

Interpretation (Amendment) Act 1998
(No. 22 of 1998)

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The following Act was passed by Parliament on 30th June 1998 and assented to by the President on 3rd July 1998:—

INTERPRETATION (AMENDMENT) ACT 1998

(No. 22 of 1998)

I assent.

ONG TENG CHEONG,
President.
3rd July 1998.

Date of Commencement: 2nd November 1998

An Act to amend the Interpretation Act (Chapter 1 of the 1997 Revised Edition), and to make consequential amendments to the Human Organ Transplant Act (Chapter 131A of the 1988 Revised Edition) and the Medical (Therapy, Education and Research) Act (Chapter 175 of the 1985 Revised Edition).

Be it enacted by the President with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Singapore, as follows:

Short title and commencement

1. This Act may be cited as the Interpretation (Amendment) Act 1998 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the Gazette, appoint.

New section 2A

2. The Interpretation Act is amended by inserting, immediately after section 2, the following section:

“Criteria for determining death

2A.—(1) For all purposes, a person has died when there has occurred either —

- (a) irreversible cessation of circulation of blood and respiration in the body of the person; or
- (b) total and irreversible cessation of all functions of the brain of the person.

(2) The determination of the irreversible cessation of circulation of blood and respiration in the body of a person shall, subject to subsection (4), be made in accordance with the ordinary standards of current medical practice; and the determination of the total and irreversible cessation of all functions of the brain of a person shall, subject to subsections (3) and (5), be made in accordance with the prescribed criteria.

(3) Except in the circumstances referred to in subsection (5), the determination