



Magistrates Act 1991

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Also see endnotes for information about—

- **when provisions commenced**
- **editorial changes made in the reprint, including table of corrected minor errors**
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Queensland

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Magistrates Act 1991

[as amended by all amendments that commenced on or before 14 March 2008]

An Act relating to the offices of magistrates and judicial registrars, their independence, and for related purposes

Part 1 Preliminary

1 Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Magistrates Act 1991*.

2 Commencement

- (1) Section 55 commences immediately after the commencement of section 111 of the *Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991*.
- (2) The remaining provisions of this Act commence on a day to be fixed by proclamation.

3 Definitions

In this Act—

advisory committee means the court governance advisory committee established under section 15.

application for review means an application for review of a transfer decision made under section 33.

Chief Judge means the Chief Judge of the District Court.

Chief Justice means the Chief Justice of Queensland.

clerk of the court means a clerk of the court within the meaning of the *Justices Act 1886*.

- (ii) the High Court;
of at least 5 years standing.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), a person who—
 - (a) immediately before the commencement of this section, was qualified for admission as a barrister or solicitor of the Supreme Court; and
 - (b) is admitted as a barrister or solicitor; and
 - (c) immediately before the commencement of this section was employed in a Magistrates Courts Office;is taken to have been a barrister or solicitor from when the person became qualified.

5 Appointment of magistrates

- (1) The Governor in Council may appoint as many magistrates as are necessary for transacting the business of the Magistrates Courts.
- (2) Before making a recommendation to the Governor in Council about the appointment of a magistrate, the Minister must first consult with the Chief Magistrate.
- (3) The appointment of a magistrate must state and has effect to decide—
 - (a) the place where the magistrate is first to constitute a Magistrates Court appointed under the *Justices Act 1886*, section 22B(1)(c) and the period, not longer than 1 year, the magistrate is to constitute a Magistrates Court at the place; and
 - (b) the place, which may be the place mentioned in paragraph (a), where the magistrate is next to constitute a Magistrates Court and the period, not longer than 5 years, the magistrate is to constitute a Magistrates Court at the place.
- (4) However, the Chief Magistrate and the magistrate may agree that the magistrate is to constitute a Magistrates Court at another place for an agreed period before the period mentioned in subsection (3)(b) ends.

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- (5) Despite subsection (3) and before a period mentioned in the subsection ends, the Chief Magistrate may, for good reason directly related to the magistrate, decide that the magistrate is to constitute a Magistrates Court at a place other than a place mentioned in the magistrate's appointment.

Examples of good reasons—

- the magistrate's incompatibility with the local community
 - the magistrate's incompatibility with another magistrate at the place is detrimental to the efficient functioning of the court
- (6) The Governor in Council may appoint a District Court judge or a magistrate to be the Chief Magistrate either at the time of the person's appointment as a judge or magistrate or at any time afterwards.
- (7) The Governor in Council may appoint a magistrate to be the Deputy Chief Magistrate either at the time of the person's appointment as a magistrate or at any time afterwards.
- (8) A person's appointment as a magistrate is taken to be an appointment on a full-time basis unless the appointment is stated, in the instrument of appointment, to be on a part-time basis.
- (9) A magistrate, although appointed on a full-time basis, may, if the Attorney-General agrees in writing, exercise the jurisdiction, powers and functions of a magistrate on a part-time basis.
- (10) A magistrate, although appointed on a part-time basis, may, if the Attorney-General agrees in writing, exercise the jurisdiction, powers and functions of a magistrate on a full-time basis.
- (11) A magistrate is to be appointed under this Act, and not under the *Public Service Act 1996*.

5A Appointment of acting Deputy Chief Magistrate

- (1) This section applies if—
- (a) the Deputy Chief Magistrate's position is vacant; or

- (b) the Deputy Chief Magistrate is not available to perform the Deputy Chief Magistrate's functions, because of absence or another reason.
- (2) The Chief Magistrate may appoint a magistrate to act as the Deputy Chief Magistrate.
- (3) The instrument of appointment must state the period of the appointment.
- (4) The period of appointment must not be longer than 6 months.
- (5) However, the appointment may be renewed at any time.
- (6) In this section—
magistrate does not include a person who is acting as a magistrate.

6 Appointment of acting magistrates

- (1) The Governor in Council may appoint any of the following persons to act as a magistrate—
 - (a) a clerk of the court;
 - (b) a person qualified to be appointed as a magistrate;
 - (c) a person who is, or has been, a judge or magistrate of a court of another State or Territory;
 - (d) a person who is, or has been, a judge of a federal court or a federal magistrate;
 - (e) a Supreme Court judge, if the Chief Justice consents;
 - (f) a District Court judge, if the Chief Judge consents;
 - (g) a retired magistrate.
- (1A) Before making a recommendation to the Governor in Council about the appointment of a person to act as a magistrate, the Minister must first consult with the Chief Magistrate.
- (2) The appointment may be for a specified period or for a specified matter.
- (3) For the purpose of the person acting as a magistrate—
 - (a) this Act and other Acts apply to the person as if the person were a magistrate; and

- (b) the person has all the powers and functions of a magistrate; and
 - (c) subject to section 7(4), the person is to be paid the remuneration and allowances decided by the Governor in Council, not being less than the remuneration and allowances paid to a magistrate.
- (4) A person who has acted as a magistrate may constitute a Magistrates Court at a place directed by the Chief Magistrate to give judgment in, or otherwise complete, a proceeding heard by the person while acting as a magistrate, despite the fact that the person is no longer a magistrate.
- (5) In this section—
- retired magistrate* means a person who ceases to be a magistrate under section 42(a), (b) or (d).

7 Acting magistrates who are clerks of the court

- (1) This section applies if a clerk of the court is appointed to act as a magistrate.
- (2) The *Public Service Act 1996* does not apply to the clerk while the clerk is acting as a magistrate.
- (3) The clerk retains all rights that have accrued to the clerk because of the clerk's employment, or that would accrue in the future to the clerk because of that employment, as if service acting as a magistrate were a continuation of service as a clerk of the court.
- (4) However, for deciding whether remuneration is payable to a clerk of the court while acting as a magistrate, the *Public Service Act 1996* applies to the person.

8 Jurisdiction and powers of magistrates

A magistrate may exercise, throughout the State, all the jurisdiction, powers and functions conferred on a magistrate, or on 2 justices, by or under any law of the State.

9 Oaths to be taken by magistrates

- (1) A person appointed under section 5 or 6 must not exercise any powers or functions of a magistrate unless the person has—
 - (a) taken and subscribed the oath prescribed by the regulations or, if not so prescribed, by any other Act; or
 - (b) made and subscribed an affirmation in the form of that oath.
- (2) An oath or affirmation referred to in subsection (1) may be taken or made before, and may be administered and received by—
 - (a) a Supreme Court judge; or
 - (b) a District Court judge; or
 - (c) a magistrate.
- (3) A magistrate who does not, within 3 months after appointment as a magistrate, take the oath or make the affirmation referred to in subsection (1) ceases to hold office as a magistrate when that period ends.
- (4) A magistrate who complies with this section is not required to take an oath or make an affirmation prescribed under any other Act in relation to justices or magistrates.

Part 3 Chief Magistrate**10 Magistrate appointed as Chief Magistrate**

- (1) This section applies if a magistrate is appointed as Chief Magistrate.
- (2) The Chief Magistrate holds office as Chief Magistrate while the Chief Magistrate is a magistrate.
- (3) With the approval of the Governor in Council, the Chief Magistrate may resign office as Chief Magistrate but remain a magistrate.

11 District Court judge appointed as Chief Magistrate

- (1) This section applies if a District Court judge is appointed as Chief Magistrate.
- (2) The Chief Magistrate is to be paid the salary, expenses and allowances of, and has the title, tenure and seniority of, a District Court judge.
- (3) Service as the Chief Magistrate counts as service as a District Court judge for all purposes including, for example, the *Judges (Pensions and Long Leave) Act 1957*.
- (4) The Chief Magistrate may only be removed from office as Chief Magistrate in the way provided in the *Constitution of Queensland 2001*, section 61² for the removal from office of a judge and that section applies as if a reference to a judge in that section, other than in subsections (9) and (10), included a reference to the Chief Magistrate.
- (5) However, the Chief Magistrate may not perform the duties, or exercise the powers, of a District Court judge while the Chief Magistrate holds office as Chief Magistrate.
- (6) Sections 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 and 47³ do not apply to the Chief Magistrate.
- (7) With the approval of the Governor in Council, the Chief Magistrate may resign office as Chief Magistrate and magistrate but remain a District Court judge.

12 Functions of Chief Magistrate

- (1) The Chief Magistrate is responsible for ensuring the orderly and expeditious exercise of the jurisdiction and powers of Magistrates Courts.
- (2) Subject to this Act and to such consultation with magistrates as the Chief Magistrate considers appropriate and practicable,

2 *Constitution of Queensland 2001*, section 61 (Removal from office for misbehaviour or incapacity)

3 Sections 42 (Tenure of office), 43 (Suspension of magistrate by Governor in Council), 44 (Suspension of magistrate in relation to an indictable offence), 45 (Remuneration during suspension and after conviction), 46 (Removal of magistrate from office) and 47 (Terms and conditions of employment)

the Chief Magistrate has power to do all things necessary or convenient to be done for ensuring the orderly and expeditious exercise of the jurisdiction and powers of Magistrates Courts, including, for example—

- (a) deciding the magistrates who are to constitute Magistrates Courts at particular places appointed under section 22B(1)(c) of the *Justices Act 1886* or who are to perform particular functions; and
 - (b) issuing directions with respect to the practices and procedures of Magistrates Courts; and
 - (c) allocating the functions to be exercised by particular magistrates; and
 - (d) nominating a magistrate to be a supervising magistrate or a coordinating magistrate for the purpose of the allocation of work of the Magistrates Court.
- (3) Subsection (2) does not authorise the Chief Magistrate to promote a magistrate.
 - (4) In subsection (2)(a) and (c), a reference to magistrates includes a reference to judicial registrars.
 - (5) Subsection (4) and this subsection expire on the expiry of part 9A under section 53S.

Part 4 Deputy Chief Magistrate

13 Deputy Chief Magistrate

- (1) The Deputy Chief Magistrate holds office as Deputy Chief Magistrate while the Deputy Chief Magistrate is a magistrate.
- (2) With the approval of the Governor in Council, the Deputy Chief Magistrate may resign office as Deputy Chief Magistrate but remain as a magistrate.

14 Functions of Deputy Chief Magistrate

The Deputy Chief Magistrate—

- (a) in addition to exercising functions as a magistrate, must exercise such other functions as the Chief Magistrate directs; and
- (b) may act as the Chief Magistrate during—
 - (i) a vacancy in the office; or
 - (ii) any period when the Chief Magistrate is absent from duty or from the State or is, for any other reason, unable to perform the duties of the office.

Part 5 **Court governance advisory committee**

15 **Establishment of court governance advisory committee**

A court governance advisory committee (*advisory committee*) is established.

16 **Functions of advisory committee**

The advisory committee has the following functions—

- (a) to make, in conjunction with the Chief Magistrate, a transfer policy for magistrates;
- (b) to make transfer recommendations on matters referred to it by the Chief Magistrate under section 23 having regard to the transfer policy;
- (c) to consider and make recommendations about other matters affecting Magistrates Courts referred to it by the Chief Magistrate.

17 **Composition of advisory committee**

- (1) The advisory committee has 2 permanent members and 3 temporary members.
- (2) The permanent members are—

- (a) the Deputy Chief Magistrate, who is the chairperson of the advisory committee; and
- (b) the State Coroner.
- (3) The temporary members are magistrates selected by the Chief Magistrate in consultation with the permanent members.
- (4) However, at least 1 of the temporary members must constitute a Magistrates Court at a place outside the south east Queensland Magistrates Courts districts.
- (5) Temporary members of the advisory committee hold appointment for 2 years.
- (6) A magistrate who was a temporary member of the advisory committee may not be reappointed as a temporary member for at least 4 years after the magistrate's last appointment as a temporary member ended.
- (7) A temporary member of the advisory committee may resign by signed notice given to the Chief Magistrate.
- (8) In this section—

south east Queensland Magistrates Courts districts means the Beenleigh, Brisbane, Caboolture, Cleveland, Dalby, Gold Coast, Gympie, Ipswich, Kingaroy, Maroochydore, Redcliffe, Toowoomba and Warwick Magistrates Courts districts.

18 Quorum

A quorum for a meeting of the advisory committee is 3 members.

19 Presiding at meetings

- (1) The Deputy Chief Magistrate presides at all meetings of the advisory committee at which the deputy is present.
- (2) If the Deputy Chief Magistrate is absent, the member chosen by the members present is to preside.

20 Conduct of meetings

- (1) A question at an advisory committee meeting is to be decided by a majority of the votes of the members present and voting.
- (2) Each member present at the meeting has a vote on each question to be decided and, if the votes are equal, the presiding member has a casting vote.
- (3) If a member becomes aware that the member has a conflict of interest in relation to a matter before the advisory committee, the member must—
 - (a) disclose the issue giving rise to the conflict to the advisory committee; and
 - (b) take no further part in the consideration of the matter.
- (4) However, a failure to disclose a conflict of interest does not, of itself, affect the advisory committee's consideration of the matter or any transfer recommendation made in relation to the matter.
- (5) Subject to this part, the advisory committee may conduct its meetings in any way it considers appropriate, including, for example, by permitting its members to take part in its meetings by using any technology that reasonably allows members to hear and take part in discussions as they happen.

Example of use of technology—

teleconferencing

21 Transfer policy

- (1) The advisory committee, in conjunction with the Chief Magistrate, must make a policy (*transfer policy*) to guide decisions about which magistrates are to constitute Magistrates Courts at particular places.
- (2) The advisory committee, in conjunction with the Chief Magistrate, may amend the transfer policy to ensure its continuing effectiveness.
- (3) The transfer policy must set out the procedures to be used and the matters to be considered for the purposes of transfer recommendations and transfer decisions.

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- (4) The transfer policy may include other matters relevant to transfer recommendations or transfer decisions that the advisory committee considers appropriate but the policy must reflect the following principles—
- (a) magistrates are expected to serve in regional areas;
 - (b) generally, a magistrate, under a transfer recommendation or transfer decision, is to constitute a Magistrates Court at the place for a period of between 2 and 5 years;
 - (c) generally, before making a decision about which magistrate is to constitute a Magistrates Court at a particular place, expressions of interest are to be called for from magistrates willing to constitute a Magistrates Court at the place;
 - (d) subject to subsection (5), if no expressions of interest are received, magistrates without prescribed regional experience are to be considered for constituting a Magistrates Court at a place in regional Queensland before magistrates with prescribed regional experience;
 - (e) a magistrate is to be consulted before a decision is made about where the magistrate is to constitute a Magistrates Court;
 - (f) a magistrate's personal circumstances are to be taken into account before a decision is made about where the magistrate is to constitute a Magistrates Court.
- (5) The transfer policy must also provide that regard is to be had to a magistrate's transfer history.
- (6) In this section—

magistrate's transfer history means the number of places at which a magistrate has constituted a Magistrates Court, and the number of times a magistrate has been required to change residence in order to constitute Magistrates Courts at places, since the magistrate's appointment as a magistrate.

magistrates without prescribed regional experience means magistrates who have not constituted a Magistrates Court at a place or places in regional Queensland at all or for at least 2 years within the last 10 years.

magistrates with prescribed regional experience means magistrates who have constituted a Magistrates Court at a place or places in regional Queensland for at least 2 years within the last 10 years.

regional Queensland means that part of Queensland outside the Beenleigh, Brisbane, Caboolture, Cleveland, Gold Coast, Gympie, Ipswich, Maroochydore, Redcliffe and Toowoomba Magistrates Courts districts.

22 Magistrates may express interest in where they are willing to constitute Magistrates Courts

- (1) A magistrate may, at any time, advise the Chief Magistrate of a place or places where the magistrate is willing to constitute a Magistrates Court.
- (2) The Chief Magistrate must advise the advisory committee of the magistrate's willingness to constitute a Magistrates Court at the place or places and the advisory committee may take that into account when considering making transfer recommendations.

Part 6 Transfer recommendations and transfer decisions

Division 1 Referral

23 Decisions about constituting Magistrates Courts

- (1) The Chief Magistrate must refer the following matters to the advisory committee for consideration and a transfer recommendation—
 - (a) for the purposes of section 5(5), whether a magistrate is to constitute a Magistrates Court at a place other than a place mentioned in the magistrate's appointment under section 5(3);

- (b) for the purposes of section 12(2)(a), whether a magistrate is to continue to constitute a Magistrates Court at the place where the magistrate currently constitutes a Magistrates Court and, if not, where a magistrate is to constitute a Magistrates Court.
- (2) The Chief Magistrate is not required to act under subsection (1)(b) only because of the ending of the period for which a magistrate is required to constitute a Magistrates Court at a place if the magistrate does not ask for a transfer decision.
- (3) When the period to which subsection (2) applies ends, the magistrate is to continue to constitute the court at the place until a transfer decision is made requiring the magistrate to constitute a Magistrates Court at another place.
- (4) Subsection (1) applies whether the matter is initiated by the Chief Magistrate or a particular magistrate.
- (5) The Chief Magistrate may refer to the advisory committee, for consideration and a transfer recommendation, the question of which magistrate is to constitute a Magistrates Court at a place where the person who was the magistrate—
- (a) has ceased to be a magistrate under section 42;⁴ or
 - (b) has been the subject of a transfer decision under section 12(2)(a) requiring the magistrate to constitute a Magistrates Court at another place; or
 - (c) has been the subject of an agreement under section 5(4); or
 - (d) has been the subject of a decision under section 5(5).

Division 2 Role of advisory committee

24 Magistrate's right to be heard

- (1) If the advisory committee is proposing to make a transfer recommendation, the advisory committee must—

4 Section 42 (Tenure of office)

- (a) give the magistrate who is the subject of the proposed transfer recommendation written notice—
 - (i) that the advisory committee proposes to make the transfer recommendation; and
 - (ii) of what the proposed transfer recommendation is; and
 - (b) allow the magistrate at least 14 days after receiving the notice to make representations to the advisory committee about the proposed transfer recommendation.
- (2) The magistrate may make representations to the advisory committee within the time allowed by written submission or verbally.
 - (3) If the magistrate wishes to make representations verbally, allowing the magistrate to make the representations to the advisory committee using teleconferencing technology is enough to satisfy the magistrate's right to be heard.
 - (4) In this section—

teleconferencing technology means teleconferencing or other technology that reasonably allows the members and the magistrate to hear, and take part in discussions about, the representations while the representations are being made.

25 Advisory committee to consider representations

The advisory committee must consider any representations made by the magistrate having regard to the transfer policy.

26 Advisory committee to make transfer recommendation

When making a transfer recommendation, the advisory committee must have regard to the transfer policy and give concise reasons for the transfer recommendation to the Chief Magistrate.

Division 3 Role of Chief Magistrate

27 Chief Magistrate to consider transfer recommendation

The Chief Magistrate must consider the advisory committee's transfer recommendation and the transfer policy when making a transfer decision.

28 Chief Magistrate not bound by transfer recommendation

- (1) The Chief Magistrate is not bound by the advisory committee's transfer recommendation.
- (2) If, having considered the advisory committee's transfer recommendation, the Chief Magistrate proposes to make a transfer decision that differs from the transfer recommendation, the Chief Magistrate must—
 - (a) give the magistrate who is the subject of the proposed transfer decision written notice—
 - (i) that the Chief Magistrate proposes to make the transfer decision; and
 - (ii) of what the proposed transfer decision is; and
 - (b) allow the magistrate at least 14 days after receiving the notice to make representations to the Chief Magistrate about the proposed transfer decision.
- (3) The magistrate may make representations to the Chief Magistrate within the time allowed by written submission or verbally.
- (4) If the magistrate wishes to make representations verbally, allowing the magistrate to make the representations to the Chief Magistrate using teleconferencing technology is enough to satisfy the magistrate's right to be heard.
- (5) If the Chief Magistrate makes a transfer decision that does not differ from the transfer recommendation, it is not necessary that the Chief Magistrate allow the magistrate who is the subject of the transfer decision an opportunity to make further representations about the transfer decision to satisfy procedural fairness requirements.

(6) In this section—

teleconferencing technology means teleconferencing or other technology that reasonably allows the Chief Magistrate and the magistrate to hear, and take part in discussions about, the representations while the representations are being made.

29 Chief Magistrate to advise magistrate of transfer decision

- (1) The Chief Magistrate must give the magistrate who is the subject of a transfer decision and the advisory committee written notice of the Chief Magistrate's transfer decision stating—
 - (a) the place where the magistrate is to constitute a Magistrates Court; and
 - (b) the period the magistrate is to constitute a Magistrates Court at the place; and
 - (c) whether or not the transfer decision differs from the advisory committee's transfer recommendation.
- (2) The Chief Magistrate must also give the magistrate and the advisory committee concise reasons for the transfer decision.
- (3) The requirement to give reasons does not require the Chief Magistrate to give reasons why the magistrate who is the subject of the transfer decision was chosen instead of another magistrate.

Division 4 Temporary transfer decisions

30 Temporary transfer decisions about constituting Magistrates Courts

- (1) This section applies if—
 - (a) the Chief Magistrate makes a transfer decision under section 12(2)(a); and
 - (b) under the decision, the magistrate who is the subject of the decision is to constitute a Magistrates Court at a place for a period less than 3 months.

- (2) The Chief Magistrate is not required to have regard to the transfer policy when making the decision and sections 23, 29 and 33 do not apply to the decision.

Editor's note—

sections 23 (Decisions about constituting Magistrates Courts), 29 (Chief Magistrate to advise magistrate of transfer decision) and 33 (Supreme Court judge may review transfer decisions)

- (3) The Chief Magistrate must give the magistrate written notice of the Chief Magistrate's decision stating—
- (a) the place where the magistrate is to constitute a Magistrates Court; and
 - (b) the period, less than 3 months, the magistrate is to constitute a Magistrates Court at the place.

Part 7 Review of transfer decisions

Division 1 Transfer decision not differing from transfer recommendation

31 No review of transfer decision

- (1) This section applies if a transfer recommendation is made and the Chief Magistrate makes a transfer decision that does not differ from the transfer recommendation.
- (2) The transfer decision is not subject to review and no appeal lies from the decision.

Division 2 Transfer decision differing from transfer recommendation

32 Application

This division applies if a transfer recommendation is made and the Chief Magistrate makes a transfer decision that differs from the transfer recommendation.

33 Supreme Court judge may review transfer decisions

- (1) The magistrate who is the subject of the transfer decision may apply to a Supreme Court judge to review the transfer decision.
- (2) The application for review must be made within 14 days after the magistrate receives written notice of the transfer decision.
- (3) If an application for review is made under this section, the transfer decision is stayed until the application is decided or withdrawn.

34 Form of application for review

The application for review must state the grounds on which the application is brought.

35 Filing documents

- (1) The application for review must be filed in the Supreme Court registry at Brisbane.
- (2) When filing the application for review, or as soon afterwards as is practicable, the applicant must file copies of the following documents—
 - (a) a copy of the notice given to the applicant by the Chief Magistrate under section 29(1);
 - (b) a copy of the Chief Magistrate's reason given to the applicant by the Chief Magistrate under section 29(2);
 - (c) anything else the applicant intends to rely on to support the application.

36 Setting directions hearing

When an application for review is filed, the registrar must set a time, day and place for a directions hearing before a Supreme Court judge.

37 Service on Chief Magistrate

At least 14 days before the directions hearing, the applicant must give the Chief Magistrate—

- (a) a copy of the application for review; and
- (b) notice of the time, day and place of the directions hearing; and
- (c) a copy of all documents filed under section 35.

38 Orders and directions at directions hearing

At the directions hearing, a Supreme Court judge may make any orders and give any directions relating to the conduct of the proceeding the judge considers appropriate.

39 Hearing and deciding application at directions hearing if parties agree

The Supreme Court judge may hear and decide the application for review at a directions hearing if the parties agree.

40 Power of Supreme Court judge on review

- (1) A Supreme Court judge may, by order, affirm the transfer decision or declare the transfer decision to be of no effect.
- (2) The judge may declare the transfer decision to be of no effect only if the judge is satisfied—
 - (a) the transfer decision was so unreasonable that no person having the functions of the Chief Magistrate could properly consider the transfer decision to be a reasonable exercise of the Chief Magistrate's discretion; or

- (a) the holding of the other office, the performance of the other duties or the engagement in the other employment is compatible with the office of magistrate; and
 - (b) the Governor in Council approves that the magistrate hold the office, perform the duties or engage in the employment.
- (5) A magistrate must not practise as a barrister or solicitor for fee or reward.
- (6) A magistrate must immediately stop holding an office, performing other duties or engaging in other employment if required to do so by the Governor in Council.

42 Tenure of office

A person ceases to be a magistrate if—

- (a) the person resigns by written notice given to the Minister; or
- (b) having attained 55, the person elects to retire by written notice given to the Minister; or
- (c) the person is removed from office; or
- (d) the person attains 65; or
- (e) the person ceases to hold office under section 9(3).

43 Suspension of magistrate by Governor in Council

- (1) The Governor in Council may suspend a magistrate from office.
- (2) However, a magistrate must not be suspended from office under subsection (1) unless a Supreme Court judge, on the application of the Attorney-General, has decided that there are reasonable grounds for believing that proper cause for removal of the magistrate exists.
- (3) A copy of an application under subsection (2) must be given to the magistrate at least 14 days before the application is heard.

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- (4) There is proper cause to remove a magistrate from office⁵ if the magistrate—
- (a) is incompetent or guilty of serious neglect of the duties of office; or
 - (b) is mentally or physically incapable of carrying out satisfactorily the duties of office; or
 - (c) is guilty of proved misbehaviour, misconduct or conduct unbecoming a magistrate; or
 - (d) fails, without reasonable excuse, to constitute a Magistrates Court at a particular place in accordance with a transfer decision as required by the Chief Magistrate.
- (5) A suspension under subsection (1) lapses if any of the following happens—
- (a) the Supreme Court decides under section 46 that there is no proper cause to remove the magistrate;
 - (b) the Governor in Council lifts the suspension.
- (6) The Minister must give the following notices to the magistrate and publish them in the gazette—
- (a) if the magistrate is suspended under subsection (1)—notice of the suspension;
 - (b) if the magistrate's suspension lapses under subsection (5)—notice of the lapsing of the suspension.
- (7) However, a failure to comply with subsection (6)(a) does not affect the suspension or the removal of the magistrate following suspension.
- (8) A magistrate who is suspended from office under subsection (1) may appeal to the Supreme Court against the suspension.
- (9) The appeal may be heard with any application made under section 46.
- (10) In this section—
- duties*, of office, includes administrative duties of office.

⁵ For removal of a magistrate from office, see section 46.

44 Suspension of magistrate in relation to an indictable offence

- (1) A magistrate is suspended from office immediately on the happening of any of the following whether in Queensland or in another State—
- (a) the magistrate is arrested by a police officer on a charge of an indictable offence;
 - (b) the magistrate appears before a court or justices as required under a complaint and summons issued by a police officer charging the magistrate with an indictable offence;
 - (c) the magistrate is present as a defendant before a court and a further charge or an amended charge of an indictable offence is made against the magistrate;

Example—

A further charge or an amended charge of an indictable offence may be made against the magistrate under the *Justices Act 1886*, section 42(1A).

- (d) the magistrate is committed for trial or sentence by a court on a charge of an indictable offence;
 - (e) an indictment is presented to a court by a person authorised to present the indictment by the State, another State or the Commonwealth charging the magistrate with an indictable offence.
- (2) A magistrate's suspension from office under subsection (1) continues if, on appeal from a conviction of an indictable offence, the appellate court quashes the conviction but orders a new trial.
- (3) A suspension under subsection (1) lapses if the Governor in Council lifts the suspension or either of the following happens in proceedings arising from the charging of the offence—
- (a) the magistrate is not convicted of any indictable offence;
 - (b) no charge of an indictable offence is proceeded with.
- (4) A suspension under subsection (2) lapses if the Governor in Council lifts the suspension or either of the following happens in proceedings arising from the order for a new trial—

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- (a) the magistrate is not convicted of any indictable offence;
 - (b) no charge of an indictable offence is proceeded with.
- (5) A suspension also lapses if the Supreme Court decides under section 46 that there is no proper cause to remove the magistrate.
- (6) The Minister must give the following notices to the magistrate and publish them in the gazette—
- (a) if the magistrate is suspended under subsection (1)—notice of the suspension;
 - (b) if the magistrate's suspension lapses under subsection (3), (4) or (5)—notice of the lapsing of the suspension.
- (7) However, a failure to comply with subsection (6)(a) does not affect the suspension or the removal of the magistrate following suspension.
- (8) For this section, proceedings arise from the charging of an indictable offence or from an order for a new trial if the proceedings relate to the same, or the same set of, circumstances as those giving rise to the charging of the indictable offence.
- (9) In this section—

committed, by a court, includes any form of requirement by a court under which a person must appear for trial or sentence on a charge of an offence.

complaint and summons includes—

- (a) a notice to appear under the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*; and
- (b) an instrument under a law of another State or the Commonwealth requiring a person to appear before any court in relation to a charge of an offence alleged to have been committed by the person.

indictment, in relation to an indictment presented outside the State, means any allegation of an offence made in a way that

is the same as, or substantially the same as, an indictment under a law of the State.⁶

45 Remuneration during suspension and after conviction

- (1) A magistrate is entitled to remuneration during a period of suspension under section 43(1) or section 44(1) or (2).
- (2) However, but subject to subsection (3), if a magistrate is convicted of an indictable offence, the magistrate is not entitled to remuneration on and from the day of the conviction.
- (3) A magistrate who is convicted of an indictable offence is entitled to remuneration during the period the magistrate is subject to the conviction if—
 - (a) the magistrate's conviction is quashed on appeal and proceedings for the offence are at an end; or
 - (b) the magistrate's conviction is quashed on appeal but a new trial is ordered; or
 - (c) the Supreme Court decides under section 46 that there is no proper cause to remove the magistrate.
- (4) Subsection (2) has effect despite section 47 and the *Judicial Remuneration Act 2007*.

46 Removal of magistrate from office

- (1) A magistrate must not be removed from office unless the Supreme Court decides that proper cause exists to remove the magistrate—
 - (a) on an application under subsection (2) or (3); or
 - (b) under subsection (5).
- (2) If a magistrate is suspended from office under section 43(1), the Attorney-General must, as soon as practicable, apply to the Supreme Court for a decision whether proper cause exists to remove the magistrate.

⁶ For indictments under a law of the State, see the Criminal Code, section 1 and the *Acts Interpretation Act 1954*, section 36.

- (3) If—
- (a) a magistrate is suspended from office under section 44(1) or (2); and
 - (b) all proceedings arising from the charging of, or the conviction of, the indictable offence, including proceedings arising from an order for a new trial mentioned in section 44(2), have ended without the suspension having lapsed;

the Attorney-General must, as soon as practicable after proceedings have ended, apply to the Supreme Court to decide whether proper cause exists to remove the magistrate.

Examples of proceedings ending—

- 1 the appeal period has ended and an appeal has not started
 - 2 if an appeal has started, the appeal has been finally decided or the appeal has been abandoned
- (4) For subsection (3), proper cause to remove the magistrate may include the conviction of the magistrate of an indictable offence.
 - (5) On appeal by a magistrate under section 43(8), the Supreme Court must decide whether proper cause exists to remove the magistrate whether or not the Attorney-General has made an application under subsection (2) or (3).
 - (6) If a magistrate is removed from office, the Minister must publish notice of the magistrate's removal in the gazette and give a copy of the notice to the magistrate.
 - (7) For this section, proceedings arise from the charging of an indictable offence or from an order for a new trial if the proceedings relate to the same, or the same set of, circumstances as those giving rise to the charging of the indictable offence.

Part 9 General

47 Terms and conditions of employment

- (1) A magistrate is to be paid—
 - (a) salary provided for under the *Judicial Remuneration Act 2007*; and
 - (b) such allowances as are determined by the Governor in Council.
- (2) However, if the magistrate is appointed on a part-time basis—
 - (a) the magistrate's salary is the appropriate proportion of the salary determined under subsection (1)(a); and
 - (b) the magistrate's entitlement to leave is the appropriate proportion of the leave to which a magistrate appointed on a full-time basis is entitled.
- (3) A magistrate may be promoted only in accordance with a decision of the Governor in Council.
- (4) A magistrate holds office on such terms and conditions not provided for by this Act as are decided by the Governor in Council.
- (5) Employment as a magistrate is not subject to any industrial award or industrial agreement or any decision or rule of an industrial tribunal.

48 Preservation of rights

- (1) This section applies if an officer of the public service is appointed as a magistrate.
- (2) The person retains all rights that have accrued to the person because of employment as such an officer, or that would accrue in the future to the person because of that employment, as if service as a magistrate were a continuation of service as an officer of the public service.
- (3) If the person ceases to be a magistrate on being appointed to an office of the public service, the person's service as magistrate is to be regarded as service of a like nature in the

public service for the purpose of deciding the person's rights as an officer of the public service.

49 Continuation of jurisdiction on retirement

A person who ceases to be a magistrate for any reason (other than death or removal from office) is taken to continue to be a magistrate so far as it is necessary to give a decision in a matter that is partly heard or standing for the decision of the magistrate.

50 Judicial notice of office

All courts and persons acting judicially must take judicial notice of the signature in relation to a magisterial act of a person followed by—

- (a) Chief Magistrate; or
- (b) Deputy Chief Magistrate; or
- (c) magistrate; or
- (d) acting magistrate;

and that the person held the relevant office.

51 Protection for administrative acts

A magistrate has, in the performance or exercise of an administrative function or power conferred on the magistrate under an Act, the same protection and immunity as a magistrate has in a judicial proceeding in a Magistrates Court.

52 Regulations

The Governor in Council may make regulations for the purposes of this Act.

Part 9A Provisions concerning judicial registrars

Division 1 Appointment

53 Appointment of judicial registrars

- (1) The Governor in Council may appoint judicial registrars.
- (2) Before making a recommendation to the Governor in Council about the appointment of a judicial registrar, the Attorney-General must first consult with the Chief Magistrate.
- (3) A person may be appointed as a judicial registrar only if the person is eligible to be appointed to act as a magistrate under section 6(1).
- (4) The appointment may be for a specified period.
- (5) However, a person may not be appointed as a judicial registrar for a period that includes a period after the expiry of this part under section 53S.
- (6) A person's appointment as a judicial registrar is taken to be an appointment on a full-time basis unless the appointment is stated, in the instrument of appointment, to be on a part-time basis.
- (7) A judicial registrar, although appointed on a full-time basis, may, if the Attorney-General agrees in writing, exercise the jurisdiction, powers and functions of a judicial registrar on a part-time basis.
- (8) A judicial registrar, although appointed on a part-time basis, may, if the Attorney-General agrees in writing, exercise the jurisdiction, powers and functions of a judicial registrar on a full-time basis.

53A Appointment of acting judicial registrars

- (1) The Governor in Council may appoint a person to act as a judicial registrar.

- (2) Before making a recommendation to the Governor in Council about the appointment of a person to act as a judicial registrar, the Attorney-General must first consult with the Chief Magistrate.
- (3) A person may be appointed to act as a judicial registrar only if the person is eligible to be appointed to act as a magistrate under section 6(1).
- (4) The appointment may be for a specified period or for a specified matter.
- (5) However, a person may not be appointed to act as a judicial registrar for a period that includes a period after the expiry of this part under section 53S.
- (6) For the purpose of the person acting as a judicial registrar—
 - (a) this Act and other Acts apply to the person as if the person were a judicial registrar; and
 - (b) the person has all the powers and functions of a judicial registrar; and
 - (c) the person is to be paid the salary and allowances decided by the Governor in Council, not being less than the salary and allowances paid to a judicial registrar.

53B Acting judicial registrars who are clerks of the court

- (1) This section applies if a clerk of the court is appointed to act as a judicial registrar.
- (2) The *Public Service Act 1996* does not apply to the clerk while the clerk is acting as a judicial registrar.
- (3) The clerk retains all rights that have accrued to the clerk because of the clerk's employment, or that would accrue in the future to the clerk because of that employment, as if service acting as a judicial registrar were a continuation of service as a clerk of the court.

53C Conditions of appointment

- (1) A judicial registrar is to be appointed under this Act and not under the *Public Service Act 1996*.

- (2) A judicial registrar is to be paid the salary and allowances decided by the Governor in Council.
- (3) A judicial registrar holds office on the conditions not provided for by this Act that are decided by the Governor in Council.
- (4) The office of judicial registrar is not subject to any industrial award, industrial agreement or other industrial instrument or any decision or rule of an industrial tribunal.
- (5) When a judicial registrar is appointed, the judicial registrar's salary, allowances and conditions must be published in the gazette.
- (6) A judicial registrar's salary and allowances may not be reduced and any change to the judicial registrar's salary, allowances or conditions must be published in the gazette.

53D Preservation of rights

- (1) This section applies if an employee of a prescribed authority (the *relevant prescribed authority*) is appointed as a judicial registrar.
- (2) The person retains all rights that have accrued to the person because of employment by any prescribed authority, or that would accrue in the future to the person because of that employment, as if service as a judicial registrar were a continuation of service as an employee of the relevant prescribed authority.
- (3) If the person stops being a judicial registrar for a reason other than a reason mentioned in section 53N(1)(d), the person is entitled to be appointed to a position in the relevant prescribed authority at the classification level of the substantive position in which the person was employed at the relevant prescribed authority immediately before the person was appointed as a judicial registrar.
- (4) If the person stops being a judicial registrar because the person is appointed to a position in a prescribed authority, the person's service as judicial registrar is to be regarded as service of a like nature with the prescribed authority for deciding the person's rights as an employee of the prescribed authority.

(5) In this section—

classification level, at a prescribed authority, includes another level, however described, reflecting seniority at the prescribed authority.

employee, of a prescribed authority, means—

- (a) a public service officer employed by the prescribed authority; or
- (b) a police officer employed by the prescribed authority; or
- (c) a person, other than a person mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b) or a person employed on a temporary or casual basis, employed by the prescribed authority.

prescribed authority means—

- (a) a department; or
- (b) the Crime and Misconduct Commission; or
- (c) Legal Aid Queensland; or
- (d) the police service; or
- (e) another entity, whether or not incorporated, that is declared by regulation to be a prescribed authority.

Division 2 Role

53E Officer of the court

A judicial registrar is an officer of the Magistrates Courts.

Note—

See the *Evidence Act 1977*, section 42 (Signatures of holders of public offices etc. to be judicially noticed).

53F Oath or affirmation

- (1) A person appointed under section 53 or 53A must not exercise any powers, or perform any functions, of a judicial registrar unless the person has taken the oath, or made the affirmation, prescribed under the regulation for this section.

- (2) The oath or the affirmation may be taken or made before, and may be administered and received by, a magistrate.
- (3) A person who does not, within 3 months after appointment as a judicial registrar, take the oath or make the affirmation ceases to hold office as a judicial registrar when the period ends.
- (4) A judicial registrar is not required to take an oath or make an affirmation prescribed under any other Act in relation to justices or magistrates.

53G Independence of judicial registrars

A judicial registrar when constituting a Magistrates Court or otherwise exercising a judicial or quasi-judicial power is not subject to direction or control, other than as provided under this Act.

Note—

For example, see section 12 (Functions of Chief Magistrate) and section 53H.

53H Functions of judicial registrars generally

- (1) Every judicial registrar must comply with every reasonable direction given, or requirement made, by the Chief Magistrate or by another magistrate authorised in that behalf by the Chief Magistrate.
- (2) A judicial registrar appointed on a full-time basis must devote the whole of his or her time to the duties of the office of a judicial registrar.
- (3) However, a judicial registrar appointed on a full-time basis may hold another office or perform other duties if—
 - (a) the holding of the other office or the performance of the other duties is compatible with the office of judicial registrar; and
 - (b) the Governor in Council approves that the judicial registrar hold the office or perform the duties.

- (4) A judicial registrar appointed on a part-time basis may hold another office, perform other duties or engage in other employment if—
 - (a) the holding of the other office, the performance of the other duties or the engagement in the other employment is compatible with the office of judicial registrar; and
 - (b) the Governor in Council approves that the judicial registrar hold the office, perform the duties or engage in the employment.
- (5) A judicial registrar must not practise as a barrister or solicitor for fee or reward.
- (6) A judicial registrar must immediately stop holding an office, performing other duties or engaging in other employment if required to do so by the Governor in Council.

53I Power concerning prescribed applications and matters

- (1) A judicial registrar may hear and decide an application prescribed under a practice direction given under section 53J(1).
- (2) For those applications, the judicial registrar—
 - (a) if the application is to a magistrate—is taken to be, and has all the jurisdiction and powers of, a magistrate; or
 - (b) if the application is to a Magistrates Court—constitutes, and may exercise all the jurisdiction and powers of, a Magistrates Court.
- (3) A judicial registrar may also constitute, and exercise all the jurisdiction and powers of, a Magistrates Court for a matter prescribed under a practice direction given under section 53J(2).
- (4) However, a judicial registrar may not exercise any power of a Magistrates Court to punish for contempt.

53J Practice direction

- (1) The Chief Magistrate may give a practice direction prescribing any of the following types of applications as an

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application that may be heard and decided by a judicial registrar—

- (a) an application that may be made under the *Uniform Civil Procedure Rules 1999* to a magistrate;
 - (b) a minor debt claim under the *Magistrates Courts Act 1921*;
 - (c) a small claim under the *Small Claims Tribunals Act 1973*;
 - (d) an application under the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 1989* for—
 - (i) an adjournment of an application for an order under that Act; or
 - (ii) a temporary protection order; or
 - (iii) a domestic violence order in a form agreed to by, or on behalf of, the aggrieved and the respondent;
 - (e) an application under the *Bail Act 1980*, section 8 if—
 - (i) the application is to grant, enlarge or vary bail for a defendant charged with an offence (other than an offence mentioned in section 16(3) of that Act); and
 - (ii) the complainant, the prosecutor or a person appearing on behalf of the Crown does not oppose the application.
- (2) The Chief Magistrate may give a practice direction prescribing any of the following types of matters as matters for which a judicial registrar may constitute, and exercise all the jurisdiction and powers of, a Magistrates Court—
- (a) an examination for which a person is summoned under the Corporations Act, section 596A or 596B;
 - (b) a mention of a criminal proceeding;
 - (c) a committal for trial or sentence under the *Justices Act 1886*, section 110A(6) of a defendant who is on bail to appear at the committal.

53K Referring application or matter

- (1) If a judicial registrar considers it would be proper for an application or matter mentioned in section 53I to be dealt with by a Magistrates Court as constituted by a magistrate, the judicial registrar must refer the application or matter to a Magistrates Court as constituted by a magistrate.
- (2) If a judicial registrar is empowered to hear and decide an application mentioned in section 53J(1)(e) and, after hearing the application, the judicial registrar does not decide to grant it, the judicial registrar must, without deciding the application, refer it to a Magistrates Court as constituted by a magistrate.

53L Decision of judicial registrar taken to be decision of magistrate

If a judicial registrar hears and decides an application under section 53I(1), the judicial registrar's decision is taken to be a decision of a magistrate for the purposes of the following provisions—

- (a) the *Magistrates Courts Act 1921*, sections 45 and 45A;
- (b) the *Small Claims Tribunals Act 1973*, sections 18 and 19;
- (c) the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 1989*, part 5;
- (d) the *Bail Act 1980*, section 19B(3).

53M Protection and immunity

In performing the functions of a judicial registrar, a judicial registrar has the same protection and immunity as a magistrate performing the functions of a magistrate.

Division 3 Ceasing to hold office**53N Ceasing to be a judicial registrar**

- (1) A person ceases to be a judicial registrar if—
 - (a) the person's term of appointment ends; or

- (b) the person resigns by written notice given to the Attorney-General; or
 - (c) having attained 55, the person elects to retire by written notice given to the Attorney-General; or
 - (d) the person is removed from office; or
 - (e) the person attains 65; or
 - (f) the person ceases to hold office under section 53F(3); or
 - (g) this part expires under section 53S.
- (2) However, a person who ceases to be a judicial registrar, other than under subsection (1)(d) or (f), is taken to continue to be a judicial registrar to the extent necessary to enable a decision to be given in a matter that is partly heard or standing for the decision of the judicial registrar.

530 Suspension of judicial registrar by Governor in Council

- (1) The Governor in Council may suspend a judicial registrar from office.
- (2) However, a judicial registrar must not be suspended from office under subsection (1) unless a Supreme Court judge, on the application of the Attorney-General, has decided that there are reasonable grounds for believing that proper cause for removal of the judicial registrar exists.
- (3) A copy of an application under subsection (2) must be given to the judicial registrar at least 14 days before the application is heard.
- (4) There is proper cause to remove a judicial registrar from office if the judicial registrar—
 - (a) is incompetent or guilty of serious neglect of the duties of office; or
 - (b) is mentally or physically incapable of carrying out satisfactorily the duties of office; or
 - (c) is guilty of proved misbehaviour, misconduct or conduct unbecoming a judicial registrar.
- (5) A suspension under subsection (1) lapses if any of the following happens—

- (a) the Supreme Court decides under section 53R that there is no proper cause to remove the judicial registrar;
 - (b) the Governor in Council lifts the suspension.
- (6) The Attorney-General must give the following notices to the judicial registrar and publish them in the gazette—
- (a) if the judicial registrar is suspended under subsection (1)—notice of the suspension;
 - (b) if the judicial registrar's suspension lapses under subsection (5)—notice of the lapsing of the suspension.
- (7) However, a failure to comply with subsection (6)(a) does not affect the suspension or the removal of the judicial registrar following suspension.
- (8) A judicial registrar who is suspended from office under subsection (1) may appeal to the Supreme Court against the suspension.
- (9) The appeal may be heard with any application made under section 53R.
- (10) In this section—
duties, of office, includes administrative duties of office.

53P Suspension of judicial registrar in relation to an indictable offence

- (1) A judicial registrar is suspended from office immediately on the happening of any of the following whether in Queensland or in another State—
- (a) the judicial registrar is arrested by a police officer on a charge of an indictable offence;
 - (b) the judicial registrar appears before a court or justices as required under a complaint and summons issued by a police officer charging the judicial registrar with an indictable offence;
 - (c) the judicial registrar is present as a defendant before a court and a further charge or an amended charge of an indictable offence is made against the judicial registrar;

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Example—

A further charge or an amended charge of an indictable offence may be made against the judicial registrar under the *Justices Act 1886*, section 42(1A).

- (d) the judicial registrar is committed for trial or sentence by a court on a charge of an indictable offence;
 - (e) an indictment is presented to a court by a person authorised to present the indictment by the State, another State or the Commonwealth charging the judicial registrar with an indictable offence.
- (2) A judicial registrar's suspension from office under subsection (1) continues if, on appeal from a conviction of an indictable offence, the appellate court quashes the conviction but orders a new trial.
 - (3) A suspension under subsection (1) lapses if the Governor in Council lifts the suspension or either of the following happens in proceedings arising from the charging of the offence—
 - (a) the judicial registrar is not convicted of any indictable offence;
 - (b) no charge of an indictable offence is proceeded with.
 - (4) A suspension under subsection (2) lapses if the Governor in Council lifts the suspension or either of the following happens in proceedings arising from the order for a new trial—
 - (a) the judicial registrar is not convicted of any indictable offence;
 - (b) no charge of an indictable offence is proceeded with.
 - (5) A suspension also lapses if the Supreme Court decides under section 53R that there is no proper cause to remove the judicial registrar.
 - (6) The Attorney-General must give the following notices to the judicial registrar and publish them in the gazette—
 - (a) if the judicial registrar is suspended under subsection (1)—notice of the suspension;
 - (b) if the judicial registrar's suspension lapses under subsection (3), (4) or (5)—notice of the lapsing of the suspension.

- (7) However, a failure to comply with subsection (6)(a) does not affect the suspension or the removal of the judicial registrar following suspension.
- (8) For this section, proceedings arise from the charging of an indictable offence or from an order for a new trial if the proceedings relate to the same, or the same set of, circumstances as those giving rise to the charging of the indictable offence.
- (9) In this section—

committed, by a court, includes any form of requirement by a court under which a person must appear for trial or sentence on a charge of an offence.

complaint and summons includes—

- (a) a notice to appear under the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*; and
- (b) an instrument under a law of another State or the Commonwealth requiring a person to appear before any court in relation to a charge of an offence alleged to have been committed by the person.

indictment, in relation to an indictment presented outside the State, means any allegation of an offence made in a way that is the same as, or substantially the same as, an indictment under a law of the State.

Note—

For indictments under a law of the State, see the Criminal Code, section 1 and the *Acts Interpretation Act 1954*, section 36.

53Q Remuneration during suspension and after conviction

- (1) A judicial registrar is entitled to remuneration during a period of suspension under section 53O(1) or section 53P(1) or (2).
- (2) However, but subject to subsection (3), if a judicial registrar is convicted of an indictable offence, the judicial registrar is not entitled to remuneration on and from the day of the conviction.

- (3) A judicial registrar who is convicted of an indictable offence is entitled to remuneration during the period the judicial registrar is subject to the conviction if—
- (a) the judicial registrar's conviction is quashed on appeal and proceedings for the offence are at an end; or
 - (b) the judicial registrar's conviction is quashed on appeal but a new trial is ordered; or
 - (c) the Supreme Court decides under section 53R that there is no proper cause to remove the judicial registrar.
- (4) Subsection (2) has effect despite section 53C.

53R Removal of judicial registrar from office

- (1) A judicial registrar must not be removed from office unless the Supreme Court decides that proper cause exists to remove the judicial registrar—
- (a) on an application under subsection (2) or (3); or
 - (b) under subsection (5).
- (2) If a judicial registrar is suspended from office under section 53O(1), the Attorney-General must, as soon as practicable, apply to the Supreme Court for a decision whether proper cause exists to remove the judicial registrar.
- (3) If—
- (a) a judicial registrar is suspended from office under section 53P(1) or (2); and
 - (b) all proceedings arising from the charging of, or the conviction of, the indictable offence, including proceedings arising from an order for a new trial mentioned in section 53P(2), have ended without the suspension having lapsed;

the Attorney-General must, as soon as practicable after proceedings have ended, apply to the Supreme Court to decide whether proper cause exists to remove the judicial registrar.

Examples of proceedings ending—

- 1 The appeal period has ended and an appeal has not started.

- 2 If an appeal has started, the appeal has been finally decided or the appeal has been abandoned.
- (4) For subsection (3), proper cause to remove the judicial registrar may include the conviction of the judicial registrar of an indictable offence.
- (5) On appeal by a judicial registrar under section 53O(8), the Supreme Court must decide whether proper cause exists to remove the judicial registrar whether or not the Attorney-General has made an application under subsection (2) or (3).
- (6) If a judicial registrar is removed from office, the Attorney-General must publish notice of the judicial registrar's removal in the gazette and give a copy of the notice to the judicial registrar.
- (7) For this section, proceedings arise from the charging of an indictable offence or from an order for a new trial if the proceedings relate to the same, or the same set of, circumstances as those giving rise to the charging of the indictable offence.

Division 4 Expiry

53S Expiry of part and amendment of Act

- (1) This part expires 2 years after it commences.
- (2) However, before the end of the 2 years, a regulation may extend the period before expiry to not more than 3 years after the part commences.
- (3) Despite the expiry, section 53L continues to apply to a decision of a judicial registrar, including a decision provided for under section 53N(2).
- (4) Immediately before the expiry, the Act is amended as follows—
 long title—
omit, insert—
 'An Act relating to the office of magistrates, the judicial independence of the magistracy, and for related purposes'.

Part 10 **Transitional provisions**

Division 1 **Transitional provision for Act No. 75 of 1991**

54 **Existing magistrates continue in office**

- (1) A person who immediately before the commencement of this section, is the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate, the Senior Stipendiary Magistrate or a stipendiary magistrate under the *Justices Act 1886* continues in office as Chief Stipendiary Magistrate, Senior Stipendiary Magistrate or stipendiary magistrate, as the case may be, under this Act.
- (2) The salary of a person referred to in subsection (1) immediately before the commencement of this section continues to be the salary of the person under this Act until the salary is determined under the *Judges (Salaries and Allowances) Act 1967*.

Division 2 **Transitional provisions for Justice and Other Legislation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2000**

55 **References to stipendiary magistrate**

In an Act—

- (a) a reference to the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate is taken to be a reference to the Chief Magistrate; and
- (b) a reference to a Senior Stipendiary Magistrate is taken to be a reference to a Deputy Chief Magistrate; and
- (c) a reference to a stipendiary magistrate is taken to be a reference to a magistrate.

56 Change of name of office not to affect office holders

To remove any doubt, it is declared that the change in the name of the office of Chief Stipendiary Magistrate, Senior Stipendiary Magistrate or stipendiary magistrate to Chief Magistrate, Deputy Chief Magistrate or magistrate does not affect the appointment to, or the continuation in, the office of a person holding the office immediately before the commencement of this section.

57 Existing appointments

A person who, immediately before the commencement of this section, holds an appointment as a magistrate under section 5, including a stipendiary magistrate mentioned in section 54, is taken from the commencement to be appointed as a magistrate under section 5.

Division 3 Transitional provision for Act No. 3 of 2003**58 Acting magistrates who are clerks of the court**

- (1) This section applies in relation to a person if—
 - (a) immediately before the commencement of the *Sexual Offences (Protection of Children) Amendment Act 2003*, section 26B, the person was a clerk of the court who held an appointment to act as a magistrate; and
 - (b) the person's appointment was not for a specified period or for a specified matter.
- (2) It is declared that—
 - (a) the appointment has, and has always had, effect according to its terms; and
 - (b) section 6(3) applies, and has always applied, to the person.

Division 4 Transitional provisions for Magistrates Amendment Act 2003

59 Application of Act to Chief Magistrate

On the commencement of this section—

- (a) the person holding office as Chief Magistrate at the commencement continues to hold office as Chief Magistrate in accordance with this Act after the commencement; and
- (b) section 11 applies to the person.

60 Existing exemptions continue

- (1) This section applies to a magistrate appointed before the commencement of this section whose appointment excluded the operation of section 41(2) as in force immediately before the commencement.
- (2) The exclusion continues to have effect after the commencement despite the repeal of section 41(3) as in force immediately before the commencement.

61 Act as amended applies to all transfer decisions

This Act, as in force after the commencement of this section, applies to all transfer decisions without regard to anything, other than the places at which a magistrate constituted a Magistrates Court and the length of time the magistrate constituted a Magistrates Court at the place, that happened before the commencement.

Endnotes

1 Index to endnotes

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2 Date to which amendments incorporated

This is the reprint date mentioned in the Reprints Act 1992, section 5(c). Accordingly, this reprint includes all amendments that commenced operation on or before 14 March 2008. Future amendments of the Magistrates Act 1991 may be made in accordance with this reprint under the Reprints Act 1992, section 49.

3 Key

Key to abbreviations in list of legislation and annotations

Key	Explanation	Key	Explanation
AIA	= Acts Interpretation Act 1954	(prev)	= previously
amd	= amended	proc	= proclamation
amdt	= amendment	prov	= provision
ch	= chapter	pt	= part
def	= definition	pubd	= published
div	= division	R[X]	= Reprint No. [X]
exp	= expires/expired	RA	= Reprints Act 1992
gaz	= gazette	reloc	= relocated
hdg	= heading	renum	= renumbered
ins	= inserted	rep	= repealed
lap	= lapsed	(retro)	= retrospectively
notfd	= notified	rv	= revised edition
num	= numbered	s	= section
o in c	= order in council	sch	= schedule
om	= omitted	sdiv	= subdivision
orig	= original	SIA	= Statutory Instruments Act 1992
p	= page	SIR	= Statutory Instruments Regulation 2002
para	= paragraph	SL	= subordinate legislation
prec	= preceding	sub	= substituted
pres	= present	unnum	= unnumbered
prev	= previous		

4 Table of reprints

Reprints are issued for both future and past effective dates. For the most up-to-date table of reprints, see the reprint with the latest effective date.

If a reprint number includes a letter of the alphabet, the reprint was released in unauthorised, electronic form only.

Reprint No.	Amendments to	Effective	Reprint date
1	1992 Act No. 36	2 July 1992	1 August 1992
2	1993 Act No. 32	3 June 1993	23 June 1993
2A	1996 Act No. 79	28 February 1997	5 March 1997
2B	1999 Act No. 68	6 December 1999	25 January 2000
2C	1999 Act No. 68	1 March 2000	10 March 2000
2D	2000 Act No. 46	25 October 2000	8 November 2000
2E	2000 Act No. 58	17 November 2000	1 December 2000
3	2000 Act No. 58	17 November 2000	19 January 2001

Reprint No.	Amendments included	Effective	Notes
3A	2003 Act No. 3	28 March 2003	
4	2003 Act No. 86	18 November 2003	
4A	—	20 November 2003	prov exp 19 November 2003
4B	2004 Act No. 43	1 March 2005	

Reprint No.	Amendments included	Effective	Notes
4C	2005 Act No. 70	8 December 2005	R4C withdrawn, see R5
5	—	8 December 2005	
5A	2007 Act No. 39	21 September 2007	
5B	2007 Act No. 37	28 September 2007	
5C	2007 Act No. 55	30 November 2007	
5D	2007 Act No. 37	1 January 2008	
6	2007 Act No. 55	14 March 2008	

5 Tables in earlier reprints

Name of table	Reprint No.
Corrected minor errors	3
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6 List of legislation

Magistrates Act 1991 No. 75 (prev Stipendiary Magistrates Act 1991)

date of assent 21 November 1991

ss 1–2 commenced on date of assent

s 25 commenced immediately after the commencement of s 111 of the Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991 (14 December 1991 (see s 2(1)))

remaining provisions commenced 1 January 1992 (1991 SL No. 211 gaz 21 December 1991 p 2668)

amending legislation—

Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1992 No. 36 ss 1–2 sch 2

date of assent 2 July 1992

commenced on date of assent

Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993 No. 32 ss 1–3 sch 1

date of assent 3 June 1993

commenced on date of assent

Public Service Act 1996 No. 37 ss 1–2, 147 sch 2

date of assent 22 October 1996

ss 1–2 commenced on date of assent

remaining provisions commenced 1 December 1996 (1996 SL No. 361)

Justice Legislation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1996 No. 79 pts 1, 30

date of assent 12 December 1996

pt 1 commenced on date of assent

remaining provisions commenced 28 February 1997 (1997 SL No. 35)

Justice Legislation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999 No. 16 ss 1–2 sch

date of assent 22 April 1999

commenced on date of assent

Justice Legislation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (No. 2) 1999 No. 66 ss 1, 2(2) pt 7

date of assent 6 December 1999

ss 1–2 commenced on date of assent

remaining provisions commenced 1 March 2000 (2000 SL No. 15)

Stipendiary Magistrates and Other Acts Amendment Act 1999 No. 68 pts 1–2

date of assent 6 December 1999

commenced on date of assent

Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2000 No. 46 ss 1, 3 sch

date of assent 25 October 2000

commenced on date of assent

Justice and Other Legislation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2000 No. 58 ss 1–2 sch

date of assent 17 November 2000

commenced on date of assent

Sexual Offences (Protection of Children) Amendment Act 2003 No. 3 ss 1, 2(2), pt 4A

date of assent 4 March 2003

ss 1–2 commenced on date of assent

remaining provisions commenced 28 March 2003 (2003 SL No. 52)

Magistrates Amendment Act 2003 No. 86 pts 1–2, s 16 sch

date of assent 18 November 2003

commenced on date of assent

Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2004 No. 43 ss 1–2, pt 15

date of assent 18 November 2004

ss 1–2 commenced on date of assent

remaining provisions commenced 1 March 2005 (2005 SL No. 17)

Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2005 No. 70 s 1, pt 17

date of assent 8 December 2005

commenced on date of assent

Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2007 No. 37 pts 1, 24, s 112 sch

date of assent 29 August 2007

ss 1–2 commenced on date of assent

ss 113, 115–116 commenced 1 January 2008 (2007 SL No. 295)

remaining provisions commenced 28 September 2007 (2007 SL No. 241)

Land Court and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2007 No. 39 ss 1–2, 41 sch

date of assent 29 August 2007

ss 1–2 commenced on date of assent

remaining provisions commenced 21 September 2007 (2007 SL No. 236)

Judicial Remuneration Act 2007 No. 55 ss 1–2(1), 54 sch 1

date of assent 9 November 2007

ss 1–2, 54 commenced on date of assent

sch 1 amnds 1–3 commenced 30 November 2007 (2007 SL No. 294)

remaining provisions commenced 14 March 2008 (2008 SL No. 62)

7 List of annotations

This reprint has been renumbered—see table of renumbered provisions in endnote 9.

Title amd 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch; 2007 No. 37 s 113

PART 1—PRELIMINARY

pt hdg ins 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch

Short title

s 1 amd 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch

Definitions

s 3 def “**advisory committee**” ins 2003 No. 86 s 3(2)
 def “**application for review**” ins 2003 No. 86 s 3(2)
 def “**Chief Judge**” ins 1999 No. 68 s 3
 def “**Chief Justice**” ins 1999 No. 68 s 3
 def “**committee**” ins 1999 No. 68 s 3
 om 2003 No. 86 s 3(1)
 def “**conviction**” ins 2003 No. 86 s 3(2)
 def “**indictable offence**” ins 2003 No. 86 s 3(2)
 def “**reviewable determination**” ins 1999 No. 68 s 3
 amd 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch
 om 2003 No. 86 s 3(1)
 def “**temporary determination**” ins 1999 No. 68 s 3
 om 2003 No. 86 s 3(1)
 def “**temporary transfer decision**” ins 2003 No. 86 s 3(2)
 def “**transfer decision**” ins 2003 No. 86 s 3(2)
 def “**transfer policy**” ins 2003 No. 86 s 3(2)
 def “**transfer recommendation**” ins 2003 No. 86 s 3(2)

PART 2—APPOINTMENT, JURISDICTION AND POWERS

pt hdg ins 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch

Appointment of magistrates

s 5 amd 1996 No. 37 s 147 sch 2; 1999 No. 68 s 4; 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch; 2003 No. 86 s 4

Appointment of acting Deputy Chief Magistrate

s 5A ins 2007 No. 37 s 114

Appointment of acting magistrates

s 6 amd 1996 No. 37 s 147 sch 2; 1996 No. 79 s 107
 sub 2003 No. 3 s 26B
 amd 2007 No. 39 s 41 sch; 2007 No. 55 s 54 sch 1

Acting magistrates who are clerks of the court

s 7 ins 2003 No. 3 s 26B

PART 3—CHIEF MAGISTRATE

pt hdg ins 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch

Magistrate appointed as Chief Magistrate

prov hdg amd 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch
s 10 amd 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch
sub 2003 No. 86 s 5

Establishment of judicial committee

s 10A ins 1999 No. 68 s 6
om 2003 No. 86 s 7

Function of judicial committee

s 10B ins 1999 No. 68 s 6
om 2003 No. 86 s 7

Composition of committee

s 10C ins 1999 No. 68 s 6
om 2003 No. 86 s 7

Request for review

s 10D ins 1999 No. 68 s 6
amd 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch
om 2003 No. 86 s 7

Powers of committee on review

s 10E ins 1999 No. 68 s 6
om 2003 No. 86 s 7

Procedure

s 10F ins 1999 No. 68 s 6
om 2003 No. 86 s 7

Stay of operation and implementation of determination pending review

s 10G ins 1999 No. 68 s 6
amd 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch
om 2003 No. 86 s 7

Magistrate to give Chief Magistrate notice of application

prov hdg amd 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch
s 10H ins 1999 No. 68 s 6
amd 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch
om 2003 No. 86 s 7

No further review

s 10I ins 1999 No. 68 s 6
om 2003 No. 86 s 7

District Court judge appointed as Chief Magistrate

s 11 ins 2003 No. 86 s 5

Functions of Chief Magistrate

prov hdg amd 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch
s 12 amd 1992 No. 36 s 2 sch 2; 1993 No. 32 s 3 sch 1; 1999 No. 68 s 5; 2000 No.
58 s 2 sch; 2003 No. 86 s 6; 2007 No. 37 s 115
(4)–(5) exp 1 January 2010 (see s 12(5))

PART 4—DEPUTY CHIEF MAGISTRATE

pt hdg prev pt 4 hdg ins 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch
om 2003 No. 86 s 7
pres pt 4 hdg ins 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch

Deputy Chief Magistrate

prov hdg amd 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch
s 13 amd 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch

Functions of Deputy Chief Magistrate

prov hdg amd 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch
s 14 amd 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch

PART 5—COURT GOVERNANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

pt hdg ins 2003 No. 86 s 8

Establishment of court governance advisory committee

s 15 ins 2003 No. 86 s 8

Functions of advisory committee

s 16 ins 2003 No. 86 s 8

Composition of advisory committee

s 17 ins 2003 No. 86 s 8

Quorum

s 18 ins 2003 No. 86 s 8

Magistrate may request transfer determination

s 18A ins 1999 No. 68 s 7
amd 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch
om 2003 No. 86 s 12

Presiding at meetings

s 19 ins 2003 No. 86 s 8

Conduct of meetings

s 20 ins 2003 No. 86 s 8

Transfer policy

s 21 ins 2003 No. 86 s 8

Magistrates may express interest in where they are willing to constitute Magistrates Courts

s 22 ins 2003 No. 86 s 8

PART 6—TRANSFER RECOMMENDATIONS AND TRANSFER DECISIONS

pt hdg ins 2003 No. 86 s 8

Division 1—Referral

div hdg ins 2003 No. 86 s 8

Decisions about constituting Magistrates Courts

s 23 ins 2003 No. 86 s 8
amd 2004 No. 43 s 64; 2005 No. 70 s 126

Division 2—Role of advisory committee**div hdg** ins 2003 No. 86 s 8**Magistrate's right to be heard****s 24** orig s 24 om R1 (see RA s 40)
prev s 24 ins 1999 No. 68 s 8
exp 7 December 2000 (see prev s 24(6))
pres s 24 ins 2003 No. 86 s 8**Advisory committee to consider representations****s 25** prev s 25 om R1 (see RA s 40)
pres s 25 ins 2003 No. 86 s 8**Advisory committee to make transfer recommendation****s 26** prev s 26 om R1 (see RA s 40)
pres s 26 ins 2003 No. 86 s 8**Division 3—Role of Chief Magistrate****div 3 (ss 27–29)** ins 2003 No. 86 s 8**Division 4—Temporary transfer decisions****div 4 (s 30)** ins 2003 No. 86 s 8**PART 7—REVIEW OF TRANSFER DECISIONS****pt hdg** ins 2003 No. 86 s 8**Division 1—Transfer decision not differing from transfer recommendation****div hdg** ins 2003 No. 86 s 8**No review of transfer decision****s 31** ins 2003 No. 86 s 8**Division 2—Transfer decision differing from transfer recommendation****div hdg** ins 2003 No. 86 s 8**Application****s 32** ins 2003 No. 86 s 8**Supreme Court judge may review transfer decisions****s 33** ins 2003 No. 86 s 8**Form of application for review****s 34** ins 2003 No. 86 s 8**Filing documents****s 35** ins 2003 No. 86 s 8**Setting directions hearing****s 36** ins 2003 No. 86 s 8**Service on Chief Magistrate****s 37** ins 2003 No. 86 s 8**Orders and directions at directions hearing****s 38** ins 2003 No. 86 s 8**Hearing and deciding application at directions hearing if parties agree****s 39** ins 2003 No. 86 s 8

Power of Supreme Court judge on review

s 40 ins 2003 No. 86 s 8

PART 8—FUNCTIONS AND TENURE OF OFFICE

pt hdg ins 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch

Functions of magistrates generally

s 41 amd 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch; 2003 No. 86 s 9

Suspension of magistrate by Governor in Councils 43 amd 1992 No. 36 s 2 sch 2; 1993 No. 32 s 3 sch 1
sub 2003 No. 86 s 10**Suspension of magistrate in relation to an indictable offence**s 44 amd 1993 No. 32 s 3 sch 1
sub 2003 No. 86 s 10**Remuneration during suspension and after conviction**s 45 ins 2003 No. 86 s 10
amd 2007 No. 55 s 54 sch 1**Removal of magistrate from office**s 46 amd 1992 No. 36 s 2 sch 2
sub 2003 No. 86 s 10**PART 9—GENERAL**

pt hdg ins 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch

Terms and conditions of employments 47 amd 1993 No. 32 s 3 sch 1; 1996 No. 37 s 147 sch 2; 1999 No. 16 s 2 sch;
2000 No. 46 s 3 sch; 2003 No. 86 s 11; 2007 No. 55 s 54 sch 1**Preservation of rights**

s 48 amd 2003 No. 86 s 13

Judicial notice of office

s 50 amd 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch

Protection for administrative acts

s 51 ins 1999 No. 66 s 32

Regulations

s 52 sub 1993 No. 32 s 3 sch 1

PART 9A—PROVISIONS CONCERNING JUDICIAL REGISTRARSpt hdg ins 2007 No. 37 s 116
exp 1 January 2010 (see s 53S(1))**Division 1—Appointment**div hdg ins 2007 No. 37 s 116
exp 1 January 2010 (see s 53S(1))**Appointment of judicial registrars**s 53 prev s 53 ins 2003 No. 86 s 14
exp 19 November 2003 (see s 53(4))
pres s 53 ins 2007 No. 37 s 116
exp 1 January 2010 (see s 53S(1))

Appointment of acting judicial registrars

s 53A ins 2007 No. 37 s 116
exp 1 January 2010 (see s 53S(1))

Acting judicial registrars who are clerks of the court

s 53B ins 2007 No. 37 s 116
exp 1 January 2010 (see s 53S(1))

Conditions of appointment

s 53C ins 2007 No. 37 s 116
exp 1 January 2010 (see s 53S(1))

Preservation of rights

s 53D ins 2007 No. 37 s 116
exp 1 January 2010 (see s 53S(1))

Division 2—Role

div 2 (ss 53E–53M) ins 2007 No. 37 s 116
exp 1 January 2010 (see s 53S(1))

Division 3—Ceasing to hold office

div 3 (ss 53N–53R) ins 2007 No. 37 s 116
exp 1 January 2010 (see s 53S(1))

Division 4—Expiry

div 4 (s 53S) ins 2007 No. 37 s 116
exp 1 January 2010 (see s 53S(1))

PART 10—TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

pt hdg ins 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch

Division 1—Transitional provision for Act No. 75 of 1991

div hdg ins 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch
 amd 2007 No. 37 s 112 sch

Existing magistrates continue in office

s 54 amd 2000 No. 46 s 3 sch

Division 2—Transitional provisions for Justice and Other Legislation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2000

div hdg prev div 2 hdg ins 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch
 om 2003 No. 86 s 16 sch
 pres div 2 hdg ins 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch

References to stipendiary magistrate

s 55 ins 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch

Change of name of office not to affect office holders

s 56 ins 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch

Existing appointments

s 57 ins 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch

Division 3—Transitional provision for Act No. 3 of 2003

div 3 (s 58) ins 2003 No. 86 s 15

Division 4—Transitional provisions for Magistrates Amendment Act 2003
div 4 (ss 59–61) ins 2003 No. 86 s 15

SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENT OF JUSTICES ACT 1886
om R1 (see RA s 40)

SCHEDULE 2—AMENDMENT OF JUDGES’ SALARIES AND PENSIONS ACT 1967
om R1 (see RA s 40)

SCHEDULE 3—AMENDMENT OF ACTS INTERPRETATION ACT 1954
om R1 (see RA s 40)

8 Table of corrected minor errors

under the Reprints Act 1992 s 44

Provision	Description
55(c)	after ‘reference’ first mention, ins ‘to’

9 Table of renumbered provisions

as required by the Magistrates Act 1991 s 53 [Reprint No. 4]

Previous	Renumbered as
6A .....	.7
7 .....	.8
8 .....	.9
9 .....	.10
9A .....	.11
10 .....	.12
pt 5 .....	.pt 4
11 .....	.13
12 .....	.14
pt 5A .....	.pt 5
12A .....	.15
12B .....	.16
12C .....	.17
12D .....	.18
12E .....	.19
12F .....	.20
12G .....	.21
12H .....	.22
pt 5B .....	.pt 6
12I .....	.23
12J .....	.24

Magistrates Act 1991

Previous	Renumbered as
12K25
12L26
12M27
12N28
12O29
12P30
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12U35
12V36
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18(1A)47(3)
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18(3)47(5)
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2049
2150
21A51
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