



*New York State Archives*

**Willard State Hospital Medical Certificate of Lunacy  
(Commitment) Papers B1429**

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## Overview of the Records

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<b>Repository:</b>	New York State Archives
<b>Summary:</b>	This series consists of medical certificates, petitions, lunacy orders, and forms containing patient information documenting the process used to commit people for care at Willard Asylum (later Willard State Hospital). Earliest forms include patient name, admission date, case number, number committed for the year, and legal status. Later forms include marital status, religion, occupation and information on the illness. Also included is information on people or to be but never committed to Willard. Records are restricted.
<b>Creator:</b>	Willard State Hospital (N.Y.)
<b>Title:</b>	Willard State Hospital medical certificate of lunacy (commitment) papers
<b>Quantity:</b>	14.2 cubic feet
<b>Inclusive Date:</b>	1869-1927
<b>Series:</b>	B1429

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## Arrangement

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Numerical by case number.

B1429-96: Unarranged.

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## Scope and Content Note

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The series consists of medical certificates, petitions, lunacy orders, and forms containing patient information which document the process used to commit over 8,300 people for care at the Willard Asylum (later known as the Willard State Hospital). The type of forms used in the process changed over time. The earliest forms (from 1869) typically give patient name,

the reference number and page of relevant case book, date of admission, consecutive (case) number, number committed for the year, and legal status (whether indigent, public or private).

Later papers provide more detailed information, such as the patient's marital status, religion, nativity, and occupation, as well as if the illness is hereditary, the date the insanity commenced, status of the disease (increasing, decreasing or stationary), patient condition or behavior (filthy, excitable, violent), and name and address of the nearest friend or relative. Forms issued by the State Commission in Lunacy include a certificate of discharge (sent by the superintendent to the board of trustees as required by Chapter 172 of the Laws of 1895) and petition, certificate, and lunacy orders (which the commission was required to furnish by Chapter 545 of the Laws of 1896).

B1429-96: This accretion seems to document cases of patients who were declared legally insane and were ordered to be committed to Willard State Hospital, but whose commitments were never carried out. Included with the usual petitions, certificates, and orders are statements from attendants and legal authorities that the patients could not be transported or committed for various reasons. Reasons generally given are patient could not be located; patient was critically ill; family members had withdrawn petition; or patient would be admitted to another mental facility.

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## Related Information

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### Related Material

Series B1465, Record of commitments, contains transcripts of records from this series.

Series B1441, Medical certificates of lunacy, contains related records. Series B1543,

Records of commitments, contains similar records of commitment for Utica State Hospital.

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## Other Finding Aids

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### Available at Repository

A container list is available at the repository.

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## Use of Records

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### Access Restrictions

Restricted in accordance with Mental Hygiene Law, Section 33.13, relating to confidentiality of clinical records. Access is permitted under certain conditions upon approval by the Office of Mental Health.

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## Administrative Information

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### Acquisition Information

These records were transferred to the State Archives from Willard Psychiatric Center at the time of its closure in April, 1995.

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## Access Terms

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- Willard (N.Y.)
- Administering psychiatric hospitals
- Mental health facilities--Admission and discharge
- Mentally ill--Commitment and detention
- Treating mental disorders
- New York (State)
- Psychiatric hospitals--Records--New York (State)
- Mentally ill--Care
- Medical records
- Insanity (Law)
- Seneca County (N.Y.)
- Psychiatric hospital patients--New York (State)
- Willard Psychiatric Center (N.Y.)
- New York (State). Office of Mental Health
- Willard Asylum for the Insane
- New York (State). Department of Mental Hygiene