

**Mental Disorders and Treatment Act
(CHAPTER 178)**

Table of Contents

Long Title

1 Short title

2 Interpretation

**Part I PROVISIONS REGULATING PROCEEDINGS IN INQUIRIES INTO
MENTAL DISORDERS**

3 Court may order inquiry

4 Application by whom made

5 Provision as to notice of inquiry

6 Power to examine person alleged to be mentally disordered

7 Questions to be decided by court

8 Order as to costs

9 Appointment of committees

10 Powers of management of estate of mentally disordered person

11 Power of Registrar to receive proposal

12 Registrar to report to court

13 What relatives may attend proceedings

14 Orders may be made on petition

15 Dealing with mentally disordered person's property for certain purposes

16 Committee to execute instruments

17 Performance of contract

18 Partner found to be mentally disordered

19 Disposal of business premises

20 Committee may dispose of lease

21 Transfer of stock of mentally disordered person

22 Transfer of property of mentally disordered person residing out of Singapore

23 Power to order maintenance without appointing committee

24 Temporary provision for maintenance of mentally disordered person

25 Order for detention of mentally disordered person

26 Annulling proceedings

27 Discharge of person found on inquiry not to be of unsound mind

Part II PROVISIONS FOR THE ADMISSION AND DETENTION OF PERSONS OF UNSOUND MIND IN MENTAL HOSPITALS

28 Establishment of mental hospitals

29 Management of mental hospitals

30 Monthly inspection by visitors

31 Admission for treatment

32 Apprehension of persons of unsound mind

33 Provision in case of cruel treatment or neglect of persons of unsound mind

34 Person of unsound mind may be referred to mental hospital

35 General provisions as to admissions for treatment

36 Prohibition

37 Discharge by superintendent or psychiatrist

38 Visitors to apply for Magistrate's order of detention

39 Order of discharge by visitors

40 Temporary absence from hospital

41 Removal of patients from one hospital to another

42 Removal of patients from Singapore

43 Contents of order

44 Return to Singapore

45 Reception of persons of unsound mind into Singapore from elsewhere

46 Persons received into Singapore from elsewhere to be subject to local law

47 Amendment of orders

48 Order and certificate justify detention and recapture

49 Application of property in possession of person of unsound mind found wandering

50 Application for order for the payment of costs of maintenance

51 Order of court and enforcement thereof

52 Saving of liability of relatives

53 Offences against patients

Part III GENERAL PROVISIONS

54 Construction of laws

55 Medical orders or certificates

56 Copy of reception order to be sent to the person in charge of the mental hospital

57 Protection of persons enforcing the Act

58 Penalty for improper reception or detention

59 Sums payable by the Government to persons of unsound mind

60 Order for payment of cost of maintenance

61 Saving of powers

62 Rules

THE SCHEDULE

Legislative History

MENTAL DISORDERS AND TREATMENT ACT

(CHAPTER 178)

(Original Enactment: Ordinance 38 of 1952)

REVISED EDITION 1985

(30th March 1987)

An Act to regulate proceedings in cases of mental disorder, and to provide for the reception and detention of persons of unsound mind in approved hospitals.

[31st October 1952]

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Mental Disorders and Treatment Act.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“court” means the High Court and includes any judge of the Supreme Court;

“medical officer” means a registered medical practitioner in the service of the Government;

“medical superintendent” means the medical superintendent of a mental hospital and includes a deputy medical superintendent and an assistant medical superintendent;

“mentally disordered person” means any person found by due course of law to be of unsound mind and incapable of managing himself or his affairs;

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

“psychiatrist” means any registered medical practitioner who has experience in the diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders and holds a recognised diploma in psychiatry or other equivalent qualification approved by the Director of Medical Services;

“registered medical practitioner” means any person who is registered as a medical practitioner under the provisions of any written law relating to the registration of medical practitioners;

“Registrar” means the Registrar of the Supreme Court and includes a Deputy