

**Reprint
as at 26 October 1955**



Law Reform Act 1944

Public Act 1944 No 18
Date of assent 5 December 1944
Commencement 5 December 1944

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An Act to effect miscellaneous reforms in the law

Note

Changes authorised by section 17C of the Acts and Regulations Publication Act 1989 have been made in this reprint.

A general outline of these changes is set out in the notes at the end of this reprint, together with other explanatory material about this reprint.

This Act is administered by the Ministry of Justice.

1 Short Title

This Act may be cited as the Law Reform Act 1944.

2 Damages may be recovered for injury suffered as a result of shock

- (1) In any action for injury to the person, whether founded on contract or in tort or otherwise, a party shall not be debarred from recovering damages merely because the injury complained of arose wholly or in part from mental or nervous shock.

- (2) This section shall bind the Crown.

Section 2(2): inserted, on 26 October 1955, by section 4 of the Law Reform Amendment Act 1955 (1955 No 73).

3 Estate of deceased person liable to remunerate persons for work done under promise of testamentary provision

[Repealed]

Section 3: repealed, on 20 October 1949, by section 7(1) of the Law Reform (Testamentary Promises) Act 1949 (1949 No 33).

4 Construction of month where used in deeds and other instruments

[Repealed]

Section 4: repealed, on 1 January 1953, by section 155(2) of the Property Law Act 1952 (1952 No 51).

5 Rule against perpetuities not to apply to superannuation funds

[Repealed]

Section 5: repealed, on 1 January 1953, by section 155(2) of the Property Law Act 1952 (1952 No 51).

6 Validation of certain gifts void for remoteness

[Repealed]

Section 6: repealed, on 1 January 1953, by section 155(2) of the Property Law Act 1952 (1952 No 51).

7 Wills in contemplation of marriage

[Repealed]

Section 7: repealed, on 1 January 1953, by section 155(2) of the Property Law Act 1952 (1952 No 51).

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Notes

1 *General*

This is a reprint of the Law Reform Act 1944. The reprint incorporates all the amendments to the Act as at 26 October 1955, as specified in the list of amendments at the end of these notes.

Relevant provisions of any amending enactments that contain transitional, savings, or application provisions that cannot be compiled in the reprint are also included, after the principal enactment, in chronological order. For more information, see <http://www.pco.parliament.govt.nz/reprints/>.

2 *Status of reprints*

Under section 16D of the Acts and Regulations Publication Act 1989, reprints are presumed to correctly state, as at the date of the reprint, the law enacted by the principal enactment and by the amendments to that enactment. This presumption applies even though editorial changes authorised by section 17C of the Acts and Regulations Publication Act 1989 have been made in the reprint.

This presumption may be rebutted by producing the official volumes of statutes or statutory regulations in which the principal enactment and its amendments are contained.

3 *How reprints are prepared*

A number of editorial conventions are followed in the preparation of reprints. For example, the enacting words are not included in Acts, and

provisions that are repealed or revoked are omitted. For a detailed list of the editorial conventions, see <http://www.pco.parliament.govt.nz/editorial-conventions/> or Part 8 of the *Tables of New Zealand Acts and Ordinances and Statutory Regulations and Deemed Regulations in Force*.

4 Changes made under section 17C of the Acts and Regulations Publication Act 1989

Section 17C of the Acts and Regulations Publication Act 1989 authorises the making of editorial changes in a reprint as set out in sections 17D and 17E of that Act so that, to the extent permitted, the format and style of the reprinted enactment is consistent with current legislative drafting practice. Changes that would alter the effect of the legislation are not permitted. A new format of legislation was introduced on 1 January 2000. Changes to legislative drafting style have also been made since 1997, and are ongoing. To the extent permitted by section 17C of the Acts and Regulations Publication Act 1989, all legislation reprinted after 1 January 2000 is in the new format for legislation and reflects current drafting practice at the time of the reprint.

In outline, the editorial changes made in reprints under the authority of section 17C of the Acts and Regulations Publication Act 1989 are set out below, and they have been applied, where relevant, in the preparation of this reprint:

- omission of unnecessary referential words (such as “of this section” and “of this Act”)
- typeface and type size (Times Roman, generally in 11.5 point)
- layout of provisions, including:
 - indentation
 - position of section headings (eg, the number and heading now appear above the section)
- format of definitions (eg, the defined term now appears in bold type, without quotation marks)
- format of dates (eg, a date formerly expressed as “the 1st day of January 1999” is now expressed as “1 January 1999”)

- position of the date of assent (it now appears on the front page of each Act)
- punctuation (eg, colons are not used after definitions)
- Parts numbered with roman numerals are replaced with arabic numerals, and all cross-references are changed accordingly
- case and appearance of letters and words, including:
 - format of headings (eg, headings where each word formerly appeared with an initial capital letter followed by small capital letters are amended so that the heading appears in bold, with only the first word (and any proper nouns) appearing with an initial capital letter)
 - small capital letters in section and subsection references are now capital letters
- schedules are renumbered (eg, Schedule 1 replaces First Schedule), and all cross-references are changed accordingly
- running heads (the information that appears at the top of each page)
- format of two-column schedules of consequential amendments, and schedules of repeals (eg, they are rearranged into alphabetical order, rather than chronological).

5 *List of amendments incorporated in this reprint
(most recent first)*

Law Reform Amendment Act 1955 (1955 No 73): section 4

Property Law Act 1952 (1952 No 51): section 155(2)

Law Reform (Testamentary Promises) Act 1949 (1949 No 33): section 7(1)
