



# **THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE**

## **MENTAL HEALTH (CARE AND TREATMENT) ACT 2008**

### **2020 REVISED EDITION**

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# Mental Health (Care and Treatment) Act 2008

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An Act to provide for the admission, detention, care and treatment of mentally disordered persons in designated psychiatric institutions.

[1 March 2010: Except paragraph (i) of item 1(8)(a),  
item 1(8)(b) and item 1(41) of the Second Schedule]

PART 1

PRELIMINARY

**Short title**

- 1. This Act is the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) Act 2008.

**Interpretation**

- 2.—(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —  
“designated medical practitioner”, in relation to any psychiatric institution, means a medical practitioner who is working in the psychiatric institution and who is designated by name or

office in writing by the Director or such public officer as the Director may appoint, for the purposes of this Act;

“Director” means the Director of Medical Services;

“medical practitioner” means any person who is registered as a medical practitioner under the Medical Registration Act 1997;

“mental disorder” means any mental illness or any other disorder or disability of the mind, and “mentally disordered” is to be construed accordingly;

“patient” means any person who has been detained or is receiving treatment in a psychiatric institution;

“principal officer”, in relation to any psychiatric institution, means the chairperson, medical board of the hospital which has been designated as a psychiatric institution or a part of which has been designated as a psychiatric institution (as the case may be) and includes any acting chairperson of the medical board or any person acting in a similar capacity as chairperson, medical board, whether or not that person is known by such designation;

“property” includes any thing in action and any interest in real or personal property;

“psychiatric institution” means a psychiatric institution designated by the Minister under section 3;

“psychiatrist” means any medical practitioner who is registered as a psychiatrist in the Register of Specialists under the Medical Registration Act 1997;

“relative”, in relation to a person suffering or appearing to be suffering from mental disorder, means any of the following persons being, in the case of any of the persons mentioned in paragraphs (b) to (i), a person 18 years of age or older:

- (a) husband or wife, or reputed husband or wife who is living with the person or, if the person is for the time being an inpatient in a hospital, was so living when