

# The Midwife.

## THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (GENERAL POWERS) ACT, 1915.

The London County Council Bill, providing amongst other things for the Registration of Lying-in Homes, and of Establishments for Massage or Special Treatment, has now received the Royal Assent, and it behoves all those whom it concerns to acquaint themselves with the provisions of this Act.

### LYING-IN HOMES.

1. After the first day of February, 1916, it will not be lawful for any person to carry on a lying-in home, unless the name of such person, and the premises used or represented as being or intended to be used for the purpose of such home are registered with the Council.

2. Any person requiring registration must make application in writing to the Council under his own name, giving (a) his private address; or, in the case of a company, society, association or body, the registered or principal office (if any), and the names and private addresses of the persons directly or indirectly responsible for the management; (b) the name under which and the address at which such home is carried on or proposed to be carried on.

3. Application must be made within one month of the publication of the advertisements with regard to this part of the Act to be given in two or more daily newspapers within a month after the passing of the Act.

4. The Council may refuse registration of individuals or premises (a) if they have reason to believe that the applicant is of bad character; (b) if the premises or their equipment are unsuitable; (c) if they have reason to believe that the premises are being used for any immoral purpose.

5. Before making such an Order, seven days' notice must be given in writing to the person concerned, who shall within seven days subsequently, on written application, be afforded an opportunity of being heard against such Order.

6. Any person who deems himself aggrieved by any Order made by the Council may appeal to a Metropolitan Police Magistrate, or in the case of a lying-in home in the City of London to a magistrate of the City.

7. Any officer duly authorised by the Council may at all reasonable times enter and inspect any premises used as a lying-in home, or which such officer has reasonable cause to believe are used for that purpose.

### PENALTIES.

The maximum penalty for carrying on a lying-in home in contravention of the Act is £50, with a further penalty not exceeding £20 for each day on which the offence continues after conviction.

For a second or subsequent offence, in lieu of or in addition to a fine, a period of imprisonment not exceeding three months may be imposed.

A penalty not exceeding £5 with a further penalty of £2 for each day on which the offence continues after conviction may be imposed for refusing admission to any officer of the Council for purposes of inspection, or for obstructing the officer in the performance of his duty, or for advertising an unregistered home, or one concerning which registration has been refused or cancelled.

The Court may also, in addition to imposing a penalty in the above instances, order the cancellation of the registration.

8. Institutions outside the scope of the Act are (1) hospitals, infirmaries, or other establishments maintained or controlled by any Government Department; (2) or any authority constituted by Parliament, or incorporated by Royal Charter, or any hospital recognised by King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, or the Hospital Sunday and Saturday Funds; (3) any institution for the training of midwives approved by the Central Midwives Board; (4) any lying-in home in which only relatives of the person carrying on such home are received [for the purpose of this section "relatives" means sisters, daughters, granddaughters, nieces, aunts, or mothers by consanguinity or affinity, and, in the case of persons of illegitimate birth, persons who would be so related if legitimate]; (5) any lying-in home carried on by a duly qualified medical practitioner who provides a certificate, in an approved form, signed by two duly qualified practitioners not having any financial or other interest in the home testifying to his fitness to carry on the same, and to the suitability of the premises and equipment. Such a certificate is valid only for one year.

The Council may delegate to any Borough Council with or without any restrictions or conditions any powers or duties conferred or imposed upon them by the Act.

The registration fee paid by the applicant is not to exceed 5s.

### ESTABLISHMENTS FOR MASSAGE OR SPECIAL TREATMENT.

Similar regulations are made in regard to massage establishments. The fee for registration in this instance is, however, not to exceed £1 1s., and every person so registered must keep exhibited in a suitable place, to be approved by the Council, a copy of the by-laws made and in force under this part of the Act.

Proprietors of nursing homes in the County or City of London must remember that they cannot take in lying-in cases without previously registering under the London County Council as a lying-in home.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)