



# Legal Services Act 2007

## 2007 CHAPTER 29

### PART 3

#### RESERVED LEGAL ACTIVITIES

##### *Offences*

#### **16 Offence to carry on reserved legal activity through person not entitled**

- (1) Where subsection (2) applies it is an offence for a person (“P”) to carry on an activity (“the relevant activity”) which is a reserved legal activity, despite P being entitled to carry on the relevant activity.
- (2) This subsection applies if—
  - (a) P carries on the relevant activity by virtue of an employee of P (“E”) carrying it on in E’s capacity as such an employee, and
  - (b) in carrying on the relevant activity, E commits an offence under section 14.
- (3) If P is a body, references in subsection (2) to an employee of P include references to a manager of P.
- (4) In proceedings for an offence under subsection (1), it is a defence for the accused to show that the accused took all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to avoid committing the offence.
- (5) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) is liable—
  - (a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum (or both), and
  - (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or a fine (or both).
- (6) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) by reason of an act done in the purported exercise of a right of audience, or a right to conduct litigation, in relation to any proceedings or contemplated proceedings is also guilty of contempt of the court concerned and may be punished accordingly.

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*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).*

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- (7) In relation to an offence under subsection (1) committed before the commencement of section 154(1) of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c. 44), the reference in subsection (5) (a) to 12 months is to be read as a reference to 6 months.