



ST. CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS

CHAPTER 9.16

MEDICAL (DISTRICTS AND DUTIES) ACT and Subsidiary Legislation

Revised Edition

showing the law as at 31 December 2002

This is a revised edition of the law, prepared by the Law Revision Commissioner under the authority of the Law Revision Act, No. 9 of 1986.

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CHAPTER 9.16
MEDICAL (DISTRICTS AND DUTIES) ACT

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CHAPTER 9.16

MEDICAL (DISTRICTS AND DUTIES) ACT

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE DECLARATION OF MEDICAL DISTRICTS AND THE APPOINTMENT OF MEDICAL DOCTORS TO SUCH DISTRICTS, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR DUTIES; AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED OR INCIDENTAL MATTERS.

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Medical (Districts and Duties) Act.

Interpretation.

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

“duly qualified medical practitioner” means a medical practitioner duly qualified as such under the Medical Act, Cap. 9.15;

“labourers” means all handicraftsmen working for daily wages, menial and predial servants, boatmen and porters;

“poor and destitute person” means any person who is possessed of no property, or who from age, disease or other bodily infirmity or mental incapacity is unable to labour for his or her own support and who has no relative bound by law to support him or her.

Medical districts.

3. The Minister shall declare the number of medical districts into which the State shall be divided and shall fix the boundaries thereof respectively, and the Minister may vary the number of the said districts and their boundaries whenever it shall appear necessary to do so.

(Amended by Act 6 of 1976)

District Medical Officer.

4. The Minister shall appoint to each of the medical districts a duly qualified medical practitioner who shall be styled the District Medical Officer and who shall receive such salary as may from time to time be voted by the National Assembly.

(Amended by Act 6 of 1976)

Medical Officer to reside in his or her district.

5. The District Medical Officer shall reside in the district to which he or she is appointed:

Provided that the Minister may, if he or she thinks fit, authorise any District Medical Officer for any specified time to reside in such part of the State as the Minister may direct.

(Amended by Act 6 of 1976)

Duties, without charge therefor.

6. It shall be the duty of the District Medical Officer, within his or her district, without any charge therefor—

- (a) to keep a dispensary and to afford, from time to time, whenever requisite, medical and surgical aid and necessary medicines to the children of labourers up to and including the age of 9 years;
- (b) at the request of any minister of religion, or any member of Council, or any member of the Hospital or Poor Law Boards to visit and afford medical and surgical aid and necessary medicines to any poor and destitute person who may be suffering in travail or childbirth and to any sick and destitute person desirous of admission to any hospital, until such person is in a condition to be removed thereto, or can be admitted therein;
- (c) to attend at the request of the Chief of Police or of any Magistrate or of the Superintendent of the Fire and Rescue Services and to afford medical and surgical aid and requisite medicines to any officer, non-commissioned officer or private of the police force and to any member of the Fire and Rescue Services, and to grant them requisite medical certificates;
- (d) to attend at the request of any member of the police force and to afford medical and surgical aid and requisite medicines to all persons confined in any police station or in the custody of the police.

Duties with remuneration therefor.

7. It shall further be the duty of the District Medical Officer, within his or her district, for such remuneration as shall hereinafter be provided, or shall from time to time be fixed and determined by the Minister—

- (a) to give injections of the drug Kharsivan, or the substitute therefor, and the necessary subsequent treatment for the disease commonly called yaws, free of cost to all children of labourers, up to and including the age of 17 years, and for the said injections and treatment a fee of twenty-four cents for each child, shall, unless otherwise determined by the Minister, be paid by the Government to the District Medical Officer;
- (b) to give injections of the drug Kharsivan, or the substitute therefor, and the necessary subsequent treatment for the disease commonly called yaws to all labourers over the age seventeen years, requesting such injections and treatment, and for the said injections and treatment a fee of two dollars and forty cents shall, subject to the condition hereinafter mentioned, be paid by such labourer to the District Medical Officer;
- (c) to treat, by injections of the drug Kharsivan, or the substitute therefor, for the disease of syphilis all labourers who have arrived at the age of puberty requesting such injection for a fee not exceeding three dollars and sixty cents for the first injection and not exceeding two dollars and forty cents for each subsequent injection.

Duties in case of sudden illness.

8. It shall further be the duty of all District Medical Officers, within their respective districts, in all cases of sudden illness forthwith to attend and afford all necessary medical and surgical aid and medicines without in any such case demanding prepayment for the same; but nothing herein contained shall be construed as debarring such District Medical Officer from subsequently demanding and

recovering from such person reasonable compensation for such medical and surgical aid, attendance and medicines.

Drug allowances.

9. There shall be paid to each District Medical Officer such money allowance for the purchase of drugs and medicines as shall from time to time be fixed and determined by the Minister and voted by the National Assembly, and each such District Medical Officer shall from time to time be provided at Government expense with all necessary supplies of the drug Kharsivan, or the substitute therefor, and of the syringes for the use thereof, in the treatment of syphilis among the labourers in the State.

(Amended by Act 6 of 1976)

Returns to be furnished.

10. It shall be the duty of the several District Medical Officers aforesaid to furnish the Minister, through such official channels as he or she may direct, with returns showing the cases of any specified disease coming under the treatment of such District Medical Officers, and such returns shall be in such form and be rendered at such intervals as the Minister may from time to time direct.

(Amended by Act 6 of 1976)

Abolition of fees.

11. It shall not be lawful for any District Medical Officer to charge or be paid any fees whatsoever over and above the salaries provided for them, in respect of any duties of a public nature which they may be called upon to perform, and which had been paid for out of public moneys, any law or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

SCHEDULE*(Section 3)***MEDICAL DISTRICTS ORDER****Short Title.**

1. This Order may be cited as the Medical Districts Order.

Medical District No. 1.

2. Medical District No. 1, shall contain and include the entire Parish of St. Peter and that portion of the Parish of St. George, Basseterre, in the island of St. Christopher lying to the East of a supposed line extending from a point on the seashore opposite the centre of lower College Street in the town of Basseterre, and extending along the centre of lower and upper College Streets in the said town and along the highroad running North to the boundary of St. Peter's Parish.

Medical District No. 2.

3. Medical District No. 2, shall contain and include the entire Parish of Trinity, Palmetto Point, in the island of St. Christopher and shall also contain and include such portions of the Parish of St. George, Basseterre, in the said island, not hereinbefore included in District No. 1.

Medical District No. 3.

4. Medical District No. 3, shall contain and include the entire Parishes of St. Mary, Cayon, and of Christ Church, Nichola Town, in the island of St. Christopher and shall also contain and include that portion of the Parish of St. John, Capisterre, which is bounded on the north by a line extending from the source of the Profits and Parsons Gut, to a point on the seashore opposite to the mouth of the said Gut, and shall also contain and include the lands and estate now known as "Profit Estate" and "Profit's Village."

Medical District No. 4.

5. Medical District No. 4, shall contain and include the entire Parishes of St. Thomas, Middle Island, of St. Ann, Sandy Point, and of St. Paul, Capisterre, in the island of St. Christopher and shall also contain and include the village of Dieppe Bay and the portion of the Parish of St. John, Capisterre, which is bounded on the south by a line extending from the source of the Profits and Parsons Gut to a point on the seashore opposite to the mouth of the said Gut.

Medical District No. 5.

6. Medical District No. 5, shall contain and include all that part of the island of Nevis being that portion of the Parish of St. John lying to the South and West of a line running from Morgans through Hermitage Ravine to Morning Star and thence continuing through Hermitage Ravine to the South of Cox's village and to the boundary of St. George's Parish and the parishes of St. Paul, St. Thomas and that portion of St. James lying West of the Camp river.

Medical District No. 6.

7. Medical District No. 6, shall contain and include all that part of the island of Nevis being that portion of the parish of St. John lying to the North and East of a line

running through Hermitage Ravine to Morning Star and thence continuing through Hermitage Ravine to the South of Cox's Village and to the boundary of St. George's parish and not included in Medical District No. 5, the parish of St. George and that portion of the parish of St. James lying East of the Camp river and not included in Medical District No. 5.
