

If you are a nearest relative, you will need to use a letter like this to discharge the patient from hospital.

Date

To the managers of [insert name and address of hospital in which the patient is detained, or for a supervised community treatment patient, the responsible hospital]

Order for discharge under section 23 of the Mental Health Act 1983

My name is [your name] and my address is [your address]

[complete A, B or C below]

A. To the best of my knowledge and belief, I am the nearest relative (within the meaning of the Mental Health Act 1983) of [name of patient].

OR

B. I have been authorised to exercise the functions of the nearest relative of [name of patient] by the county court.

OR

C. I have been authorised to exercise the functions of the nearest relative of [name of patient] by that person's nearest relative.

I give you notice of my intention to discharge the person named above, and I order their discharge from [when you want the patient discharged from detention or supervised community treatment¹].

¹Note: You must leave at least 72 hours between when the hospital managers get this letter and when you want the patient discharged.

Signed,

[Your signature

Your name in print]