

CHAPTER 253

HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS FOR INSANE

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253.01 [Repealed, 1947 c 491 s 2]

**253.014 STATE HOSPITAL, SANDSTONE.** The institution at Sandstone, formerly the federal correctional institution, which is now operated by the state, is hereby established, for such period of time as it may be operated by the state, as a hospital for the care and treatment of mentally ill or mentally deficient persons, which shall be known and designated as the Sandstone State Hospital.

[1951 c 10 s 1]

**253.015 LOCATION; MANAGEMENT; COMMITMENT; SUPERINTENDENT.** The state hospitals located at Anoka, Fergus Falls, Hastings, Moose Lake, Rochester, St. Peter, Sandstone, and Willmar shall constitute the state hospitals for mentally ill, and shall be maintained under the general management of the commissioner of public welfare. The commissioner of public welfare shall determine to what state hospital mentally ill persons shall be committed from each county and notify the probate judge thereof, and of changes made from time to time. The chief executive officer of each hospital for the mentally ill shall be known as the superintendent.

[1947 c 491 s 1; 1951 c 10 s 2]

253.02 [Repealed, 1947 c 491 s 2]

253.03-253.05 [Repealed, 1947 c 622 s 14]

**253.053 HEARINGS TO DETERMINE INSANITY IN CERTAIN CASES.** Subdivision 1. **Interpreters at insanity hearings for persons deaf or dumb.** It shall be the duty of the judge of any court before which the question of the alleged insanity or feeble-mindedness of any person who is deaf and dumb, or either, is being determined to appoint a competent interpreter for the benefit of said alleged insane or feeble-minded person to interpret to and for said alleged insane or feeble-minded person the questions asked said alleged insane or feeble-minded person and his answers and all other oral court proceedings at the trial, and said alleged insane or feeble-minded person shall be entitled to have the services of such interpreter as a matter of absolute right.

Subd. 2. **Fees.** The fees and expenses of such interpreter shall be fixed and ordered paid by the judge of the trial court out of the general revenue fund of the county in which such trial occurs and the auditor and treasurer of such county shall cause such fees and expenses to be paid upon presentation of the order of such court.

Subd. 3. **Application.** This section shall apply to all persons whose means of communication includes the sign language and finger spelling.

[1945 c. 138]

253.06-253.09 [Repealed, 1947 c 491 s 2]

**253.10 DEATH OR ILLNESS; NOTICE GIVEN NEXT OF KIN.** The superintendent of any state hospital or asylum for the insane shall give to the next of kin of any inmate thereof immediate notice of his death, serious illness, or special change in his condition and promptly and fully answer all letters of inquiry from

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relatives. Immediately after the death of a patient therein, he shall furnish for registration, to the proper clerk or health officer, and to the probate judge of the county from which he was committed, a certificate setting forth the name of the patient, his age, the duration of his last sickness, and the cause and date of his death. The expenses of all coroners' inquests upon persons dying in such institutions shall be paid from the appropriation for its current expenses.

[R. L. s. 1917] (4518)

**253.11 INMATES MAY SELECT CORRESPONDENTS.** Any inmate of a state hospital or asylum for the insane may select a correspondent outside the institution, with whom he may freely correspond without censorship, and may change the same once in each quarter. He may also in the same manner correspond with the governor and director of public institutions. The superintendent shall register the name and post-office address of every such correspondent, a copy of which register shall be posted in some public place in the institution. Within three days after such selection by an inmate, the superintendent shall notify the correspondent thereof; and, in case of his refusal to act, shall notify the inmate, who may select another. Each correspondent shall endorse his name and address upon all envelopes sent to such inmate.

[R. L. s. 1918] (4519)

**253.12 DUTIES OF SUPERINTENDENT.** Such inmate shall be furnished with necessary paper and stamped envelopes for such correspondence, and with a postal card addressed to himself, having a form of receipt for the letter on the reverse side, to be enclosed therein. Such letter and postal card, when enveloped, sealed, directed, and delivered to the superintendent, or an assistant physician, shall be mailed forthwith, without being opened or read. Every letter received from such correspondent, governor, or commissioner of public welfare shall be delivered to the inmate unopened, unless there appear to be good reasons to the contrary, in which case the superintendent shall communicate such reasons to the writer. The facts in reference to such correspondence shall be at once entered in the register. A copy of sections 253.10 to 253.12, printed in pica type, shall be framed and posted in each ward of such institutions, and every violation of or non-compliance with their provisions shall be a misdemeanor.

[R. L. s. 1919] (4520)

**253.13 NOTICE OF ESCAPE.** When a state prison or reformatory convict who has been committed to a hospital or asylum for the insane escapes therefrom or dies therein, the superintendent shall immediately notify the chief executive officer of such prison or reformatory of such fact.

[R. L. s. 1920] (4521)

253.14 [Repealed, 1953 c 342 s 1]

**253.15 PATIENTS MAY BE PAROLED IN CERTAIN CASES.** The superintendent of any state hospital or asylum for the insane, when he deems it advisable that a patient should return home or remain away from the institution on trial, may allow him to be absent on parole for a period not exceeding one year. The order of commitment shall remain in force until he is legally discharged and he may be recalled at any time.

[R. L. s. 1922; 1931 c. 73] (4523)

**253.16 DISCHARGE OF PATIENTS.** The superintendent of any hospital or asylum for the insane may discharge any patient certified by him to be recovered unless charged with or convicted of some criminal offense. In all other cases, patients shall be discharged only by the director of public institutions. When the superintendent recommends the discharge of a patient, improved or unimproved, he shall state his reasons therefor.

[R. L. s. 1923] (4524)

**253.17 FEEBLE-MINDED CHILDREN TRANSFERRED TO SCHOOL FOR FEEBLE-MINDED.** The superintendent of any state hospital or asylum for the insane, with the approval of the commissioner of public welfare shall from time to time select from the patients therein such idiotic and feeble-minded children or youths as in his opinion are proper subjects for training and instruction and transfer them, or as many thereof as can be received, to the school for the feeble-minded.

[R. L. s. 1924] (4525)

**253.18 CLOTHING AND MONEY.** Every inmate of any state hospital or asylum for the insane shall be furnished with suitable clothing at the expense of the state; and when discharged, if necessary, with sufficient money to defray his expenses home or to his friends, all of which shall be paid out of the current expense fund of the institution.

[R. L. s. 1925] (4526)

**253.19 ANNUAL REPORT.** On or before September 1 each year, the superintendent of each state hospital or asylum for the insane shall report to the commissioner of public welfare the number of insane therein on July 31 preceding, giving the numbers of male and female and of the idiotic and epileptic separately, and a statistical exhibit of the admissions, discharges, and deaths, with causes of death, and such other facts and information as the commissioner may require. Neglect to so report shall be a misdemeanor.

[R. L. s. 1926] (4527)

**253.20 ASYLUM FOR DANGEROUS INSANE.** The commissioner of public welfare is hereby authorized and directed to erect, equip, and maintain in connection with a state hospital at St. Peter a suitable building to be known as the state asylum for the dangerous insane, for the purpose of holding in custody and caring for such insane persons, idiots, imbeciles, and epileptics as may be committed thereto by courts of criminal jurisdiction, or otherwise, or transferred thereto by the commissioner of public welfare, and for such persons as may be declared insane while confined in any penal institution, or who may be found to be mentally infirm and dangerous, and he shall supervise and manage the same as in the case of other state hospitals or asylums.

[1907 c. 338 s. 1] (4528)

**253.21 COMMITMENT; PROCEEDINGS; RESTORATION OF SANITY.** When any person confined in the state prison or the state reformatory is alleged to be insane, the warden or other person in charge shall forthwith notify the commissioner of public welfare, who shall cause the prisoner to be examined by the probate court of the county where he is confined, as in the case of other insane persons. In case he is found to be insane, he shall be transferred by the order of the court to the state asylum for the dangerous insane or to a state hospital for the insane in the discretion of the court, there to be kept and maintained as in the case of other insane persons. If, in the judgment of the superintendent, his sanity is restored before the period of his commitment to the penal institution has expired, he shall be removed by the commissioner, upon the certificate of the superintendent, to the institution whence he came, and there complete the period of his sentence.

[1907 c. 338 s. 2; 1913 c. 540 s. 1] (4529)

**253.22 ALLOWANCES.** When any convict is discharged from the asylum for the dangerous insane he shall receive the same allowances in money, clothing, and otherwise which he would have received had he remained at the institution from which he was received and the expenditures in his behalf shall be made out of the same fund. While he is at the asylum he shall be clothed and supported as are other insane patients.

[1907 c. 338 s. 3] (4530)

**253.23 TRANSFER PROCEEDINGS.** When any criminal shall be transferred to the asylum for the dangerous insane the original warrant of his commitment to the penal institution shall be sent with him and returned to the penal institution upon his return or discharge. A certified copy thereof shall be preserved at the penal institution.

[1907 c. 338 s. 4] (4531)

**253.24 TERMS OF SENTENCE.** A prisoner who is removed or returned under sections 253.20 to 253.27 shall be held in the place to which he is so removed or returned in accordance with the terms of his original sentence unless sooner discharged and the period for which he is removed shall be counted as a part of the term of the confinement.

[1907 c. 338 s. 5] (4532)

**253.25 COMMITMENT BEFORE CONVICTION.** When any person under indictment or information and before trial thereon shall be found to be insane, an idiot, or an imbecile and to have homicidal tendencies; or when during the trial of

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any person on an indictment or information such person shall be found to be insane, an idiot, or an imbecile and to have homicidal tendencies, the court in which such indictment or information is filed shall forthwith commit such person to the asylum for the dangerous insane for safe-keeping and treatment and such person shall be received and cared for thereat until he shall recover when he shall be returned to the court from which he was received there to be dealt with according to law.

[1907 c. 338 s. 6] (4533)

**253.26 TRANSFER FROM OTHER ASYLUM.** When any inmate of a state hospital or asylum for the insane or the school for feebleminded and colony for epileptics is found by the commissioner of public welfare to have homicidal tendencies or to be under sentence or indictment or information he shall be transferred by the commissioner to the asylum for the dangerous insane for safe-keeping and treatment.

[1907 c. 338 s. 7] (4534)

**253.27 CORRESPONDENCE WITHOUT CENSORSHIP.** Any inmate of the state asylum for the dangerous insane may correspond freely, without censorship, with the governor and with the commissioner of public welfare.

[1907 c. 338 s. 8] (4535)