

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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August 28, 1956

220

To Norman U. Greenlaw, Commissioner of Institutional Service
Re: Pownal State School - Blood Donors

We have your memo of August 16, 1956, in which you ask:

1. If patients at Pownal State Shhool may volunteer for blood transfusions; and
2. If the Superintendent has the right to accept the blood of patients who volunteer for blood transfusions.

Because of the nature of the institution we should be reluctant to advise accepting volunteers from among the patients for blood transfusions. We quote from an opinion by Ralph W. Farris, dated February 9, 1949:

"Before taking blood from a patient (at Pownal State School) I would have written permission from the legal guardian or close relatives. I would not permit taking blood from patients who have no relative or guardian in a position to give you written permission, so that in case anything should happen to cause the death of a patient, you would be legally protected."

We see no occasion for not following the opinion of Mr. Farris.

James Glynn Frost
Deputy Attorney General

jgf/c