

or proceedings of a coroner's inquest, if such an inquest was held in the case, determining said death to be due to natural causes. Coroner's certificate.

Third. In the absence of either of the above, then the proceedings of an autopsy, made by at least two qualified medical practitioners, to be appointed by the state's attorney of the county or city where such death took place, or, if he shall decline to interfere, to be appointed by said company, ascertaining and certifying that the said death was due to natural causes, and what causes. An autopsy necessary.

If any of the officers, agents or employes of said company shall cremate, or receive for the purpose of cremating, the dead body of any person without having complied with the provisions of this section, he or they shall be fined not less than five hundred nor more than five thousand dollars for each and every such offence, or shall be confined in the penitentiary for not less than six months nor more than five years, or shall be both fined and imprisoned, in the discretion of the court. Penalty for violation.

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted,* That this act shall take effect from the date of its passage. Effective.

Approved April 5, 1888.

Chapter 444.

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact with amendments article eighty-nine of the Code of Public General Laws, title "Slander of *femes sole*."

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That article eighty-nine of the Code of Public General Laws, title "Slander of *femes sole*," be and the same is hereby repealed and re-enacted with amendments so as to read as follows: Repealed and re-enacted.

1. All words spoken falsely and maliciously touching the character or reputation for chastity of any woman, whether single or married, and tending to the injury thereof shall be deemed slander, and shall be treated as such in the several courts of law in this state. Slander.