

REMOVAL OF DEAD BODIES, AUTHORITY GRANTED TO COURTS
Act of May 19, 1923, P.L. 281, No. 180
AN ACT

Cl. 09

To confer upon the courts of quarter sessions of the several counties of the Commonwealth jurisdiction and power to authorize the removal of the remains of the dead from private burial grounds, which have or shall become unsightly and unsuitable places for interment.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That whenever any private burial ground by reason of the drilling of oil wells, or the opening of mines or quarries in the vicinity thereof, or from any other cause, has become or shall hereafter become unsightly and an unsuitable place for the repose of the dead, the court of quarter sessions of the county in which such burial ground is situated, on petition of the trustee or trustees having charge thereof, or of any person having a relative buried therein, shall have jurisdiction and power to authorize and direct the removal of the remains of all dead from such private burial ground to such other suitable ground as shall be provided by the petitioner or petitioners for the reinterment of the bodies. Notice of the presentation of a petition for any such order of removal and reinterment shall be given by advertisement, once a week for a period of three (3) weeks, in at least one newspaper of general circulation published in the county, and in such other manner as the court may direct.

Section 2. Such removal and reinterment shall be made by the petitioners in a careful manner, at their own expense, to another suitable burial ground provided by them, or, if desired by the relatives or friends of such dead, to some properly regulated burial ground or cemetery in the immediate vicinity, and said court may enforce, by proper process, orders and decrees made under this act: Provided, however, That before the removal of the remains of the dead, notice of such removal shall be given by advertisement, once a week for two successive weeks, in two daily newspapers of the county wherein such burial ground is situated: And provided further, That relatives and friends of such dead shall have the right to remove the remains, at their own expense, at any time during the proceedings before actual removal under order of court: And further provided, That all bodies when so removed shall be placed in separate caskets and graves, and the headstones, monuments, or other marks placed over the remains of said bodies shall be taken, by the persons authorized to make such removal, and placed as near as can be in the same relative position as before removal.