STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1970 No. 1766

SOCIAL SECURITY

The Supplementary Benefit (Reception Centres) Regulations 1970

Made - - - -	*26th November* 1970
Laid before Parliament	*4th December* 1970
Coming into Operation	*1st January* 1971

The Secretary of State for Social Services, in exercise of his powers under paragraph 4 of Schedule 4 to the Ministry of Social Security Act 1966(**a**) and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, hereby makes the following regulations:—

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) These regulations may be cited as the Supplementary Benefit (Reception Centres) Regulations 1970 and shall come into operation on 1st January 1971.

(2) In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires—

"the Act" means the Ministry of Social Security Act 1966(**a**);

"person in a centre" means a person who has been admitted to a centre:

"centre" means a reception centre provided and maintained by, or subject to the directions of, the Supplementary Benefits Commission under paragraph 2 of Schedule 4 to the Act;

"officer" means an officer of a centre being an officer of the Secretary of State or of a local authority such as is referred to in paragraph 2(2) of Schedule 4 to the Act;

"the Secretary of State" means the Secretary of State for Social Services;

and other expressions have the same meaning as in the Act.

(3) The rules for the construction of Acts of Parliament contained in the Interpretation Act 1889(**b**) shall apply in relation to this instrument and in relation to the revocation effected by it as if this instrument and the regulations revoked by it were Acts of Parliament, and as if such revocation were a repeal.

Admission to centres

2. Centres shall be open for the admission of persons seeking lodging therein between 5 p.m. and 8 a.m. or between such other hours as the Supplementary Benefits Commission may, in the case of a particular centre, direct:

Provided that an officer may, if he thinks fit, having regard to the circumstances of any particular case, admit such a person at any time.

(a) 1966 c. 20. (b) 1889 c. 63.

Hygiene

3.—(1) Unless an officer otherwise directs, every person in a centre shall as soon as practicable after admission have a bath or shower in clean warm water.

(2) Such a person shall, if an officer so directs, surrender his clothing to be dried or disinfested.

Medical examination

4. Every person in a centre shall, if so required by an officer, submit himself for examination by a registered medical practitioner specified by that officer.

Assistance in running centres

5. Unless an officer otherwise directs, every person in a centre shall assist in the running of the centre by doing such work within his physical capacity as an officer may require, and no such person shall leave the centre until he has completed such work to the satisfaction of the officer:

Provided that no person, other than a person in relation to whom a direction under paragraph 3 of Schedule 4 to the Act is in force, shall, unless he voluntarily remains in the centre after 11 a.m. on any day, be required to do work which he could not reasonably be expected to complete before that hour.

Behaviour in centre

6. Every person in a centre shall act in an orderly and decent manner and, in particular, shall not—

(*a*) insult an officer ; or

(*b*) use obscene or profane language, or act or write indecently or obscenely ; or

(*c*) assault, or threaten by word or deed to assault, an officer or any person in a centre ; or

(*d*) wilfully destroy or damage his clothing or wilfully destroy, damage or deface the structure, equipment or decorations of the centre.

Orders of officers to be obeyed

7. Every person in a centre shall obey all reasonable orders and directions given by an officer for the purpose of the management of, and preservation of order in, the centre.

Intoxicating liquor

8.—(1) A person on being admitted to a centre shall not bring with him any intoxicating liquor and a person in a centre shall not have in his possession any intoxicating liquor.

(2) Where a person on admission to or in a centre has any intoxicating liquor in his possession an officer may take it from him and it may be retained until that person leaves the centre.

Penalties for breach of regulations

9. Any person in a centre who contravenes or fails to comply with any of the requirements of regulations 3 to 8 shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £10 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one month.

Revocation and transitional provisions

10.—(1) The National Assistance (Reception Centres) Regulations 1948, as set out in the Schedule to, and confirmed by, the National Assistance (Reception Centres) Regulations Confirmation Instrument 1948(**a**), are hereby revoked.

(2) Anything whatsoever done under or by virtue of any regulation revoked by these regulations shall be deemed to have been done under or by virtue of the corresponding provision of these regulations, and anything whatsoever begun under any such revoked regulations may be continued under these regulations as if begun under these regulations.

(3) So much of any document as refers expressly or by implication to any regulation revoked by these regulations shall, if and so far as the context permits, be construed as referring to the corresponding provision of these regulations.

(4) Nothing in paragraph (2) or (3) of this regulation shall be taken as affecting the general application, by regulation 1(3) of these regulations, of the rules contained in section 38 of the Interpretation Act 1889 (effect of repeal).

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Social Services.

Paul Dean,
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State,
Department of Health and Social Security.

26th November 1970.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(*This Note is not part of the Regulations.*)

These regulations revoke and replace the National Assistance (Reception Centres) Regulations 1948 made by the former National Assistance Board and confirmed by the National Assistance (Reception Centres) Regulations Confirmation Instrument 1948. Regulations 2 to 8 relate to the management of reception centres run by, or subject to the directions of, the Supplementary Benefits Commission and lay down rules of behaviour to be observed by persons lodging in such centres. Regulation 9 provides for penalties for non-observance of those rules. Regulation 10 revokes the previous regulations (which had effect under paragraph 8(3) of Schedule 7 to the Ministry of Social Security Act 1966) and makes transitional provisions.

(a) S.I. 1948/1481 (Rev. XV, p. 257: 1948 I, p. 2031).

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