

# **Nursing Homes and Maternity Homes Registration Act (CHAPTER 210)**

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# NURSING HOMES AND MATERNITY HOMES REGISTRATION ACT

## (CHAPTER 210)

(Original Enactment: Ordinance 5 of 1959)

REVISED EDITION 1985

(30th March 1987)

An Act for the registration of persons maintaining or managing nursing homes and maternity homes and for purposes connected therewith.

[8th May 1959]

### Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Nursing Homes and Maternity Homes Registration Act.

### Interpretation

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

“Director” means the Director of Medical Services;

“home” means a maternity home or a nursing home;

“maternity home” means any premises used or intended to be used for the reception of pregnant women or of women immediately after childbirth and includes a hospital so used or intended to be so used;

“nursing home” means any premises other than a maternity home used or intended to be used for the reception of, and the provision of nursing for persons suffering or convalescing from any sickness, injury or infirmity and includes a hospital so used or intended to be so used;

“register” means the register kept of persons registered in respect of specified homes under this Act;

“registered medical practitioner” means a medical practitioner registered under the provisions of any written law for the time being in force relating to the registration of medical practitioners;

“registered midwife” means a woman registered as a midwife under the provisions of any written law for the time being in force relating to the registration of midwives;

“registered nurse” means a person registered as a nurse under the provisions of any written law for the time being in force relating to the registration of nurses;

“registration” means the registration of persons in respect of specified homes under this Act.

## **Application**

3. The provisions of this Act shall not apply to any home maintained or controlled by the Government or to places used for the reception of sick or dying persons licensed under by-laws made under the repealed Municipal Ordinance [1936 Ed., Cap. 133] or the Environmental Public Health Act [Cap. 95].

## **Registration**

4.—(1) Any person who maintains or manages a home without being registered under this Act in respect thereof shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

(2) An application for registration shall be made to the Director in the prescribed form and shall be accompanied by the prescribed fee.

(3) Subject to this Act, the Director shall on the receipt of an application for registration register the applicant in respect of the home named in the application and issue to him a certificate of registration in the prescribed form:

Provided that the Director may refuse to register the applicant if he is satisfied —

- (a) that the applicant or any person employed by him at the home is not a fit person whether by reason of infirmity or otherwise to maintain or manage or to be employed at a home of such a description as the home named in the application;
- (b) that for reasons connected with situation, construction, state of repair, accommodation, staffing or equipment the home named in the application or any premises used in connection therewith are not fit to be used for a home of such a description as the home named in the application or that the home or premises are used or proposed to be used for purposes which are in any way improper or undesirable in the case of such a home; or that the use of the proposed home or of any premises used in connection therewith would contravene any of the lawful requirements of any public authority;
- (c) in the case of a nursing home that the home is not or will not be under the

charge of a person who is either a registered medical practitioner or a registered nurse (whose name appears in that part of the register of nurses for the sick kept by the Singapore Nursing Board which shows that he or she has been trained to nurse the kind of sick for the nursing of which the home is used or proposed to be used) and who is or will be resident in the home or that there is not or will not be a proper proportion of registered nurses among the persons having the superintendence of or employed in the nursing of the patients in the home;

- (d) in the case of a maternity home that the home is not or will not be under the charge of a person who is either a registered medical practitioner or a registered midwife and who is or will be resident in the home or that there is not or will not be a proper proportion of registered midwives among the persons having superintendence of or employed in attending to or nursing of the women in the home, or that any person employed in attending any woman in childbirth in the home is not either a registered medical practitioner or a registered midwife;
- (e) that no adequate arrangements for the attendance of registered medical practitioners for service at the home at all times have been made; or
- (f) that the home does not comply with any of the regulations made by the Minister under section 12.

(4) The certificate of registration issued in respect of a home shall be displayed in a conspicuous place in the home and if default is made in complying with this subsection the person registered in respect of the home shall be guilty of an offence.

(5) The certificate of registration issued in respect of a home shall expire on 31st December in each year but may be renewed at the discretion of the Director.

(6) Any person registered in respect of a home shall notify the Director in writing not less than 7 days in advance of his intention to cease to maintain or manage the home and if he fails to do so he shall be guilty of an offence.

### **Cancellation of registration**

5.—(1) Subject as provided in this Act, the Director may at any time cancel the registration of a person in respect of a home on any ground which would entitle him to refuse an application for the registration of that person in respect of the home or on the ground that that person has been convicted of an offence under this Act or any regulations made thereunder or that any other person has been convicted of such an offence in respect of that home.