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**1999 No. 2765**

**MAGISTRATES' COURTS**

**The Magistrates' Courts (Miscellaneous Amendments)  
Rules 1999**

<i>Made</i> - - - - -	<i>6th October 1999</i>
<i>Laid before Parliament</i>	<i>7th October 1999</i>
<i>Coming into force</i> - -	<i>1st November 1999</i>

The Lord Chancellor, in exercise of the power conferred on him by section 144 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980(a) as extended by section 145 of that Act, after consultation with the Rule Committee appointed under section 144, hereby makes the following Rules:

**Citation and Commencement**

1. These Rules may be cited as the Magistrates' Courts (Miscellaneous Amendments) Rules 1999, and shall come into force on 1st November 1999.

**Amendment to Magistrates' Courts Rules 1981**

2. For rule 54(4) of the Magistrates' Courts Rules 1981(b) there shall be substituted:
- “(4) There shall not be taken under the warrant the clothing or bedding of any person or his family or the tools, books, vehicles or other equipment which he personally needs to use in his employment, business or vocation, provided that in this paragraph the word “person” shall not include a corporation.”.

**Amendment to Magistrates' Courts (Forms) Rules 1981**

3. In the Direction forming part of Form 48 in Schedule 2 to the Magistrates' Courts (Forms) Rules 1981(c), for “to the value of fifty pounds, the tools and implements of the accused's trade” there shall be substituted “the tools, books, vehicles or other equipment which the accused personally needs to use in his employment, business or vocation, provided that these exceptions shall not apply where the accused is a corporation”.

Signed by authority of the Lord Chancellor

6th October 1999

*Keith Vaz*  
Parliamentary Secretary  
Lord Chancellor's Department

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(a) 1980 c. 43.

(b) S.I. 1981/552; amended by S.I. 1992/729.

(c) S.I. 1981/553; there are no relevant amending instruments.

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

*(This note is not part of the Rules)*

These Rules amend the wording in the Magistrates' Courts Rules 1981 preventing distress against clothing and bedding and the tools of the accused's trade, and makes a consequential amendment to the form of distress warrant (Form 48).

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