

CHAPTER 78.

HOSPITAL SERVICE AND TREATMENT FOR INDIGENT ADULT PERSONS.

H. F. 232.

AN ACT to provide free hospital service and medical and surgical treatment for persons who are afflicted with a malady or deformity which can probably be remedied by such service and treatment, and who are unable to pay for the same; providing for the expense thereof; and prescribing the jurisdiction of the district and superior courts in said cases.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

SECTION 1. Afflicted indigent adult persons—procedure to secure
 1 benefits. Whenever it shall appear to any physician, county super-
 2 visor, township trustee, public health nurse, overseer of the poor,
 3 policeman, priest or minister that there is any legal resident of his or
 4 her county over sixteen years of age, afflicted with any malady or
 5 deformity which can probably be remedied by proper care and medical
 6 or surgical treatment, if said person, or the parent, parents or guar-
 7 dian, or other person having legal custody of said person, as the case
 8 may be, is unable financially to provide proper care and medical or
 9 surgical treatment, it shall be the duty of such physician, county super-
 10 visor, township trustee, public health nurse, overseer of the poor,
 11 policeman, priest or minister to report the same to the judge of the
 12 district or superior court having jurisdiction in the county in which
 13 said person resides.

14 Upon the filing of such report with the judge of the district or
 15 superior court as aforesaid, he shall appoint some physician who shall
 16 personally examine said person with respect to the malady or
 17 deformity. Such physician shall make a written report to said judge,
 18 giving such history of the case as will be likely to aid the medical or
 19 surgical treatment of such deformity or malady, and describing the
 20 same, all in detail, and state whether or not, in his opinion, the same
 21 can probably be remedied. Such report shall be made within such
 22 time as may be fixed by the court and upon blanks to be furnished as
 23 hereinafter provided. It shall also be the duty of said judge to have a
 24 thorough investigation made by the county attorney of his county
 25 regarding the financial condition of the said person, or of the parent
 26 or parents, guardian or other person having legal custody of said
 27 person, as the case may be.

1 SEC. 2. Procedure. Upon the filing of such report or reports, said
 2 judge of the district or superior court, as aforesaid, shall fix a date for
 3 the hearing upon the complaint and shall cause the person, or the
 4 parent or parents, guardian or other person having legal custody of
 5 said person, as the case may be, to be served with a notice of the
 6 hearing and he shall also notify the county attorney who shall appear
 7 and conduct the proceedings and, upon such complaint, evidence may
 8 be introduced. If the judge finds that the said person is suffering
 9 from a deformity or malady which can probably be remedied by
 10 medical or surgical treatment or hospital care, and that the person,
 11 or the parent or parents, guardian or other person having legal custody
 12 of said person, as the case may be, is unable to pay the expenses
 13 thereof, said judge may, with the consent of the said person, or parent

14 or parents, guardian or other person having legal custody of said
 15 person, as the case may be, enter an order directing that the said
 16 person shall be taken to the hospital of the college of medicine of the
 17 state university of Iowa at Iowa City for proper hospital care and
 18 medical or surgical treatment; the expense of such hospital care and
 19 treatment to be met in the manner hereinafter provided.

20 Provided, that no such person shall be received into said hospital of
 21 the college of medicine of the state university of Iowa for care and
 22 treatment, unless, in the judgment of the admitting physician, there
 23 shall be a reasonable probability of such person's being benefited by
 24 such hospital care and medical or surgical treatment.

1 **SEC. 3. Duty of admitting officer of hospital.** It shall be the duty
 2 of the admitting officer of the said hospital of the college of medicine
 3 of the state university of Iowa, upon receiving any such person, to
 4 provide a proper bed in said hospital and to assign or designate the
 5 clinic of the said hospital to which such person shall be assigned for
 6 treatment; and the physician or surgeon in charge of said person
 7 shall proceed with proper care to perform such operation and bestow
 8 such treatment upon said person as, in his judgment, shall be proper
 9 and necessary.

10 A proper and competent nurse shall also be assigned to look after
 11 and care for said person during such hospital care and medical or
 12 surgical treatment, as aforesaid.

1 **SEC. 4. Compensation of physician, etc.** No compensation shall be
 2 charged or received by the admitting officer of the medical faculty, or
 3 by the physician or surgeon or nurse who shall treat and care for such
 4 persons, other than the salaries received by them provided by the
 5 Iowa state board of education.

1 **SEC. 5 Individual expense statement.** The superintendent of the
 2 hospital of the college of medicine of the state university of Iowa
 3 shall keep a correct account of all medicine, nursing, food and neces-
 4 saries furnished to said persons and shall make and file with the
 5 state board of audit of the state of Iowa an itemized, sworn state-
 6 ment of all expenses incurred at said hospital in the treatment, nursing
 7 and care of said persons.

1 **SEC. 6. Expense statement—approval, etc.** The state board of
 2 audit, upon being satisfied that the same is correct and reasonable,
 3 shall approve the same and shall direct that warrants be drawn by the
 4 auditor of state upon the treasurer of state for the amount of said
 5 bills as they are allowed from time to time; and the said warrants, as
 6 drawn by the auditor of state on the treasurer of state, shall be for-
 7 warded to the treasurer of the state university of Iowa, and the same
 8 shall be by him placed to the credit of the university funds which are
 9 set aside for the support of the state university hospital; and the
 10 treasurer of state shall pay the said warrants from the general funds
 11 of the state not otherwise appropriated.

1 **SEC. 7. Transfer of patient—attendant—expense and compensa-**
 2 **tion.** The court or judge may, in his discretion, appoint some person
 3 to accompany said patient from the place where he may be to the
 4 hospital of the college of medicine of the state university at Iowa City,
 5 Iowa, or to accompany said patient from the said hospital to such
 6 place as may be designated by the court; the said patient or the parent

6 or parents, guardian or other person having legal custody of said
7 patient, as the case may be, consenting.

8 The physician appointed by the judge of the district or superior
9 court as aforesaid to make such examination and report shall receive
10 therefor the sum of \$5.00 (five dollars), together with the expenses
11 incurred by him in making such examination; and the said charges
12 for services and expenses, and all expenses incurred in conveying such
13 person to and from the said hospital of the college of medicine of the
14 state university of Iowa, shall, when approved by the judge ordering
15 such services, be filed with the superintendent of the state university
16 hospital and charged on the regular bill for maintenance, provided
17 that if the party conveying said patient to or from said hospital is a
18 salaried officer of a township, a county, a city, or a state institution,
19 or a member of the patient's immediate family, said officer or relative
20 shall receive no per diem but only his actual traveling expenses. If
21 another person is appointed to conduct said patient to and from said
22 hospital, he shall receive compensation, in addition to his traveling
23 expenses, in the sum of \$3.00 (three dollars) a day.

1 **SEC. 8. Transfer of patient to his home—attendant—expenses.** The
2 superintendent of the hospital of the college of medicine of the state
3 university of Iowa or other person designated by the authorities in
4 control thereof may pay the actual, reasonable and necessary expenses
5 of returning the said patient to his home, and pay the attendant not
6 to exceed \$3.00 (three dollars) a day for the time thus necessarily
7 employed, provided that if such attendant is a salaried officer of a
8 township, a county, a city or a state institution, or a member of the
9 patient's immediate family, he shall receive the actual, reasonable
10 and necessary expenses incurred in accompanying said patient to his
11 home. Such per diem and expenses shall be itemized and verified and
12 presented to and allowed by the state board of audit in connection with
13 the bills for hospital maintenance as hereinbefore provided.

1 **SEC. 9. Blanks for information—report of examining physician,**
2 **etc.** The medical faculty of the hospital of the college of medicine of
3 the state university of Iowa shall, immediately upon the taking effect
4 of this act, prepare blanks containing such questions and requiring
5 such information as may be necessary and proper to be obtained by
6 the physician who examines the patient under order of court; and
7 such blanks shall be printed by the state and a supply thereof shall
8 be sent to the clerk of each district and superior court of the state of
9 Iowa; and the physician making such examination shall make his
10 report to the court in duplicate on said blanks, answering the questions
11 contained therein and setting forth the information required thereby,
12 and one of said duplicate reports shall be sent to the hospital of the
13 college of medicine of the state university of Iowa with the patient,
14 together with a certified copy of the order of the court. The state
15 board of audit shall audit, allow and pay the cost of the bills as other
bills are allowed and paid for public printing.

Approved March 20, A. D. 1919.