



# [<sup>F1</sup>Senior Courts Act 1981]

## CHAPTER 54

### SENIOR COURTS ACT 1981

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- 8 The Crown Court.

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- 57 Sittings and vacations.

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- 71 Sittings and vacations.

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- 78 Sittings.

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- 96 Central Office.
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- 98 Judges' clerks and secretaries.

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- 121 Revocation of grants and cancellation of resealing at instance of court.

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- 127 Probate rules.

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- 128 Interpretation of Part V and other probate provisions.

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131 Conveyancing counsel of Senior Courts.  
132 Proof of documents bearing seal or stamp of Senior Courts or any office thereof.  
133 Enrolment and engrossment of instruments.  
134 Powers of attorney deposited before October 1971.  
135 Bonds given under order of court.  
136 Production of documents filed in, or in custody of, Senior Courts.  
137 Money paid into court under enactment subsequently repealed.  
138 Effect of writs of execution against goods.  
138A Sales under executions.  
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140 Enforcement of fines and forfeited recognizances.  
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142 Selection of judges for trial of election petitions.  
143 .....  
144 .....  
145 Amendment of Courts-Martial (Appeals) Act 1968.  
146 Amendment of Courts Act 1971.  
147 Amendment of Solicitors Act 1974.  
148 Amendment of Arbitration Act 1979.  
149 .....

*Supplementary*

- 150 Admiralty jurisdiction: provisions as to Channel Islands, Isle of Man, colonies etc.  
151 Interpretation of this Act, and rules of construction for other Acts and documents.  
152 Amendments of other Acts, transitional provisions, savings and repeals.  
153 Citation, commencement and extent.

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**SCHEDULES**

**SCHEDULE 1 — Distribution of Business in High Court**

*Chancery Division*

- 1 To the Chancery Division are assigned all causes and matters...

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*Queen’s Bench Division*

2 To the Queen’s Bench Division are assigned—

*Family Division*

3 To the Family Division are assigned— (a) all matrimonial causes...

SCHEDULE 2 — List of offices in Senior Courts for purposes of Part 4

- Part 1
- Part 2
- Part 3

SCHEDULE 3 —

SCHEDULE 4 — Construction of References to Superseded Courts and Officers

*General*

1 (1) So much of any enactment as refers or relates...

*The Accountants-General of the Courts of Chancery and Exchequer*

2 Any enactment or document referring to the Accountant-General of the...

*The Court of Criminal Appeal and its registrar*

3 In any enactment or document passed or made before 1st...

*Principal registrar of Family Division*

4 In any enactment or document passed or made before the...

SCHEDULE 5 — Consequential Amendments

*COLONIAL PROBATES ACT 1892 (c. 6)*

In section 2(1), for “156A of the Supreme Court of...

.....  
.....

*ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES ACT 1925 (c. 23)*

In section 47A(7) (notices to principal registrar of Family Division)—...

*LAW OF PROPERTY (AMENDMENT) ACT 1926 (c. 11)*

In section 3(1), “for Supreme Court of Judicature (Consolidation) Act...

*FOREIGN JUDGMENTS (RECIPROCAL ENFORCEMENT) ACT 1933 (c. 13)*

- 1 .....
- 2 .....

*ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1933 (c. 36)*

Section 2(2)(b) shall continue to have effect with the amendments...



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.....

*CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT 1948 (c. 58)*

.....

*CONSULAR CONVENTIONS ACT 1949 (c. 29)*

In section 1(4)— for “(1) of section one hundred and...

*ARBITRATION ACT 1950 (c. 27)*

In section 38(3), for “ninety-nine of the Supreme Court of...

*ARMY ACT 1955 (c. 18)*

Section 110(1) shall continue to have effect with the amendments...

*AIR FORCE ACT 1955 (c. 19)*

[Section 110(1) shall continue to have effect with the amendments...

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

*PROFESSIONS SUPPLEMENTARY TO MEDICINE ACT 1960 (c. 66)*

In paragraph 2(2) of Schedule 2, for “forty-nine of the...

*NURSES (AMENDMENT) ACT 1961 (c. 14)*

.....

*RIVERS (PREVENTION OF POLLUTION) ACT 1961 (c. 50)*

.....

*PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1961 (c. 64)*

.....

*ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE ACT 1964 (c. 42)*

.....

*ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE ACT 1965 (c. 2)*

1 .....  
2 .....  
3 .....

*VETERINARY SURGEONS ACT 1966 (c. 36)*

In paragraph 4(2) of Schedule 2, for “49 of the...

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*ARBITRATION (INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT DISPUTES) ACT 1966 (c. 41)*

In sections 1(6) and 2(2), for “99 of the Supreme...

*MATRIMONIAL CAUSES ACT 1967 (c. 56)*

.....

*CRIMINAL APPEAL ACT 1968 (c. 19)*

- 1 In section 33 (right of appeal to House of Lords...
- 2 For subsection (1) of, and the side-note to, section 45...
- 3 In Schedule 2 (provisions applicable on order for retrial), paragraph...

*HEARING AID COUNCIL ACT 1968 (c. 50)*

...

*HOVERCRAFT ACT 1968 (c. 59)*

- 1 In section 1(1)(h)(i) (power to apply to hovercraft etc. enactments...
- 2 (1) Section 2 (Admiralty jurisdiction etc.) shall be amended as...

.....

.....

*ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES ACT 1971 (c. 25)*

- 1 (1) Section 11 (sealing of Commonwealth and Colonial grants) shall...
- 2 In section 14(3), for “8” substitute “ 9 ”.

*MISUSE OF DRUGS ACT 1971 (c. 38)*

In paragraph 5(2) of Schedule 3, for “49 of the...

*MERCHANT SHIPPING (OIL POLLUTION) ACT 1971 (c. 59)*

.....

*TRIBUNALS AND INQUIRIES ACT 1971 (c. 62)*

.....

.....

*LAND CHARGES ACT 1972 (c. 61)*

In section 6(4) (effect of non-registration of writs and orders...

*HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK ETC. ACT 1974 (c. 37)*

.....

.....

*MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT 1974 (c. 43)*

.....

*SOLICITORS ACT 1974 (c. 47)*

- 1 In section 19(2), for “120 of the Supreme Court of...

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2 After section 81 insert— Fees for administering oaths and taking...

*HOUSE OF COMMONS DISQUALIFICATION ACT 1975 (c. 24)*

In Part III of Schedule 1, in the entry beginning...

*NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY DISQUALIFICATION ACT 1975 (c. 25)*

Part 111 of Schedule 1 shall have effect with the...

*EVIDENCE (PROCEEDINGS IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS) ACT 1975 (c. 34)*

1 In section 4 (extension of powers of High Court etc....

2 .....

*FARRIERS (REGISTRATION) ACT 1975 (c. 35)*

In paragraph 4(2) of Schedule 3, for “49 of the...

*TORTS (INTERFERENCE WITH GOODS) ACT 1977 (c. 32)*

...

*INSURANCE BROKERS (REGISTRATION) ACT 1977 (c. 46)*

In section 19(2), for “49 of the Supreme Court of...

.....

*EMPLOYMENT PROTECTION (CONSOLIDATION) ACT 1978 (c. 44)*

.....

*ARBITRATION ACT 1979 (c. 42)*

.....

*CHARGING ORDERS ACT 1979 (c. 53)*

In section 5(2), for “99 of the Supreme Court of...

*MAGISTRATES’ COURTS ACT 1980 (c. 43)*

1 After section 43 insert— Functions of magistrates’ court where a...

2 In section 87(2) for “penalty” substitute “ sum ”.

.....

*JUDICIAL PENSIONS ACT 1981 (c. 20)*

1 For subsection (2) of section 34 (county court registrars and...

2 Schedule 1 (pensions, etc. of certain judicial officers) shall be...

SCHEDULE 6 — Transitional Provisions and Savings

1 .....

*Continuity of appointments of officers*

2 (1) Any person holding an office immediately before the commencement...

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*Tenure, etc. of certain officers*

- 3 .....
- 4 .....
- 5 This Act, so far as it amends or repeals any...
- 6 .....

*Inland Revenue affidavits*

- 7 In relation to deaths occurring before 13th March 1975 (the...

*Grants of representation made under provisions of 1925 Act not reproduced in this Act*

- 8 Nothing in the repeals made by this Act shall affect—...

*Minor executors*

- 9 Any appointment of a minor as executor which, immediately before...

*Administration bonds given before 1st January 1972*

- 10 Nothing in this Act shall affect the continued operation of...

*Grants and resealings liable to revocation or cancellation at instance of court*

- 11 Section 121 applies whether the grant in question was made...

*Appeals from certain orders and decisions under section 54(3) of Magistrates' Courts Act 1952*

- 12 In paragraph 3(d) of Schedule 1, the reference to an...

*Interpretation*

- 13 (1) In this Schedule “the 1925 Act” means the Senior...

SCHEDULE 7 —

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**Changes and effects yet to be applied to :**

- s. 16 modified by [2023 asc 3 s. 184\(4\)](#)

**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:**

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 31(3)(a) word inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 85\(1\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 31(3)(a) word inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 85\(1\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 31(3)(b) and word inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 85\(1\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 31(3)(b) and word inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 85\(1\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 31(3A)(3B) inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 85\(2\)](#)
- s. 31(3A)(3B) inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 85\(2\)](#)