- 1 AN ACT concerning mental health.
- it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, 2
- 3 represented in the General Assembly:
- 4 Section 5. The Mental Health and Developmental
- Disabilities Code is amended by changing Sections 3-605 and 5
- 3-819 as follows: б

21

22

- (405 ILCS 5/3-605) (from Ch. 91 1/2, par. 3-605) 7
- 8 Sec. 3-605. (a) Upon receipt of a petition and
- certificate prepared pursuant to this Article, the county 9
- sheriff of the county in which a respondent is found shall 10
- take a respondent into custody and notify the Department. 11
- 12 The Department shall and--transport-him-to-a-mental-health
- 13 faeility,-or-may make arrangements either directly or through
- 14 agreements with other another public or private entities
- 15 entity----including---a---licensed---ambulance---service to
- 16 appropriately transport the respondent to the mental health
- facility. In the event it is determined by such facility that 17
- the respondent is in need of commitment or treatment at 18
- 19 another mental health facility, the Department county-sheriff
- health--facility,-or-the-county-sheriff-may make arrangements

shall transport-the--respondent--to--the--appropriate--mental

either directly or through agreements with other public or

- private entities another-public-or-private-entity-including-a 23
- licensed--ambulance--service to appropriately transport the 24
- respondent to the mental health facility. 25
- 26 The county sheriff may delegate his duties hereunder
- 27 to another law enforcement body within that county if that
- law enforcement body agrees. 28
- 29 The transporting authority acting in good faith and (C)
- without negligence in connection with the transportation of 30
- respondents shall incur no liability, civil or criminal, by 31

- 1 reason of such transportation.
- 2 (d) The respondent and the estate of that respondent are
- 3 liable for the payment of transportation costs for
- 4 transporting the respondent to a mental health facility. If
- 5 the respondent is a beneficiary of a trust described in
- 6 Section 15.1 of the Trusts and Trustees Act, the trust shall
- 7 not be considered a part of the respondent's estate and shall
- 8 not be subject to payment for transportation costs for
- 9 transporting the respondent to a mental health facility under
- 10 this Section except to the extent permitted under Section
- 11 15.1 of the Trusts and Trustees Act. If the respondent is
- 12 unable to pay or if the estate of the respondent is
- insufficient, the responsible relatives are severally liable
- 14 for the payment of those sums or for the balance due in case
- 15 less than the amount owing has been paid. If the respondent
- 16 is covered by insurance, the insurance carrier shall be
- 17 liable for payment to the extent authorized by the
- 18 respondent's insurance policy.
- 19 <u>(e) The Department may not make arrangements with an</u>
- 20 <u>existing hospital or grant-in-aid or fee-for-service</u>
- 21 <u>community provider for transportation services under this</u>
- 22 <u>Section unless the hospital or provider has voluntarily</u>
- 23 <u>submitted a proposal for its transportation services. This</u>
- 24 proposal shall include the provision of trained personnel and
- 25 <u>the use of an appropriate vehicle for the safe transport of</u>
- the respondents.
- 27 (Source: P.A. 87-1158.)
- 28 (405 ILCS 5/3-819) (from Ch. 91 1/2, par. 3-819)
- Sec. 3-819. (a) When a recipient is hospitalized upon
- 30 court order, the order may authorize a relative or friend of
- 31 the recipient to transport the recipient to the facility if
- 32 such person is able to do so safely and humanely. When-the
- 33 Department--indicates--that--it--has--transportation--to--the

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

1 facility-available,-the-order-may-authorize-the-Department-to 2 transport-the--recipient--there. The court may order the <u>Department</u> sheriff--of--the-county-in-which-such-proceedings 3 4 are-held to transport the recipient to the facility. When a recipient is hospitalized upon court order, and the recipient 5 has been transported to a mental health facility, other than 6 7 a state-operated mental health facility, and it is determined by the facility that the recipient is in need of commitment 8 9 or treatment at another mental health facility, the court shall determine whether a relative or friend of the recipient 10 11 or-the-Department is authorized to transport the recipient 12 between facilities, or whether the Department county-sheriff 13 is responsible for transporting the recipient between <u>Department</u> shall sheriff---may make 14 facilities. The 15 arrangements either directly or through agreements with 16 another public or private entity including a licensed ambulance service to appropriately transport the recipient to 17 the facility. The transporting entity acting in good faith 18 19 and without negligence in connection with the transportation of recipients shall incur no liability, civil or criminal, by 20 21 reason of such transportation.

(b) The court may authorize the transporting entity to the recipient, the estate of the recipient, legally responsible relatives, or insurance carrier for the cost of providing transportation of the recipient to a mental health facility. The recipient and the estate of the recipient are liable for the payment of transportation costs for transporting the recipient to a mental health facility. Τf the recipient is a beneficiary of a trust described in Section 15.1 of the Trusts and Trustees Act, the trust shall not be considered a part of the recipient's estate and shall not be subject to payment for transportation costs for transporting the recipient to a mental health facility under this section, except to the extent permitted under Section

- 1 15.1 of the Trusts and Trustees Act. If the recipient is
- 2 unable to pay or if the estate of the recipient is
- 3 insufficient, the responsible relatives are severally liable
- 4 for the payment of those sums or for the balance due in case
- 5 less than the amount owing has been paid. If the recipient
- 6 is covered by insurance, the insurance carrier shall be
- 7 liable for payment to the extent authorized by the
- 8 recipient's insurance policy.
- 9 (c) Upon the delivery of a recipient to a facility, in
- 10 accordance with the procedure set forth in this Article, the
- 11 facility director of the facility shall sign a receipt
- 12 acknowledging custody of the recipient and for any personal
- 13 property belonging to him, which receipt shall be filed with
- 14 the clerk of the court entering the hospitalization order.
- 15 (d) The Department may not make arrangements with an
- 16 <u>existing hospital or grant-in-aid or fee-for-service</u>
- 17 <u>community provider for transportation services under this</u>
- 18 <u>Section unless the hospital or provider has voluntarily</u>
- 19 <u>submitted a proposal for its transportation services. This</u>
- 20 <u>proposal shall include the provision of trained personnel and</u>
- 21 <u>the use of an appropriate vehicle for the safe transport of</u>
- 22 <u>the recipients.</u>
- 23 (Source: P.A. 87-1158; 88-380.)
- 24 Section 10. The Code of Criminal Procedure of 1963 is
- amended by changing Section 104-17 as follows:
- 26 (725 ILCS 5/104-17) (from Ch. 38, par. 104-17)
- 27 Sec. 104-17. Commitment for Treatment; Treatment Plan.
- 28 (a) If the defendant is eligible to be or has been
- 29 released on bail or on his own recognizance, the court shall
- 30 select the least physically restrictive form of treatment
- 31 therapeutically appropriate and consistent with the treatment
- 32 plan.

28

29

- 1 If the defendant's disability is mental, the court 2 may order him placed for treatment in the custody of the Department of Human Services, or the court may order him 3 4 placed in the custody of any other appropriate public or 5 private mental health facility or treatment program which has б agreed to provide treatment to the defendant. 7 defendant is placed in the custody of the Department of Human Services, the defendant shall be placed in a secure setting 8 9 unless the court determines that there are compelling reasons why such placement is not necessary. During the period of 10 11 time required to determine the appropriate placement the defendant shall remain in jail. Upon completion of 12 the 13 placement process, the <u>Department of Human Services</u> sheriff shall-be-netified-and shall make arrangements either directly 14 15 or through agreements with other public or private entities 16 to appropriately transport the defendant to the designated The placement may be ordered either on 17 facility. inpatient or an outpatient basis. 18
- 19 (c) If the defendant's disability is physical, the court may order him placed under the supervision of the Department 20 2.1 of Human Services which shall place and maintain t.he defendant in a suitable treatment facility or program, or the 22 23 court may order him placed in an appropriate public or private facility or treatment program which has agreed to 24 25 provide treatment to the defendant. The placement may be ordered either on an inpatient or an outpatient basis. 26
  - (d) The clerk of the circuit court shall transmit to the Department, agency or institution, if any, to which the defendant is remanded for treatment, the following:
- 30 (1) a certified copy of the order to undergo treatment;
- 32 (2) the county and municipality in which the 33 offense was committed;
- 34 (3) the county and municipality in which the arrest

- 1 took place; and
- 2 (4) all additional matters which the Court directs
- 3 the clerk to transmit.
- 4 (e) Within 30 days of entry of an order to undergo
- 5 treatment, the person supervising the defendant's treatment
- 6 shall file with the court, the State, and the defense a
- 7 report assessing the facility's or program's capacity to
- 8 provide appropriate treatment for the defendant and
- 9 indicating his opinion as to the probability of the
- 10 defendant's attaining fitness within a period of one year
- 11 from the date of the finding of unfitness. If the report
- 12 indicates that there is a substantial probability that the
- defendant will attain fitness within the time period, the
- 14 treatment supervisor shall also file a treatment plan which
- 15 shall include:
- 16 (1) A diagnosis of the defendant's disability;
- 17 (2) A description of treatment goals with respect
- 18 to rendering the defendant fit, a specification of the
- 19 proposed treatment modalities, and an estimated timetable
- 20 for attainment of the goals;
- 21 (3) An identification of the person in charge of
- 22 supervising the defendant's treatment.
- 23 <u>(f) The Department may not make arrangements with an</u>
- 24 <u>existing hospital or grant-in-aid or fee-for-service</u>
- 25 <u>community provider for transportation services under this</u>
- 26 <u>Section unless the hospital or provider has voluntarily</u>
- 27 <u>submitted a proposal for its transportation services. This</u>
- 28 proposal shall include the provision of trained personnel and
- 29 the use of an appropriate vehicle for the safe transport of
- 30 <u>the defendants.</u>
- 31 (Source: P.A. 89-507, eff. 7-1-97.)
- 32 Section 15. The Unified Code of Corrections is amended
- 33 by changing Section 5-2-4 as follows:

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

1 (730 ILCS 5/5-2-4) (from Ch. 38, par. 1005-2-4)

2 Sec. 5-2-4. Proceedings after Acquittal by Reason of 3 Insanity.

4 (a) After a finding or verdict of not guilty by reason of insanity under Sections 104-25, 115-3 or 115-4 of The Code 5 of Criminal Procedure of 1963, the defendant shall be ordered 6 7 to the Department of Human Services for an evaluation as to 8 whether he is subject to involuntary admission or in need of 9 mental health services. The order shall specify whether the evaluation shall be conducted on an inpatient or outpatient 10 basis. If the evaluation is to be conducted on an inpatient 11 basis, the defendant shall be placed in a secure setting 12 unless the Court determines that there are compelling reasons 13 why such placement is not necessary. After the evaluation and 14 15 during the period of time required to determine 16 appropriate placement, the defendant shall remain in jail. Upon completion of the placement process the <u>Department of</u> 17 <u>Human Services</u> sheriff--shall--be--notified--and shall <u>make</u> 18 19 arrangements either directly or through agreements with other 20 <u>public or private entities to appropriately</u> transport the 21 defendant to the designated facility.

The Department may not make arrangements with an existing hospital or grant-in-aid or fee-for-service community provider for transportation services under this Section unless the hospital or provider has voluntarily submitted a proposal for its transportation services. This proposal shall include the provision of trained personnel and the use of an appropriate vehicle for the safe transport of the defendants.

The Department shall provide the Court with a report of its evaluation within 30 days of the date of this order. The Court shall hold a hearing as provided under the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code to determine if the individual is: (a) subject to involuntary admission; (b) in need of mental health services on an inpatient basis; (c)

in need of mental health services on an outpatient basis; (d)

2 a person not in need of mental health services. The Court

3 shall enter its findings.

4 If the defendant is found to be subject to involuntary 5 admission or in need of mental health services on an inpatient care basis, the Court shall order the defendant to 6 the Department of Human Services. The defendant shall be 7 8 placed in a secure setting unless the Court determines that 9 there are compelling reasons why such placement is not necessary. Such defendants placed in a secure setting shall 10 11 not be permitted outside the facility's housing unit unless escorted or accompanied by personnel of the Department of 12 Human Services or with the prior approval of the Court for 13 unsupervised on-grounds privileges as provided herein. Any 14 15 defendant placed in a secure setting pursuant to this 16 Section, transported to court hearings or other necessary appointments off facility grounds by personnel of 17 Department of Human Services, may be placed in security 18 19 devices or otherwise secured during the period of transportation to assure secure transport of the defendant 20 21 and the safety of Department of Human Services personnel and 22 These security measures shall not 23 restraint as defined in the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code. If the defendant is found to be in need of 24 25 mental health services, but not on an inpatient care basis, the Court shall conditionally release the defendant, under 26 27 such conditions as set forth in this Section as will reasonably assure the defendant's satisfactory progress in 28 treatment or rehabilitation and the safety of the defendant 29 30 or others. If the Court finds the person not in need of mental health services, then the Court shall order the 31 32 defendant discharged from custody.

- (1) Definitions: For the purposes of this Section:
- 34 (A) "Subject to involuntary admission" means: a

1	defendant	has	been	found	not	guilty	by	reason	of
2	insanity;	and							

- (i) who is mentally ill and who because of his mental illness is reasonably expected to inflict serious physical harm upon himself or another in the near future; or
  - (ii) who is mentally ill and who because of his illness is unable to provide for his basic physical needs so as to guard himself from serious harm.
- (B) "In need of mental health services on an inpatient basis" means: a defendant who has been found not guilty by reason of insanity who is not subject to involuntary admission but who is reasonably expected to inflict serious physical harm upon himself or another and who would benefit from inpatient care or is in need of inpatient care.
- (C) "In need of mental health services on an outpatient basis" means: a defendant who has been found not guilty by reason of insanity who is not subject to involuntary admission or in need of mental health services on an inpatient basis, but is in need of outpatient care, drug and/or alcohol rehabilitation programs, community adjustment programs, individual, group, or family therapy, or chemotherapy.
- either the custody of the Department of Human Services or the custody of the Court of a person who has been found not guilty by reason of insanity under such conditions as the Court may impose which reasonably assure the defendant's satisfactory progress in treatment or habilitation and the safety of the defendant and others. The Court shall consider such terms and conditions which may include, but need not be limited to, outpatient care,

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

alcoholic and drug rehabilitation programs, community adjustment programs, individual, group, family, and chemotherapy, periodic checks with the legal authorities and/or the Department of Human Services. The person or facility rendering the outpatient care shall be required to periodically report to the Court on the progress of the defendant. Such conditional release shall be for a period of five years, unless the defendant, the person or facility rendering the treatment, therapy, program or outpatient care, or the State's Attorney petitions the Court for an extension of the conditional release period for an additional three years. Upon receipt of such a petition, the Court shall hold a hearing consistent with the provisions of this paragraph (a) and paragraph (f) of this Section, shall determine whether the defendant should continue to be subject to the terms of conditional release, and shall enter an order either extending the defendant's period of conditional release for a single additional three year period or discharging the defendant. In no event shall the defendant's period of conditional release exceed eight years. These provisions for extension of conditional release shall only apply to defendants conditionally released on or after July 1, 1979. However the extension provisions of Public Act 83-1449 apply only to defendants charged with a forcible felony.

- (E) "Facility director" means the chief officer of a mental health or developmental disabilities facility or his or her designee or the supervisor of a program of treatment or habilitation or his or her designee. "Designee" may include a physician, clinical psychologist, social worker, or nurse.
- 33 (b) If the Court finds the defendant subject to 34 involuntary admission or in need of mental health services on

1 an inpatient basis, the admission, detention, care, treatment 2 or habilitation, treatment plans, review proceedings, including review of treatment and treatment plans, and 3 4 discharge of the defendant after such order shall be under 5 the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code, except 6 that the initial order for admission of a defendant acquitted 7 of a felony by reason of insanity shall be for an indefinite period of time. Such period of commitment shall not exceed 8 9 the maximum length of time that the defendant would have been required to serve, less credit for good behavior, before 10 11 becoming eligible for release had he been convicted of and received the maximum sentence for the most serious crime for 12 which he has been acquitted by reason of insanity. The Court 13 shall determine the maximum period of commitment by an 14 15 appropriate order. During this period of time, the defendant 16 shall not be permitted to be in the community in any manner, including but not limited to off-grounds privileges, with or 17 without escort by personnel of the Department of Human 18 Services, unsupervised on-grounds privileges, discharge or 19 20 conditional or temporary release, except by a plan as provided in this Section. In no event shall a defendant's 21 continued unauthorized absence be a basis for discharge. 22 23 more than 30 days after admission and every 60 thereafter so long as the initial order remains in effect, 24 25 the facility director shall file a treatment plan report with the court and forward a copy of the treatment plan report to 26 27 the clerk of the court, the State's Attorney, and the defendant's attorney, if the defendant is represented by 28 29 counsel, or to a person authorized by the defendant under the 30 Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Confidentiality 31 Act to be sent a copy of the report. The report shall 32 include an opinion as to whether the defendant is currently subject to involuntary admission, in need of mental health 33 34 services on an inpatient basis, or in need of mental health

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

- 1 services on an outpatient basis. The report shall also 2 summarize the basis for those findings and provide a current summary of the following items from the treatment plan: (1) 3 4 an assessment of the defendant's treatment needs, (2) a description of the services recommended for treatment, 5 the goals of each type of element of service, (4) an 6 7 anticipated timetable for the accomplishment of the goals, 8 а designation of the qualified professional 9 responsible for the implementation of the plan. The report include unsupervised on-grounds privileges, 10 may also 11 off-grounds privileges (with or without escort by personnel of the Department of Human Services), home visits and 12 13 participation in work programs, but only where such privileges have been approved by specific court order, which 14 15 order may include such conditions on the defendant as the 16 Court may deem appropriate and necessary to reasonably assure the defendant's satisfactory progress in treatment and the 17 safety of the defendant and others. 18
  - (c) Every defendant acquitted of a felony by reason of insanity and subsequently found to be subject to involuntary admission or in need of mental health services shall be represented by counsel in all proceedings under this Section and under the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code.
    - (1) The Court shall appoint as counsel the public defender or an attorney licensed by this State.
    - (2) Upon filing with the Court of a verified statement of legal services rendered by the private attorney appointed pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Court shall determine a reasonable fee for such services. If the defendant is unable to pay the fee, the Court shall enter an order upon the State to pay the entire fee or such amount as the defendant is unable to pay from funds appropriated by the General Assembly

- 1 for that purpose.
- 2 (d) When the facility director determines that:
- 3 (1) the defendant is no longer subject to 4 involuntary admission or in need of mental health 5 services on an inpatient basis; and
- 6 (2) the defendant may be conditionally released 7 because he or she is still in need of mental health 8 services or that the defendant may be discharged as not
- 9 in need of any mental health services; or
- 10 (3) the defendant no longer requires placement in a secure setting;
- 12 the facility director shall give written notice to the Court,
- 13 State's Attorney and defense attorney. Such notice shall set
- 14 forth in detail the basis for the recommendation of the
- 15 facility director, and specify clearly the recommendations,
- 16 if any, of the facility director, concerning conditional
- 17 release. Within 30 days of the notification by the facility
- 18 director, the Court shall set a hearing and make a finding as
- 19 to whether the defendant is:
- 20 (i) subject to involuntary admission; or
- 21 (ii) in need of mental health services in the form 22 of inpatient care; or
- 23 (iii) in need of mental health services but not 24 subject to involuntary admission or inpatient care; or
- 25 (iv) no longer in need of mental health services; 26 or
- 27 (v) no longer requires placement in a secure setting.
- Upon finding by the Court, the Court shall enter its findings and such appropriate order as provided in subsection
- 31 (a) of this Section.
- 32 (e) A defendant admitted pursuant to this Section, or
- 33 any person on his behalf, may file a petition for treatment
- 34 plan review, transfer to a non-secure setting within the

- 1 Department of Human Services or discharge or conditional
- 2 release under the standards of this Section in the Court
- 3 which rendered the verdict. Upon receipt of a petition for
- 4 treatment plan review, transfer to a non-secure setting or
- 5 discharge or conditional release, the Court shall set a
- 6 hearing to be held within 120 days. Thereafter, no new
- 7 petition may be filed for 120 days without leave of the
- 8 Court.
- 9 (f) The Court shall direct that notice of the time and
- 10 place of the hearing be served upon the defendant, the
- 11 facility director, the State's Attorney, and the defendant's
- 12 attorney. If requested by either the State or the defense or
- 13 if the Court feels it is appropriate, an impartial
- 14 examination of the defendant by a psychiatrist or clinical
- 15 psychologist as defined in Section 1-103 of the Mental Health
- 16 and Developmental Disabilities Code who is not in the employ
- of the Department of Human Services shall be ordered, and the
- 18 report considered at the time of the hearing.
- 19 (g) The findings of the Court shall be established by
- 20 clear and convincing evidence. The burden of proof and the
- 21 burden of going forth with the evidence rest with the
- 22 defendant or any person on the defendant's behalf when a
- 23 hearing is held to review the determination of the facility
- 24 director that the defendant should be transferred to a
- 25 non-secure setting, discharged, or conditionally released or
- 26 when a hearing is held to review a petition filed by or on
- 27 behalf of the defendant. The evidence shall be presented in
- 28 open Court with the right of confrontation and
- 29 cross-examination.
- 30 (h) If the Court finds that the defendant is no longer
- in need of mental health services it shall order the facility
- 32 director to discharge the defendant. If the Court finds that
- 33 the defendant is in need of mental health services, and no
- longer in need of inpatient care, it shall order the facility

14

15

- 1 director to release the defendant under such conditions as
- 2 the Court deems appropriate and as provided by this Section.
- Such conditional release shall be imposed for a period of 3
- 4 five years and shall be subject to later modification by the
- Court as provided by this Section. If the Court finds that 5
- б the defendant is subject to involuntary admission or in need
- 7 of mental health services on an inpatient basis, it shall
- order the facility director not to discharge or release the 8
- 9 defendant in accordance with paragraph (b) of this Section.
- If within the period of the defendant's conditional 10
- release, the Court determines, after hearing evidence, that
- the defendant has not fulfilled the conditions of release, 12
- the Court shall order a hearing to be held consistent with 13

such hearing, if the Court finds that the defendant

the provisions of paragraph (f) and (g) of this Section. At

- 16 subject to involuntary admission or in need of mental health
- services on an inpatient basis, it shall enter an order 17
- remanding him or her to the Department of Human Services or 18
- 19 other facility. If the defendant is remanded to the
- 20 Department of Human Services, he or she shall be placed in a
- 21 secure setting unless the Court determines that there are
- 22 compelling reasons that such placement is not necessary. If
- 23 the Court finds that the defendant continues to be in need
- of mental health services but not on an inpatient basis, it 24
- 25 may modify the conditions of the original release in order to
- reasonably assure the defendant's satisfactory progress in 26
- treatment and his or her safety and the safety of others. In 27
- no event shall such conditional release be longer than eight 28
- 29 years. Nothing in this Section shall limit a Court's contempt
- 30 powers or any other powers of a Court.
- (j) An order of admission under this Section does not 31
- affect the remedy of habeas corpus. 32
- In the event of a conflict between this Section and 33
- 34 the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code or the

- 1 Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Confidentiality
- 2 Act, the provisions of this Section shall govern.
- 3 (1) This amendatory Act shall apply to all persons who
- 4 have been found not guilty by reason of insanity and who are
- 5 presently committed to the Department of Mental Health and
- 6 Developmental Disabilities (now the Department of Human
- 7 Services).
- 8 (m) The Clerk of the Court shall, after the entry of an
- 9 order of transfer to a non-secure setting of the Department
- 10 of Human Services or discharge or conditional release,
- 11 transmit a certified copy of the order to the Department of
- 12 Human Services, and the sheriff of the county from which the
- 13 defendant was admitted. In cases where the arrest of the
- 14 defendant or the commission of the offense took place in any
- municipality with a population of more than 25,000 persons,
- 16 the Clerk of the Court shall also transmit a certified copy
- 17 of the order of discharge or conditional release to the
- 18 proper law enforcement agency for said municipality provided
- 19 the municipality has requested such notice in writing.
- 20 (Source: P.A. 90-105, eff. 7-11-97; 90-593, eff. 6-19-98;
- 21 91-536, eff. 1-1-00; 91-770, eff. 1-1-01.)
- 22 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
- 23 becoming law.