

THE ANATOMY ACT

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THE ANATOMY ACT

[29th September, 1949.]

Cap. 11.
Acts
42 of 1969
3rd Sch.,
12 of 1972
S. 5,
7 of 2011
Sch.

Short title.

Interpreta-
tion.

1. This Act may be cited as the Anatomy Act.

2. In this Act—

“anatomy” means human anatomy;

“body” means a dead human body;

“teacher of medicine” means and includes any person who is employed or engaged as a professor or teacher of anatomy, pathology, medicine, surgery or obstetrics in any school of anatomy established under this Act.

3. The Minister may from time to time authorize the establishment of schools of anatomy where the study and practice of anatomy may be carried out.

Establish-
ment of
schools of
anatomy.

4.—(1) The Minister may grant a licence to practise anatomy to any person who is appointed to a school of anatomy established under this Act as a teacher of medicine in such school, or to any student attending any such school, on application from any such person for such purpose, countersigned by two Justices residing at or nearest the place where such person resides, certifying to their knowledge or belief that the person so applying is about to carry on the practice of anatomy.

Licences to
practise
anatomy.

(2) No person shall receive or have in his possession for anatomical examination, or for examination anatomically, any body, unless he is the holder of a licence under subsection (1).

(3) Every such licence shall state the school at which it shall be lawful for the licensee to practise anatomy.

Appointment
of Inspectors
of schools of
anatomy.
42/1969
3rd Sch.

5.—(1) The Minister may from time to time appoint one or more Inspectors for every such school, and direct in what manner any such Inspector shall transact the duties of his office.

(2) Every such Inspector shall continue in office for one year, or until he is removed by the Minister, or until some other person is appointed in his place.

(3) As often as any such Inspector dies or is removed from office, or neglects or refuses or becomes unable to act, the Minister may appoint another person to be Inspector in his stead.

Inspectors
to make
returns.

6. Every Inspector of a school of anatomy shall make a quarterly return to the Minister of every body which during the preceding quarter has been removed for anatomical examination to such school, or which may have been removed to any other place under the provisions of section 11, distinguishing the sex and, as far as is known at the time, the name and age of each person whose body was so removed as aforesaid.

Inspectors
to inspect
schools.

7. The Inspector may visit and inspect at any time the school of anatomy for which he is appointed Inspector.

Persons
having
lawful
custody of
bodies may
permit
anatomical
examination.

8.—(1) Any person having lawful possession of a body and not being an undertaker or other person entrusted with the body for the purpose only of interment, may permit the body to undergo anatomical examination, unless to the knowledge of such first-mentioned person the deceased has expressed his desire, either in writing at any time during his life or verbally in the presence of two or more witnesses during the illness whereof he died, that his body after death should not undergo such examination, or unless the surviving husband or wife, or any child of the deceased requires the body to be interred without such examination.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provision it is hereby declared that for the purposes of this Act the following persons shall be persons having the lawful possession of bodies as herein mentioned, that is to say—

- (a) the Senior Medical Officer of any hospital (including Public Psychiatric Hospital) and the Superintendent of any prison, in respect of the body of any person who dies in such hospital or prison;
- (b) the keeper of any alms-house or other public establishment wherein destitute persons are housed, in respect of the body of any person who dies therein.

9. If any person, either in writing at any time during his life or verbally in the presence of two or more witnesses during the illness whereof he died, directs that his body after death be examined anatomically, or nominates any person by this Act licensed to practise anatomy to make such examination, and if before the burial of the body such direction or nomination is made known to the person having lawful possession thereof, then such last-mentioned person shall direct such examination to be made, and in case of any such nomination as aforesaid shall request the person nominated to make such examination, unless the surviving husband or wife of the deceased, or his nearest known relative, or any one or more of such relatives being of kin in the same degree, require the body to be interred without such examination.

Persons directing anatomical examinations after their death.

10.—(1) Every body which is removed for anatomical examination under this Act shall before such removal be placed in a decent coffin or shell and shall be removed therein.

Removal of bodies for anatomical examination, and provision for burial.

(2) In no case shall any body be examined anatomically until after one week from the time of death, nor until