



# Supreme Court Act 1981

## 1981 CHAPTER 54

### PART II

#### JURISDICTION

#### THE HIGH COURT

#### *Other particular fields of jurisdiction*

#### **25 Probate jurisdiction of High Court**

- (1) Subject to the provisions of Part V, the High Court shall, in accordance with section 19(2), have the following probate jurisdiction, that is to say all such jurisdiction in relation to probates and letters of administration as it had immediately before the commencement of this Act, and in particular all such contentious and non-contentious jurisdiction as it then had in relation to—
- (a) testamentary causes or matters ;
  - (b) the grant, amendment or revocation of probates and letters of administration ;  
and
  - (c) the real and personal estate of deceased persons.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of Part V, the High Court shall, in the exercise of its probate jurisdiction, perform all such duties with respect to the estates of deceased persons as fell to be performed by it immediately before the commencement of this Act.

#### **26 Matrimonial jurisdiction of High Court**

The High Court shall, in accordance with section 19(2), have all such jurisdiction in relation to matrimonial causes and matters as was immediately before the commencement of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1857 vested in or exercisable by any ecclesiastical court or person in England or Wales in respect of—

- (a) divorce a mensa et thoro (renamed judicial separation by that Act);
- (b) nullity of marriage or jactitation of marriage; and

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- (c) any matrimonial cause or matter except marriage licences.

## **27 Prize jurisdiction of High Court**

The High Court shall, in accordance with section 19(2), have as a prize court—

- (a) all such jurisdiction as is conferred on it by the Prize Acts 1864 to 1944 (in which references to the High Court of Admiralty are by virtue of paragraph 1 of Schedule 4 to this Act to be construed as references to the High Court); and
- (b) all such other jurisdiction on the high seas and else where as it had as a prize court immediately before the commencement of this Act.

## **28 Appeals from Crown Court and inferior courts**

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), any order, judgment or other decision of the Crown Court may be questioned by any party to the proceedings, on the ground that it is wrong in law or is in excess of jurisdiction, by applying to the Crown Court to have a case stated by that court for the opinion of the High Court.
- (2) Subsection (1) shall not apply to—
  - (a) a judgment or other decision of the Crown Court relating to trial on indictment; or
  - (b) any decision of that court under the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act 1963, the Licensing Act 1964 or the Gaming Act 1968 which, by any provision of any of those Acts, is to be final.
- (3) Subject to the provisions of this Act and to rules of court, the High Court shall, in accordance with section 19(2), have jurisdiction to hear and determine—
  - (a) any application, or any appeal (whether by way of case stated or otherwise), which it has power to hear and determine under or by virtue of this or any other Act; and
  - (b) all such other appeals as it had jurisdiction to hear and determine immediately before the commencement of this Act.

## **29 Orders of mandamus, prohibition and certiorari**

- (1) The High Court shall have jurisdiction to make orders of mandamus, prohibition and certiorari in those classes of cases in which it had power to do so immediately before the commencement of this Act.
- (2) Every such order shall be final, subject to any right of appeal therefrom.
- (3) In relation to the jurisdiction of the Crown Court, other than its jurisdiction in matters relating to trial on indictment, the High Court shall have all such jurisdiction to make orders of mandamus, prohibition or certiorari as the High Court possesses in relation to the jurisdiction of an inferior court.
- (4) The power of the High Court under any enactment to require justices of the peace or a judge or officer of a county court to do any act relating to the duties of their respective offices, or to require a magistrates' court to state a case for the opinion of the High Court, in any case where the High Court formerly had by virtue of any enactment jurisdiction to make a rule absolute, or an order, for any of those purposes, shall be exercisable by order of mandamus.

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- (5) In any enactment—
- (a) references to a writ of mandamus, of prohibition or of certiorari shall be read as references to the corresponding order; and
  - (b) references to the issue or award of any such writ shall be read as references to the making of the corresponding order.

**30 Injunctions to restrain persons from acting in offices in which they are not entitled to act**

- (1) Where a person not entitled to do so acts in an office to which this section applies, the High Court may—
- (a) grant an injunction restraining him from so acting ; and
  - (b) if the case so requires, declare the office to be vacant.
- (2) This section applies to any substantive office of a public nature and permanent character which is held under the Crown or which has been created by any statutory provision or royal charter.

**31 Application for judicial review**

- (1) An application to the High Court for one or more of the following forms of relief, namely—
- (a) an order of mandamus, prohibition or certiorari;
  - (b) a declaration or injunction under subsection (2); or
  - (c) an injunction under section 30 restraining a person not entitled to do so from acting in an office to which that section applies,
- shall be made in accordance with rules of court by a procedure to be known as an application for judicial review.
- (2) A declaration may be made or an injunction granted under this subsection in any case where an application for judicial review, seeking that relief, has been made and the High Court considers that, having regard to—
- (a) the nature of the matters in respect of which relief may be granted by orders of mandamus, prohibition or certiorari;
  - (b) the nature of the persons and bodies against whom relief may be granted by such orders ; and
  - (c) all the circumstances of the case,
- it would be just and convenient for the declaration to be made or the injunction to be granted, as the case may be.
- (3) No application for judicial review shall be made unless the leave of the High Court has been obtained in accordance with rules of court; and the court shall not grant leave to make such an application unless it considers that the applicant has a sufficient interest in the matter to which the application relates.
- (4) On an application for judicial review the High Court may award damages to the applicant if—
- (a) he has joined with his application a claim for damages arising from any matter to which the application relates; and

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- (b) the court is satisfied that, if the claim had been made in an action begun by the applicant at the time of making his application, he would have been awarded damages.
- (5) If, on an application for judicial review seeking an order of certiorari, the High Court quashes the decision to which the application relates, the High Court may remit the matter to the court, tribunal or authority concerned, with a direction to reconsider it and reach a decision in accordance with the findings of the High Court.
- (6) Where the High Court considers that there has been undue delay in making an application for judicial review, the court may refuse to grant—
- (a) leave for the making of the application ; or
  - (b) any relief sought on the application,
- if it considers that the granting of the relief sought would be likely to cause substantial hardship to, or substantially prejudice the rights of, any person or would be detrimental to good administration.
- (7) Subsection (6) is without prejudice to any enactment or rule of court which has the effect of limiting the time within which an application for judicial review may be made.