Changes to legislation: Judicature (Northern Ireland) Act 1978 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 25 July 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)



Judicature (Northern Ireland) Act 1978

CHAPTER 23

JUDICATURE (NORTHERN IRELAND) ACT 1978

PART I

CONSTITUTION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE OF NORTHERN IRELAND

- 1 The Supreme Court.
- 2 The High Court.
- 3 The Court of Appeal.
- 4 The Crown Court.
- 5 Divisions of the High Court.
- 6 Judges of one court empowered to assist another.
- 7 Further assistance for transaction of judicial business.
- 8 Additional provisions as to persons rendering judicial assistance.
- 9 Qualifications of judges of High Court and Court of Appeal.
- 10 Judicial precedence.
- 11 Exercise of functions of Lord Chief Justice.
- 12 Appointment of judges.
- 12A Appointment of judges of High Court
- 12A Appointment of judges of the High Court
- 12B Tenure of office
- 12C Tenure of office: Lords Justices of Appeal and certain High Court judges
 - 13 Tenure of office, oath, etc.
 - 14 Vacation of office.
 - 15 Power of judges to act in cases relating to rates and taxes.

PART II

THE HIGH COURT

Changes to legislation: Judicature (Northern Ireland) Act 1978 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 25 July 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)

General jurisdiction

- 16 General jurisdiction of the High Court and its judges.
- 17 Assignment of business to judges.

Supervisory and declaratory jurisdiction

- 18 Application for judicial review.
- 19 Stay and interim relief.
- 20 Damages.
- 21 Power to remit matter or reverse or vary decision.
- 22 Extension of supervisory powers of High Court.
- 23 Declaratory judgments.
- 24 Injunction concerning public office.
- 25 Power of High Court to vary sentence on certiorari.
- 25A Transfer of judicial review applications to Upper Tribunal

Jurisdiction in relation to persons under disability

- Wards of court.
- 27 Maintenance of wards of court.
- 28
- 29 Co-ordination of exercise of jurisdiction in relation to persons under disability.

Admiralty jurisdiction

30 High Court to have exclusive original jurisdiction in admiralty.

Miscellaneous powers of High Court

- 31 Remittal and removal of proceedings.
- 32 Restriction on institution of vexatious actions.
- 33 Execution of instruments by order of court.
- Power of High Court to award interest on debts and damages.

PART III

THE COURT OF APPEAL AND THE HOUSE OF LORDS

- 34 General jurisdiction of Court of Appeal.
- 35 a Appeals to Court of Appeal from High Court.
- 36 Composition of Court of Appeal.
- 37 Powers of a single judge in Court of Appeal.
- 38 Powers of court for purposes of appeals.
- 39, 40
 - 41 Appeals to House of Lords in other criminal matters.
 - 42 Appeals to House of Lords in civil cases.
 - 43 Appeals to House of Lords from High Court.
 - 44 Appeal in cases of contempt of court.
 - 45 Appeal in habeas corpus proceedings.

PART IV

THE CROWN COURT

46 Exclusive jurisdiction in trial on indictment.

Document Generated: 2024-07-25

Status: Point in time view as at 01/04/1997.

Changes to legislation: Judicature (Northern Ireland) Act 1978 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 25 July 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)

- 47 Exercise of jurisdiction by Crown Court.
- 48 Committal for trial on indictment.
- 49 Sentences imposed and other decisions made by Crown Court.
- 50 Right of audience.
- 51 Process to compel appearance before Crown Court.
- 51A Issue of witness summons on application to Crown Court.
- 51B Power to require advance production.
- 51C Summons no longer needed.
- 51D Application to make summons ineffective.
- 51E Issue of witness summons of Crown Court's own motion.
- 51F Application to make summons ineffective.
- 51G Punishment for disobedience to witness summons.
- 51H Further process to secure attendance of witnesses.
 - 52 Crown Court rules.
- 53 Crown Court Rules Committee.
- 53A Making of Crown Court rules

PART V

PRACTICE, PROCEDURE AND TRIALS

- 54 The Supreme Court Rules Committee.
- 55 Rules of Court.
- 55A Making of rules of Court
 - 56 Control and publication of rules.
 - 57 High Court and Court of Appeal to be continuing courts.
 - 58 Sittings of High Court and Court of Appeal.
 - 59 Award of costs.
 - 60 Taxation of costs.
 - 61 Trial with assessors.
- 62 Trial with and without jury.
- 63 Trial of challenge for cause in civil actions.
- 64 Jury in civil actions.
- Rules of court in relation to juries in civil actions.
- 66 Certain affidavits taken abroad admissible without proof of seal etc.
- 67 Subpoenas in other parts of the United Kingdom.

PART VI

DEPARTMENTS AND OFFICERS

- 68 Departments.
- 68A Lord Chancellor's duty
- 69 Northern Ireland Court Service.
- 70 Appointment and qualification of statutory officers.
- 71 Tenure of office of statutory officers.
- 72 Superannuation of statutory officers.
- 73 Restrictions on practice.
- 74 Deputies and temporary appointments.
- 75 Official Solicitor.
- 76 Property held by officers.

Changes to legislation: Judicature (Northern Ireland) Act 1978 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 25 July 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)

PART VII

FUNDS IN COURT

77	Accountant	General	

- 78 Accounts of funds in court.
- 79 Accountant General to keep bank account.
- 80 Payments and transfers.
- 81 Investment of funds in court.
- Rules as to funds in court.
- 83 Application of investment provisions.
- 84 Statutory deposits.
- 85 Provision for default to be made good.

PART VIII

RULES OF LAW IN JUDICIAL MATTERS GENERALLY

- 86 Concurrent administration of law and equity to continue.
- 87 Assignment of debts and choses in action.
- 88 Certain stipulations not to be of the essence of contracts.
- 89 Merger.
- 90 Equitable waste.
- 91 Orders for sale, mandatory or other injunctions and receivers.
- Damages in lieu of or in addition to injunction or specific performance.
- 93 Suits for possession of land by mortgagors.
- 94 Relief from ejectment.
- 94A Withdrawal of privilege against incrimination of self or spouse in certain proceedings.

PART IX

INFERIOR COURTS

County courts

95, 96 97 98 99 100 101	Civil jurisdiction exercisable by circuit registrars. Appointment and assignment of county court judges. Qualifications of county court judges and deputy judges Appointment and assignment of resident magistrates.
	Supplementary
102	Supplementary.

PART X

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

- 103 Appointment of justices of the peace.
- 103A Power of court of record to bind over
 - 104 Under-sheriffs.
 - 105 Solicitors to be officers of court.
 - Rights of audience in the High Court and Court of Appeal.

Document Generated: 2024-07-25

Status: Point in time view as at 01/04/1997.

Changes to legislation: Judicature (Northern Ireland) Act 1978 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 25 July 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)

- 107 Qualification for holding office of solicitors who have been barristers and vice versa.
- 108 Election courts.
- 109 Enrolment etc. of instruments.
- 110 Court bonds.
- 111 Lost negotiable instruments.
- 112 Oaths and affidavits.
- 113 Appointment of conveyancing counsel.
- 114 Other law in Northern Ireland courts.
- 115 Official seals.
- 116 Fees.
- 117 Transfer of certain functions relating to courts to Lord Chancellor.
- 117A Allowances for judges.

PART XI

INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL

- 118 Application to the Crown.
- 119 Making and control of subordinate legislation.
- 120 Interpretation.
- 121 Financial provisions.
- 122 Minor and consequential amendments, transitional provisions and repeals.
- 123 Short title and commencement.

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1 — Appeals to House of Lords in Certain Criminal Matters

- 1 (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2) an application to the court...
- 2 Any application for leave to appeal in a case involving...
- 3 (1) Without prejudice to any other power to grant bail,...
- 4 (1) Where the defendant in any proceedings from which an...
- 5 (1) Where a person subject to a sentence is admitted...
- 6 (1) Rules of court may be made—

SCHEDULE 2 — Departments of the Supreme Court

SCHEDULE 3 — STATUTORY OFFICES

SCHEDULE 4 — Superannuation of Statutory Officers

- 1 In its application to a statutory officer in respect of...
- 2 For the purpose of calculating reckonable service (but not qualifying...
- Notwithstanding paragraph 2, any lump sum payable in addition to...
- 4 Expressions used in this Schedule and in the principal civil...

SCHEDULE 5 — Minor and Consequential Amendments

Part I — GENERAL AMENDMENTS

- 1 (1) Except where the contrary is expressly provided by or...
- 2 (1) In any statutory provision whether passed or made before,...
- References in any statutory provision to rules made under section...
- 4 Paragraphs 1 to 3 apply subject to the provisions of...

Part II — SPECIFIC AMENDMENTS

Changes to legislation: Judicature (Northern Ireland) Act 1978 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 25 July 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)

(1) ACTS OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

Changes to legislation: Judicature (Northern Ireland) Act 1978 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 25 July 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)

The Writ of Subpoena Act 1805

The Tumultuous Risings (Ireland) Act 1831

The Constabulary (Ireland) Act 1836

The Parliamentary Documents Deposit Act 1837

The Slave Trade Act 1843

The Lands Clauses Consolidation Act 1845

The Indictable Offences Act 1848

The Railways Act (Ireland) 1851

The Fines Act (Ireland) 1851

The Petty Sessions (Ireland) Act 1851

The Irish Bankrupt and Insolvent Act 1857

The Landed Estates Court (Ireland) Act 1858

The Railways Act (Ireland) 1860

The Defence Act 1860

The Tramways (Ireland) Act 1860

The Matrimonial Causes and Marriage Law (Ireland) Amendment Act 1870

The Bankruptcy (Ireland) Amendment Act 1872

The Consolidated Fund (Permanent Charges Redemption) Act 1873

The Fines Act (Ireland) 1851, Amendment Act 1874

The Explosives Act 1875

The Appellate Jurisdiction Act 1876

The Settled Estates Act 1877

The Bills of Sale (Ireland) Act 1879

The Settled Land Act 1882

The Land Law (Ireland) Act 1887

The Deeds of Arrangement Act 1887

The Deeds of Arrangement Amendment Act 1890

The Witnesses (Public Inquiries) Protection Act 1892

The Life Insurance Companies (Payment into Court) Act 1896

The Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1932

Changes to legislation: Judicature (Northern Ireland) Act 1978 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 25 July 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)

The Maintenance and Affiliation Orders Act (Northern Ireland) 1966 In section 10(2) after paragraph (e) insert—

The Costs in Criminal Cases Act (Northern Ireland) 1968

In section 4 for the words "Court of Criminal Appeal"...
For section 7 substitute— Rules relating to costs. Rules of court, Crown Court rules, county court rules and...

The Treatment of Offenders Act (Northern Ireland) 1968

The Children and Young Persons Act (Northern Ireland) 1968

The Grand Jury (Abolition) Act (Northern Ireland) 1969

The Judgments (Enforcement) Act (Northern Ireland) 1969

The Nurses and Midwives Act (Northern Ireland) 1970

The Registration of Deeds Act (Northern Ireland) 1970

The Leasehold (Enlargement and Extension) Act (Northern Ireland) 1971

The Payments for Debt (Emergency Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 1971 (a) in the definition of "appropriate authority" for the words...

The Northern Ireland (Crown Proceedings) Order 1949

The Prosecution of Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 1972

The Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972 "division" means a county court division within the meaning of... at the end of the entry relating to officers of...

The Treatment of Offenders (Northern Ireland) Order 1976

The Solicitors (Northern Ireland) Order 1976

The Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 1978

SCHEDULE 6 — Transitional Provisions

Part I — GENERAL

- 1 (1) Proceedings instituted or being carried on heretofore in a...
- 2 Any order or appointment made, direction or authority given or...
- 3 Every rule of court made or deemed to have been...
- 4 General orders made by the Lord Chief Justice under section...
- 5 All forms and methods of civil and criminal procedure and...
- 6 Until the coming into force of section 69(1)—
- 7 In so far as any instrument made or other thing...

Changes to legislation: Judicature (Northern Ireland) Act 1978 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 25 July 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)

- 8 Until the issue of commissions of the peace by virtue...
- 9 Until an order under section 68(3) comes into force in...
- 9A The Lord Chief Justice may nominate any of the following...
- 10 This Part and Parts II and III of this Schedule...
 - Part II THE CROWN COURT
- 11 (1) For the purpose of enabling indictable proceedings instituted before...
- 12 Any indictable proceeding the hearing of which has begun but...
- Nothing in this Act shall affect any order made before...
- 14 The clerk of the Crown and peace of each county...
- 15 (1) Subject to any provision made by rules of court,...
- 16 (1) The Lord Chief Justice may, if it appears to... Part III STATUTORY OFFICERS
- 17 On the coming into operation of section 70(1) the Lord...
- Notwithstanding the provisions of section 70(2), a person who heretofore...

SCHEDULE 7 — REPEALS

PART I — ACTS OF THE PARLIAMENT OF ENGLAND, GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNTIED KINGDOM

PART II — ACTS OF THE IRISH PARLIAMENT AND PARLIAMENT OF

NORTHEN IRELAND.

PART III — ORDERS IN COUNCIL

Status:

Point in time view as at 01/04/1997.

Changes to legislation:

Judicature (Northern Ireland) Act 1978 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 25 July 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.