

**Medical (Therapy, Education and Research) Act  
(CHAPTER 175)**

**Table of Contents**

**Long Title**

**Part I PRELIMINARY**

**1 Short title**

**2 Interpretation**

**2A Appointment of designated officers**

**2B Approved hospitals, etc.**

**Part II ANATOMICAL GIFTS**

**3 Person may donate his body**

**4 Relatives may donate body of deceased person**

**5 When donee should not accept gift**

**6 Medical examination of body**

**7 Purposes of anatomical gifts, etc.**

**8 Mode of executing gift**

**9 Revocation of gift**

**10 Donee need not be specified**

**11 Rights and duties of donee**

**12 Authority to remove parts of unclaimed bodies**

**Part III POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION**

**13 Person may authorise post-mortem examination**

**14 Relatives may authorise post-mortem examination**

**15 Post-mortem examination of unclaimed body**

**Part IV SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS**

**16 Removal and use of body to be lawful**

**17 Power of Coroner unaffected**

**THE SCHEDULE Authorised persons**

**Legislative History**

**MEDICAL (THERAPY, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH) ACT**

**(CHAPTER 175)**

(Original Enactment: Act 23 of 1972)

REVISED EDITION 2014

(31st May 2014)

An Act to make provision for the use of the bodies of deceased persons or parts thereof for purposes of medical or dental education, research, advancement of medical or dental science, therapy and transplantation, and for other purposes connected therewith.

[25th May 1973]

**PART I**

## PRELIMINARY

### Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Medical (Therapy, Education and Research) Act.

### Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“deceased person” includes a still-born infant or foetus;

“designated officer”, in relation to an approved hospital for the purposes of this Act, means a person appointed under section 2A to be the designated officer of the approved hospital;

“Director” means the Director of Medical Services, and includes the Deputy Director of Medical Services and such designated officer of an approved hospital or such public officer as is authorised by the Director of Medical Services in writing to act on his behalf;

“donor” means an individual who makes a gift of all or any part of his body;

“part”, in relation to a human body, includes organs, tissues, eyes, bones, arteries, blood, other fluids and other portions of a human body.

[4/2010]

### Appointment of designated officers

**2A.** The Director of Medical Services may appoint, in writing, any senior official of the Ministry of Health or senior executive of an approved hospital for the purposes of this Act, to be the designated officer of any approved hospital for the purposes of this Act.

[4/2010]

### Approved hospitals, etc.

**2B.** The Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, declare a hospital, medical or dental school, college or university to be an approved hospital, medical or dental school, college or university for the purposes of this Act.

[4/2010]

## PART II

### ANATOMICAL GIFTS

### **Person may donate his body**

3. Any person who is not mentally disordered and who is 18 years of age or above may give all or any part of his body for any of the purposes specified in section 7, the gift to take effect upon death.

[21/2008]

### **Relatives may donate body of deceased person**

4.—(1) Any of the persons specified in the Schedule, in the order of priority stated, when persons in prior classes are not available at the time of death, and in the absence of actual notice of contrary indications by the deceased person, or actual notice of opposition of a member of the same class or a prior class, may give all or any part of the body of the deceased person for the purposes specified in section 7.

(2) The persons authorised by subsection (1) may make the gift after death or immediately before death.

### **When donee should not accept gift**

5. The donee of a gift of a body or any part of a body shall not accept the gift if he has actual notice of contrary indications by the deceased person or that a gift by a member of a class is opposed by a member of the same class or a prior class.

### **Medical examination of body**

6. A gift of all or any part of a body shall authorise any examination necessary to assure medical acceptability of the gift for the purposes intended.

### **Purposes of anatomical gifts, etc.**

7.—(1) The following persons may become donees of gifts of bodies or parts of bodies for the purposes stated:

- (a) any approved hospital for medical or dental education, research, advancement of medical or dental science, therapy or transplantation;
- (b) any approved medical or dental school, college or university for medical or dental education, research, advancement of medical or dental science, therapy or transplantation;
- (c) any specified individual for therapy or transplantation needed by him.

(2) [*Deleted by Act 4 of 2010*]

### **Mode of executing gift**