

# The Punjab Anatomy Act, 1963

(Punjab Act No. 14 of 1963)

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[Received the assent of the Governor of Punjab on the 14 April, 1963, and was first published in the Punjab Government Gazette Extraordinary, dated the 16th April, 1963.]

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1. For Statement of Objects and Reasons see Punjab Government Gazette Extraordinary 1962, page 1603.

**An Act to provide for the supply of unclaimed bodies of deceased persons to hospitals and medical and teaching Institutions for therapeutic purposes or for the purpose of anatomical examination, dissection, surgical operation and research work.**

Be it enacted by the legislature of the State of Punjab in the Fourteenth year of the Republic of India as follows.

### Statement of Objects and Reasons

"Keeping in view the increased facilities in the field of medical education and research it is necessary to make a provision for the supplies of bodies of deceased persons to hospitals and medical and teaching institutions for therapeutic purposes or purposes of anatomical examination, dissection surgical operation and research work. This bill seeks to empower the officers appointed by the State Government to take possession of the unclaimed dead bodies in hospitals, prisons or public places for the purposes aforesaid." (Punjab Government Gazette Extraordinary, dated the 5th November, 1962).

1. Short title and extent.—(1) This Act may be called the Punjab Anatomy Act, 1963.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Punjab.

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

(1) "approved institution" means a hospital or a medical teaching institution approved by the State Government for all or any of the purposes of this Act.

(2) "authorised officer" means an officer appointed under section 4;

(3) "near relative" means any of the following relatives of the deceased, namely a wife, husband, parent, son, daughter, brother and sister and includes any other person who is related to the deceased—

(a) by lineal or collateral consanguinity within three degrees in lineal relationship and six degrees in collateral relationship; or

(b) by marriage either with the deceased, or with any relative specifically mentioned in this clause or with any other relative within the aforesaid degrees.

**Explanations.**—The expressions "lineal and collateral consanguinity" shall have the meanings assigned to them respectively in sections 25 and 26 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 ;

(4) "prescribed" means prescribed by rule made under this Act ;

(5) "unclaimed body" means the body of a deceased person who has no near relative or whose body has not been claimed by any of his near relatives within such period as may be prescribed.

3. Doubt or dispute as to near relative to be referred to authorised officer.—If any doubt or dispute arises whether a person is a near relative of the deceased, the matter shall be referred to the authorised officer whose decision on such reference shall be final and conclusive.

4. Power to appoint authorised officers.—The State Government may, by notification, appoint for such area as may be specified in the notification,



to perform the functions of an authorised officer under this Act and the rules made thereunder.

**Unclaimed dead bodies to be used for therapeutic purposes, anatomical dissection etc.—**(1) Where a person under treatment in a hospital, whether established by or vested in, or maintained by, the State Government or by local authority, dies in such hospital and his body is unclaimed, the authorities in charge of such hospital shall with the least practicable delay report the fact to the authorised officer and such officer shall then hand over the unclaimed body to the authorities in charge of an approved institution for therapeutic purpose or for the purpose of conducting anatomical examination, dissection, surgical operation or research work.

(2) Where a person dies in a hospital, other than a hospital referred to in sub-section (1), or in a prison and his body is unclaimed, the authorities in charge of such hospital or prison shall with the least practicable delay report the fact to the authorised officer and such officer shall hand over the unclaimed body to the authorities in charge of an approved institution for any purpose specified in sub-section (1).

(3) Where a person having no permanent place of residence in the area where his death has taken place dies in any public place in such area and his body is unclaimed, the authorised officer of that area shall take possession of the body and shall hand it over to the authorities in charge of an approved institution for any purpose specified in sub-section (1).

**6. Penalty.**—Whoever with the intention of the provisions of this Act, removes or abets the disposal of, an unclaimed body save as permitted by this Act, or obstructs any authority in charge of an approved institution or an authorised officer from handing over, taking possession of, removing or using, a dead body for the purpose specified in this Act, shall, on conviction, be punishable with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees.

**7. Duty of police and other officers to assist in obtaining possession of unclaimed bodies.**—All officers of the Departments of Police and Public Health and all officers in the employ of a local authority and all village officers shall be bound to take all reasonable measures to assist any authority or officer authorised under this Act to obtain the possession of an unclaimed body.

**8. Protection of persons acting under the Act.**—No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against any person for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act or the rules made thereunder.

**9. Officers to be public servants.**—All officers appointed under this Act shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of section 21 of the Indian Penal Code.

**Rules.**—(1) The State Government may, by notification, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may prescribe the period within which a near relative shall claim the body of a deceased person.

(3) Every rule made under this section shall be laid as soon as may

be after it is made before <sup>1</sup>[x v x] the State Legislature while it is in session for a total period of ten days which may be comprised in one session or in two successive sessions. and if before the expiry of the session in which it is so laid or the session, immediately following, <sup>2</sup>[the Legislature] agree in making any modification in the rule or <sup>3</sup>[the Legislature] agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be, so however that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.



## The Punjab Anatomy Rules, 1966

1. Short title.—These rules may be called the Punjab Anatomy Rules, 1966.

2. Definitions.—In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) “Act” means the Punjab Anatomy Act, 1963.

(Punjab Act 14 of 1963); and

(b) “Section” means a section of the Act.

3. Prescribed period for purposes of section 2 (5).—[Sections, 2 (5) and 10].—The body of a deceased who has a near relative shall be considered to be unclaimed if the same is not claimed by any of his near relatives within a period of 12 hours of the death.

4. Information of death to authorised officer.—[Sections 7 and 10 (1)]  
(1) Any officer of the Department of Police or Public Health or any officer in the employ of a local authority or any village officer who comes to know of the death of any person, in any public place in an area in which he had no permanent place of residence, shall report the fact to authorised officer of that area with the least practicable delay.

Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions, the responsibility for immediately reporting the fact to the authorised officer and also for assisting the authorised officer in making arrangements for the removal of the dead body to the approved institution shall be of the officer incharge of the Police Station having jurisdiction over the area or the village headman of the area, as the case may be and in the meanwhile to prevent decay, he will send the dead body to the mortuary of the nearest teaching medical institute where arrangements for its preservation are available.

When a person dies in a hospital or in a prison, the authority incharge of such hospital or prison shall immediately report the fact to the nearest relative mentioned in the records of the patient or the prisoner.

5. Preservation of unclaimed dead bodies.—[Section 10 (1)]. All the dead bodies received in an approved institution shall be kept in the cold storage mortuary until they are removed to the Anatomy Department of such institution. In the Anatomy Department they shall be kept under suitable conditions at the discretion of the officer-in-charge of that department till these are put to any purpose specified in sub-section (1) of section 5 or till these are claimed, as the case may be.

6. Disposal of decomposed bodies.—[Section 10 (1)]. Decomposed bodies which cannot be used for any purpose mentioned in sub-section (1)



or section 5 shall be returned to the authorised officer for disposal.

7. Period within which dead bodies may be claimed.—[Section 10 (2)].—A dead body handed over to an approved institution may be claimed by a near relative of the deceased within a period of 96 hours of the death. No charges shall be payable by the near relative if the body is claimed within a period of 24 hours of the death. If the claim is made after the expiry of 24 hours the near relative will have to pay an amount of Rs. 20 towards preservation charges of the dead body.

8. Authorised officer decision by summary enquiry.—[Sections 3 and 10 (1)]. The authorised officer shall, for the purposes of deciding any doubt or dispute whether a person is a near relative of the deceased, hold a summary inquiry. Such authorised officer need not record the oral evidence of witnesses but he shall maintain a memorandum of evidence and a list of representations and counter representations, if any, on the basis of which he arrives at the decision.

9. Disposal of belongings of the deceased.—[Section 3 and 10 (1)]. The belonging of an unclaimed body shall be disposed of by authorised officer in accordance with the normal provision of law.

10. Savings.—[Section 10 (1)]. Nothing contained in these rules shall apply to cases where death has taken place under suspicious circumstances and the body is required for medico-legal examination. In such cases if the police have taken possession of it themselves, the body shall be handed over to the police.

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB  
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH  
(HEALTH BRANCH)

No. 11/197/03-111111/111111

Dated, Chandigarh, the 21/10/2003

In exercise of powers of section 4 of Punjab Anatomy Act, 1947 the  
Governor of Punjab is pleased to declare the Principals of Government Medical  
Colleges Amritsar, Faridkot and Patiala as authorized officers for the purposes  
defined in Section 3 of the Act.

Dated, Chandigarh, the 21/10/2003

Satish Chandra

Dated, Chandigarh  
the 21st October, 2003Secretary to Government of Punjab,  
Dept. of Medical Education & Research.

Encl. No. 11/197/03-111111/111111

Dated, Chandigarh, the 21/10/2003

A copy alongwith two spare attested copies are sent to the Controller,  
Printing and Stationery Department, Punjab, Chandigarh with request that the  
above notification be printed in Punjab Govt. (Extra ordinary) Gazette and  
supply 100 copies for official use.

Dated, Chandigarh, the 21/10/2003  
Dept. of Medical Education & Research.

Encl. No. 11/197/03-111111/111111

A copy is forwarded to the following for information and necessary  
action:-

1. Principal Secretary to Government of Punjab, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Punjab, Chandigarh
2. Principal Secretary to Government of Punjab, Department of Home Affairs and Justice, Punjab, Chandigarh.
3. Managing Director, Punjab Health System Corporation, Sector-34, Chandigarh.
4. Director General of Police, Punjab, Chandigarh.
5. Director, Research and Medical Education, Punjab, Chandigarh
6. Director, Health and Family Welfare, Punjab, Chandigarh
7. Principal, Government Medical Colleges, Patiala, Amritsar and Gurm Gobind Singh Medical College, Faridkot.
8. Principal, Christian Medical College, Ludhiana and Dayanand Medical College and Hospital, Patiala.
9. All Deputy Commissioners in the State of Punjab.
10. All Civil Surgeons in the State of Punjab.
11. Director, U.S.I. Punjab, Chandigarh.

Dated, Chandigarh, the 21/10/2003  
Secretary to Government of Punjab,  
Dept. of Medical Education & Research.





ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸਰਕਾਰ  
ਮੈਡੀਕਲ ਸਿੱਖਿਆ ਅਤੇ ਖੋਜ ਵਿਭਾਗ  
(ਸਿਹਤ-3 ਸਾਖਾ)

ਰਾਖਤੀ ਥੀ ਡਾਕੂਮੈਂਟ	1/2/07
ਮਿਸਟਰ	
ਮਿਸ	
ਮਿਸਟਰੀ	
ਸੁਪਰਡੈਂਟ	
ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨਰ	

ਵੱਲ,

ਡਿਪਟੀ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨਰ,  
ਬਠਿੰਡਾ।

ਮੀਮੋ ਨੰ: 11/66/2005-5ਸਸ3/ 3 6 6

ਮਿਤੀ, ਚੰਡੀਗੜ੍ਹ 22/11/07

ਵਿਸ਼ਾ:- ਐਮ.ਬੀ.ਬੀ.ਐਸ. ਵਿਦਿਆਰਥੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਤਜਰਬੇ ਲਈ ਡੈਂਡ ਬਾਡੀਜ਼ ਹਾਸਲ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ਹੀਣਤਾ ਸਰਟੀਫਿਕੇਟ ਜਾਰੀ ਕਰਨ ਸਬੰਧੀ।

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ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਵਿਸ਼ੇ ਤੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਮੀਮੋ ਨੰ: 13863/ਵ.ਸ., ਮਿਤੀ 18.9.2006 ਦੇ ਹਵਾਲੇ ਵਿੱਚ।

2. ਆਪ ਜੀ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਵਿਸ਼ਾ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਮਾਮਲੇ ਬਾਰੇ ਅਨਾਟਮੀ ਐਕਟ 1963 ਅਧੀਨ ਪ੍ਰਿੰਸੀਪਲ, ਸਰਕਾਰੀ ਮੈਡੀਕਲ ਕਾਲਜ, ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ, ਫਰੀਦਕੋਟ ਅਤੇ ਪਟਿਆਲਾ ਨੂੰ ਡੈਂਡ ਬਾਡੀਜ਼ ਲਈ ਆਬੋਰਾਈਜ਼ਡ ਅਫਸਰ ਘੋਸ਼ਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਕਿਸੀ ਹੋਰ ਨੂੰ ਆਬੋਰਾਈਜ਼ਡ ਅਫਸਰ ਘੋਸ਼ਿਤ ਨਹੀਂ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ। ਜੇਕਰ ਆਦੇਸ਼ ਇੰਸਟੀਚਿਊਟ ਆਫ ਮੈਡੀਕਲ ਸਾਇੰਸਜ਼ ਅਤੇ ਰਿਸਰਚ, ਬਰਨਾਲਾ ਨੂੰ ਲਾਵਾਰਿਸ ਡੈਂਡ ਬਾਡੀਜ਼ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਵਲੋਂ ਪ੍ਰਿੰਸੀਪਲ, ਸਰਕਾਰੀ ਮੈਡੀਕਲ ਕਾਲਜ, ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ, ਫਰੀਦਕੋਟ ਅਤੇ ਪਟਿਆਲਾ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਵੇ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਕਿ ਦੂਸਰੇ ਕਾਲਜ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਨ।

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6/12/07

ਸੁਪਰਡੈਂਟ

ਪਿੱਠ ਐਕਟ ਨੰ: 11/66/2005-5ਸਸ3/

ਮਿਤੀ, ਚੰਡੀਗੜ੍ਹ

ਇਕ ਉਤਾਰਾ ਡਾਇਰੈਕਟਰ, ਖੋਜ ਅਤੇ ਮੈਡੀਕਲ ਸਿੱਖਿਆ, ਪੰਜਾਬ, ਚੰਡੀਗੜ੍ਹ ਨੂੰ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਪੱਤਰ ਨੰ: 5ਐਮ.ਈ.3-ਪੇ-06/101, ਮਿਤੀ 3.1.2007 ਦੇ ਹਵਾਲੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਸੂਚਨਾ ਤੇ ਲੋੜੀਂਦੀ ਕਾਰਵਾਈ ਹਿੱਤ ਭੇਜਿਆ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ।

Principal .....

Superintendent .....

23/02/07

ਡਿਪਟੀ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨਰ,  
(ਸਿਹਤ ਸਾਖਾ)

ਬਠਿੰਡਾ।

ਪਿੱਠ ਐਕਟ ਨੰ: 11/66/2005-5ਸਸ3/

ਮਿਤੀ 14/12/07

ਇਸ ਦਾ ਇੱਕ ਉਤਾਰਾ: ਇੰਜਾਰਜ ਆਏਸ ਇੰਸਟੀਚਿਊਟ ਆਫ ਮੈਡੀਕਲ ਸਾਇੰਸਜ਼ ਅਤੇ ਰਿਸਰਚ, ਬਰਨਾਲਾ ਨੂੰ ਡੈਂਡ ਬਾਡੀਜ਼ ਪਾਸ ਉਕਤ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਲੋੜੀਂਦੀ ਕਾਰਵਾਈ ਲਈ ਭੇਜਿਆ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ।

ਵਾ: ਡਿਪਟੀ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨਰ,  
ਬਠਿੰਡਾ।