

# CAVAN BOARD OF HEALTH

## Rules and Regulations

BY THE

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD FOR IRELAND**

FOR THE

### Regulation of Burial Grounds

WHEREAS, by "The Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878," it is amongst other things enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Local Government Board for Ireland, from time to time, to make such rules and regulations, in relation to the Burial Grounds and places of reception of bodies previous to interment which may be provided under the said Act, as may seem proper for the protection of the public health and the maintenance of public decency, and for the proper registry of interments; and to provide for the imposition and recovery of penalties, not exceeding Ten Pounds for each offence, for the breach or non-observance of such regulations.

Now, We, the Local Government Board for Ireland, in pursuance of the powers vested in us by the said Act, or otherwise howsoever, do hereby make the following Rules and Regulations, which shall apply to all Burial Grounds provided, or which may be provided, under the said Act, that is to say

- I. Every Burial Ground shall be kept sufficiently fenced ; and, if necessary, shall be underdrained to such a depth as will prevent water remaining in any grave or vault.
- II. The area to be used for graves shall be divided into grave-spaces, to be designated by convenient marks, so that the position of each grave-space may be readily ascertained. A corresponding map or maps of the Burial Ground shall be constantly kept in some convenient place, at or near the Burial Ground, and shall be open to the inspection of all persons. On such map or maps every grave-space shall be shown with its distinctive mark inscribed thereon.
- III. The grave-spaces for the burial of persons above twelve years of age shall be at least nine feet long by four feet wide; and those for the burial of children under twelve years of age shall be at least six feet long by three feet wide.
- IV. Each grave, when opened for the first interment therein, shall be sunk to the perpendicular depth of eight feet at the least; and every person interring a body in a grave not sunk to such depth shall be liable to a penalty of Two Pounds sterling.
- V. (i) Subject to (ii), no interment shall be permitted in any burial ground, nor shall any dead body be admitted into any place of reception of bodies previous to interment, unless the body be enclosed in a coffin of wood or

some other sufficiently strong material. Any person presenting a body for interment in violation of this rule shall be liable to a penalty of €125.

- (ii) Uncoffined burials may be permitted, unless a direction has been issued not to do so by the relevant sanitary authority or medical officer of health of the sanitary authority, in an area of a burial ground designated exclusively for that purpose. Where an uncoffined burial is permitted, any reference in these provisions to a coffin includes a reference to the wrappings of the uncoffined body.”

VI. One body only shall be buried in a grave at one time, unless the bodies be those of members of the same family; and every person interring any body in violation of this Rule shall be liable to a penalty of Two Pounds sterling.

VII. No unwalled grave shall be re-opened within fourteen years after the burial of a person above twelve years of age, or within eight years after the burial of a child under twelve years of age, unless to bury another member of the same family, in which case a layer of earth not less than one foot in depth shall be left undisturbed above the previously buried coffin; but if on re-opening any grave the soil be found to be offensive, such soil shall not be disturbed. In no case shall human remains be removed from the grave. Every person acting in violation of this Rule shall be liable to a penalty of Two Pounds sterling.

VIII. No coffin shall be buried in any unwalled grave unless the lid or upper surface thereof shall be sunk to a depth of at least four feet below the ordinary level of the ground; and every person acting in violation of this Rule shall be liable to a penalty of Two Pounds sterling.

IX. Any person unlawfully preventing or attempting to prevent the interment of any person in a Burial Ground, or unlawfully preventing or disturbing the celebration of funeral rites over any person, shall be liable to a penalty of Five Pounds sterling.

X. No grave, in which any body has been interred shall be opened, save for the purpose of interment or the erection of a tombstone or headstone, without the written order of a Coroner or Peace Commissioner of the County, to be previously produced to and left with the Registrar. Any person violating this Rule shall be liable to a penalty of Ten Pounds sterling.

XI. No body, nor the remains of any body shall be removed from one place of burial to another, or exhumed (except under the conditions set forth in Rule X.) without a Licence from Local Government Board, and with such precautions as such Board may proscribe as the condition of such Licence; and any person who shall remove or assist in removing any such body or remains contrary to this Rule or who shall neglect to observe the precautions prescribed as the conditions of the Licence for removal, shall be liable to a penalty of Ten Pounds sterling.

XII. A proper Registry Book (hereinafter referred to as the Registry Book), made of parchment, or vellum, with strong binding and suitable printed pagings, and ruled in columns with proper printed headings, shall be constantly kept in some convenient place at or near the Burial Ground, and shall be open for inspection at all reasonable

times; but no person, except the person having the care and management of the Burial Ground, and in these Rules called the Registrar, shall be permitted to write in the Registry Book save as hereinafter mentioned.

A printed copy of these Rules shall be kept constantly affixed to the Registry Book.

Any Registrar refusing to give inspection of the Registry Book, as required by this Rule, shall be liable to a penalty of Five Pounds sterling ; and any person whatever unlawfully writing in, defacing, altering or mutilating the Registry Book, shall be liable to a penalty of Five Pounds sterling.

XIII. Before the interment of any person in a Burial Ground, or before admission into such place of reception as aforesaid, the Registrar shall, after due inquiry as to the facts from some relative of the deceased, or from the person having the direction and management of the interment, cause an entry to be made in the Registry Book, -in plain and legible characters, under its proper headings, and in numerical order, of the Christian and -Surname, time of death, sex, age, religious persuasion, and occupation or rank in life of the deceased, together with his or her last place of residence, and condition, as whether " married " or " single," " widower " or " widow," or " the child of A.B., of \_\_\_\_\_ , " etc. , After the interment due entry shall be made under its proper heading of the distinctive mark of the grave ; and the signature of the person having the management of the interment shall be affixed in the last column but one, in token of the accuracy of the foregoing statements ; and such signature shall be attested by the signature of the Registrar, in the last column. Any such person wilfully refusing to give to the Registrar information as to the matters aforesaid, or to affix his signature as aforesaid, shall be liable to a penalty of Five Pounds sterling.

And We, the Local Government Board for Ireland, in further pursuance of the powers vested in us under and by virtue of the said Act, do hereby enjoin and require all Burial Boards, and all Registrars, Clerks, and other persons having the care of such Burial Grounds and places for the reception of dead bodies, strictly to conform and to obey these our " Rules and Regulations, of which all persons concerned are directed to take notice, and which are to take effect from the day of the date hereof.

Given under our Hands and Seal of Office, this Sixth day of July, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty-eight.

Signed,

ARTHUR JAMES BALFOUR.  
HENRY ROBINSON.  
F. MacCABE.