

CHAPTER 8 - ANATOMY
A LAW TO REGULATE SCHOOLS OF ANATOMY

[30 March 1933]

1. This Law may be cited as the Anatomy Law.
- 2.—(1) It shall be lawful for the Chief Medical Officer, to grant a licence to practise anatomy to the superintendent of any school of anatomy.
(2) Such licence granted as aforesaid shall be deemed to authorise the practice of anatomy in such school by any teacher, or medical practitioner employed therein and by any student attending a course of studies at such school when working under the supervision of such superintendent, teacher, or medical practitioner.
3. It shall be lawful for any executor or other person having lawful possession of the body of any deceased person, and not being an undertaker or other person entrusted with the body for the purpose only of interment, to permit the body of such deceased person to undergo anatomical examination, unless, to the knowledge of such executor or other person, such deceased person shall have expressed his desire, either in writing at any time during his life or verbally in the presence of two or more witnesses during the illness whereof he died, that his body after death might not undergo such examination, or unless the surviving husband or wife, or any known relative of the deceased person shall require the body to be interred without such examination.
4. If any person either in writing at any time during his life, or verbally in the presence of two or more witnesses during the illness whereof he died, shall direct that his body after death be examined anatomically, or shall nominate a superintendent of any school of anatomy, who is licensed under the provisions of this Law to examine bodies anatomically, to make such examination, and if, before the burial of the body such person, such direction or nomination shall be made known to the person having lawful possession of the dead body, then such last mentioned person shall direct such examination to be made, and in case of any such nomination as aforesaid, shall request to and permit any person so authorised and nominated as aforesaid to make such examination unless the surviving husband or wife or any known relative of the deceased person shall require the body to be interred without such examination.
- 5.—(1) The body of a person shall not be removed for anatomical examination from any place where such person may have died unless:-
 - (a) twenty-four hours have elapsed from the time of such person's decease; and
 - (b) a certificate stating in what manner such person came by his death shall have been signed by the medical practitioner who attended such person during the illness whereof he died; or
 - (c) if such person was not attended by a medical practitioner during such illness, a certificate stating to the best of his knowledge and belief the manner or cause of death by some medical practitioner who shall be called in after the death of such person to view his body, but who shall not be concerned in examining the body after removal.
(2) In the case of the removal of a body for anatomical examination, any such certificate given under the provisions of subsection (1) shall be delivered, together with the body, to the person receiving the same for anatomical examination.
(3) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to prohibit the preservation of a body for anatomical examination at any time after death by injection or otherwise by the superintendent of a school of anatomy who is licensed under this Law, or by some person authorised by such superintendent.
6. It shall be lawful for any superintendent of a school of anatomy who has been licensed under this Law as aforesaid or any teacher, or medical practitioner employed in or any student

attending a course of studies at such a school, the superintendent of which has been so licensed, to receive or possess for anatomical examination in such school, or to examine anatomically at such school, the body of any person deceased, if permitted or directed so to do by a person who had at the time of giving such permission or direction lawful possession of the body and who had power, in pursuance of the provisions of this Law, to permit or cause the body to be so examined, and provided such certificate as aforesaid were delivered by such person together with the body.

7. —(1) Every superintendent of a school of anatomy so receiving a body for anatomical examination shall demand and receive, together with the body, a certificate as aforesaid and shall within twenty-four hours enter or cause to be entered in a book to be kept by him for the purpose, together with a copy of the certificate, the following particulars:-

- (a) at what hour and day the body was received;
- (b) the name and address of the person from whom the body was received;
- (c) the date and place of death; and
- (d) the sex and as far as is known at the time the first name and surname, age and last place of abode of the deceased.

(2) Such book shall be produced by the superintendent of a school of anatomy whenever required so to do by the Chief Medical Officer.

8. The removal of a body for anatomical examination as aforesaid shall be subject to the following conditions:-

- (a) such body shall, before such removal, be placed in a decent examination, coffin or shell, and be removed therein;
- (b) the person removing such body or causing the same to be removed as aforesaid shall make provision that such body after undergoing anatomical examination, shall be decently interred in some public burial ground in use for persons of that religious persuasion to which the person whose body was so removed belonged or, if such religious persuasion is unknown, in any public burial ground; and
- (c) a certificate of the interment of such body shall be transmitted to the Chief Medical Officer, within six months after the day on which such body was received.

Provided that the Chief Medical Officer may, from time to time, by order, vary the period within which such certificates of interment shall be transmitted as aforesaid.

9. No superintendent of a school of anatomy who is licensed liable under this Law nor any teacher or medical practitioner employed in nor any student attending a course of studies at such a school the superintendent of which is so licensed shall be liable to any prosecution or penalty for receiving or having in his possession for anatomical examination at such school or for examining anatomically at such school, any dead human body, according to the provisions of this Law.

10. Nothing in this Law contained shall be construed to extend to or to prohibit any post-mortem examination of any human body required or directed to be made by any competent legal authority.

11. Any person who contravenes any of the provisions of this Law shall be deemed to have committed an offence and on being convicted thereof shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or to a fine not exceeding one hundred naira or to both.

12. The Governor may make regulations for regulating the issue of and prescribing the form of licences and certificates issued under the provisions of this Law.

