



# Theft Act 1968

## CHAPTER 60

### THEFT ACT 1968

#### *Definition of “theft”*

- 1 Basic definition of theft.
- 2 “Dishonestly”
- 3 “Appropriates”.
- 4 “Property”.
- 5 “Belonging to another”.
- 6 “With the intention of permanently depriving the other of it”.

#### *Theft, robbery, burglary, etc.*

- 7 Theft.
- 8 Robbery.
- 9 Burglary.
- 10 Aggravated burglary.
- 11 Removal of articles from places open to the public.
- 12 Taking motor vehicle or other conveyance without authority.
- 12A Aggravated vehicle-taking.
- 13 Abstracting of electricity.
- 14 Extension to thefts from mails outside England and Wales, and robbery etc. on such a theft.

#### *Fraud and blackmail*

- 15 Obtaining property by deception.
- 15A Obtaining a money transfer by deception.
- 15B Section 15A: supplementary.
- 16 Obtaining pecuniary advantage by deception.
- 17 False accounting.

*Status: Point in time view as at 27/02/2004.*

*Changes to legislation: Theft Act 1968 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 23 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

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- 18 Liability of company officers for certain offences by company.
- 19 False statements by company directors, etc.
- 20 Suppression, etc. of documents.
- 21 Blackmail.

*Offences relating to goods stolen etc.*

- 22 Handling stolen goods.
- 23 Advertising rewards for return of goods stolen or lost.
- 24 Scope of offences relating to stolen goods.
- 24A Dishonestly retaining a wrongful credit.

*Possession of housebreaking implements, etc.*

- 25 Going equipped for stealing, etc.

*Enforcement and procedure*

- 26 Search for stolen goods.
- 27 Evidence and procedure on charge of theft or handling stolen goods.
- 28 Orders for restitution.
- 29 Jurisdiction of quarter sessions, and summary trial.

*General and consequential provisions*

- 30 Husband and wife.
- 31 Effect on civil proceedings and rights.
- 32 Effect on existing law and construction of references to offences.
- 33 Miscellaneous and consequential amendments, and repeal.

*Supplementary*

- 34 Interpretation.
- 35 Commencement and transitional provisions.
- 36 Short title, and general provisions as to Scotland and Northern Ireland.

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SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1 — Offences of Taking, etc. Deer or Fish

- 1 . . . . .
- 2 *Taking or destroying fish*

SCHEDULE 2 — Miscellaneous and Consequential Amendments

Part I

- 1 The Post Office Act 1953 shall have effect subject to...
- 2 Sections 22 and 23 shall be amended by substituting for...
- 3 In section 52, as it applies outside England and Wales,...
- 4 In section 53 for the words from “be guilty” onwards...
- 5 In section 54, as it applies outside England and Wales,—...
- 6 In sections 55 and 58(1), after the word “imprisonment”, there...
- 7 In section 57— (a) there shall be omitted the words...
- 8 . . . . .
- 9 Section 69(2) shall be omitted.
- 10 For section 70 there shall be substituted the following section—...

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- 11 In section 72 there shall be added as a new...
  - 12 In section 87(1), the definition of “valuable security” shall be...
    - PART II — OTHER AMENDMENTS EXTENDING BEYOND ENGLAND AND WALES
    - PART III — AMENDMENTS LIMITED TO ENGLAND AND WALES
- SCHEDULE 3 — Repeals
- Part I — PENAL ENACTMENTS SUPERSEDED BY THIS ACT
  - Part II — OBSOLETE AND REDUNDANT ENACTMENTS
  - Part III — CONSEQUENTIAL REPEALS

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