

Office Memorandum

Public Welfare

TO : E.J. Engberg, M.D. Superintendent
Faribault State School and Hospital

DATE: November 12, 1962

FROM : David J. Vail, M.D.
Medical Director

SUBJECT: Sterilization procedure

Miss Coakley said that you desired some clarification about this. I must say I do not see what all the difficulty seems to be about. I thought we had gone over this several times already and that the matter should be perfectly clear.

Section 256.07 and 256.08 appear to me to be quite parallel in what they call for. The law requires that "a reputable physician", "a psychologist selected by the Commissioner of Public Welfare" be appointed to consult with and advise the Commissioner along with the Superintendent or Chief Medical Officer of the Institution. It has always been my interpretation that both the physician and the psychologist should not properly be members of the hospital staff or, indeed, in the full-time employ of the Department of Public Welfare. I am willing to defend this thesis as I have many times.

I should think that the responsibility in case of both the physician and the psychologist would be to make a thorough examination of the patient including a careful review of the medical, psychological and social history. Their recommendation would then be either that the sterilization be done or not, or to set forth qualifications or conditions which might exist.

I should think that reasonable pay for such services would be consistent with the normal consultation schedule. I believe this runs \$12.50 an hour for physicians and about half this for a psychologist. There is no set fee for something of this sort, as you know. The fee would have to be paid from the hospital consultation budget.

As to how the physician is obtained I think you could go to someone known to you in the community. Ideally, this would be someone not already on a consultant contract at the hospital, but this would not be necessarily the case. The local medical society surely could suggest someone who could perform this. As to a psychologist I would suggest Dr. Osburn from the Mental Health Center at Owatonna or someone locally available to whom he might refer you.

I hope this is clear enough. I do not know how much clearer I can make it. I believe you should proceed in the matter.

cc: Mr. M. Hursh
Dr. R. Bartman
Miss F. Coakley

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