New Jersey State Archives Collection Guide

Record Group: Department of Institutions and Agencies
Subgroup: New Jersey State Village for Epileptics at Skillman
Series: Admission Registers, 1899-1952
Accession #: 1996.038
Series #: SINEP004
Guide Date: 11/1996 (EC)
Volume: 3.0 c.f. [13 vols.]

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Access Note

The records of patients admitted to state hospitals are confidential as stipulated by *NJSA* 30:4-24.3, which reads as follows:

> *All certificates, applications, records, and reports made pursuant to the provisions of Title 30 of the Revised Statutes and directly or indirectly identifying any individual presently or formerly receiving services in a noncorrectional institution under Title 30 of Revised Statutes, or for whom services in a noncorrectional institution shall be sought under this act shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed by any person...*

Exceptions to this rule can only be made when: 1) the patient or his or her legal guardian gives consent to access; 2) a court, for the purposes of its proceedings, deems that failure of the disclosure of this information is contrary to the public interest; 3) disclosure is deemed necessary by the Commissioner of Human Services in order to carry out any provisions of Title 30 or Article 9 of *NJSA* 2A:82; or 4) disclosure is deemed necessary by the Commissioner of Human Services in order to conduct an investigation to determine the patient's financial ability to pay for services received.

Content Note

This series consists of registers of admissions to the State Village for the period 29 April 1899 to 27 December 1952. It should be noted that an October 1899 report in the minutes of the board of managers states that there were seven patients in the village; however, these records show only five admissions by that time. While the earliest records tend to be brief, the registers generally include the following information for each patient: admission number, the patient's name, sex, race, date and place of birth, marital status, occupation, education, parents' names, and date of release, transfer or death. Admission records in the first volume (which are handwritten) usually include the supposed cause of epilepsy and also list any known auras (physical warning signs such as nausea or dizziness which may precede a seizure). Beginning with the second volume, the registers contain pre-printed admission pages and provide greater medical detail, including the following: length of illness before admission, mental and physical condition, type of seizures, and whether heredity is known to be a factor. The later records also include the names of the examining physicians and the name of the presiding judge (in cases where an individual was committed by court order), and indicate whether an individual was an indigent, private or committed patient.

Admission records for 26 feeble-minded men who came to the Village between May and September 1913 are also included at the end of the first volume. These admissions were apparently the result of an agreement between the managers of the Village and the Commissioner of Charities and Corrections. However, after considerable discussion on this matter (as shown in the board minutes), it was ultimately decided that the Village should be used exclusively for the treatment of epileptics. By November 1913, the feeble-minded men who had been admitted to the Village were either transferred to the New Jersey Training School at Vineland or released.

It should also be noted that Volume 13 of this series includes admission records for the Village's successor agency, the New Jersey Neuro-Psychiatric Institute. The Institute's admissions start with #6260 in February 1953, and are described more fully in the guide to the series: *Department of Institutions and Agencies/ New Jersey Neuro-Psychiatric Institute/ Admission Registers, 1954-1961*.

Contents

Box	Vol.	Admission Nos.	Inclusive Dates	
29	1	#1-371	1899-1908	[also includes Feeble-Minded Men admissions #1-26, 1913]
	2	#372-867	1908-1915	
30	3	#868-1379	1915-1918	
31	4	#1380-1883	1918-1922	
32	5	#1884-2386	1922-1926	
33	6	#2387-2886	1926-1929	
34	7	#2887-3386	1929-1931	
35	8	#3387-3890	1931-1933	
36	9	#3891-4398	1933-1936	
37	10	#4399-4902	1936-1939	
38	11	#4903-5406	1939-1944	
39	12	#5407-5909	1944-1949	
40	13	#5910-6259	1949-1952	[also includes New Jersey Neuro-Psychiatric Institute admissions #6260-6412, 1953-1954]

Notice to Researchers Using Admission Records of the New Jersey State Village for Epileptics at Skillman

A patient admission number will be needed in order to locate an individual record in the State Village admission registers. Admission numbers can be obtained by contacting:

Division of Developmental Disabilities
P.O. Box 726
Trenton, NJ 08625-0726
(609) 292-9435

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If you have any questions about the information in this collection guide, please contact njarchives@sos.state.nj.us