

## CHAPTER 155.

## CORPSES.

155.01 Transportation.  
155.02 Distribution.

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**155.01 Transportation.** (1) No human corpse shall be accepted for transportation, unless prepared in conformity to the rules and regulations of the state board of health.

(2) Disinterred corpses are declared dangerous to health, and shall not be transported unless each corpse is accompanied by a separate permit from the local health officer for removal, showing the name, age, place, cause of death and medical attendant, the point to which to be shipped, and the undertaker in charge and attached to such permit the consent of the state board of health. Local health officers shall refuse permit when the cause of death is given as heart failure unless the physician in charge states that the cause was not diphtheria.

**155.02 Distribution.** A public officer having charge of the corpse of a deceased person required to be buried at public expense shall promptly notify the relatives if he knows or can with reasonable diligence ascertain any of them, and deliver it to any relative who shall claim it. If none claim it within forty-eight hours after death, or if those notified acquiesce, such officer,

(1) If he be located in the western United States judicial district, at the expense of the University of Wisconsin, shall notify immediately its demonstrator of anatomy by telegraph, if practicable, or in other expeditious manner. The demonstrator when generally authorized by the regents shall immediately inform the officer whether the corpse is desired, and if it is, the officer shall deliver it properly encased for transportation without charge to the agent of the express company at the nearest railroad station, consigned as the demonstrator directs. If previous application for bodies shall have been made to the regents of the university by any incorporated college or medical school, in said district, the demonstrator shall under the direction of the president of the university, equitably distribute such corpses between the university and the applicants, the institution receiving the corpse paying the transportation expenses. If the demonstrator shall not desire the corpse in such district he shall immediately notify Marquette University or the Goodman College of Embalming at Milwaukee or any accredited college of embalming in this state, and the public officer upon immediate notice shall, in like manner consign the corpse to Marquette University or the Goodman College of Embalming or any accredited college of embalming in this state, which shall first present him an order therefor signed by its president or secretary, stating that the corpse shall be used only for the promotion of anatomical science within this state, and that the remains not so used, shall be decently buried or cremated in compliance with regulations by the state board of health.

(2) If he be located in the eastern United States judicial district he shall give like notice to the agent therefor of Marquette University or the Goodman College of Embalming at Milwaukee or any accredited college of embalming in this state, and shall in like manner consign the corpse as such agent directs. If previous application for bodies shall have been made to such agent by any other incorporated college or medical school or accredited college of embalming in such district, such agent shall, under the direction of the president of said university or accredited college of embalming, equitably distribute such corpses between Marquette University, the Goodman College of Embalming and the applicants, the institution receiving it paying the transportation expenses and presenting to such public officer like order thereof.

**155.03 Restrictions.** (1) The corpse of one who died with smallpox, diphtheria, or scarlet fever, or who in his last sickness shall request to be buried or cremated, and of a stranger or traveler who shall have suddenly died, shall not be so disposed of, and no person having charge of a corpse authorized to be so disposed of, shall sell or deliver it to be used outside the state.

(2) Upon receipt of the corpse it shall be properly embalmed and retained for twelve days before being used or dismembered and shall be delivered to any relative claiming it upon payment of expenses incurred and satisfactory proof of relationship.

**155.04 Penalty.** Any officer or person having a corpse in charge, and refusing to report and deliver it, when required by this chapter, or violating the provisions forbidding sale or delivery thereof, to be used outside the state, shall be liable to the person, university or medical school aggrieved, in the sum of fifty dollars.