1968. No. 19 [C]

DANGEROUS DRUGS

Notification by Medical Practitioners

REGULATIONS, DATED 15TH FEBRUARY 1968, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS UNDER SECTION 11 OF THE DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT 1965 AS EXTENDED BY SECTION 1(1) OF THE DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT 1967 AND SECTIONS 5, 8(3) AND 9 OF THE SAID ACT OF 1967.

The Ministry of Home Affairs in exercise of the powers vested in it by Section 11 of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1965(a) as extended by Section 1(1) of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1967(b) and Sections 5, 8(3) and 9 of the said Act of 1967 and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf hereby makes the following Regulations:—

Citation and Commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Dangerous Drugs (Notification of Addicts) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1968 and shall come into operation on 22nd February 1968.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these Regulations the following expressions have the meanings hereby assigned to them that is to say:—

"drug" means any substance for the time being specified in Part I of the Schedule to the Dangerous Drugs Act 1965;

"hospital" has the meaning assigned to it by Section 86(1) of the Health Services Act (Northern Ireland) 1948(c) and includes any hospital in respect of which an order was made under Section 23(8) of that Act, a nursing home within the meaning of Section 13(1) of the Midwives and Nursing Homes Act (Northern Ireland) 1929(d) and a private hospital within the meaning of Section 67(7) of the Mental Health Act (Northern Ireland) 1961(e).

(2) The Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954(f) shall apply to the interpretation of these Regulations as it applies to an Act of the Parliament of Northern Ireland.

Notification by Medical Practitioners

3.—(1) Subject to paragraph (3) any medical practitioner who attends a person who he considers, or has reasonable grounds to suspect, is addicted to any drug shall, within seven days of the attendance, furnish in writing to the Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health and Social Services, such of the following particulars with respect to that person as are known to the medical practitioner, that is to say, the name, address, sex, date of birth and health service number of that person, the date of the attendance and the name of the drug or drugs concerned.

(2) For the purposes of this Regulation, a person shall be regarded as addicted to a drug only if, as a result of repeated administration, he has become

(a) 1965. c. 15.
(b) 1967. c. 82.
(c) 1948. c. 3.
(d) 19 Geo. 5. c. 6.
(e) 1961. c. 15.
(f) 1954. c. 33.

so dependent upon the drug that he has an overpowering desire for the administration of it to be continued.

(3) It shall not be necessary for a medical practitioner who attends a person to comply with the provisions of paragraph (1) in respect of that person if—

(*a*) the medical practitioner is of the opinion, formed in good faith, that the continued administration of the drug or drugs concerned is required for the purpose of relieving pain due to organic disease or injury; or

(*b*) the particulars which, apart from this paragraph, would have been required under those provisions to be furnished have, during the period of twelve months ending with the date of the attendance, been furnished in compliance with those provisions—

(i) by the medical practitioner; or

(ii) if the medical practitioner is a partner in or employed by a firm of general practitioners, by a medical practitioner who is a partner in or employed by that firm; or

(iii) if the attendance is on behalf of another medical practitioner, whether for payment or otherwise, by that medical practitioner; or

(iv) if the attendance is at a hospital, by a medical practitioner on the staff of that hospital.

Application to Servants of the Crown

4. These Regulations and, in relation only to these Regulations, Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1967 and Sections 16 and 20 of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1965, shall apply to servants and agents of the Crown.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Home Affairs for Northern Ireland on the 15th February 1968, in the presence of

(L.S.) *J. H. Parkes,*
Assistant Secretary.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations but is intended to indicate their general purport.)

These Regulations provide for the notification of drug addicts by medical practitioners to the Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health and Social Services, and apply their provisions, and such of the provisions of the Dangerous Drugs Acts of 1965 and 1967 as are necessary to implement them, to servants and agents of the Crown.