



# Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981

## CHAPTER 45

### FORGERY AND COUNTERFEITING ACT 1981

#### PART I

##### FORGERY AND KINDRED OFFENCES

###### *Offences*

- 1 The offence of forgery.
- 2 The offence of copying a false instrument.
- 3 The offence of using a false instrument.
- 4 The offence of using a copy of a false instrument.
- 5 Offences relating to money orders, share certificates, passports, etc.

###### *Penalties etc.*

- 6 Penalties for offences under Part I.
- 7 Powers of search, forfeiture, etc.

###### *Interpretation of Part I*

- 8 Meaning of “instrument”.
- 9 Meaning of “false” and “making”.
- 10 Meaning of “prejudice” and “induce”.

###### *Miscellaneous*

- 11 Amendments of Mental Health Acts.
- 12 Amendments of Road Traffic Act and Public Passenger Vehicles Act 1981.
- 13 Abolition of offence of forgery at common law.

*Status: Point in time view as at 10/12/2014.*

*Changes to legislation: Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 May 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 II

### COUNTERFEITING AND KINDRED OFFENCES

#### *Offences*

- 14 Offences of counterfeiting notes and coins.
- 15 Offences of passing etc. counterfeit notes and coins.
- 16 Offences involving the custody or control of counterfeit notes and coins.
- 17 Offences involving the making or custody or control of counterfeiting materials and implements.
- 18 The offence of reproducing British currency notes.
- 19 Offences of making etc. imitation British coins.

#### *Prohibition of importation and exportation of counterfeits*

- 20 Prohibition of importation of counterfeit notes and coins.
- 21 Prohibition of exportation of counterfeit notes and coins.

#### *Penalties etc.*

- 22 Penalties for offences under Part II.
- 23 Penalties for offences under Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 relating to counterfeits.
- 24 Powers of search, forfeiture, etc.
- 25 Directors' etc. liability.
- 26 Amendment of Schedule 1 to the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 1980.

#### *Interpretation of Part II*

- 27 Meaning of "currency note" and "protected coin".
- 28 Meaning of "counterfeit".

## PART III

### MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL

#### *Miscellaneous*

- 29 Amendment of Post Office Act 1953.
- 30 Repeals

#### *Extent*

- 31 Scotland.
- 32 Northern Ireland.

#### *Commencement and short title*

- 33 Commencement.
- 34 Citation.

---

SCHEDULE — Repeals  
 Part I — GENERAL REPEALS CONSEQUENTIAL ON PART I  
 Part II — GENERAL REPEALS CONSEQUENTIAL ON PART II

**Status:** Point in time view as at 10/12/2014.

**Changes to legislation:** *Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 May 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 III — NORTHERN IRELAND LEGISLATION—REPEALS CONSEQUENTIAL  
ON PARTS I AND II

**Status:**

Point in time view as at 10/12/2014.

**Changes to legislation:**

Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 May 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.