

**NURSING HOMES REGISTRATION ACT, 1927.**

**LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL BY-LAWS.**

The Public Health Committee of the London County Council, at its meeting on December 22nd, submitted by-laws with respect to Nursing Homes in the County of London, based on model by-laws issued by the Ministry of Health, with certain alterations to which the Minister sees no objection. The Committee added that they proposed to append to the by-laws suitable notes referring to provisions of the Act as to the inspection of premises and of records, as to the definition of a maternity home, and as to penalties for infringement of the by-laws. The by-laws will be enforced by the Council, but will not take effect until they have been confirmed by the Minister of Health, and notice of the Council's intention to apply to the Minister of Health for confirmation of the by-laws must, therefore, be given by advertisement in one or more London newspapers one month, at least, before making such application, and a copy of the proposed by-laws must be kept available at the County Hall for the inspection of ratepayers during office hours for a similar period.

The Council agreed to make application to the Minister of Health for confirmation of the by-laws, and instructed the Clerk to advertise the Council's intention to apply for such confirmation. That is, therefore, the present position.

**By-Laws made by the London County Council under Section 4 of the Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1927, with respect to Nursing Homes in the County of London.**

**Definitions.**

1. In these by-laws, unless the context otherwise requires,
  - "The Council" means the London County Council.
  - "Keeper of a nursing home" means any person who carries on a nursing home as defined in section 10 (1) of the Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1927, which is not for the time being exempt under sections 6 and 7 of that Act.
  - "Register" includes a book, card, or form.
  - "Infectious disease" means an infectious disease which a keeper of a nursing home may be required to notify to the medical officer of health of the district in pursuance of section 55 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1891.

**Register.**

2. A keeper of a nursing home shall keep in a proper manner a register of patients received into and of children born to patients in the home and shall enter therein fully, punctually, and legibly the following particulars:—

- (a) a reference number for each patient;
- (b) the name and address of the patient as given by or on behalf of the patient;
- (c) the date on which the patient entered the home;
- (d) the amount of every payment made to such keeper by or on behalf of the patient and the number of the receipt given for such payment;
- (e) the date on which the patient and any child born to any patient in the home was discharged from or finally left the home;
- (f) if the patient or any child born to any patient in the home died at the home, the date and hour of death;
- (g) if the patient suffered from an infectious disease while at the home, the nature of such disease and the action taken;

And if the nursing home is a maternity home—

- (h) the date and hour of delivery of the patient, the number of children then born, their sex, and whether born alive or dead;
- (i) the name and address of the person who delivered the patient;
- (j) the method of feeding each child, and, if the method has been varied, the period or periods during which each method was followed;
- (k) the date and hour of any miscarriage occurring in the home;
- (l) if the patient suffered from any illness due to abnormal causes while at the home, the nature of such illness and the action taken;

Such keeper shall either keep the particulars of every patient together in alphabetical order in the register according to the name of the patient or keep a correct alphabetical index of the patients.

**Case Record.**

3. A keeper of a nursing home shall keep a case record, giving
  - (a) a daily statement of the health of every patient in the home suffering from acute illness;
  - (b) if the home is a maternity home, a daily statement of the health of every patient to whom a child is born in the home, and of every child so born;
  - (c) a periodical statement of the health of any other patient in the home;
 Provided that such statement need not include any medical record relating to any patient.

**Removal of Children.**

4. A keeper of a nursing home which is a maternity home shall, whenever he arranges or is a party to any arrangement for the removal of a child born in the home to other premises to be placed in the custody or care of any person other than its parent or guardian or a relative, keep in the register of patients and in readily ascertainable connection with the entry relating to the mother of the child a record specifying the address of such premises, the name of the person in whose custody or care the child is placed, the date of the removal of the child and the amount of payment (if any) made to the keeper in respect of the arrangement.

**Receipts for Payments.**

5. A keeper of a nursing home shall, in addition to the other records required by these by-laws to be kept of patients received into and of children born to patients in the home—
  - (1) Keep a book of forms of numbered receipts with a duplicate of each receipt;
  - (2) keep in such book a duplicate of the receipt;
  - (3) issue a receipt from such book in respect of every payment or deposit made to such keeper by or in respect of any such patient or child;
  - (4) enter or show on every such receipt—
    - (a) his name and the address of the home;
    - (b) the date of payment;
    - (c) the name and reference number in the register of patients of the patient in respect of whom the receipt is given;
    - (d) particulars of any payment made by the keeper (included in that for which the receipt is given) to any medical practitioner or other person for services or goods supplied; and
    - (e) if the payment is made in respect of a child, the date of the birth of the child and its name or names.

**Notification of Deaths.**

6. A keeper of a nursing home shall—
  - (1) Within twenty-four hours of the death at the home of any patient or of any child born to a patient, notify the Council in writing by letter post, or in an equally suitable manner, stating on such notification—
    - (a) the date and hour of death; and
    - (b) if under the provisions of the Births and Deaths Registration Acts, 1836 to 1926, notice has been given him that a medical certificate of the cause of death has been signed by the certifying medical practitioner, the serial number of such notice; or
    - (c) if such notice has not been given him, the cause of death to the best of his knowledge;
  - (2) if an inquest is held in respect of any such death, within twenty-four hours of the conclusion thereof, send to the Council notice in writing by letter post, or in an equally suitable manner, stating the date of the inquest and the cause of death as found by the coroner or jury thereat.

Should these by-laws be confirmed unaltered by the Minister of Health—and it appears there is every prospect that they will—we are of opinion that many experienced professional nurses will give up the Homes which they have, to the great advantage of the public, organised and managed.

We shall refer again to these By-laws after the period during which they are under the consideration of the Minister of Health has elapsed.

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