

**347.16 Treatment in county hospital — terms.**

1. Any resident of a county in this state who is sick or injured shall be entitled to care and treatment in any public hospital established and maintained by that county under [this chapter](#), so long as that person observes the rules of conduct prescribed by the board of hospital trustees. Each patient admitted under [this subsection](#), or the person legally liable for that patient's support, shall pay to the board of hospital trustees reasonable compensation for that patient's care and treatment according to the rules established by the board, unless [subsection 2](#) is applicable.

2. Free care and treatment shall be furnished in a county public hospital to any sick or injured person who fulfills the residency requirements under [section 47.4, subsection 1, paragraph "d"](#), Code 1993, in the county maintaining the hospital, and who is indigent. The board of hospital trustees shall determine whether a person is indigent and entitled to free care under [this subsection](#), or may delegate that determination to the general assistance director or the office of the department of human services in that county, subject to guidelines the board may adopt in conformity with applicable statutes.

3. Care and treatment may be furnished in a county public hospital to any sick or injured person who has legal settlement outside the county which maintains the hospital, subject to such policies and rules as the board of hospital trustees may adopt. If care and treatment is provided under [this subsection](#) to a person who is indigent, the county in which that person has legal settlement shall pay to the board of hospital trustees the fair and reasonable cost of the care and treatment provided by the county public hospital unless the cost of the indigent person's care and treatment is otherwise provided for. If care and treatment is provided to an indigent person under [this subsection](#), the county public hospital furnishing the care and treatment shall immediately notify, by regular mail, the auditor of the county of legal settlement of the indigent person of the provision of care and treatment to the indigent person. However, if the care and treatment is provided by a county through the county's mental health and disability services system implemented under [chapter 331](#), liability for the assistance and maintenance is the responsibility of the person's county of residence.

[S13, §409-k; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §5362; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §347.16]

[83 Acts, ch 96, §157, 159; 92 Acts, ch 1212, §34; 95 Acts, ch 49, §10; 95 Acts, ch 119, §3, 5; 2009 Acts, ch 110, §13; 2012 Acts, ch 1120, §128, 130](#)

Referred to in [§347.17](#)