

Queensland



EVIDENCE ACT 1977

**Reprinted as in force on 22 December 1993
(includes amendments up to Act No. 76 of 1993)**

Reprint No. 2

**This reprint is prepared by
the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel
Warning—This reprint is not an authorised copy**

Information about this reprint

This Act is reprinted as at 22 December 1993. As required by section 5 of the Reprints Act 1992, it—

- shows the law as amended by all amendments that commenced on or before that day; and
- incorporates all necessary consequential amendments, whether of punctuation, numbering or another kind.

As required by section 6 of the Reprints Act 1992, the reprint includes a reference to the law by which each amendment was made—see List of legislation and List of annotations in Endnotes.

The opportunity has also been taken, under section 7 of the Reprints Act 1992, to do the following—

- use punctuation consistent with current legislative drafting practice as permitted by section 27 of that Act;
- use conjunctives and disjunctives consistent with current legislative drafting practice as permitted by section 28 of that Act;
- use aspects of format and printing style consistent with current legislative drafting practice as permitted by section 35 of that Act.

This page is specific to this reprint. See previous reprint for information about earlier changes made under the Reprints Act 1992. A Table of previous reprints is included in the Endnotes.

Also see Endnotes for—

- **details about when provisions commenced; and**
- **any provisions that have not commenced and are not incorporated in the reprint.**

Queensland



EVIDENCE ACT 1977

TABLE OF PROVISIONS

Section		Page
PART 1—PRELIMINARY		
1	Short title	9
5	Interpretation	9
PART 2—WITNESSES		
<i>Division 1—Who may testify</i>		
6	Witnesses interested or convicted of offence	12
7	Parties, their wives and husbands as witnesses	12
8	Witnesses in a criminal proceeding	12
9	Evidence of children	13
9A	Expert evidence of ability of child under 12 years to give reliable evidence	14
<i>Division 2—Privileges and obligations of witnesses</i>		
10	Privilege against self incrimination	14
11	Communications to husband or wife	15
12	Admissibility of evidence as to access by husband or wife	15
13	Compellability of parties and witnesses as to evidence of adultery	15
14	Abolition of certain privileges	15
<i>Division 3—Examination and cross-examination of witnesses</i>		
15	Questioning a person charged in a criminal proceeding	16
15A	Questioning of witness as to certain convictions	17
16	Witness may be questioned as to previous conviction	17
17	How far a party may discredit the party's own witness	18
18	Proof of previous inconsistent statement of witness	18
19	Witness may be cross-examined as to written statement without being shown it	18

20	Cross-examination as to credit	19
21	Scandalous and insulting questions	19
	<i>Division 4—Evidence of special witnesses</i>	
21A	Evidence of special witnesses	19
	PART 3—MEANS OF OBTAINING EVIDENCE	
	<i>Division 1—Commissions, requests and orders to examine witnesses</i>	
22	Commission, request or order to examine witnesses	22
23	Commission or order in criminal cases	22
24	Power of person appointed by foreign authority to take evidence and administer oaths	23
	<i>Division 2—Summary procedure to obtain evidence for Queensland or other jurisdictions</i>	
25	Interpretation	24
26	Power of Queensland court to request corresponding court in a prescribed country to take evidence for use in Queensland court	25
27	Power to take evidence on request from corresponding court of a prescribed country	25
28	Summons of witnesses	26
29	Examination	26
30	Objections	26
31	Depositions to be signed	27
32	Power of Queensland court to transmit requests to other places	27
33	Saving as to personal attendance	28
	<i>Division 3—General procedure to obtain evidence for other jurisdictions</i>	
35	Interpretation	28
36	Application to Supreme Court to obtain evidence for civil proceedings in another jurisdiction	28
37	Power of Supreme Court to give effect to application to obtain evidence	29
38	Privilege of witnesses	30
39	Judicial proceedings for the purposes of the Criminal Code	31
40	Rules of court	31

**PART 4—JUDICIAL NOTICE OF SEALS, SIGNATURES AND
LEGISLATIVE ENACTMENTS**

41	Seal of Queensland	31
42	Certain signatures etc. to be judicially noticed	31
43	Acts and some statutory instruments to be judicially noticed	32

PART 5—PROOF OF DOCUMENTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Division 1—Proof of official and judicial documents and matters

44	Proof by purported certificate, document etc.	33
45	Proof of Gazette	33
46	Proof of printing by Government Printer—presumption of accuracy	33
47	Proof of votes and proceedings of Legislature	34
48	Proof of proclamations, orders in council etc.	34
49	Proof of standard rules, codes and specifications	35
50	Proof of act done by Governor or Minister	35
51	Proof of public documents	36
52	Proof of registers of British vessels etc.	36
53	Proof of judicial proceedings	37
54	Proof of identity of a person convicted	37
55	Proof of incorporation or registration of company in Queensland	38
56	Proof of Crown land grants	38
57	Proof of lease or licence	39
58	Proof of Letters Patent	39

Division 2—Proof of certain miscellaneous documents and matters

59	Comparison of disputed writing	40
60	Proof of instrument to validity of which attestation is not necessary	40
61	Proof of instrument to validity of which attestation is necessary	40
62	Presumption as to documents 20 years old	40
63	Wills, deeds etc. may be verified by declaration	41
64	Evidentiary effect of probate etc.	41
65	Maps, charts etc.	42
66	Astronomical phenomena	42

Division 3—Proof of certain Australian and overseas documents and matters

67	Interpretation	43
68	Proof of certain Australian and overseas written laws etc.	43
69	Proof of judicial proceedings of an overseas country	44
70	Proof of certain documents admissible elsewhere in Australia	44
71	Royal proclamations, orders of the Privy Council etc.	45
72	Proof of certain Australian and overseas public documents	45
73	Proof of incorporation of certain Australian and overseas companies	45
74	Proof of birth, adoption, death or marriage	46

Division 4—Proof of telegraphic messages

75	Notice of intention to adduce telegraphic message in evidence	46
76	Proof of message	46
77	Proof of sending a message	47

Division 5—Admissibility of convictions in civil proceedings

78	Interpretation	47
79	Convictions as evidence in civil proceedings	47
80	Convictions as evidence in actions for defamation	48
81	Evidence identifying the particulars of a conviction	48
82	Operation of other laws not affected	48

Division 6—Books of account

83	Interpretation	49
84	Entries in book of account to be evidence	49
85	Proof that book is a book of account	49
86	Verification of copy	50
87	Matters which may be proved under this Division ordinarily to be so proved	50
88	Court may order books of account or copies to be made available	50
89	Proof that a person has no account	51
90	Costs	51
91	Application of ss.84–86 and 89	52

PART 6—ADMISSIBILITY OF STATEMENTS

92	Admissibility of documentary evidence as to facts in issue	52
----	--	----

93	Admissibility of documentary evidence as to facts in issue in criminal proceedings	53
93A	Statement made before proceeding by child under 12 years	54
94	Admissibility of evidence concerning credibility of persons responsible for statement	55
95	Admissibility of statements produced by computers	56
96	Inferences concerning admissibility	58
97	Authentication	59
98	Rejection of evidence	59
99	Withholding statement from jury room	59
100	Corroboration	59
101	Witness's previous statement, if proved, to be evidence of facts stated . .	59
102	Weight to be attached to evidence	60
103	Provisions of Part are alternative	61

PART 7—REPRODUCTIONS OF DOCUMENTS

Division 1—Preliminary

104	Interpretation	61
-----	--------------------------	----

Division 2—Reproduction of official documents

105	Certified reproductions of certain official documents etc. to be admissible without further proof	62
-----	---	----

Division 3—Reproduction of business documents

106	Admissibility of reproductions of business documents destroyed, lost or unavailable	65
107	Minister may approve photographing machines	66
108	Affidavit of maker of print from transparency to be evidence	67
109	Proof where document processed by independent processor	68
110	Reproduction not to be admitted as evidence unless transparency in existence	68
111	Transparency etc. may be preserved in lieu of document	69
112	Proof of destruction of documents etc.	69
113	One affidavit sufficient in certain circumstances	70
114	Certification required when affidavit etc. not contained in length or series of film	71
115	Discovery, inspection and production where document destroyed or lost	71

Division 4—General

116	Copies to be evidence	73
117	Further reproduction may be ordered by court	73
118	Colours and tones of reproductions	74
119	Notice to produce not required	75
120	Proof of comparisons not required	75
121	Presumptions as to ancient documents	75
122	Reproductions made in other States	75
123	Judicial notice	76
124	A court may reject reproduction	76
125	Weight of evidence	76
126	Provisions of Part are alternative	77
127	Stamp duty	77
128	Minister may exclude provisions of Part	77
129	Part 5 of Libraries and Archives Act 1988 not affected	77

PART 8—MISCELLANEOUS

130	Rejection of evidence in criminal proceedings	78
131	Witnesses for defence to be sworn	78
132	Actions for breach of promise of marriage	78
133	Impounding documents	78
134	Power to appoint a Government Printer	78
134A	Production of documents by agencies in relation to civil proceedings	78
135	Regulation making power	80

	SCHEDULE 2	81
--	-----------------------------	----

	SCHEDULE 3	82
--	-----------------------------	----

ENDNOTES

1	Index to Endnotes	84
2	Date to which amendments incorporated	84
3	Table of previous reprints	84
4	List of legislation	84
5	List of annotations	86

6	Table of renumbered provisions	88
7	Comparative legislation	88

EVIDENCE ACT 1977

[as amended by all amendments that commenced on or before 22 December 19932]

An Act to consolidate, amend and reform the law of evidence and for related purposes

PART 1—PRELIMINARY

Short title

1.(1) This Act may be cited as the *Evidence Act 1977*³⁻⁷.

(2) This Act other than this section shall come into operation on 1 January 1978.

(2A) This section shall come into operation on the date on which this Act is assented to for and on behalf of the Crown.

(3) This Act binds the Crown not only in right of the State of Queensland but also, so far as the legislative power of Parliament permits, the Crown in all its other capacities.

Interpretation

5.(1) In this Act—

“court” means the court, tribunal, Judge, justice, arbitrator, body or person before whom or which a proceeding is held or taken;

“criminal proceeding” includes a proceeding wherein a person is charged with a simple offence, and an examination of witnesses in relation to an indictable offence;

“document” includes, in addition to a document in writing—

(a) any part of a document in writing or of any other document as

defined herein; and

- (b) any book, map, plan, graph or drawing; and
- (c) any photograph; and
- (d) any label, marking or other writing which identifies or describes anything of which it forms part, or to which it is attached by any means whatever; and
- (e) any disc, tape, sound track or other device in which sounds or other data (not being visual images) are embodied so as to be capable (with or without the aid of some other equipment) of being reproduced therefrom; and
- (f) any film, negative, tape or other device in which 1 or more visual images are embodied so as to be capable (with or without the aid of some other equipment) of being reproduced therefrom; and
- (g) any other record of information whatever;

“film” includes a microfilm;

“Judge” means the member or members of a court;

“proceeding” means any civil, criminal or other proceeding or inquiry, reference or examination in which by law or by consent of parties evidence is or may be given, and includes an arbitration;

“statement” includes any representation of fact, whether made in words or otherwise and whether made by a person, computer or otherwise;

“telegraph” means any system of telecommunication operated by an authority of the Commonwealth that provides telecommunications services or by any other authority approved by proclamation;

“telegraphic message” means any message or other communication transmitted or intended for transmission or purporting to have been transmitted by telegraph;

“telegraph office” means any office or station established or used for the receipt or transmission of telegraphic messages by an authority of the Commonwealth that provides telecommunications services or by any authority approved by proclamation;

“undertaking” includes public administration and any business, profession, occupation, calling, trade or undertaking whether engaged

in or carried on—

- (a) by the Crown (in right of the State of Queensland or any other right), or by a statutory body, or by any other person; or
- (b) for profit or not; or
- (c) in Queensland or elsewhere.

(2) In this Act, any reference to a copy of a document includes—

- (a) in the case of a document falling within paragraph (e) but not paragraph (f) of the definition “document” in subsection (1)—a transcript of the sounds or other data embodied therein; and
- (b) in the case of a document falling within paragraph (f) but not paragraph (e) of that definition—a reproduction or still reproduction of the image or images embodied therein, whether enlarged or not; and
- (c) in the case of a document falling within both those paragraphs—such a transcript together with such a reproduction or still reproduction; and
- (d) in the case of a document not falling within the said paragraph (f) of which a visual image is embodied in a document falling within that paragraph—a reproduction or still reproduction of that image, whether enlarged or not;

and any reference to a copy of the material part of a document shall be construed accordingly.

(3) For the purposes of this Act a document, including any instrument or part of an instrument, purports—

- (a) to be of a certain character; or
- (b) to have been produced or authenticated at a certain time, in a certain manner, by a certain person or body, or by a person having a certain qualification or occupying a certain office; or
- (c) any other matter whatever;

if the document expressly or impliedly represents that matter or a court can assume that matter from the contents of the document or otherwise.

PART 2—WITNESSES

Division 1—Who may testify

Witnesses interested or convicted of offence

6. No person shall be excluded from giving evidence in any proceeding on the ground—

- (a) that the person has or may have an interest in the matter in question, or in the result of the proceeding; or
- (b) that the person has previously been convicted of any offence.

Parties, their wives and husbands as witnesses

7.(1) Each of the parties to a proceeding (not being a criminal proceeding) and a person on whose behalf such a proceeding is brought or defended is competent and compellable to give evidence on behalf of either or any of the parties to the proceeding.

(2) The husband or wife of a party to a proceeding (not being a criminal proceeding) and the husband or wife of a person on whose behalf such a proceeding is brought or defended is competent and compellable to give evidence on behalf of either or any of the parties to the proceeding.

Witnesses in a criminal proceeding

8.(1) In a criminal proceeding, each person charged is competent to give evidence on behalf of the defence (whether that person is charged solely or jointly with any other person) but is not compellable to do so.

(2) In a criminal proceeding, the husband or wife of each person charged is competent to give evidence for the prosecution or on behalf of the defence.

(3) In a criminal proceeding, the husband or wife of each person charged is compellable to give evidence on behalf of that person.

(4) In a criminal proceeding, the husband or wife of each person charged is compellable to give evidence for the prosecution or on behalf of the

defence where—

- (a) the offence charged against that person is under any provision mentioned in Schedule 2 or is an attempt to commit or an attempt to procure the commission of such an offence; and
- (b) the person against or in respect of whom the offence charged is alleged to have been committed was at the time of the commission of the offence under the age of 16 years.

(5) In a criminal proceeding, the husband or wife of each person charged is compellable to give evidence for the prosecution or on behalf of the defence wherever at common law he or she would have been competent or compellable to give evidence for the prosecution.

(6) Where the husband or wife of a person charged is competent but not compellable to give evidence for the prosecution or on behalf of the defence, the presiding Judge, stipendiary magistrate or justice shall before the witness gives evidence and, where the proceeding is being conducted before a jury, in the absence of the jury, inform the witness that the witness is not compellable to give evidence if unwilling to do so.

(7) Nothing in this section shall—

- (a) make the husband or wife of a person charged competent or compellable to give evidence for the prosecution or compellable to give evidence for the defence in a criminal proceeding in which that husband or wife is also charged; or
- (b) affect the operation of section 11.

Evidence of children

9.(1) Where in any proceeding a child called as a witness does not in the opinion of the court understand the nature of an oath, the court—

- (a) shall explain to the child the duty of speaking the truth; and
- (b) whether or not the child understands that duty, shall receive the evidence of the child though not given on oath unless satisfied that the child does not have sufficient intelligence to give reliable evidence.

(2) A person charged with an offence may be convicted upon evidence admitted by virtue of this section.

(3) The fact that the evidence of a child in any proceeding is not given on oath shall not of itself diminish the probative value of the evidence.

(4) A child whose evidence has been received by virtue of this section is liable to be convicted of perjury in all respects as if the child had given the evidence upon oath.

(5) The evidence of a child, though not given upon oath, but otherwise taken and reduced into writing as a deposition, shall be deemed to be a deposition to all intents and purposes.

Expert evidence of ability of child under 12 years to give reliable evidence

9A. Where in any proceeding—

(a) a court is determining whether a child under the age of 12 years has sufficient intelligence to give reliable evidence; or

(b) the evidence of a child under the age of 12 years is admitted;

expert evidence is admissible relating to the level of intelligence of the child including the child's powers of perception, memory and expression or relating to any other matter relevant to the child's ability to give reliable evidence.

Division 2—Privileges and obligations of witnesses

Privilege against self incrimination

10.(1) Nothing in this Act shall render any person compellable to answer any question tending to criminate the person.

(2) However, in a criminal proceeding where a person charged gives evidence, the person's liability to answer any such question shall be governed by section 15.

Communications to husband or wife

11. A husband is not compellable in a criminal proceeding in which his wife is charged to disclose any communication made to him by his wife

during the marriage and a wife is not compellable in a criminal proceeding in which her husband is charged to disclose any communication made to her by her husband during the marriage.

Admissibility of evidence as to access by husband or wife

12. Notwithstanding anything contained in any Act or any rule of law, neither the evidence of any person nor any statement made out of court by any person shall be inadmissible in any proceeding whatever by reason of the fact that it is tendered with the object of proving, or that it proves or tends to prove, that marital intercourse did or did not take place at any time or during any period between that person and a person who is or was the person's wife or husband or that any child is or was, or is not or was not, their legitimate child.

Compellability of parties and witnesses as to evidence of adultery

13. Notwithstanding anything in any Act or any rule of law, in any proceeding whatever—

- (a) a party shall not be entitled to refuse to answer any interrogatory or to give discovery of documents;
- (b) a witness, whether a party or not, shall not be entitled to refuse to answer any question, whether relevant to any issue or relating to credit merely;

on the ground solely that such answer or discovery would or might relate to, or would tend or might tend to establish, adultery by that party or that witness, or by any other person with that party or that witness, as the case may be.

Abolition of certain privileges

14.(1) The following rules of law are hereby abrogated except in relation to criminal proceedings, that is to say—

- (a) the rule whereby, in any proceeding, a person cannot be compelled to answer any question or produce any document or thing if to do so would tend to expose the person to a forfeiture;

- (b) the rule whereby, in any proceeding, a person other than a party to the proceeding cannot be compelled to produce any deed or other document relating to the person's title to any land.

(2) The rule of law whereby, in any civil proceeding, a party to the proceeding cannot be compelled to produce any document relating solely to the party's own case and in no way tending to impeach that case or support the case of any opposing party is hereby abrogated.

Division 3—Examination and cross-examination of witnesses

Questioning a person charged in a criminal proceeding

15.(1) Where in a criminal proceeding a person charged gives evidence, the person shall not be entitled to refuse to answer a question or produce a document or thing on the ground that to do so would tend to prove the commission by the person of the offence with which the person is there charged.

(2) Where in a criminal proceeding a person charged gives evidence, the person shall not be asked, and if asked shall not be required to answer, any question tending to show that the person has committed or been convicted of or been charged with any offence other than that with which the person is there charged, or is of bad character, unless—

- (a) the question is directed to showing a matter of which the proof is admissible evidence to show that the person is guilty of the offence with which the person is there charged; or
- (b) the question is directed to showing a matter of which the proof is admissible evidence to show that any other person charged in that criminal proceeding is not guilty of the offence with which that other person is there charged; or
- (c) the person has personally or by counsel asked questions of any witness with a view to establishing the person's own good character, or has given evidence of the person's good character, or the nature or conduct of the defence is such as to involve imputations on the character of the prosecutor or of any witness for the prosecution or of any other person charged in that criminal proceeding; or

- (d) the person has given evidence against any other person charged in that criminal proceeding.

(3) Permission of the court to ask any question of a kind mentioned in subsection (2)(c) (to be applied for in a trial by jury in the absence of the jury) must first be obtained.

Questioning of witness as to certain convictions

15A. A witness in any criminal or civil proceeding shall not be asked and if asked shall not be required to answer any question tending to show that the witness has committed or been convicted of or been charged with any offence if, where the witness has been convicted of the offence—

- (a) the conviction is one in relation to which a rehabilitation period is capable of running pursuant to the *Criminal Law (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act 1986*; and
- (b) in relation to the conviction the rehabilitation period within the meaning of that Act is not running at the time of the criminal or civil proceeding;

unless the permission of the court to ask the question has first been obtained, such permission to be applied for in a trial by jury in the absence of the jury.

Witness may be questioned as to previous conviction

16. Subject to this Act, a witness may be questioned as to whether the witness has been convicted of any indictable or other offence and upon being so questioned, if the witness either denies the fact or refuses to answer, it shall be lawful for the party so questioning to prove such conviction.

How far a party may discredit the party's own witness

17.(1) A party producing a witness shall not be allowed to impeach the credit of the witness by general evidence of bad character but may contradict the witness by other evidence, or (in case the witness in the opinion of the court proves adverse) may by leave of the court prove that the witness has made at other times a statement inconsistent with the present testimony of

the witness.

(2) However, before such last mentioned proof can be given, the circumstances of the supposed statement sufficient to designate the particular occasion must be mentioned to the witness and the witness must be asked whether or not the witness has made such statement.

Proof of previous inconsistent statement of witness

18.(1) If a witness upon cross-examination as to a former statement made by the witness relative to the subject matter of the proceeding and inconsistent with the present testimony of the witness does not distinctly admit that the witness has made such statement, proof may be given that the witness did in fact make it.

(2) However, before such proof can be given, the circumstances of the supposed statement sufficient to designate the particular occasion must be mentioned to the witness and the witness must be asked whether or not the witness has made such statement.

Witness may be cross-examined as to written statement without being shown it

19.(1) A witness may be cross-examined as to a previous statement made by the witness in writing or reduced into writing relative to the subject matter of the proceeding without such writing being shown to the witness.

(1A) However, if it is intended to contradict the witness by the writing the attention of the witness must, before such contradictory proof can be given, be called to those parts of the writing which are to be used for the purpose of so contradicting the witness.

(2) A court may at any time during the hearing of a proceeding direct that the writing containing a statement referred to in subsection (1) be produced to the court and the court may make such use in the proceeding of the writing as the court thinks fit.

Cross-examination as to credit

20. Where any question put to a witness in cross-examination is not relevant to the proceeding except in so far as the truth of the matter

suggested by the question affects the credit of the witness by injuring the character of the witness, the court has a discretion to disallow the question if, in its opinion, the matter is so remote in time or is of such a nature that an admission of its truth would not materially affect the credibility of the witness.

Scandalous and insulting questions

21.(1) A court may disallow a question which, in the opinion of the court, is indecent or scandalous unless the question relates to a fact in issue in the proceeding or to matters necessary to be known in order to determine whether or not the facts in issue existed.

(2) A court may disallow a question which, in the opinion of the court, is intended only to insult or annoy or is needlessly offensive in form.

Division 4—Evidence of special witnesses

Evidence of special witnesses

21A.(1) In this section—

“**special witness**” means—

- (a) a child under the age of 12 years; or
- (b) a person who, in the court’s opinion—
 - (i) would, as a result of intellectual impairment or cultural differences, be likely to be disadvantaged as a witness; or
 - (ii) would be likely to suffer severe emotional trauma; or
 - (iii) would be likely to be so intimidated as to be disadvantaged as a witness;

if required to give evidence in accordance with the usual rules and practice of the court.

(1A) A party to a proceeding or, in a criminal proceeding, the person charged may be a special witness.

(2) Where a special witness is to give or is giving evidence in any proceeding, the court may, of its own motion or upon application made by a

party to the proceeding, make 1 or more of the following orders—

- (a) in the case of a criminal proceeding—that the person charged be excluded from the room in which the court is sitting or be obscured from the view of the special witness while the special witness is giving evidence or is required to appear in court for any other purpose;
- (b) that, while the special witness is giving evidence, all persons other than those specified by the court be excluded from the room in which it is sitting;
- (c) that the special witness give evidence in a room—
 - (i) other than that in which the court is sitting; and
 - (ii) from which all persons other than those specified by the court are excluded;
- (d) that a person approved by the court be present while the special witness is giving evidence or is required to appear in court for any other purpose in order to provide emotional support to the special witness;
- (e) that a videotape of the evidence of the special witness or any portion of it be made under such conditions as are specified in the order and that the videotaped evidence be viewed and heard in the proceeding instead of the direct testimony of the special witness.

(3) An order shall not be made pursuant to subsection (2) if it appears to the court that the making of the order would unfairly prejudice any party to the proceeding or, in a criminal proceeding, the person charged or the prosecution.

(4) Subject to any order made pursuant to subsection (5), in any criminal proceeding an order shall not be made pursuant to subsection (2)(a), (b) or (c) excluding the person charged from the room in which a special witness is giving evidence unless provision is made, by means of an electronic device or otherwise, for that person to see and hear the special witness while the special witness is giving evidence.

(5) Where the making of a videotape of the evidence of a special witness is ordered pursuant to subsection (2)(e), the court may further order that all persons other than those specified by the court be excluded from the room in which the special witness is giving that evidence.

(5A) However, any person entitled in the proceeding to examine or cross-examine the special witness shall be given reasonable opportunity to view any portion of the videotape of the evidence relevant to the conduct of that examination or cross-examination.

(6) A videotape, made under this section, of any portion of the evidence of a special witness shall be admissible as if the evidence were given orally in the proceeding in accordance with the usual rules and practice of the court.

(7) The room in which a special witness gives evidence pursuant to an order made pursuant to subsection (2)(c) or the room occupied by a special witness while the evidence of the witness is being videotaped shall be deemed to be part of the court in which the proceeding is being held.

(8) Rules of court may be made for any court—

- (a) regulating the practice and procedure in relation to the making of any determination or order referred to in this section;
- (b) in relation to the manner in which any order made under this section is to be carried out or in relation to any other matter incidental to the carrying out of any such order.

(9) Until such rules of court are made or to the extent that they do not apply, a court may, in any particular case, give directions concerning any matter referred to in subsection (8)(a) or (b) and those directions shall, according to their tenor, have the force and effect of rules of court.

PART 3—MEANS OF OBTAINING EVIDENCE

Division 1—Commissions, requests and orders to examine witnesses

Commission, request or order to examine witnesses

22.(1) The Supreme Court or a Judge thereof, on application made in manner prescribed by rules of the Supreme Court, shall have the same powers to issue a commission, request or order to examine witnesses for the purpose of civil proceedings in any court other than the Supreme Court

as it or the Judge has for the purpose of civil proceedings in the Supreme Court.

(2) The rules of the Supreme Court, with such adaptations as the circumstances may require, shall apply and extend to a commission, request or order to examine witnesses issued by authority of subsection (1) and to all proceedings taken thereunder as if the commission, request or order were issued by authority of those rules.

(3) Subject to all just exceptions, the depositions taken upon the examination of a witness before an examiner by virtue of this section certified under the hand of the examiner are admissible in evidence, without proof of the signature to such certificate, unless it is proved that the witness is at the time of the hearing at which the depositions are offered in evidence within a convenient distance of the place of the hearing and able to attend.

(4) The costs of proceedings taken by virtue of this section shall be costs in the cause, unless otherwise directed either by the Judge issuing the commission, request or order or by the court for the purpose of whose proceedings the examination is conducted.

Commission or order in criminal cases

23.(1) In any criminal proceeding, if any witness is out of the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court or more than 400 km from the intended place of trial or is from age or infirmity unable to attend the trial or if the testimony of any witness is in danger of being lost by reason of the age or infirmity of the witness or by reason of the witness being about to depart out of the jurisdiction or to some place beyond the said distance of 400 km, the Supreme Court or a Judge thereof may, on the application or with the consent of the Attorney-General or the Crown Prosecutor as well as the person charged, but not otherwise, order—

- (a) that any such witness within the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court be examined on oath, either *viva voce* or upon interrogatories or otherwise, before a specified officer of the Court or other specified person; or
- (b) that a commission issue for the examination of such witness on oath, either *viva voce* or upon interrogatories or otherwise, at any place in or out of the jurisdiction.

(2) The Supreme Court or a Judge thereof may, at the same time or subsequently, give all such directions touching the time, place and manner of such examination, as well within the jurisdiction as without, and all other matters and circumstances connected with such examination as appear reasonable and just.

(3) Subject to all just exceptions, the depositions taken upon the examination of a witness before an examiner by virtue of this section certified under the hand of the examiner are admissible in evidence, without proof of the signature to such certificate, unless it is proved that the witness is at the time of the hearing at which the depositions are offered in evidence within a convenient distance of the place of the hearing and able to attend.

(4) Any person authorised by any order or commission under this section to take the examination of any witness shall take such examination upon the oath of such witness and may administer the necessary oaths to such witness.

Power of person appointed by foreign authority to take evidence and administer oaths

24.(1) Subject to subsections (2) to (4), where an authority desires to take or receive evidence in Queensland, that authority may appoint a person to take or receive evidence in Queensland and a person so appointed has power to take or receive evidence in Queensland for that authority and for that purpose to administer an oath.

(2) Where the authority is not a court or Judge, a person so appointed has no power to take or receive evidence, or to administer an oath, in Queensland unless the person has first obtained the consent of the Attorney-General.

(3) This section does not authorise the taking or receiving of evidence by a person so appointed in or for use in criminal proceedings.

(4) In this section—

“authority” means any court, Judge, or person who, or body which, is authorised under the law of a place outside Queensland to take or receive evidence on oath or under any other sanction authorised by law in that place.

Division 2—Summary procedure to obtain evidence for Queensland or other jurisdictions

Interpretation

25. In this Division—

“corresponding court”—

- (a) in relation to a court or person acting judicially in a prescribed country—means the court or person acting judicially in Queensland that is declared by notice in writing under the hand of the Attorney-General published in the Gazette to be the court or person in Queensland that corresponds to that court or person in the prescribed country; and
- (b) in relation to a court or person acting judicially in Queensland—means the court or person acting judicially in a prescribed country that is declared by notice in writing under the hand of the Attorney-General published in the Gazette to be the court or person in a prescribed country that corresponds to that court or person in Queensland;

“examiner” means a Judge, magistrate, clerk of a Magistrates Court or any duly qualified legal practitioner;

“prescribed country” means any State or Territory of the Commonwealth, New Zealand and any other State, Territory or country that is declared by regulation to be a prescribed country for the purposes of this Division.

Power of Queensland court to request corresponding court in a prescribed country to take evidence for use in Queensland court

26.(1) Where a court or person acting judicially in Queensland is authorised by or under any Act or law to authorise or order evidence to be taken otherwise than at the hearing of the legal proceedings in respect of which the evidence is required, that court or person may on the application of a person who desires to lead evidence, if it or the person is satisfied that it is necessary in the interests of justice, request a corresponding court to order the examination of a witness or the production of documents by a person or both such examination and production.

(2) Any deposition received from a corresponding court which purports to have been signed by the deponent and the examiner or to have been certified as a correct record by the examiner may, subject to all just exceptions, be put in as evidence at the hearing of the legal proceedings and any documents received from a corresponding court may, subject to all just exceptions, be put in at the hearing as if produced at the hearing by the person who produced the documents pursuant to the order of the corresponding court.

(3) A court or person acting judicially shall take judicial notice of the seal of a corresponding court and of the signature of any examiner appointed by a corresponding court.

Power to take evidence on request from corresponding court of a prescribed country

27.(1) Where by or under any Act or law of a prescribed country provision is made for the evidence of any person that is required in connection with any legal proceedings to be taken otherwise than at the hearing of those proceedings by a court or person acting judicially, a court or person acting judicially in Queensland that is a corresponding court to a court or person acting judicially in the prescribed country before which or whom legal proceedings are being held may, upon receipt of a request in writing from that court or person in the prescribed country, make an order for the examination of a witness and the production of documents by a person or both for such examination or production before an examiner named in the order at a time and place specified in the order.

(2) The order shall require reasonable notice to be given by post to each party to the legal proceedings at the party's address as shown in the request of the time when and place where the examination is to take place or the documents are to be produced.

Summons of witnesses

28. Upon service on a person of an order requiring the person to attend for examination or to produce documents, together with the payment or tender of a reasonable sum for expenses, the person shall attend at the time and place appointed and shall have and be subject to the same rights and liabilities as if the person were summoned before the court or person by

which or whom the order was made.

Examination

29.(1) Subject to any directions contained in the order for examination—

- (a) a person ordered to be examined before the examiner may be cross-examined and re-examined; and
- (b) the examination, cross-examination and re-examination of persons before the examiner shall be conducted in like manner as they would have been conducted before the court or person acting judicially who made the order for the examination.

(2) The examiner may put any question to a person examined before the examiner as to the meaning of any answer made by that person or as to any matter arising in the course of the examination.

(3) An examiner shall have and may exercise such of the powers of the court or person acting judicially by whom the examiner was appointed as are necessary for the proper exercise of the examiner's functions under this Division and may administer oaths and adjourn the examination from time to time as the examiner thinks fit.

Objections

30.(1) If a person being examined before an examiner objects to answering any question put to the person, or if objection is taken to any such question that question, the ground for the objection and the answer to any such question to which objection is taken shall be set out in the deposition of that person or any statement annexed thereto.

(2) The validity of the ground for objecting to answer any such question or for objecting to such question shall not be determined by the examiner but by the corresponding court at whose request the examination is being conducted.

Depositions to be signed

31.(1) Where pursuant to an order for examination—

- (a) a witness has given evidence to the examiner, the depositions of

the witness shall be signed by the witness and by the examiner or where the witness refuses to sign or requires alterations that the examiner considers to be unjustified the depositions shall be signed by the examiner who shall certify that the depositions are a correct record and the reasons for them not being signed by the witness;

- (b) documents have been produced to the examiner by a person not giving evidence, the examiner shall attach to such documents a certificate signed by the examiner stating the name of that person.

(2) All depositions and documents taken before or produced to the examiner pursuant to any such order shall be delivered by the examiner to the court or person by which or whom the order was made for transmission to the corresponding court.

Power of Queensland court to transmit requests to other places

32. Where a court or person acting judicially in Queensland receives a request from a corresponding court for the examination of a witness or the production of documents by a person and it appears to the court or person acting judicially that the witness or person is not in Queensland and is not proceeding to Queensland but is in or proceeding to another country that is a prescribed country under the law of the country of the corresponding court the court—

- (a) may transmit the request to a corresponding court in that other prescribed country together with such information as it or the person possesses concerning the whereabouts and intended movements of the person;
- (b) shall give notice to the corresponding court from which it received the request that the documents have been so transmitted.

Saving as to personal attendance

33. Nothing in this Division limits or abridges the power of a court or a person acting judicially to require a witness to attend in person before the court or person.

Division 3—General procedure to obtain evidence for other jurisdictions**Interpretation**

35.(1) In this Division—

“civil proceedings”, in relation to a requesting court, means proceedings in any civil or commercial matter;

“overseas country” means a country, or part of a country, outside the Commonwealth;

“request” includes any commission, order or other process issued by or on behalf of a requesting court;

“requesting court” has the meaning given to it in section 36.

(2) Nothing in this Division shall be construed as enabling any court to make an order that is binding on the Crown or on any person in the person’s capacity as an officer or servant of the Crown.

Application to Supreme Court to obtain evidence for civil proceedings in another jurisdiction

36. Where an application by way of originating summons is made to the Supreme Court or a Judge thereof for an order for evidence to be obtained in the State, and the Court or Judge is satisfied—

- (a) that the application is made in pursuance of a request issued by or on behalf of a court or tribunal (**“the requesting court”**) exercising jurisdiction in a State or Territory of the Commonwealth other than Queensland or in an overseas country; and
- (b) that the evidence to which the application relates is to be obtained for the purposes of civil proceedings which either have been instituted before the requesting court or whose institution before that court is contemplated;

the Court or Judge shall have the powers conferred by the following provisions of this Division.

Power of Supreme Court to give effect to application to obtain evidence

37.(1) The Supreme Court or a Judge thereof on an application under section 36 shall have power by order to make such provision for obtaining evidence in the State as may appear to be appropriate for the purpose of giving effect to the request in pursuance of which the application is made, and any such order may require a person specified therein to take such steps as the Court or Judge may consider appropriate for that purpose.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), an order under this section may make provision—

- (a) for the examination of witnesses, either orally or in writing; and
- (b) for the production of documents; and
- (c) for the inspection, photographing, preservation, custody or detention of any property; and
- (d) for the taking of samples of any property and the carrying out of any experiments on or with any property; and
- (e) for the medical examination of any person.

(3) An order under this section shall not require any particular steps to be taken unless they are steps which can be required to be taken by way of obtaining evidence for the purposes of civil proceedings in the Supreme Court (whether or not proceedings of the same description as those to which the application for the order relates), but this subsection shall not preclude the making of an order requiring a person to give testimony (either orally or in writing) otherwise than on oath where this is asked for by the requesting court.

(4) An order under this section shall not require a person—

- (a) to state what documents relevant to the proceedings to which the application for the order relates are or have been in the person's possession or power; or
- (b) to produce any documents other than particular documents specified in the order as being documents appearing to the court making the order to be, or to be likely to be, in the person's possession or power.

(5) A person who, by virtue of an order under this section, is required to

attend at any place shall be entitled to the like conduct money and payment for expenses and loss of time as on attendance as a witness in civil proceedings before the Supreme Court.

(6) An order under this section may be enforced in the same manner as if it were an order made by the Supreme Court or a Judge thereof in proceedings pending in the Supreme Court or before the Judge.

Privilege of witnesses

38.(1) A person shall not be compelled by virtue of an order under section 37 to give any evidence which the person could not be compelled to give—

- (a) in civil proceedings in the State; or
- (b) subject to subsection (2), in civil proceedings in the State or Territory of the Commonwealth or the overseas country in which the requesting court exercises jurisdiction.

(2) Subsection (1)(b) shall not apply unless the claim of the person in question to be exempt from giving the evidence is either—

- (a) supported by a statement contained in the request (whether it is so supported unconditionally or subject to conditions that are fulfilled); or
- (b) conceded by the applicant for the order;

and where such a claim made by any person is not supported or conceded as aforesaid the person may (subject to the other provisions of this section) be required to give the evidence to which the claim relates but that evidence shall not be transmitted to the requesting court if that court, on the matter being referred to it, upholds the claim.

(3) In this section, references to giving evidence include references to answering any question and to producing any document and the reference in subsection (2) to the transmission of evidence given by a person shall be construed accordingly.

Judicial proceedings for the purposes of the Criminal Code

39. Proceedings wherein a person gives or is required to give any

testimony (either orally or in writing) pursuant to an order under section 37 shall be a judicial proceeding for the purposes of Chapter 16 of the Criminal Code whether or not the testimony is given or required to be given on oath or under any other sanction authorised by law.

Rules of court

40. All such rules of court as may be necessary or convenient for regulating the practice and procedure under this Division and for giving full effect to the provisions of this Division may be made pursuant to the power to make rules of court conferred by the *Supreme Court Act 1921*.

PART 4—JUDICIAL NOTICE OF SEALS, SIGNATURES AND LEGISLATIVE ENACTMENTS

Seal of Queensland

41. All courts shall take judicial notice of the impression of the seal of Queensland without evidence of such seal having been impressed or any other evidence relating thereto.

Certain signatures etc. to be judicially noticed

42.(1) All courts shall take judicial notice of—

- (a) the signature of any person who holds or has held in Queensland the office of Governor, Judge of the Supreme Court, Prothonotary, Master, Registrar or Chief Clerk of the Supreme Court, Judge or Commissioner of any Court of Bankruptcy or Insolvency, Curator of Intestate Estates, Registrar of Titles, Deputy Registrar of Titles, Registrar-General, Deputy Registrar-General, Government Statistician, Assistant or Deputy Government Statistician, Judge of any District Court or Court of Mines, Member of the Land Court, Registrar of the Land Court, Secretary of the Land Administration Commission, Registrar of Dealings of the Department of Lands, Surveyor-General, Warden

of any Wardens Court, or Police or Stipendiary or Special Magistrate or Justice of the Peace, or any office corresponding to any of the aforesaid offices, or any office to which this section may be declared by regulation to apply; and

- (b) the official seal of every such person or Court; and
- (c) the fact that such person holds or has held such office;

if the signature or seal purports to be attached or appended to any judicial or official document.

(2) The provisions of this section shall be in addition to and not in derogation of any powers existing at common law, or given by any law in force in Queensland.

Acts and some statutory instruments to be judicially noticed

43. All courts must take judicial notice of the following—

- (a) every Act;
- (b) every statutory instrument made or purporting to be made by the Governor or the Governor in Council;
- (c) the day on which every Act or statutory instrument and every provision of every Act or statutory instrument mentioned in paragraph (b) commenced.

PART 5—PROOF OF DOCUMENTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Division 1—Proof of official and judicial documents and matters

Proof by purported certificate, document etc.

44. Where by a law in force in Queensland—

- (a) a certificate; or

- (b) an official or public document; or
- (c) a document of a corporation; or
- (d) a copy of, or extract from, a document;

is admissible in evidence for any purpose, a document purporting to be the certificate, document, copy or extract shall, unless the contrary intention appears, be admissible in evidence to the same extent and for the same purpose provided that it purports to be authenticated in the manner (if any) directed by that law.

Proof of Gazette

45. The production of a document purporting to be the Gazette shall be evidence that the document is the Gazette and was published on the day on which it bears date.

Proof of printing by Government Printer—presumption of accuracy

46.(1) The production of a document purporting to be printed by the Government Printer or by the authority of the Government of the State shall be evidence that the document was printed by the Government Printer or by such authority.

(2) A document purporting to be—

- (a) a copy of an Act or a copy of an Act incorporating all amendments to a date specified therein; and
- (b) printed by the Government Printer or by the authority of the Government of the State;

shall be taken to be a correct copy of the Act or, as the case may be, of the Act as amended to that date until the contrary is proved and the date appearing therein as the date on which the Act was assented to by and on behalf of the Crown shall for all purposes be evidence of the date of such assent.

Proof of votes and proceedings of Legislature

47.(1) All documents purporting to be copies of the Votes and Proceedings of the Legislature or of any House of the Legislature, if

purporting to be printed by the Government Printer or by the authority of the Government of the State, shall on their production be admitted as evidence thereof.

(2) In this section—

“**Votes and Proceedings**” shall be deemed to include Journals and Minutes, Bills before the Legislature and any papers purporting to be printed by the authority of and to be laid before the Legislature or any House of the Legislature.

Proof of proclamations, orders in council etc.

48. Evidence of—

- (a) a proclamation, order in council, commission, order, rule, regulation or other instrument made or issued by the Governor or Governor in Council; or
- (b) an order, rule, regulation or other instrument made or issued by or under the authority of any Minister of the Crown or of any public commission or board;

may be given—

- (c) by the production of the Gazette purporting to contain it; or
- (d) by the production of a document purporting to be a copy of it and purporting to be printed by the Government Printer or by the authority of the Government of the State; or
- (e) by the production (in the case of a proclamation, order in council, commission, order, rule, regulation or other instrument made or issued by the Governor or Governor in Council) of a copy or extract purporting to be certified as a true copy or extract under the hand of the Clerk of the Executive Council; or
- (f) by the production (in the case of any order, rule, regulation or other instrument made or issued by or under the authority of any Minister of the Crown) of a copy or extract purporting to be certified as a true copy or extract under the hand of any Minister of the Crown.

Proof of standard rules, codes and specifications

49. Where—

- (a) any Act; or
- (b) any rule, regulation or other instrument pursuant to a power conferred by any Act;

adopts by way of reference, wholly or in part, any of the standard rules, codes or specifications of the bodies known as the Standards Association of Australia, the British Standards Institution or other body expressly or impliedly identified in the Act, evidence of any such standard rule, code or specification may be given—

- (c) by the production of a document purporting to be a copy of it and purporting to be published by or on behalf of the Standards Association of Australia, the British Standards Institution or other body concerned; or
- (d) by the production of a document purporting to be a copy of it and purporting to be printed by the Government Printer or by the authority of the Government of the State.

Proof of act done by Governor or Minister

50. Where by any law at any time in force the Governor or the Governor in Council or a Minister of the Crown is authorised or empowered to do any act, production of the Gazette purporting to contain a copy or notification of any such act shall be evidence of such act having been duly done.

Proof of public documents

51. Where a document is of such a public nature as to be admissible in evidence on its mere production from proper custody, a copy of or extract from the document shall be admissible in evidence if—

- (a) it is proved to be an examined copy or extract; or
- (b) it purports to be certified as a true copy or extract under the hand of a person described in the certificate as the person to whose custody the original is entrusted.

Proof of registers of British vessels etc.

52.(1) Every register of a vessel kept under any of the Acts relating to the registry of British vessels may be proved by the production of—

- (a) the original; or
- (b) an examined copy of the original; or
- (c) a copy purporting to be certified as a true copy under the hand of the person having the charge of the original.

(2) A person having the charge of the original of such register is required to furnish such certified copy to any person applying at a reasonable time for the same upon payment of such fee (if any) as is prescribed by law.

(3) Every—

- (a) such register or such copy of a register; and
- (b) certificate of registry granted under any of the said Acts relating to the registry of British vessels and purporting to be signed as required by law;

shall be admissible in evidence of—

- (c) all the matters contained or recited in such register when the register or such copy of the register is produced; and
- (d) all the matters contained recited in or endorsed on such certificate of registry when the said certificate is produced.

Proof of judicial proceedings

53.(1) Where it is sought to prove any of the following matters—

- (a) a judgment, decree, rule, conviction, acquittal, sentence or other order, process, act or decision of any court;
- (b) an affidavit, pleading, will, codicil, indictment or other legal document filed, deposited or presented in any court;
- (c) the pendency or existence at any time before any court of any proceeding;

evidence of such matter and, as the case may be, of any particulars relating thereto may be given by the production of—

- (d) the original of the order, process, act, decision or document; or
- (e) a document proved to be an examined copy of the order, process, act, decision or document; or
- (f) a document purporting to be a copy of the order, process, act, decision or document and to be sealed with the seal of the court; or
- (g) a certificate showing such matter and such particulars and purporting to be under the hand of—
 - (i) a registrar of the court; or
 - (ii) a person having the custody of the records or documents of the court; or
 - (iii) any other proper officer of the court; or
 - (iv) a deputy of such registrar, person or officer.

(2) In this section—

“**court**” means any court of Queensland, of the Commonwealth or of any other State or Territory of the Commonwealth.

Proof of identity of a person convicted

54.(1) An affidavit purporting to be made by a fingerprint expert who is a member of the police force of Queensland or of the Commonwealth or of any other State or Territory of the Commonwealth and in the form set out in Schedule 3 or to the like effect shall be admissible in evidence for the purpose of proving the identity of any person alleged to have been convicted in Queensland, in the Commonwealth or in the other State or Territory of any offence.

(2) Any such affidavit shall be evidence that the person, a copy of whose fingerprints is exhibited to such affidavit—

- (a) is the person who, in any document exhibited to such affidavit and purporting to be a certificate of conviction or certified copy of such conviction, is referred to as having been convicted; and
- (b) has been convicted of the offences mentioned in such affidavit.

Proof of incorporation or registration of company in Queensland

55.(1) Evidence of the incorporation of a company incorporated or registered in Queensland may be given by the production of a certificate of the incorporation or registration of the company that purports to be given by the Australian Securities Commission (the “**Commission**”) or the delegate or an officer of the Commission.

(2) The date of incorporation or registration mentioned in the certificate is evidence of the date on which the company was incorporated or registered.

(3) A document that purports to be—

- (a) a copy of, or extract from, a document kept and registered in the office of the Commission in Queensland; and
- (b) certified by the Commission or the delegate or an officer of the Commission;

is admissible in evidence in all cases in which the original document is admissible and for the same purposes and to the same extent.

Proof of Crown land grants

56. Upon its production in any proceeding wherein it is sought to prove any grant from the Crown of land within the State a document that purports—

- (a) to be a copy of the instrument of grant or of an entry of such instrument; and
- (b) to be certified under the hand of the Registrar of Titles or a Deputy Registrar of Titles;

shall be evidence and, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, conclusive evidence of the matters contained therein.

Proof of lease or licence

57.(1) This section applies to an instrument of lease or licence issued or continued in force and held under any of the following Acts—

- *Coal Mining Act 1925*;
- *Land Act 1962*;

- *Mineral Resources Act 1989*;
- *Miners' Homestead Leases Act 1913*;
- *State Housing Act 1945*.

(2) An instrument may be proved by the production of a document purporting to be a copy of the instrument certified by the chief executive of the issuing department.

(3) In this section—

“**issuing department**”, for an instrument of a lease or licence, means the department dealing with matters about the provisions of the Act under which the lease or licence was issued or continued in force and held.

Proof of Letters Patent

58. Upon its production in any proceeding wherein it is sought to prove any Letters Patent issued by the Crown in relation to the State or in relation to any matter that concerns the State a document that purports—

- (a) to be a copy of the Letters Patent; and
- (b) to be certified by the chief executive of the department dealing with matters under the *Constitution Act 1867*;

shall be evidence and, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, conclusive evidence of the matters contained therein.

Division 2—Proof of certain miscellaneous documents and matters

Comparison of disputed writing

59.(1) Comparison of a disputed writing with any writing proved to the satisfaction of the Judge to be genuine shall be permitted to be made by witnesses and such writings and the evidence of witnesses respecting the same may be submitted as evidence of the genuineness or otherwise of the writing in dispute.

(2) A court may compare a disputed writing with any writing that is genuine and act upon its own conclusions in relation thereto.

Proof of instrument to validity of which attestation is not necessary

60. It shall not be necessary to prove by the attesting witness any instrument to the validity of which attestation is not requisite, and such instrument may be proved by admission or otherwise as if there had been no attesting witness thereto.

Proof of instrument to validity of which attestation is necessary

61.(1) Any instrument to the validity of which attestation is requisite may, instead of being proved by an attesting witness, be proved in the manner in which it might be proved if no attesting witness were alive.

(2) Nothing in this section shall apply to the proof of wills or other testamentary documents.

Presumption as to documents 20 years old

62. Where any document is proved or purports to be not less than 20 years old, there shall be made any presumption which immediately before the date of the passing of the *Evidence Acts Amendment Act 1962* would have been made in the case of a document of like character proved or purporting to be not less than 30 years old.

Wills, deeds etc. may be verified by declaration

63.(1) Any attesting witness to the execution of any will or codicil, deed, or instrument in writing, and any other competent person, may verify and prove the signing, sealing, publication, or delivery of any such will, codicil, deed or instrument in writing by declaration in writing made under the *Oaths Act 1867*.

(2) A party who intends to adduce in evidence as proof of the execution of a will, codicil, deed or instrument in writing a declaration made in accordance with subsection (1) shall give such notice of the party's intention to do so as may be required by rules of court.

(3) The method of proof prescribed by this section shall be in addition to and not in derogation of any other method of proving the due execution of a will or codicil prescribed by rules of court.

Evidentiary effect of probate etc.

64.(1) The probate of a will or letters of administration with a will annexed are evidence of the due execution of the will.

(2) The copy of a will annexed to a probate or to letters of administration is evidence of the contents of the will.

(3) The probate of a will is evidence of the death of the testator and, if the probate states the date of death of the testator, of the date of the testator's death.

(4) Letters of administration of the estate of a deceased person are evidence of the death of the person and, if the letters of administration state the date of death of the person, of the date of the person's death.

(5) In this section—

- (a)** a reference to probate shall be read as a reference to probate, and to an exemplification of probate, whether granted within or outside the State; and
- (b)** a reference to letters of administration shall be read as a reference to letters of administration, to an exemplification of letters of administration, whether granted within or outside the State and to an order to administer the estate of a deceased person granted to the Public Trustee.

Maps, charts etc.

65.(1) Where in a proceeding there is a question as to the territorial limits or situation of an area or place, or the distance between 2 places, a court may admit in evidence—

- (a)** a published book, map, chart or document that appears to the court to be a reliable source of information in relation to the question; or
- (b)** a certificate purporting to be signed by the Surveyor-General or a person occupying or performing the duties of the Surveyor-General or a person occupying or performing the duties of an office which, in the opinion of the court, qualifies the person to express an opinion in relation to the question.

(2) In any proceeding a map, chart or plan purporting to be issued or

published by any department of the Government of the State or of the Commonwealth or by an officer thereof in discharge of the officer's functions shall, upon its production, be sufficient evidence of the matters stated or delineated thereon until the contrary is proved.

Astronomical phenomena

66.(1) Where in a proceeding there is a question as to the time or duration of any astronomical phenomenon that has occurred or shall occur in relation to a place, a court may admit in evidence a certificate upon the question purporting to be signed by the Surveyor-General or a person performing the duties of the Surveyor-General.

(2) The certificate may include an explanation of the terms used therein, a statement of their recognised practical application, and the basis for calculating the time or duration of the astronomical phenomenon.

(3) In this section—

“astronomical phenomenon” includes the rising or setting of the sun or moon, the position of the sun or moon, the phase of the moon and the degree of twilight.

Division 3—Proof of certain Australian and overseas documents and matters

Interpretation

67. In this Division—

“overseas country” means a country or part of a country outside the Commonwealth and includes any international organisation of which the Commonwealth or an overseas country is a member;

“statute” includes any instrument of a legislative nature made, granted or issued under a statute.

Proof of certain Australian and overseas written laws etc.

68. Evidence of—

- (a) a statute, proclamation or act of state of a State or Territory of the Commonwealth other than Queensland; or
- (b) a statute, proclamation, treaty or act of state of an overseas country;

may be given by the production of—

- (c) a copy proved to be an examined copy thereof; or
- (d) a copy purporting to be sealed with the seal of that State, Territory or country; or
- (e) a book or pamphlet purporting to be published by the authority of the government of that State, Territory or country or by the government or official printer of that State, Territory or country containing the statute, proclamation, treaty or act of state; or
- (f) a book or publication that appears to the court to be a reliable source of information containing the statute, proclamation, treaty or act of state; or
- (g) a book or pamphlet that is proved to the satisfaction of the court to be admissible in the courts in that State, Territory or country as evidence of the statutes, proclamations, treaties or acts of state of that State, Territory or country contained in that book or pamphlet.

Proof of judicial proceedings of an overseas country

69. Evidence of—

- (a) a judgment, decree, rule, conviction, acquittal, sentence or other order, process, act or decision of any court in an overseas country; or
- (b) an affidavit, pleading, will, codicil, indictment or other legal document filed, deposited or presented in any such court;

may be given by the production of a copy thereof—

- (c) proved to be an examined copy thereof; or
- (d) purporting—
 - (i) to be sealed with the seal of such court; or
 - (ii) to be signed by a Judge of such court with a statement in

writing attached by the Judge to the Judge's signature that such court has no seal and without proof of the Judge's judicial character or of the truth of such statement.

Proof of certain documents admissible elsewhere in Australia

70. Any document which by a law at any time in force in a State or Territory of the Commonwealth other than Queensland is admissible in evidence for any purpose in a court of that State or Territory without proof of—

- (a) the seal or stamp or signature authenticating the same; or
- (b) the judicial or official character of the person appearing to have signed the same, shall be admissible in evidence to the same extent and for the same purpose in all courts in Queensland without such proof.

Royal proclamations, orders of the Privy Council etc.

71.(1) Evidence of any Royal proclamation, order of Her Majesty's Privy Council, order, regulation, dispatch, or any other instrument made or issued by Her Majesty or by Her Majesty's Privy Council, or by or under the authority of any of Her Majesty's Secretaries of State, or of any department of Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, may be given—

- (a) by the production of a document purporting to be a copy of the London Gazette or of the Government Gazette purporting to contain a reprint of such proclamation, order of the Privy Council, order, regulation, dispatch or other instrument; or
- (b) by the production in the case of any such proclamation of a copy purporting to be printed by the Government Printer.

(2) In this section (but without affecting the generality of the expression when used elsewhere)—

“Her Majesty” includes any predecessors of Her Majesty.

Proof of certain Australian and overseas public documents

72. Where a document of a State or Territory of the Commonwealth other than Queensland or of an overseas country is of such a public nature that it would if it were a Queensland document be admissible in evidence in Queensland on its mere production from proper custody, a copy of or extract from the document shall be admissible in evidence if—

- (a) it is proved to be an examined copy or extract; or
- (b) it purports to be certified as a true copy or extract under the hand of a person described in the certificate as the person to whose custody the original is entrusted.

Proof of incorporation of certain Australian and overseas companies

73. Evidence of the incorporation of a company incorporated or registered in a State or Territory of the Commonwealth other than Queensland or in an overseas country may be given by the production of a certificate of the incorporation or registration of that company which purports to be signed or issued by the Registrar of Companies, Commissioner for Corporate Affairs or other proper officer or body in that State, Territory or country, and the date of incorporation or registration mentioned in such certificate shall be evidence of the date on which the company was incorporated or registered.

Proof of birth, adoption, death or marriage

74. A document purporting to be either the original or a certified copy of a certificate, entry or record of a birth, adoption, death or marriage alleged to have taken place whether in Australia or elsewhere is evidence in a proceeding of the matters contained therein.

Division 4—Proof of telegraphic messages**Notice of intention to adduce telegraphic message in evidence**

75.(1) In any proceeding (not being a criminal proceeding), any party may at any time after the commencement thereof give notice to any other party that the party proposes to adduce in evidence at the trial or hearing any

telegraphic message that has been sent by telegraph from any place in the Commonwealth to any other place in the Commonwealth.

(1A) However—

- (a) the time between the giving of such notice and the day on which such evidence shall be tendered shall not in any case be less than 2 days; and
- (b) every such notice shall specify the names of the sender and receiver of the message, the subject matter thereof, and the date as nearly as may be.

(2) Any such notice may be served and the service thereof proved in the same manner as notices to produce may now be served and proved.

Proof of message

76. Where a notice under section 75 has been given, the production of a telegraphic message described in the notice and purporting to have been sent by any person, together with evidence that the same was duly received from a telegraph office, shall be evidence that such message was sent by the person so purporting to be the sender thereof to the person to whom the same is addressed.

Proof of sending a message

77. Where a notice under section 75 has been given, the production of a telegraphic message, or a copy thereof verified on oath, together with evidence that such message was sent to or delivered at a telegraph office and that the fees (if any) for the transmission thereof were duly paid shall be evidence that such message was duly delivered to the person named therein as the person to whom the same was to be transmitted.

Division 5—Admissibility of convictions in civil proceedings

Interpretation

78. In this Division—

“**conviction**” does not include—

- (a) a conviction that has been set aside or quashed; or
- (b) where the person convicted of an offence has been granted a pardon in respect of that offence, such a conviction, and the term **“convicted”** has a corresponding meaning;

“court” means any court of Queensland, of the Commonwealth or of any other State or Territory of the Commonwealth but does not include a court martial.

Convictions as evidence in civil proceedings

79.(1) In this section—

“civil proceeding” does not include an action for defamation.

(2) In any civil proceeding the fact that a person has been convicted by a court of an offence is admissible in evidence for the purpose of proving, where to do so is relevant to any issue in that proceeding, that the person committed that offence.

(3) In any civil proceeding in which by virtue of this section a person is proved to have been convicted by a court of an offence the person shall, unless the contrary is proved, be taken to have committed the acts and to have possessed the state of mind (if any) which at law constitute that offence.

(4) This section applies—

- (a) whether or not a person was convicted upon a plea of guilty; and
- (b) whether or not the person convicted is a party to the civil proceeding.

Convictions as evidence in actions for defamation

80. In an action for defamation in which the question whether a person did or did not commit a criminal offence is relevant to an issue arising in the action, proof that at the time when the issue falls to be determined that person stands convicted by a court of that offence is conclusive evidence that the person committed that offence.

Evidence identifying the particulars of a conviction

81. Without prejudice to the reception of any other evidence for the purpose of identifying the particulars of a conviction—

- (a) the contents of any document which is admissible as evidence of the conviction; and
- (b) the contents of any document which is admissible as evidence of the complaint, information, indictment or charge on which the person in question was convicted;

shall be admissible for that purpose where by virtue of section 79 or 80 evidence of the conviction may be given.

Operation of other laws not affected

82. Nothing in this Division derogates from the operation of any other law under which a conviction or finding of fact in a criminal proceeding is, for the purposes of any proceeding, made evidence or conclusive evidence of any fact.

Division 6—Books of account**Interpretation**

83. In this Division—

“book of account” includes any document used in the ordinary course of any undertaking to record the financial transactions of the undertaking or to record anything acquired or otherwise dealt with by, produced in, held for or on behalf of, or taken or lost from the undertaking and any particulars relating to any such thing;

“court” means—

- (a) in relation to any proceeding in the Supreme Court—the Supreme Court or a Judge thereof; and
- (b) in relation to any proceeding in a District Court—the District Court or a Judge thereof; and
- (c) in relation to any proceeding in a Magistrates Court or before

justices—the Magistrates Court, a Stipendiary Magistrate or a justice; and

- (d) in relation to any other proceeding—the Supreme Court or a Judge thereof.

Entries in book of account to be evidence

84. Subject to this Division, in all proceedings—

- (a) an entry in a book of account shall be evidence of the matters transactions and accounts therein recorded; and
- (b) a copy of an entry in a book of account shall be evidence of the entry and of the matters transactions and accounts therein recorded.

Proof that book is a book of account

85.(1) An entry or a copy of an entry in a book of account shall not be admissible in evidence under this Division unless it is first proved that the book was at the time of the making of the entry 1 of the ordinary books of account of the undertaking to which it purports to relate and that the entry was made in the usual and ordinary course of that undertaking.

(2) Such proof may be given by a responsible person familiar with the books of account of the undertaking and may be given orally or by an affidavit sworn or by a declaration made before a commissioner or person authorised to take affidavits or statutory declarations.

Verification of copy

86.(1) A copy of an entry in a book of account shall not be admissible in evidence under this Division unless it is further proved that the copy has been examined with the original entry and is correct.

(2) Such proof may be given by some person who has examined the copy with the original entry and may be given either orally or by an affidavit sworn or by a declaration made before a commissioner or person authorised to take affidavits or statutory declarations.

Matters which may be proved under this Division ordinarily to be so proved

87. A person engaged in any undertaking or an employee of that person shall not in any proceeding to which the person is not a party be compellable to produce any book of account the contents of which can be proved under this Division or to appear as a witness to prove the matters transactions and accounts therein recorded unless by order of a court.

Court may order books of account or copies to be made available

88.(1) On the application of any party to a proceeding, a court may order that such party be at liberty to inspect and take copies of or extracts from any entries in a book of account of any undertaking for any of the purposes of such proceeding.

(2) An order under this section may be made either with or without summoning the person engaged in the undertaking or any other party and shall be served on the person engaged in the undertaking 3 clear days before the same is to be obeyed unless the court otherwise directs.

(3) An order under this section may direct that the person engaged in the undertaking shall, on payment of such fee as is specified in the order, prepare and deliver to the party who obtained that order a duly verified copy of such entries as may be required for evidence in the proceeding.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (2), Saturday, Sunday, and any day which is a public holiday throughout the State or in that part of the State in which the order is to be obeyed shall be excluded from the computation of time.

(5) Where a person engaged in any undertaking is a party to a proceeding, the other party or parties thereto shall be at liberty to inspect and make copies of or extracts from the original entries and the accounts of which such entries form a part and the documents in respect of which such entries were made as though this Division had not been enacted.

Proof that a person has no account

89.(1) Where it is sought to prove for the purposes of a proceeding that a person did not at a given time have an account with an undertaking or with any branch thereof, evidence of the fact may be given by a responsible

person familiar with the books of account of the undertaking or, as the case may be, of the branch thereof.

(2) Such evidence may be given by such person orally or by an affidavit sworn or by a declaration made before a commissioner or person authorised to take affidavits or statutory declarations.

Costs

90.(1) The costs of any application to a court under or for the purposes of this Division and the costs of anything done or to be done under an order of a court made under or for the purposes of this Division shall be in the discretion of the court, who may order the same or any part thereof to be paid to any party by the person engaged in the undertaking concerned where the same have been occasioned by any default or delay on the part of that person.

(2) Any such order against a person engaged in an undertaking may be enforced as if the person were a party to the proceeding.

Application of ss.84–86 and 89

91. Sections 84 to 86 and 89 shall apply to and in relation to books of account and persons engaged in undertakings in any State or Territory of the Commonwealth.

PART 6—ADMISSIBILITY OF STATEMENTS

Admissibility of documentary evidence as to facts in issue

92.(1) In any proceeding (not being a criminal proceeding) where direct oral evidence of a fact would be admissible, any statement contained in a document and tending to establish that fact shall, subject to this Part, be admissible as evidence of that fact if—

- (a) the maker of the statement had personal knowledge of the matters dealt with by the statement, and is called as a witness in the proceeding; or

- (b) the document is or forms part of a record relating to any undertaking and made in the course of that undertaking from information supplied (whether directly or indirectly) by persons who had, or may reasonably be supposed to have had, personal knowledge of the matters dealt with in the information they supplied, and the person who supplied the information recorded in the statement in question is called as a witness in the proceeding.

(2) The condition in subsection (1) that the maker of the statement or the person who supplied the information, as the case may be, be called as a witness need not be satisfied where—

- (a) the maker or supplier is dead, or unfit by reason of bodily or mental condition to attend as a witness; or
- (b) the maker or supplier is out of the State and it is not reasonably practicable to secure the attendance of the maker or supplier; or
- (c) the maker or supplier cannot with reasonable diligence be found or identified; or
- (d) it cannot reasonably be supposed (having regard to the time which has elapsed since the maker or supplier made the statement, or supplied the information, and to all the circumstances) that the maker or supplier would have any recollection of the matters dealt with by the statement the maker or supplier made or in the information the maker or supplier supplied; or
- (e) no party to the proceeding who would have the right to cross-examine the maker or supplier requires the maker or supplier being called as a witness; or
- (f) at any stage of the proceeding it appears to the court that, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, undue delay or expense would be caused by calling the maker or supplier as a witness.

(3) The court may act on hearsay evidence for the purpose of deciding any of the matters mentioned in subsection (2)(a), (b), (c), (d) or (f).

(4) For the purposes of this Part, a statement contained in a document is made by a person if—

- (a) it was written, made, dictated or otherwise produced by the person; or

- (b) it was recorded with the person's knowledge; or
- (c) it was recorded in the course of and ancillary to a proceeding; or
- (d) it was recognised by the person as the person's statement by signing, initialling or otherwise in writing.

Admissibility of documentary evidence as to facts in issue in criminal proceedings

93.(1) In any criminal proceeding where direct oral evidence of a fact would be admissible, any statement contained in a document and tending to establish that fact shall, subject to this Part, be admissible as evidence of that fact if—

- (a) the document is or forms part of a record relating to any trade or business and made in the course of that trade or business from information supplied (whether directly or indirectly) by persons who had, or may reasonably be supposed to have had, personal knowledge of the matters dealt with in the information they supplied; and
- (b) the person who supplied the information recorded in the statement in question—
 - (i) is dead, or unfit by reason of the person's bodily or mental condition to attend as a witness; or
 - (ii) is out of the State and it is not reasonably practicable to secure the person's attendance; or
 - (iii) cannot with reasonable diligence be found or identified; or
 - (iv) cannot reasonably be supposed (having regard to the time which has lapsed since the person supplied the information and to all the circumstances) to have any recollection of the matters dealt with in the information the person supplied.

(2) In this section—

“business” includes any public transport, public utility or similar undertaking carried on in Queensland or elsewhere by the Crown (in right of the State of Queensland or any other right) or a statutory body.

Statement made before proceeding by child under 12 years

93A.(1) In any proceeding where direct oral evidence of a fact would be admissible, any statement tending to establish that fact, contained in a document (within the meaning of section 5), shall, subject to this Part, be admissible as evidence of that fact if—

- (a) the maker of the statement was a child under the age of 12 years at the time of making the statement and had personal knowledge of the matters dealt with by the statement; and
- (b) the statement was made soon after the occurrence of the fact or was made to a person investigating the matter to which the proceeding relates before or soon after it becomes apparent to the person that the child is a potential witness in any proceeding; and
- (c) the child is available to give evidence in the proceeding.

(2) Where a statement made by a child is admissible as evidence of a fact pursuant to subsection (1), a statement made to the child by any other person—

- (a) that is also contained in the document containing the statement of the child; and
- (b) in response to which the statement of the child was made;

shall, subject to this Part, be admissible as evidence if that other person is available to give evidence.

(3) Where the statement of a person is admitted as evidence in any proceeding pursuant to subsection (1) or (2), the party tendering the statement shall, if required to do so by any other party to the proceeding, call as a witness the person whose statement is so admitted and the person who recorded the statement.

(4) In the application of subsection (3) to a criminal proceeding—

“**party**” means the prosecution or the person charged in the proceeding.

Admissibility of evidence concerning credibility of persons responsible for statement

94.(1) Where in any proceeding a statement is given in evidence by virtue of section 84, 92, 93 or 93A and a person who made the statement or

supplied the information recorded in it is not called as a witness in the proceeding—

- (a) any evidence which, if that person had been so called, would be admissible for the purpose of destroying or supporting the person's credibility as a witness shall be admissible for that purpose in that proceeding;
- (b) any evidence tending to prove that, whether before or after the person made that statement or supplied that information, the person made another statement or supplied other information (whether orally or in a document or otherwise) inconsistent therewith shall be admissible for the purpose of showing that the person has contradicted himself or herself;

but nothing in paragraphs (a) or (b) shall enable evidence to be given of any matter of which, if the person in question had been called as a witness and had denied that matter in cross-examination, evidence could not have been adduced by the cross-examining party.

(2) Where in any proceeding a statement is given in evidence by virtue of section 84, 92, 93 or 93A and a person who made the statement or supplied the information recorded in it is not called as a witness in the proceeding any evidence proving that that person has been guilty of any indictable or other offence shall, with the leave of the court, be admissible in the proceeding to the same extent as if that person had been so called and on being questioned as to whether the person had been convicted of an indictable or other offence had denied the fact or refused to answer the question.

Admissibility of statements produced by computers

95.(1) In any proceeding where direct oral evidence of a fact would be admissible, any statement contained in a document produced by a computer and tending to establish that fact shall, subject to this Part, be admissible as evidence of that fact, if it is shown that the conditions mentioned in subsection (2) are satisfied in relation to the statement and computer in question.

(2) The said conditions are—

- (a) that the document containing the statement was produced by the computer during a period over which the computer was used

regularly to store or process information for the purposes of any activities regularly carried on over that period, whether for profit or not, by any person; and

- (b) that over that period there was regularly supplied to the computer in the ordinary course of those activities information of the kind contained in the statement or of the kind from which the information so contained is derived; and
- (c) that throughout the material part of that period the computer was operating properly or, if not, that any respect in which it was not operating properly or was out of operation during that part of that period was not such as to affect the production of the document or the accuracy of its contents; and
- (d) that the information contained in the statement reproduces or is derived from information supplied to the computer in the ordinary course of those activities.

(3) Where over a period the function of storing or processing information for the purposes of any activities regularly carried on over that period as mentioned in subsection (2)(a) was regularly performed by computers, whether—

- (a) by a combination of computers operating over that period; or
- (b) by different computers operating in succession over that period; or
- (c) by different combinations of computers operating in succession over that period; or
- (d) in any other manner involving the successive operation over that period, in whatever order, of 1 or more computers and 1 or more combinations of computers;

all the computers used for that purpose during that period shall be treated for the purposes of this Part as constituting a single computer and references in this Part to a computer shall be construed accordingly.

(4) In any proceeding where it is desired to give a statement in evidence by virtue of this section, a certificate doing all or any of the following things, that is to say—

- (a) identifying the document containing the statement and describing

the manner in which it was produced;

- (b) giving such particulars of any device involved in the production of that document as may be appropriate for the purpose of showing that the document was produced by a computer;
- (c) dealing with any of the matters to which the conditions mentioned in subsection (2) relate;

and purporting to be signed by a person occupying a responsible position in relation to the operation of the relevant device or the management of the relevant activities (whichever is appropriate) shall be evidence of the matters stated in the certificate and for the purposes of this subsection it shall be sufficient for a matter to be stated to the best of the knowledge and belief of the person stating it.

(5) Any person who in a certificate tendered in evidence by virtue of subsection (4) wilfully makes a statement material in that proceeding which the person knows to be false or does not believe to be true is guilty of an offence.

Maximum penalty—imprisonment for 1 year or a fine of \$1 000.

(6) For the purposes of this Part—

- (a) information shall be taken to be supplied to a computer if it is supplied thereto in any appropriate form and whether it is so supplied directly or (with or without human intervention) by means of any appropriate equipment;
- (b) where, in the course of activities carried on by any person, information is supplied with a view to its being stored or processed for the purposes of those activities by a computer operated otherwise than in the course of those activities, that information, if duly supplied to that computer, shall be taken to be supplied to it in the course of those activities;
- (c) a document shall be taken to have been produced by a computer whether it was produced by it directly or (with or without human intervention) by means of any appropriate equipment.

(7) Subject to subsection (3), in this section—

“computer” means any device for storing and processing information, and any reference to information being derived from other information is a

reference to its being derived therefrom by calculation, comparison or any other process.

Inferences concerning admissibility

96.(1) For the purpose of deciding whether or not a statement is admissible in evidence by virtue of this Part, the court may draw any reasonable inference from the form or contents of the document in which the statement is contained, or from any other circumstances.

(2) For the purpose of deciding whether or not a statement is admissible in evidence by virtue of section 92 or 93, the court may, in deciding whether or not a person is fit to attend as a witness, act on a certificate purporting to be a certificate of a legally qualified medical practitioner.

Authentication

97. Where in any proceeding a statement contained in a document is proposed to be given in evidence by virtue of this Part, it may be proved by the production of that document or (whether or not that document is still in existence) by the production of a copy of that document, or the material part thereof, authenticated in such manner as the court may approve.

Rejection of evidence

98.(1) The court may in its discretion reject any statement notwithstanding that the requirements of this Part are satisfied with respect thereto, if for any reason it appears to it to be inexpedient in the interests of justice that the statement should be admitted.

(2) This section does not affect the admissibility of any evidence otherwise than by virtue of this Part.

Withholding statement from jury room

99. Where in a proceeding there is a jury, and a statement in a document is admitted in evidence under this Part, and it appears to the court that if the jury were to have the document with them during their deliberations they might give the statement undue weight, the court may direct that the document be withheld from the jury during their deliberations.

Corroboration

100. For the purpose of any rule of law or practice requiring evidence to be corroborated or regulating the manner in which uncorroborated evidence is to be treated, a statement rendered admissible as evidence by this Part shall not be treated as corroboration of evidence given by the maker of the statement or the person who supplied the information from which the record containing the statement was made.

Witness's previous statement, if proved, to be evidence of facts stated

101.(1) Where in any proceeding—

- (a) a previous inconsistent or contradictory statement made by a person called as a witness in that proceeding is proved by virtue of section 17, 18 or 19; or
- (b) a previous statement made by a person called as aforesaid is proved for the purpose of rebutting a suggestion that the person's evidence has been fabricated;

that statement shall be admissible as evidence of any fact stated therein of which direct oral evidence by the person would be admissible.

(2) Subsection (1) shall apply to any statement or information proved by virtue of section 94(1)(b) as it applies to a previous inconsistent or contradictory statement made by a person called as a witness which is proved as mentioned in subsection (1)(a).

(3) Nothing in this Part shall affect any of the rules of law relating to the circumstances in which, where a person called as a witness in any proceeding is cross-examined on a document used by the person to refresh the person's memory, that document may be made evidence in that proceeding, and where a document or any part of a document is received in evidence in any such proceeding by virtue of any such rule of law, any statement made in that document or part by the person using the document to refresh the person's memory shall by virtue of this subsection be admissible as evidence of any fact stated therein of which direct oral evidence by the person would be admissible.

Weight to be attached to evidence

102. In estimating the weight (if any) to be attached to a statement rendered admissible as evidence by this Part, regard shall be had to all the circumstances from which an inference can reasonably be drawn as to the accuracy or otherwise of the statement, including—

- (a) the question whether or not the statement was made, or the information recorded in it was supplied, contemporaneously with the occurrence or existence of the facts to which the statement or information relates; and
- (b) the question whether or not the maker of the statement, or the supplier of the information recorded in it, had any incentive to conceal or misrepresent the facts.

Provisions of Part are alternative

103. Sections 92 to 95 and 101 shall be construed as in aid of and as alternative to one another, any other provision in any other Part, and any other law practice or usage with respect to the admissibility in evidence of statements.

PART 7—REPRODUCTIONS OF DOCUMENTS*Division 1—Preliminary***Interpretation**

104. In this Part—

“**affidavit**” includes statutory declarations;

“**business**” includes any undertaking;

“**machine-copy**”, in relation to a document, means a copy of the document made by a machine performing a process—

- (a) involving the production of a latent image of the document (not

being a latent image on photosensitive material on a transparent base) and the development of that image by chemical means or otherwise; or

- (b) that, without the use of photosensitive material, produces a copy of the document simultaneously with the making of the document;

“original document” means—

- (a) when referred to in connection with the production of a document in answer to legal process issued by a court, the document that would, if this Part had not been enacted, be required to be produced in answer to that process; or
- (b) when referred to in connection with the admissibility of a document in evidence in a proceeding—
 - (i) a document that would, if this Part had not been enacted, be admissible in evidence in that proceeding in lieu of another document where a party to the proceeding failed to produce that other document in response to notice to do so given to the party by another such party; or
 - (ii) any other document that would, if this Part had not been enacted, be admissible in evidence in that proceeding;

“reproduction” in relation to a document means a machine-copy of the document or a print made from a transparency of the document and “reproduce” and any derivatives thereof have a corresponding meaning;

“transparency”, in relation to a document, means—

- (a) a developed negative or positive photograph of that document (an **“original photograph”**) made on a transparent base by means of light reflected from, or transmitted through, the document; or
- (b) a copy of an original photograph made by the use of photosensitive material (being photosensitive material on a transparent base) placed in surface contact with the original photograph; or
- (c) any 1 of a series of copies of an original photograph, the first of the series being made by the use of photosensitive material (being

photosensitive material on a transparent base) placed in surface contact with a copy referred to in paragraph (b) of this definition, and each succeeding copy in the series being made, in the same manner, from any preceding copy in the series.

Division 2—Reproduction of official documents

Certified reproductions of certain official documents etc. to be admissible without further proof

105.(1) In this section—

“**approved person**” means—

- (a) any person or official declared by the Minister, by notification published in the Gazette, to be an approved person for the purposes of this section;
- (b) where an original document to which this section relates is a document filed in a court or the official record of a proceeding, the registrar or other proper officer of the court in which the document was filed or before which the proceeding took place.

(2) In a notification published for the purposes of subsection (1)(a), the Minister is authorised to describe an official by designating the office that the official holds or in which the official acts and where, in such a notification, an official is so described—

- (a) a person who holds or is acting in the designated office at the time of publication of the notification shall be an approved person; and
- (b) that official shall cease to be an approved person—
 - (i) if the official ceases to hold or act in the designated office; or
 - (ii) if the notification is revoked in so far as it relates to the designated office;

whichever first occurs; and

- (c) a person who succeeds to or acts in the designated office while the notification remains unrevoked in so far as it relates to that office shall be an approved person—

- (i) while the person holds or acts in that office; or
- (ii) until the notification is sooner revoked in so far as it relates to the designated office;

whichever first occurs.

(3) A person shall not fail or cease to be an approved person by reason only of a misdescription or an abbreviated description of a designated office referred to in subsection (2) by virtue of which the person would, but for the misdescription or abbreviated description, be an approved person, where the misdescription or abbreviation does not materially affect identification of that person.

(4) The Minister may, by notification published in the Gazette, revoke wholly or in part a notification published for the purposes of subsection (1)(a).

(5) A document that purports to be a copy of an original document shall, without further proof, be admissible in evidence in a proceeding as if it were the original document of which it purports to be a copy, if it bears or is accompanied by a certificate, purporting to have been signed by an approved person, that it is a reproduction of a document that was in the custody or control of that person in the person's official capacity—

- (a) where the reproduction is a machine-copy, at the time the machine-copy was made; or
- (b) where the reproduction is a print made from a transparency, at the time when the transparency was made.

(6) Where an approved person is served with legal process to produce a document to a court it shall be a sufficient answer to such process if the person to whom the process is addressed sends by post, or causes to be delivered, to the registrar or proper officer of the court requiring the production of the document a reproduction, certified as provided by this section, of the document and, where more than 1 document is specified howsoever in the legal process, further certifies, that, to the best of the person's knowledge and belief, the reproductions so sent or caused to be delivered are reproductions of the whole of the documents in question.

(7) For the purposes of this section and without prejudice to any form of custody or control, an approved person shall be deemed to have custody or control of a document at the time the transparency of the document was

made if—

- (a) the person has custody or control of the transparency; and
- (b) the transparency—
 - (i) incorporates a transparency of a certificate purporting to have been signed by an approved person to the effect that the transparency was made as a permanent record of a document in the custody or under the control of the person who signed the certificate; or
 - (ii) is 1 of a series of transparencies that incorporates, as part of the series, a transparency of such a certificate relating to the transparencies in the series.

(8) Division 3 of this Part shall not apply to or in respect of a reproduction of a document referred to in this Division.

Division 3—Reproduction of business documents

Admissibility of reproductions of business documents destroyed, lost or unavailable

106.(1) Subject to this Part, a document that purports to be a copy of an original document made or used in the course of a business shall, upon proof that it is a reproduction made in good faith and that the original document has been destroyed or lost, whether wholly or in part, or that it is not reasonably practicable to produce the original document or to secure its production, be admissible in evidence in any proceeding to the extent to which the contents of the original document of which it purports to be a copy would have been admissible and it shall, subject to proof of the same matters, be a sufficient answer to legal process issued by a court, requiring production of a document to the court, for the person required by that process to produce the document to produce such a reproduction of the document.

(2) Without prejudice to any other mode of proof an affidavit purporting to have been made by a person at or about the time the person made a machine-copy of or photographed a document—

- (a) stating the person's full name, address and occupation; and

- (b) identifying or describing the document and indicating whether the document is itself a reproduction; and
- (c) stating the day upon which the person made the machine-copy or photograph, the condition of the document at that time with respect to legibility and the extent of any damage thereto; and
- (d) describing the machine or process by which the person made the machine-copy or photograph; and
- (e) stating that the making of the machine-copy or photograph was properly carried out by the use of apparatus or materials in good working condition with the object of making a machine-copy or, as the case may be, a transparency of the document; and
- (f) stating that the machine copy or photograph is a machine-copy or photograph made in good faith;

shall be evidence, whether or not such person is available to be called as a witness, that the machine-copy or, as the case may be, a transparency of the document referred to in the affidavit is a machine-copy or transparency made in good faith and, in the case of a machine-copy is, or in the case of a transparency can be used to produce, a reproduction of the document.

Minister may approve photographing machines

107.(1) For the purposes of this Part, the Minister may, by notification published in the Gazette, approve for photographing documents in the ordinary course of business any make, model or type of machine and any such machine, so approved, is in this Division referred to as an “**approved machine**”.

(2) Any approval given by the Minister under subsection (1) may be given subject to such conditions as the Minister thinks fit, and may, by notification published in the Gazette, be revoked or varied by the Minister.

(3) Subject to this Part, but in addition to and without derogating from the provisions of section 106(1), a print made from a transparency of an original document (being a document made or used in the course of business) shall be admissible in evidence in a proceeding to the extent to which the contents of the original document would have been admissible, whether the document is still in existence or not, upon proof that the transparency was made in good faith by using a machine that, at the time the

transparency was made, was an approved machine and that the print is a print of the image on the transparency.

(4) Without prejudice to any other mode of proof an affidavit purporting to have been made by a person at or about the time the person photographed a document by means of an approved machine—

- (a) stating the person's full name, address and occupation and the person's functions or duties (if any) in relation to copying documents; and
- (b) identifying or describing the document and indicating whether the document is itself a reproduction; and
- (c) stating the day upon which the document was photographed, the condition of the document at that time with respect to legibility and the extent of any damage to the document; and
- (d) stating the person from whose custody or control the document was produced for photographing or on whose behalf or in the course of whose business the document was photographed; and
- (e) identifying the make, model or type of the approved machine citing the number and date of the Gazette in which approval of such machine was notified and stating that the photographing was properly carried out in the ordinary course of business by the use of apparatus and materials in good working order and condition and in accordance with the conditions (if any) attaching to the approval of such machine as so notified; and
- (f) stating that the document was photographed in good faith;

shall be evidence, whether such person is available to be called as a witness or not, that a transparency of the document referred to in the affidavit was made in good faith by using an approved machine and bears an image of the document.

Affidavit of maker of print from transparency to be evidence

108. Without prejudice to any other mode of proof an affidavit purporting to have been made by a person at or about the time the person made a print from a transparency of a document—

- (a) stating the person's full name, address and occupation; and

- (b) identifying the transparency; and
- (c) stating the day upon which the print was made, the condition of the transparency and the extent of any damage thereto; and
- (d) describing the process by which the person made the print; and
- (e) stating that the printing was properly carried out by the use of apparatus and materials in good working order and condition with the object of reproducing the whole of the image on the transparency; and
- (f) stating that the print was made in good faith;

shall be evidence, whether such person is available to be called as a witness or not, that the print was made in good faith and reproduces the whole of the image on the transparency.

Proof where document processed by independent processor

109. Where a person having the custody or control of a document—

- (a) delivers the document, or causes it to be delivered to another person (“**the processor**”) whose business is or includes the reproduction or photographing of documents for other persons; and
- (b) receives from the processor—
 - (i) a machine-copy or transparency of a document; and
 - (ii) an affidavit by the processor under section 106 or 107;

an affidavit made by the person at or about that time giving particulars of the person’s custody or control of the document, its delivery to the processor and the person’s receipt from the processor, of the document and the machine-copy or transparency shall, whether the person who had the custody or control of the document is available to be called as a witness or not, be admissible in a proceeding as evidence of the facts stated therein.

Reproduction not to be admitted as evidence unless transparency in existence

110.(1) Save as provided in subsection (2) a reproduction made from a

transparency shall not be admitted as evidence pursuant to this Division in any proceeding unless the court is satisfied—

- (a) that the transparency is in existence at the time of the proceeding; and
- (b) that the document reproduced was—
 - (i) in existence for a period of at least 12 months after the document was made; or
 - (ii) delivered or sent by the party tendering the reproduction to the other party or 1 of the other parties to the proceeding.

(2) The provisions of subsection (1)(b) do not apply with respect to a print made from a transparency made by using an approved machine where, at the time the print was made, the transparency was in the custody or control of—

- (a) a Minister of the Crown in right of the Commonwealth or of the State of Queensland or of any other State of the Commonwealth or any officer in any government department under the direct control of any such Minister; or
- (b) any council, board, commission, trust or other body established or constituted by or under the law of the Commonwealth or of the State of Queensland or of any other State or Territory of the Commonwealth for any public purpose; or
- (c) a bank as defined in section 5 of the *Banking Act 1959* of the Commonwealth, as subsequently amended, or any statutory corporation for the time being authorised to carry on any banking business in the State of Queensland or in any other State or Territory of the Commonwealth; or
- (d) any corporation that is registered under the *Life Insurance Act 1945* of the Commonwealth, as subsequently amended, where the document reproduced relates to the life insurance business of that corporation.

Transparency etc. may be preserved in lieu of document

111. Where any Act passed before or after the commencement of this Act requires a document to which this Division applies to be preserved for

any purpose for a longer period of time than 3 years it shall be a sufficient compliance with such a requirement to preserve, in lieu of any such document more than 3 years old, a transparency thereof made by using an approved machine together with an affidavit relating to the transparency being a transparency and an affidavit to which section 115 applies.

Proof of destruction of documents etc.

112. A statement by any person in an affidavit made for the purposes of this Division—

- (a) that the person destroyed or caused the destruction of a document; or
- (b) that after due search and inquiry a document cannot be found; or
- (c) that, for the reasons specified therein, it is not reasonably practicable to produce a document or secure its production; or
- (d) that a transparency of a document is in the custody or control of a person, corporation or body referred to in section 110(2); or
- (e) that a document was made or was used in the course of the person's or the person's employer's business; or
- (f) that the person has made transparencies of a series of documents including the affidavit by photographing them in their proper order;

shall be evidence of the fact or facts stated, whether that person is available to be called as a witness or not.

One affidavit sufficient in certain circumstances

113.(1) This section applies to and in respect of transparencies, made by using an approved machine, of a series of documents that—

- (a) bear or have been given serial numbers in arithmetical order; or
- (b) bear or have been marked with the same distinctive identification mark; or
- (c) purport from their contents to relate to the same subject matter, to the same person or persons or to a matter between persons;

where the documents are photographed in their proper order on a continuous length of film or, where the documents are marked in accordance with paragraph (a) or (b), on separate films.

(2) An affidavit made pursuant to this Division shall be deemed to be an affidavit in respect of all or any of the transparencies of a series of documents to which this section applies if it is photographed as part of the series and in lieu of identifying or describing each individual document photographed, it states the general nature of the documents in the series and—

- (a) the serial numbers of the first and last document in the series; or
- (b) the distinctive identification mark; or
- (c) the person or persons, or the matter between persons, to which the documents refer;

as the case may require.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Division, a print that purports to be made from a transparency of an affidavit referred to in subsection (2) shall be admissible in evidence in a proceeding as if it were the affidavit from which the transparency was made, if—

- (a) it is produced or tendered with a print made from a transparency of a document in the series to which the affidavit relates; and
- (b) an affidavit under section 108 relating to both prints is also produced or tendered.

Certification required when affidavit etc. not contained in length or series of film

114. Where any affidavit relating to the reproduction of a document is not an affidavit referred to in section 113(2), a copy thereof duly certified to be a true copy—

- (a) in the case of an affidavit in the custody of a body corporate—by the chairperson, secretary or by a director or manager thereof; or
- (b) in any other case—by a justice of the peace;

shall, unless the court otherwise orders, be admissible in evidence in a proceeding as if it were the affidavit of which it is certified to be a true copy.

Discovery, inspection and production where document destroyed or lost

115.(1) In this section—

“**affidavit**” includes—

- (a) a transparency, made as provided in section 113, of an affidavit; and
- (b) a copy, certified as provided in section 114, of an affidavit.

(2) This section applies to—

- (a) a transparency of a destroyed or lost document, where a print made from the transparency would, subject to compliance with the conditions prescribed by this Part for the purpose, be admissible in evidence in a proceeding; and
- (b) an affidavit that would be evidence or, where the affidavit is itself in the form of a transparency, that could be the means of providing evidence, pursuant to this Part, of compliance with those conditions in so far as they relate to the making of the transparency and the destruction or loss of the document.

(3) Where any person has the custody or control of a transparency and an affidavit to which this section applies and, but for the destruction or loss of the document from which the transparency was made would be required by any law, order of court, practice or usage—

- (a) to give discovery of the document; or
- (b) to produce the document for inspection; or
- (c) to permit the making of a copy of the document or the taking of extracts therefrom; or
- (d) to supply a copy of the document;

the law, order, practice or usage shall, subject to this section, be deemed to extend to the transparency and affidavit.

(4) For the purposes of this section—

- (a) the obligation imposed by this section in respect of a requirement referred to in subsection (3)(b) shall be deemed to include an obligation—

- (i) to provide proper facilities for reading the image on the transparency and, where the affidavit is itself in the form of a transparency, the image on the transparency of the affidavit; or
 - (ii) to produce for inspection a print made from the transparency and, where the affidavit is itself in the form of a transparency, a print made from the transparency of the affidavit, together in each case, with an affidavit that would under section 108, be evidence that the print was made in good faith and reproduces the image on the transparency; and
- (b) the obligation imposed by this section in respect of a requirement referred to in subsection (3)(d) shall be deemed not to include an obligation to supply a copy of any transparency but to include, in lieu thereof, an obligation to supply the print and affidavit or, as the case may require, the prints and affidavits, referred to in paragraph (a)(ii).

(5) Where any person has the custody or control of a transparency and an affidavit to which this section applies and is required by legal process issued by a court to produce to the court the document from which the transparency was made, that legal process shall be deemed to require the production by the person of—

- (a) a print, made in good faith, that reproduces the image on the transparency; and
- (b) the affidavit or, where the affidavit is itself in the form of a transparency, a print, made in good faith, that reproduces the image on the transparency of the affidavit.

Division 4—General

Copies to be evidence

116. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Part, where a document has been copied by means of a photographic or other machine which produces a facsimile copy of the document, the copy is, upon proof to the satisfaction of the court that the copy was taken or made from the original

document by means of the machine, admissible in evidence to the same extent as the original document would be admissible in evidence without—

- (a) proof that the copy was compared with the original document; and
- (b) notice to produce the original document having been given.

Further reproduction may be ordered by court

117.(1) Subject to this section, where a print made from a transparency is, in a proceeding, tendered in evidence pursuant to the provisions of this Part and—

- (a) the court is not satisfied that the print is a legible copy of the original document; or
- (b) a party to the proceeding questions the authenticity of the print and applies for an order under this section;

the court may reject the print tendered and order that a further print be made from a transparency of the original document.

(2) A further print made in compliance with an order made under this section shall be made—

- (a) where the order is made under subsection (1)(a), at the cost of the party who tendered the rejected print; or
- (b) where the order is made under subsection (1)(b), in the presence of a person appointed by the court for the purpose and at the cost of the party who applied for the order.

(3) Where a print to which Division 2 of this Part relates is rejected under this section, a print made in compliance with an order under this section shall be made in the same premises as the rejected print or, where this is not practicable, in accordance with directions given by the court.

Colours and tones of reproductions

118.(1) For the purposes of this Part, the production of a reproduction of a document to a court in answer to a legal process, or the admission of such a reproduction in evidence in a proceeding, shall not be precluded on the ground that it is not a copy of an original document or, where the

reproduction is a print made from a transparency, on the ground that the transparency does not bear an image of an original document, if the reproduction is not such a copy, or the transparency does not bear such an image, by reason only of the fact—

- (a) that, in the process by which the reproduction or transparency was made, the colours or tones appearing in the original document were altered or reversed in the reproduction or transparency; or
- (b) that any number or mark of identification added for the purposes of section 113 appears in the reproduction or transparency.

(2) A document may be certified under Division 2 of this Part to be a reproduction of an original document notwithstanding that—

- (a) any writing or representation describing or identifying colours in the original document appears in the reproduction; or
- (b) any colours appearing in the reproduction were added after it was made and before certification.

Notice to produce not required

119. Where a reproduction of a document is admissible in evidence pursuant to this Part, it shall be so admissible whether or not notice to produce the document of which it is a reproduction has been given.

Proof of comparisons not required

120. Where a reproduction of a document is tendered as evidence pursuant to this Part, no proof shall be required that the reproduction was compared with the original document.

Presumptions as to ancient documents

121. Any presumption that may be made in respect of a document over 20 years old may be made with respect to any reproduction of that document admitted in evidence under this Part in all respects as if the reproduction were the document.

Reproductions made in other States

122. Where a reproduction is made of a document in another State or in a Territory of the Commonwealth and would be admissible in evidence in a proceeding in that State or Territory under a law of that State or Territory corresponding with this Part, or a law of that State or Territory that the Minister, by notification published in the Gazette, declares to correspond with this Part, the reproduction shall be admissible in evidence in a proceeding in Queensland in the same circumstances, to the same extent and for the like purpose as it would be admissible in evidence in a proceeding in that State or Territory under the law of that State or Territory.

Judicial notice

123. Where any Act or law requires a court to take judicial notice of the seal or signature of any court, person or body corporate appearing on a document and a reproduction of that document is, pursuant to this Part, admitted in evidence in a proceeding, the court shall take judicial notice of the image of the seal or signature on the reproduction to the same extent as it would be required to take judicial notice of the seal or signature on the document.

A court may reject reproduction

124. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Part, a court may refuse to admit in evidence a reproduction tendered pursuant to this Part if it considers it inexpedient in the interests of justice to do so as a result of any reasonable inference drawn by the court from the nature of the reproduction, the machine or process by which it or, in the case of a print from a transparency, by which the transparency was made, and any other circumstances.

Weight of evidence

125. In estimating the weight to be attached to a reproduction of a document admitted in evidence pursuant to this Part, regard shall be had to the fact that, if the person making an affidavit pursuant to this Part is not called as a witness, there has been no opportunity to cross-examine the person, and to all the circumstances from which any inference may

reasonably be drawn as to—

- (a) the necessity for making the reproduction or, in the case of a print from a transparency, the transparency or for destroying or parting with the document reproduced; or
- (b) the accuracy or otherwise of the reproduction; or
- (c) any incentive to tamper with the document or to misrepresent the reproduction.

Provisions of Part are alternative

126. The provisions of this Part shall be construed as in aid of and as alternative to any provision of any other Part, any other law or any practice or usage with respect to the production to a court or the admissibility in evidence in a proceeding of reproductions of documents.

Stamp duty

127. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Part, where a document is chargeable with stamp duty under the *Stamp Act 1894* a reproduction of the document shall not be admissible in evidence under this Act unless—

- (a) the reproduction of the document shows or establishes to the satisfaction of the court or it is otherwise so established that the document was duly stamped in accordance with that Act; or
- (b) the provisions of that Act which relate to documents that are not duly stamped in accordance therewith are complied with in respect of the reproduction as if it were the document of which it is a reproduction.

Minister may exclude provisions of Part

128.(1) The Minister may, by notification published in the Gazette, exclude the operation of this Part or any Division of this Part in respect of any document or class of document specified in the notification.

(2) The Minister may, by a subsequent notification published in the Gazette, revoke any notification under subsection (1).

(3) The provisions of this Part referred to in a notification published

under subsection (1) shall not, while the notification remains unrevoked, apply to and in respect of any document or class of document specified in the notification.

Part 5 of Libraries and Archives Act 1988 not affected

129. This Act does not affect Part 5 of the *Libraries and Archives Act 1988*.

PART 8—MISCELLANEOUS

Rejection of evidence in criminal proceedings

130. Nothing in this Act derogates from the power of the court in a criminal proceeding to exclude evidence if the court is satisfied that it would be unfair to the person charged to admit that evidence.

Witnesses for defence to be sworn

131. In a criminal proceeding, any person who gives evidence on behalf of the defence shall first take an oath in such manner as the person would by law be obliged to do if the person were a witness for the prosecution.

Actions for breach of promise of marriage

132. The plaintiff in an action for breach of promise of marriage shall not recover a verdict unless the plaintiff's testimony is corroborated by some other material evidence in support of such promise.

Impounding documents

133. Where a document has been tendered or produced before a court, the court may, whether or not the document is admitted in evidence, direct that the document shall be impounded and kept in the custody of an officer of the court or of another person for such period and subject to such conditions as the court thinks fit.

Power to appoint a Government Printer

134. The Governor in Council may appoint a Government Printer for the State.

Production of documents by agencies in relation to civil proceedings

134A.(1) A person who is a party to a civil proceeding may make written application to the principal officer of an agency to produce for inspection a document that—

- (a) is in the possession of, or under the power of, the agency; and
- (b) is relevant to an issue in the proceeding;

if the agency, the principal officer, or a member, officer or employee of the agency, could be ordered, on the application of the person, to produce the document in the proceeding.

(2) The principal officer may permit the person, on payment of the prescribed fee, to inspect the document, and take a copy of, or an extract from, the document, at a time and place nominated by the principal officer.

(3) If the principal officer permits the person to inspect and take a copy of, or an extract from, the document, the principal officer, and all persons acting on behalf of the principal officer, are entitled to the same protection as they would have had if the acts concerned had been carried out in obedience to a process of the Supreme Court.

(4) The principal officer is not required to notify another party to the proceeding of—

- (a) the making of the application; or
- (b) any action taken in relation to the application.

(5) Subject to subsection (6), this section does not affect—

- (a) the operation of any law relating to the disclosure or non-disclosure of information; or
- (b) the operation of another law that authorises the inspection or copying of a document otherwise than as provided in this section; or
- (c) the power of a court to order the inspection or production of a

document.

(6) If a document mentioned in subsection (1) is a document that contains information to which section 5.1 of the *Health Services Act 1991* applies, the document is, for the purposes of section 5.1(2)(a) of that Act, information that is expressly authorised or permitted to be given under this Act.

(7) In this section—

“agency” means—

- (a) a department; or
- (b) a public authority within the meaning of the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*; or
- (c) a person or body declared by regulation to be an agency;

but does not include a person or body declared by regulation not to be an agency;

“principal officer” means—

- (a) in relation to a department—the chief executive of the department; or
- (b) in relation to an agency for which a regulation declares an officer to be the principal officer—the holder of the office; or
- (c) in relation to another agency—
 - (i) if it is an incorporated body that has no members—the person who manages the body’s affairs; or
 - (ii) if it is a body (whether or not incorporated) that is constituted by 1 person—the person; or
 - (iii) if it is a body (whether or not incorporated) that is constituted by 2 or more persons—the person who is entitled to preside at a meeting of the body at which the person is present.

Regulation making power

135.(1) The Governor in Council may make regulations under this Act.

(2) A regulation may be made about—

- (a) fees to be charged under this Act; or
- (b) the payment of fees and expenses for, or incurred in, taking evidence under Division 2 of Part 3.

SCHEDULES**SCHEDULE 2**

section 8(4)

Year and Number	Title	Provisions referred to
1899 63 Vic. No. 9	<i>The Criminal Code</i>	Sections 208, 209, 210, 211, 215, 216, 219, 222, 223, 229B, 302, 303, 306, 308, 311, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 319A, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 335, 336, 337, 339, 340, 343, 343A, 344, 347, 349.
1965 No. 42 of 1965	<i>Children's Services Act 1965–1974</i>	Section 69.

SCHEDULE 3

section 54(1)

Queensland

In the _____ (*insert name of court*).

The Queen against

[*or* In the matter of a Complaint by _____ against
or, as the case may be.]I _____ of _____, in the (State
or Territory) make oath and say as follows—

1. I am a fingerprint expert and a member of the police force of the said State [*or* the Commonwealth *or* the said Territory].
2. I have examined the fingerprint card now produced and shown to me marked “A”.
3. The fingerprints on the said card are identical with those appearing on a fingerprint card in the records of the said police force, being the fingerprints of one _____ (*name of person; and alias, if any*).
4. According to the said records, which I believe to be accurate, the said _____ was convicted in the said State [*or* the Commonwealth *or* the said Territory] of the following offences—
[Set out description of offences, dates of conviction, and courts in which the person was convicted.]
5. From an examination of the said records I believe that the person referred to as having been convicted in the document(s) now shown to me and marked “B” [“C”, “D” etc. respectively] is identical with the person whose fingerprints are on the said card marked “A”.

Sworn at

this _____ day of

, 19 .

Before me—

SCHEDULE 3 (continued)

A person authorised to take affidavits in the
State [*or* Territory] of _____ [*or* the
Commonwealth.]

ENDNOTES**1 Index to Endnotes**

	Page
2 Date to which amendments incorporated	84
3 Table of previous reprints	84
4 List of legislation	84
5 List of annotations	86
6 Table of renumbered provisions	88
7 Table of comparative legislation	88

2 Date to which amendments incorporated

This is the reprint date mentioned in section 5(c) of the Reprints Act 1992. Accordingly, this reprint includes all amendments that commenced operation on or before 22 December 1993. Future amendments of the Evidence Act 1977 may be made in accordance with this reprint under section 49 of the Reprints Act 1992.

3 Table of previous reprints

Reprint No.	Amendments included	Reprint date
1	to Act No. 68 of 1993	27 April 1993

4 List of legislation**Evidence Act 1977 No. 47**

date of assent 3 October 1977

s 1 commenced on date of assent

remaining provisions commenced 1 January 1978 (see s 1(2))

as amended by—

Criminal Law Amendment Act 1979 No. 2 Pt 3

date of assent 6 April 1979

commenced 7 April 1979 (proc pubd Gaz 7 April 1979 p 1359)

Evidence Act Amendment Act 1981 No. 3

date of assent 30 March 1981
commenced on date of assent

Evidence Act Amendment 1984 No. 71

date of assent 12 October 1984
commenced on date of assent

Criminal Law (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act 1986 No. 20 s 14

date of assent 8 April 1986
commenced 1 November 1986 (proc pubd Gaz 18 October 1986 p 1118)

Corrective Services (Consequential Amendments) Act 1988 No. 88 s 3 Sch 1

date of assent 1 December 1988
commenced 15 December 1988 (see s 2(2) and order pubd Gaz 10 December 1988 p 1675)

Criminal Code, Evidence Act and other Acts Amendment Act 1989 No. 17 Pt 3

date of assent 30 March 1989
commenced 3 July 1989 (proc pubd Gaz 24 June 1989 p 1821 as amended by
proc pubd Gaz 1 July 1989 p 2190)

Public Service (Administrative Arrangements) Act 1990 (No. 2) No. 80 s 3 Sch 1

date of assent 14 November 1990
amendments of ss 57–58 commenced 7 December 1989 (see s 2(4)(c))
amendment of s 104 commenced 31 August 1989 (see s 2(2)(a))

Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (No. 2) 1992 No. 68 s 3 Sch 1

date of assent 7 December 1992
commenced 18 December 1992 (1992 SL No. 439)

**Justice and Attorney-General Legislation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993
No. 68 Pt 3**

date of assent 23 November 1993
commenced on date of assent

Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (No. 2) 1993 No. 76 s 3 Sch 1

date of assent 14 December 1993
commenced on date of assent

5 List of annotations

Key to abbreviations in list of annotations

amd	=	amended
Chap	=	Chapter
cl	=	clause
def	=	definition
Div	=	Division
hdg	=	heading
ins	=	inserted
om	=	omitted
prec	=	preceding
pres	=	present
prev	=	previous
(prev)	=	previously
prov	=	provision
Pt	=	Part
RA	=	Reprints Act 1992
renum	=	renumbered
Sdiv	=	Subdivision
sub	=	substituted

Provisions not included in reprint, or amended by amendments not included in reprint, are underlined

Arrangement of Act

s 2 amd 1989 No. 17 s 60
 om (see s 36 RA)

Repeals and amendments

s 3 om (see s 40 RA)

Savings and transitional

s 4 om (see s 38 RA)

Evidence of children

s 9 amd 1989 No. 17 s 61

Expert evidence of ability of child under 12 years to give reliable evidence

s 9A ins 1989 No. 17 s 62

Questioning of witness as to certain convictions

s 15A ins 1986 No. 20 s 14(1)

Division 4—Evidence of special witnesses

Div hdg ins 1989 No. 17 s 63

Evidence of special witnesses

s 21A ins 1989 No. 17 s 63

Power of person appointed by foreign authority to take evidence and administer oaths

s 24 amd 1981 No. 3 s 2

Regulations

s 34 om 1993 No. 76 s 3 Sch 1

Certain signatures etc. to be judicially noticed

s 42 amd 1993 No. 76 s 3 Sch 1

Acts and some statutory instruments to be judicially noticed

s 43 sub 1993 No. 76 s 3 Sch 1

Proof of incorporation or registration of company in Queensland

s 55 sub 1993 No. 68 s 5

Proof of lease or licence

s 57 amd 1990 No. 80 s 3 Sch 1

 sub 1993 No. 76 s 3 Sch 1

Proof of Letters Patent

s 58 amd 1990 No. 80 s 3 Sch 1; 1993 No. 76 s 3 Sch 1

Statement made before proceeding by child under 12 years

s 93A ins 1989 No. 17 s 64

Admissibility of evidence concerning credibility of persons responsible for statement

s 94 amd 1989 No. 17 s 65

Admissibility of statements produced by computers

s 95 amd 1979 No. 2 s 10; 1988 No. 88 s 3 Sch 1

Provisions of Part are alternative

s 103 amd 1989 No. 17 s 66

Interpretation

s 104 amd 1990 No. 80 s 3 Sch 1

 def “Minister” om 1993 No. 76 s 3 Sch 1

Certified reproductions of certain official documents etc. to be admissible without further proof

s 105 amd 1984 No. 71 s 2

Part 5 of Libraries and Archives Act 1988 not affected

s 129 sub 1993 No. 76 s 3 Sch 1

Production of documents by agencies in relation to civil proceedings

s 134A ins 1992 No. 68 s 3 Sch 1

Regulation making power

s 135 sub 1993 No. 76 s 3 Sch 1

SCHEDULE 1

 om (see ss 38, 40 RA)

SCHEDULE 2

 amd 1989 No. 17 s 67

6 Table of renumbered provisionsTABLE OF RENUMBERED PROVISIONS
under section 43 of Reprints Act 1992

Previous	Renumbered as
1(2) (2nd sentence)	1(2A)
10 (1st sentence)	10(1)
10 (2nd sentence)	10(2)
15(2)(c) proviso	15(3)
17 (1st sentence)	17(1)
17 (2nd sentence)	17(2)
18 (1st sentence)	18(1)
18 (2nd sentence)	18(2)
19(1) (2nd sentence)	19(1A)
21A(1) (2nd sentence)	21A(1A)
21A(5) (2nd sentence)	21A(5A)
21A(8) (2nd sentence)	21A(9)
61 (1st sentence)	61(1)
61 (2nd sentence)	61(2)
75(1) (2nd sentence)	75(1A)
93A(3) (2nd sentence)	93(4)

7 Comparative legislation

See Reprint No. 1