

What Courts Need to Know

144H: Care Facility Placement for Certain Adults

Summary:

HF2562 is legislation that created a new chapter of law, 144H, effective July 1, 2026.

Purpose:

Establishes a legal process for transferring adult patients from one care facility to another care facility in situations when the patient is unable to consent to placement changes. This process either appoints a person authorized to consent on the patient's behalf or allows the care facility to petition the court to approve a transfer of care.

Petition for Court Order:

A care facility or attending physician may ask a court for an order if they cannot locate someone authorized to make decisions for the patient. The court order may allow:

- ▶ Discharge of the current care facility placement and transfer of patient to a different care facility, and
- ▶ An attending physician or qualified facility employee to help the patient apply for health insurance or public assistance, when appropriate.

Required Notices from the Court:

If the court order allows a transfer of a patient, the court must provide Iowa HHS Division of Aging and Disability Services a copy of the order.

Send Notices to:

ADSNotice@hhs.iowa.gov or mail to:
Aging & Disability Services Division
Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
ATTN: 144H
321 E 12th St.
Des Moines, IA 50319