

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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710  
May 24, 1955

To Norman U. Greenlaw, Commissioner of Institutional Service  
Re: Authorizations to Operate

We are returning to you a proposed form authorizing operations at Pownal State School, which form you referred to this office with your memo of May 18th, with the request that we comment on it.

If the intent of the hospital is clearly expressed in the authorization, then our only comment would be to tear it up.

We could well see authorization to perform surgery or medical treatment upon a patient in order to promote his comfortable or more comfortable existence; but the thought of a guardian, parent or next of kin authorizing such treatment purely for scientific and teaching purposes somehow seems repugnant.

We would also add that it is deadly certain that, if it became generally known that such authorizations were in use, then officials would come in for criticism.

James Glynn Frost  
Deputy Attorney General

jgf/c