests the release of such patient, the right of the Secretary, or the head of the hospital, to detain him for care and treatment shall be determined in accordance with such laws governing the detention, for care and treatment, of persons alleged to be mentally ill as may be in force and applicable generally in the State in which such hospital is located, but in no event shall the patient be detained more than forty-eight hours (excluding any period of time falling on a Sunday or legal holiday) after the receipt of such request unless within such time (1) judicial proceedings for such hospitalization are commenced or (2) a judicial extension of such time is obtained, for a period of not more than five days, for the commencement of such proceedings.

(b) Transfer to another hospital

The Secretary is authorized at any time, when he deems it to be in the interest of the person or of the institution affected, to transfer any person hospitalized under section 324 of this title from one hospital to another, and to that end any judicial commitment of any person so hospitalized may be to the Secretary.

(Pub. L. 86-571, § 6, July 5, 1960, 74 Stat. 309.)

§ 327. Notification to committing court of discharge or conditional release

In the case of any person hospitalized under section 324 of this title who has been judicially committed to the Secretary's custody, the Secretary shall, upon the discharge or conditional release of such person, or upon such person's transfer and release under section 323 of this title, notify the committing court of such discharge or conditional release or such transfer and release.

(Pub. L. 86-571, § 7, July 5, 1960, 74 Stat. 310.)

§ 328. Payment for care and treatment

(a) Persons liable; scope of liability; compromise or waiver; investigations; judicial proceedings

Any person hospitalized under section 324 of this title or his estate, shall be liable to pay or contribute toward the payment of the costs or charges for his care and treatment to the same extent as such person would, if resident in the District of Columbia, be liable to pay, under the laws of the District of Columbia, for his care and maintenance in a hospital for the mentally ill in that jurisdiction. The Secretary may, in his discretion, where in his judgment substantial justice will be best served thereby or the probable recovery will not warrant the expense of collection, compromise or waive the whole or any portion of any claim under this section. In carrying out this section, the Secretary may make or cause to be made such investigations as may be necessary to determine the ability of any person