



THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

MEDICAL (THERAPY, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH) ACT 1972

2020 REVISED EDITION

This revised edition incorporates all amendments up to and including 1 December 2021 and comes into operation on 31 December 2021.

Prepared and Published by

THE LAW REVISION COMMISSION
UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF
THE REVISED EDITION OF THE LAWS ACT 1983

Medical (Therapy, Education and Research) Act 1972

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

PART 1

PRELIMINARY

Section

1. Short title
2. Interpretation
- 2A. Appointment of designated officers
- 2B. Approved hospitals, etc.

PART 2

ANATOMICAL GIFTS

3. Person may donate his or her 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 3

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 4

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS

Section

16. Removal and use of body to be lawful
 17. Power of Coroner unaffected
- The Schedule — Authorised persons
-

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.

[25 May 1973]

PART 1

PRELIMINARY

Short title

1. This Act is the Medical (Therapy, Education and Research) Act 1972.

Interpretation

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

“deceased person” includes a stillborn 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 the Director’s behalf;

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

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

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.

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.

PART 2

ANATOMICAL GIFTS

Person may donate his or her 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 or her body for any of the purposes specified in section 7, the gift to take effect upon death.

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.