

**CHAPTER 151.****MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS, DENTISTS  
AND DRUGGISTS.**

15 of 1908.  
 19 of 1909.  
 15 of 1914.  
 9 of 1916.  
 32 of 1924.  
 Sec. 26 of No.  
 44 of 1924.  
 15 of 1928.  
 19 of 1933.  
 9 of 1934.  
 18 of 1935.  
 22 of 1936.  
 25 of 1937.  
 9 of 1940.  
 31 of 1945.  
 28 of 1952.  
 4 of 1958.

**An Ordinance to provide for the Registration of Medical Practitioners and Dentists and for the Registration and Licensing of Druggists.**

[IN COLONY, 10TH APRIL, 1908.]

[IN PROTECTORATE, 17TH FEBRUARY, 1923.]

Short title  
and  
application.  
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1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Medical Practitioners, Dentists and Druggists Ordinance, and the same or any portion thereof, may be extended by Order in Council to any part of the Protectorate.

Interpreta-  
tion.

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

“medical practitioner” means any person professing to practise medicine or surgery, or holding himself out as ready and willing to treat patients for gain;

“drug” includes medicine, compound medicine or medicinal preparations, but shall not include herbal remedial preparations made and used in the Colony;

“poison” includes poisonous substances, poisonous drugs, poisonous compounds and the articles enumerated in Schedule B subject to any exemptions contained therein.

**PART I.—MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS AND DENTISTS.**

Register to  
be kept.

3. Separate registers of medical practitioners and dentists shall be kept in the form of Schedule A hereto, and a fee of one pound shall be charged for each registration of a medical practitioner or dentist under section 6 hereof.

Registrar.

4. The Director of Medical Services shall be the Registrar of medical practitioners and dentists, and shall once in every

\* This Ordinance applies throughout Sierra Leone (Order in Council No. 3 of 1923).

year, as soon as conveniently may be after the first day of January, make and publish in the *Gazette* a list containing the names and qualifications of all registered medical practitioners and dentists.

5. (1) The publication of such list shall be *prima facie* evidence that the persons named therein are registered under this Ordinance, and the absence of the name of any person from such list shall be *prima facie* evidence that such person is not registered.

Publication  
*prima facie*  
evidence of  
registration.

(2) All register books and all copies thereof or extracts therefrom, certified under the hand of the Registrar, shall be receivable in evidence in all Courts of Justice in Sierra Leone.

(3) The Registrar shall produce, or cause to be produced, any register book in his office on *subpœna* or order of any Court without payment for so doing, unless the Court or tribunal shall otherwise direct.

6. (1) The following persons shall be entitled to registration under this Ordinance as medical practitioners—

Persons  
entitled to  
be registered  
as medical  
practitioners.

(a) the holder of any British, British-Indian or British-Colonial degree, diploma or licence, entitling him to registration in Great Britain;

(b) the holder of a degree or licence in medicine or surgery of any medical school in Europe, the United States of America, or the Empire of Japan, the degrees, diplomas and licences of which are recognised as entitling to registration by the General Council of Medical Education and Registration in the United Kingdom.

(2) The following persons shall be entitled to registration under this Ordinance as dentists: Any person who—

Persons  
entitled to  
be registered  
as dentists.

(a) possesses a licence or degree in dental surgery or dentistry of any of the bodies and universities who elect members of the General Council of Medical Education and Registration in the United Kingdom; or who is registered, or entitled to be registered, in the Dentists' Register of the United Kingdom; or

(b) is, at the passing of this Ordinance, *bona fide* engaged in the practice of dentistry or dental surgery either separately, or in conjunction with the practice of medicine, surgery or pharmacy.

(3) No person shall be entitled to registration whose name has been struck off the register of the General Council of Medical Education and Registration in the United Kingdom.

Subsequent  
insertion of  
additional  
qualifications  
in the  
register.

7. Every person registered under this Ordinance who may have obtained any higher degree or qualification, other than the qualification in respect of which he may have been registered, shall be entitled to have such higher degree or additional qualification inserted in the register in substitution for, or in addition to, the qualifications previously registered, without payment of any further fee.

Right of  
registered  
person to sue  
for fees.

8. Every medical practitioner registered under this Ordinance shall be entitled to practise medicine, surgery and obstetrics, and every dentist registered under this Ordinance shall be entitled to practise dentistry, and every medical practitioner and dentist so registered shall be entitled to demand, sue for, and recover in any Court of law, with full cost of suit, reasonable charges for professional aid, advice, and visits, and the value of any medicine or any medical or surgical appliances rendered or supplied by him to his patients.

Fees not  
recoverable  
unless  
persons  
registered.

9. No person shall be entitled to recover any charge in any Court of law, for any medical or surgical advice or attendance, or for the performance of any operation as a medical practitioner or dentist, or for any medicine which he shall have prescribed and supplied, or for any services performed as an obstetrician, within Sierra Leone after the coming into force of this Ordinance, unless he was at the time registered under this Ordinance; but all registration effected within three months after the coming into force of this Ordinance shall be deemed to relate back to the time of such coming into force.

Medical  
certificates.

10. No certificate or other document required by law to be signed by a duly qualified medical practitioner, given after the commencement of this Ordinance, shall be valid unless signed by a person registered as a medical practitioner under this Ordinance.

Construction  
of terms.

11. From and after the coming into force of this Ordinance the words "legally qualified medical practitioner," or "duly qualified medical practitioner," or "duly qualified medical officer," or any words importing a person recognised by law as a medical practitioner or member of the medical profession, when used in any Ordinance or Order of the Governor in Council or

in any Proclamation, or in any Order or Rules made thereunder, with reference to such persons, shall be construed to mean a person registered as a medical practitioner under this Ordinance.

12. All Medical Officers in the public service of Sierra Leone and all Medical Officers of Her Majesty's army and navy respectively, residing in Sierra Leone, while on full pay, and all ships' surgeons, while in discharge of their duties, shall be entitled to the privileges of persons registered under this Ordinance and may be registered free of charge.

Persons entitled to free registration.

13. (1) If any medical practitioner or dentist registered under this Ordinance, shall—

Effect of conviction on registration.

(a) be convicted of any felony or misdemeanour, or

(b) after due enquiry by a Board of Enquiry be deemed by the Governor in Council to have been guilty of infamous conduct in any professional respect,

the Governor in Council may order the Registrar to strike out the name of such person from the register.

(2) Any person whose name has been struck out from the register may make application for the restoration of his name to the register, and the Governor in Council may, after due enquiry by a Board of Enquiry, take the report of the Board into consideration and order, if he thinks fit, the restoration of the name to the register.

Application to restore name to register.

(3) (a) The Board of Enquiry shall consist of the Director of Medical Services and two other medical practitioners, either registered or entitled to be registered locally, to be appointed from time to time by the Governor.

Board of Enquiry.

(b) The Attorney General shall from time to time nominate a duly qualified member of the Crown Law Office to act as legal adviser to the Board and to act as a Judicial Assessor at any enquiry held by the Board. Such Judicial Assessor shall act in an advisory capacity on matters of law only and shall have neither voice nor vote in the decision of the Board.

(c) Whenever an enquiry is held by the Board into the alleged offence or misconduct of any person the Governor may, at the request of the Board, appoint a barrister and solicitor practising in Sierra Leone, to present the case against such person.

(d) The person against whom any offence or misconduct is alleged, shall upon any enquiry as aforesaid, be entitled to appear and be heard by counsel.

Appeal.

(4) Any person whose name may have been ordered to be struck out from the register may appeal to the Supreme Court, which shall have power to annul or vary the order in respect of which such person appeals.

Time of appeal.

(5) Every appeal under this section shall be made within eight days from the date of such order, and the Registrar shall not strike out any name as aforesaid before such period has expired and he has ascertained that no such appeal has been lodged.

Temporary registration.  
28 of 1952.

14. (1) Whenever the Director of Medical Services is satisfied that in the interest of the public the privileges of persons registered under this Part of this Ordinance should be conferred temporarily upon any person who possesses medical or dental qualifications which do not entitle him to registration under section 6 of this Ordinance and who either—

(a) is in the service of the Government as a medical or dental officer, or

(b) is a medical missionary attached to a missionary society recognised by the Director of Medical Services for the purposes of this section (hereinafter called a recognised missionary society)

the Director of Medical Services may authorise him to be registered temporarily as a medical practitioner or dentist, as the case may be, and for such time as any person remains temporarily registered as a medical practitioner or dentist under this section he shall for all the purposes of this Ordinance excepting sections 4 and 13 be deemed to be registered under this Ordinance as a medical practitioner or dentist, as the case may be.

(2) Temporary registration under this section shall be effected in a special register, which shall be kept in the form set out in Schedule A to this Ordinance, and a separate register shall be kept of persons temporarily registered as medical practitioners and of persons temporarily registered as dentists respectively.

(3) No fee shall be charged for temporary registration as a medical practitioner or dentist under this section.

(4) The Director of Medical Services may, without assigning any reason, strike out the name of any person from any register kept for the purposes of this section, and shall strike out the name of any person from such register as soon as he becomes aware that such person has ceased to be in the service of the Government or to be a medical missionary or to be attached to a recognised missionary society, as the case may be.