

## CHAPTER 145.

[S. F. No. 505.]

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE CARE OF INSANE WOMEN  
ON THEIR WAY TO THE HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:*

SECTION 1. That section twenty-one (21) of chapter thirty-five (35) general statutes of one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight (1878) be, and the same [hereby] is amended as follows: Insert after the words "convey the said insane person to the hospital," in line eleven (11), the words: "Provided, That in case the said insane person is a female, she shall be accompanied, while being conveyed to the hospital, either by her husband or by a woman, who shall be designated by the said judge of probate or court commissioner."

Care of insane  
women.

SEC. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

When act to  
take effect.

Approved Feb. 25, 1887.

## CHAPTER 146.

[S. F. No. 53.]

AN ACT TO PLACE THE INMATES OF INSANE ASYLUMS  
UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE LAWS BY SECURING  
TO THEM THEIR POSTAL RIGHTS.

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:*

SECTION 1. That henceforth each and every inmate of each and every insane asylum, both public and private in the state of Minnesota, shall be allowed to choose one individual from the outside world to whom he or she may write when and whatever he or she desires, and over these letters to the individual, there shall be no censorship exercised or allowed by any of the asylum officials or employees. But their post office rights, so far as this one individual is concerned, shall be as free and unrestricted as are those of any other resident or citizen of the state of Minnesota and shall be under the protection of the same postal laws; and each and every inmate shall have the right to make a new choice of this individual party every three months if he or

Postal rights  
of insane  
persons.

she so desires to do, and all such letters shall be dropped by the writers thereof accompanied by an attendant when necessary, into a postoffice box provided by the state at the insane asylum and kept in some place easy of access to all the patients. The attendant is required in all cases to see that this letter is directed to the patient's correspondent and if it is not so directed, it must be held subject to the superintendent's disposal, and the contents of these boxes shall be collected once every week by an authorized person from the post office department and by him placed in the hands of the United States mail for delivery.

Duties of  
superintend-  
ents of insane  
hospital.

SEC. 2. That it is hereby made the duty of the superintendent to keep registered and posted in some public place at the insane asylum, a true copy of the names of every individual chosen as the inmates correspondent, and by whom chosen, and it is hereby made the duty of the superintendent to inform each of the individuals of the name of the party choosing him or her and he is to request him or her to write his or her own name on the outside of the envelope of every letter he or she writes to this individual inmate, and all these letters bearing the individual writer's name on the outside he is requested to deliver or cause to be delivered, any letter or writing to him or her directed, without opening or reading the same or allowing it to be opened or read unless there is reason for believing the letter contains some foreign substance, which might be used for medication. In which case the letter shall be required to be opened in the presence of a competent witness and this substance shall be delivered to the superintendent to be used at his discretion.

Penalty.

SEC. 3. [That] any person refusing or neglecting to comply with, or willingly or knowingly violating any of the provisions of this act, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished as the criminal code of Minnesota prescribe, and by ineligibility to any office in the asylum afterwards.

Act to be  
posted in  
asylum.

SEC. 4. That a printed copy of this act shall be framed and kept posted in every ward of every insane asylum both public and private in the state of Minnesota.

SEC. 5. That all acts or parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

When act to  
take effect.

SEC. 6. This act shall be in force thirty days from its passage.

Approved March 1st, 1887.