

power of a guardian to apply for the voluntary commitment of a child, the plaintiff claims, is limited *194 in the case of the welfare commissioner by the provisions of [General Statutes s 17-39](#). Specifically, the argument is that the commissioner's power to consent to the voluntary admission of a minor ward of his to a mental hospital for an indefinite period is more restricted than that of a natural parent since [s 17-39](#) requires a court petition before the commissioner can commit a minor ward to a 'child-caring' institution. Under [s 17-39](#), prior judicial approval is required before the welfare commissioner can place any of his wards in a child-caring