

Section 10 as reprinted in this reprint contains an error.  
For further details, see section 10 (corrected provision), and endnote 5, of the *Juries Act* in the current electronic reprint.

## NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

### JURIES ACT

As in force at 17 September 1996

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# NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

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As in force at 17 September 1996

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## JURIES ACT

**An Act relating to juries**

### Part I Preliminary

#### 1 Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Juries Act*.

#### 2 Commencement

This Act shall come into operation on a date to be fixed by the Attorney-General by notice in the *Government Gazette* of the Northern Territory.

#### 4 Repeal and saving

- (1) The Acts of the State of South Australia specified in Part I of Schedule 1 are, in their application in the Northern Territory, repealed to the extent expressed in the third column of that Part.
- (2) The Ordinances specified in Part II of Schedule 1 are repealed.

#### 5 Definitions

- (1) In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears:

**ballot box** means the box into which jury cards are placed by the proper officer under section 33(2).

**capital offence** means an offence the penalty for which under a law in force in the Territory is prescribed to be life imprisonment, with or without hard labour, and in respect of which the court imposing the sentence may not vary or mitigate the sentence and includes murder.

**Chief Justice** means Chief Justice within the meaning of the *Supreme Court Act*.

***Electoral District*** means division within the meaning of the *Electoral Act*.

***jury card*** means a card prepared in pursuance of section 32(b).

***jury list*** means the jury list for Darwin or the jury list for Alice Springs.

***jury precept*** means a precept issued under section 24.

***Master*** means Master within the meaning of the *Supreme Court Act*.

***panel of jurors*** means a list of names prepared in pursuance of section 32(a).

***reserve juror***, in respect of a criminal trial, means a person chosen and returned under section 37A(1) as a reserve juror in respect of that trial.

***roll*** means a roll within the meaning of the *Electoral Act*.

***talesman*** means a person appointed to serve as a juror under section 37(2A) or 39(2).

***the Court*** means the Supreme Court.

***the proper officer***, in relation to the exercise of a power or the performance of a duty under this Act, means an officer of the Court appointed by a Judge as the proper officer for that purpose.

***the Sheriff*** means the Sheriff of the Northern Territory.

## **Part II                      Trial by jury**

### **6                      Juries in criminal cases**

Where, under a law in force in the Northern Territory, an offence prosecuted in the Court is required to be tried with a jury, the jury shall consist of 12 jurors who shall be chosen and returned in accordance with this Act.

### **7                      Juries in civil cases**

- (1) The trial of a civil issue or a question of fact in a civil issue shall be by the Court without a jury unless the Court orders otherwise in accordance with this section.

- (2) A party to a civil issue may make application to the Court for an order that the issue or a question of fact in the issue be tried by the Court with a jury.
- (3) Whether or not such an application has been made, the Court may, if it appears just, order that a civil issue or a question of fact in a civil issue be tried by the Court with a jury.
- (4) Where the Court so orders, the jury shall consist of 4 jurors chosen and returned in accordance with this Act.

## **8 Payment of jury fee in civil cases**

- (1) Where the Court makes an order under section 7(3), on the application of a party to a civil issue, that party shall pay to the sheriff the prescribed fee.
- (2) The regulations may prescribe amounts to be paid in respect of the prescribed fee:
  - (a) before the trial commences on the first day of the trial; and
  - (b) before the trial resumes on each subsequent day of the trial.
- (3) If an amount so prescribed is not paid before the trial commences or resumes on any day (as the case requires), the Court may, if it thinks fit, allow further time not exceeding one hour after the commencement or resumption of the trial within which the amount may be paid by any party to the trial.
- (4) If the amount is not paid before the trial commences or resumes on any day (as the case requires) or, if the Court allows further time, within the further time so allowed, the Court shall, if a jury has been sworn and impanelled, discharge the jury and the trial shall proceed without a jury, notwithstanding that the trial may have commenced with a jury.
- (5) The Court may order that the amount of the prescribed fee paid by any party to a trial shall be costs in the cause.

## **Part III Qualifications of jurors and liability to serve**

### **9 Qualification of jurors and liability to serve**

- (1) Subject to section 10, a person whose name is on the roll is qualified to serve as a juror.
- (2) A person who is qualified to serve as a juror and who is not exempt under section 11 is liable to serve as a juror.

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**10 Persons not qualified**

- (1) For the purposes of this section, a person who has been sentenced to a term of imprisonment has not completed the sentence:
  - (a) if he has been released from prison on parole – until the expiration of the period of parole; or
  - (b) if the sentence has been wholly or partly remitted under section 432 of the Criminal Code, section 8A of the *Criminal Law (Conditional Release of Offenders) Act* or section 114 of the *Sentencing Act* subject to conditions – until the conditions have been satisfied and no longer apply in relation to him; or
  - (c) is a person in respect of whom an order under section 15 of the *Adult Guardianship Act* is in force.
- (2) For the purposes of this section, a person shall be deemed never to have been under sentence of imprisonment for an offence if he has been granted a free pardon in respect of the offence.
- (3) A person who:
  - (a) has been sentenced to a term of imprisonment (whether within the Territory, in a State or another Territory or in a prescribed country) for an offence other than a capital offence and:
    - (i) has not completed the sentence; or
    - (ii) a period of less than 7 years has elapsed since he completed the sentence;
  - (b) has been sentenced to a term of imprisonment (whether within the Territory, in a State or another Territory or in a prescribed country) for a capital offence;
  - (c) is unable to read, write and speak the English language;
  - (d) is of unsound mind or is:
    - (i) in a hospital; or
    - (ii) undergoing treatment,  
under the *Mental Health Act*; or
  - (e) is a protected person within the meaning of the *Aged and Infirm Persons' Property Act*,is not qualified to serve as a juror.



**11 Persons exempt**

A person specified in Schedule 7 is exempt from serving as a juror and the name of any such person shall not be included in a jury list.

**12 Jurors to serve within own jury district**

Except as a talesman:

- (a) a person who does not reside within the jury district for Darwin is not qualified to serve as a juror at Darwin; and
- (b) a person who does not reside within the jury district for Alice Springs is not qualified to serve as a juror at Alice Springs.

**13 Impeachment of verdict of jury**

The verdict of a jury shall not be impeached on the ground that a juror was not qualified to serve, or was exempt from serving, as a juror unless the lack of qualification or the exemption was submitted before the juror was sworn.

**14 Liability of disqualified or exempted persons to attend as jurors**

A person whose name is on the jury list is not excused from attendance in accordance with a jury summons by reason of:

- (a) not being qualified to serve; or
- (b) being exempt from serving,

as a juror, unless the Sheriff was informed accordingly and has excused the person from attending.

**15 Excusing of jurors by judge or master**

If a Judge or the Master:

- (a) is satisfied that a person summoned to attend as a juror, or a person appointed as a talesman, ought for sufficient cause be excused from attendance; or
- (b) has doubt as to the person's qualifications to serve as a juror or be appointed as a talesman or whether the person is exempt from serving as a juror,

the Judge or the Master may excuse the person from attendance or further attendance on the Court during such period as the Judge or the Master, as the case may be, specifies.

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**17A Power to exempt from jury service on condition of subsequent service**

- (1) Where a person is excused under section 15 from attendance or further attendance on the Court, the Judge or the Master may, as a condition of excusing that person, order that the name of the person be included amongst the names of jurors to be summoned for jury service at some subsequent time specified in the order.
- (2) Where a Judge or the Master makes an order under subsection (1), he shall notify the Sheriff of the making of the order and the Sheriff shall cause the person the subject of that order to be summoned, in accordance with that order, as a juror.

**18AB Power of sheriff to exempt in certain cases**

Where the Sheriff is satisfied that a person has been summoned to attend as a juror not later than 3 years after the date on which he previously served as a juror, the Sheriff may, upon application made by or on behalf of the person, excuse that person from attendance in compliance with the summons.

**Part IV Jury districts****19 Jury districts**

For the purposes of this Act, there shall be:

- (a) a jury district for Darwin; and
- (b) a jury district for Alice Springs.

**20 Boundaries of jury districts**

The jury district of Darwin and the jury district of Alice Springs shall comprise such areas of land as are respectively prescribed.

**Part V Jury lists****21 Jury lists**

- (1) The Sheriff shall, not later than 30 November in each year, make out a jury list for each of the jury districts of Darwin and Alice Springs.

- (2) The Jury lists for Darwin and Alice Springs shall contain, in alphabetical order, the names of persons qualified to serve, and not exempt from serving, as jurors who reside within the respective jury districts.
- (4) A jury list shall show the address and occupation of each person whose name appears on the list and the names appearing on the list shall be prefixed by numbers in regular arithmetical series.
- (5) Each jury list made out under subsection (1) shall come into operation on 1 January next after it is made out and shall, notwithstanding that the boundaries of the prescribed areas constituting a jury district may have changed after it was made out, remain valid for all purposes for a period of 12 months expiring with 31 December next following.

## **Part VI                      Jury precepts and summonses**

### **23                      Definition**

In this Part, unless the contrary intention appears, ***the Sheriff*** in relation to a jury precept that is directed, under section 26, to a person other than the Sheriff means that other person.

### **24                      Jury precepts**

From time to time, and as often as occasion demands, the Chief Justice shall issue, under his hand and seal, a precept directed to the Sheriff requiring him to summon jurors before the Court at Darwin or Alice Springs, as the case requires.

### **25                      Terms of precept**

A jury precept shall be in accordance with the form in Schedule 3 and shall specify the number of jurors required and the time when and the place where the attendance of the jurors is required, and shall be issued and delivered to the Sheriff at least 14 clear days before the time so specified.

### **26                      Provision for cases where sheriff is interested**

If it appears to the Chief Justice that the Sheriff is a party to, or interested in, a matter to be tried before a jury, he may direct a jury precept to such other person as he thinks fit.

**27 Jurors to be chosen by random selection by computer**

When a jury precept is delivered to the Sheriff, the Sheriff shall choose the persons to be summoned from those whose names appear in the jury list for Darwin or the jury list for Alice Springs in accordance with random selection by computer in the prescribed manner.

**27A Sheriff's power to question**

- (1) A Deputy Sheriff shall not exercise any power under this section unless he has been expressly authorized in writing by a Judge or the Master to exercise that power.
- (2) The Sheriff and each Deputy Sheriff shall, in the exercise of any power under this section, comply with such directions as are given from time to time by the Chief Justice.
- (3) The Sheriff and a Deputy Sheriff may, at any time before the juror's name is called in accordance with section 37 or 39, question any juror chosen under section 27 to ascertain whether that juror is able to read, write and speak the English language.
- (4) If the Sheriff or Deputy Sheriff is not satisfied that a juror referred to in subsection (3) is able to read, write and speak the English language, he shall thereupon report the fact to a Judge or the Master.

**29 Summons to jurors**

The Sheriff shall cause to be served upon each juror chosen in pursuance of section 27 a summons in writing, signed by the Sheriff, in accordance with the form in Schedule 4.

**30 Service of summons**

A summons to a juror shall be served on the juror:

- (a) by delivering it to him personally as soon as practicable and not less than 7 clear days before the time specified in the summons for his attendance; or
- (b) by forwarding the summons by ordinary prepaid post to his address, as it appears on the annual jury list, so that the summons would, in the ordinary course of post, be delivered to that address not less than 7 clear days before the time specified in the summons for his attendance.

**32 Panel of jurors and return of persons not summoned**

- (1) The Sheriff shall, before the time when a jury precept is required to be returned into the Court:
  - (a) prepare a list showing the names, in alphabetical order, and the descriptions, of the persons summoned in pursuance of the jury precept; and
  - (b) prepare, in respect of each person whose name appears on the list referred to in paragraph (a), a card showing the name and description of that person.
- (2) Where a single criminal trial is to commence in a jury district on a certain day, either:
  - (a) all the jurors who attend in obedience to the summons from the jury district on that day shall constitute the jury panel for that trial; or
  - (b) the Sheriff shall, by ballot, constitute a jury panel for the trial from amongst those who attend in obedience to the summons.
- (3) Where 2 or more criminal trials are to commence on a certain day, the Sheriff shall, before or on the day on which the jurors are summoned, by ballot, divide the jurors into separate panels and appropriate each panel to a trial.
- (4) Subject to section 37(2)(a), where jurors from any jury panel are not included in a jury for a trial the Sheriff may excuse them from further jury service on the day on which that trial commences, but they shall attend again, in accordance with their respective summonses, at a time and place directed by the Sheriff.

**33 Sheriff's return to precept**

- (1) Upon the day and at the place named in a jury precept for the appearance of the jurors required to be summoned by the jury precept, the Sheriff shall:
  - (a) return into the Court the jury precept with the list of each panel of jurors relating to the precept annexed thereto; and
  - (b) furnish to the proper officer the jury cards relating to the precept.
- (2) Upon receipt of the jury cards, the proper officer shall place them in a ballot box approved by the Chief Justice.

**34            Inspection of jury panels in civil cases**

A party to the trial of a civil issue, or his counsel, may, at a convenient time before the trial, inspect or obtain a copy of the panel of jurors annexed to a precept for the appearance of jurors at that trial.

**35            Informalities, &c., not to invalidate verdict**

An omission, informality or error in name or description (if there being no question as to identity) with respect to a jury list, a jury precept or a panel of jurors does not invalidate or affect any verdict returned by a jury that is in other respects according to law.

**36            Correction of mistakes of name or description**

The Sheriff, on showing to the satisfaction of a Judge or the Master that an error has been made in the name or description of a juror and that there is no question as to the identity of the person may, by leave of the Judge or the Master, as the case may be, in writing, cause the error to be corrected and the person to be thereafter summoned by his right name and description.

**Part VII            Striking and impanelling jury**

**Division 1        Criminal trials**

**37            Striking jury in criminal cases**

- (1) Subject to section 37A, at a criminal trial, the proper officer shall draw the jury cards out of the ballot box one at a time and call aloud the name and description on each card until 12 persons appear and remain approved as indifferent and those persons, upon being duly sworn, shall be the jury to try the issues on the trial.
- (2) If all the jury cards are exhausted, by challenge or otherwise, and less than 12 persons appear and remain approved as indifferent, the Court may adjourn the trial and such persons may be retained to be included in the jury for the trial and:
  - (a) further persons (to be included on the jury panel for the trial) may be chosen from the persons who were summoned to attend on another Court in the same jury district but were not included in a jury for a trial at that Court; or
  - (b) a further jury precept may be issued for persons to be included on the jury panel for the trial.

- (2A) Where there are not sufficient persons to be the jury to try the issues of the trial after following either one or both of the procedures referred to in subsection (2), or where the Court considers those procedures are not appropriate, then, at the request of the Crown or the prisoner or his counsel, the Court may adjourn the trial and order the Sheriff to appoint forthwith from amongst such of the persons in or in the vicinity of the Court as are qualified and liable to serve, but not exempt from serving, as jurors in a jury district as many persons as are sufficient to make up 12 jurors.
- (2B) Notwithstanding subsections (2) and (2A), the jury may be discharged and a further jury precept may be issued in respect of the trial.
- (2C) Section 33 shall apply, with the necessary changes, to the extent necessary for the operation of subsection (2)(a).
- (3) Talesman are subject to challenge in accordance with this Act.
- (4) A card bearing the name of a juror who has been called but not sworn shall, immediately after the jury has been sworn, be returned to the ballot box.
- (5) When the verdict of the jury has been given and recorded or the jury has been discharged, whichever first occurs, the jury cards bearing the names of the jurors empanelled shall, unless the Court otherwise orders, be returned to the ballot box.

### **37A Reserve jurors in criminal cases**

- (1) The Court in which a criminal trial is to be held may direct that, in addition to the 12 persons required under section 37(1) to be the jury to try the issues on that trial, not more than 3 jurors summoned in accordance with section 30 shall be chosen and returned as reserve jurors in respect of that trial.
- (2) A reserve juror:
  - (a) shall have the same qualifications;
  - (b) shall be called and empanelled in the same manner;
  - (c) shall be subject to the same challenges and liability to be stood by and to be discharged;
  - (d) shall take the same oath; and
  - (e) shall have the same functions, powers, facilities and privileges,

as a juror, and for that purpose the law in respect of jurors shall apply to and in relation to a reserve juror with such modifications as are required by this section.

- (3) A juror at a criminal trial who, prior to the time the jury retires to consider its verdict, dies or becomes incapable of or disqualified from or is discharged from performing his duties as a juror shall be replaced by a reserve juror who, if there is more than one reserve juror available at that trial, shall then be determined by lot in such manner as the Court determines.
- (4) Where a reserve juror who has not replaced a juror dies or becomes incapable of or disqualified from or discharged from performing his duties as a juror, the trial in respect of which he is a reserve juror shall not be affected by that death, incapability, disqualification or discharge.
- (5) Immediately before the jury retires to consider its verdict, a reserve juror who has not replaced a juror shall be discharged.

### **38 Different issues may be tried by same jury**

Where a jury has tried, or been drawn to try, a criminal issue, the Court may, if no objection is made by the Crown or other party to another criminal issue:

- (a) try that other issue with that jury without the jury cards of the jurors being returned to the ballot box and redrawn; or
- (b) order the names of any jurors to the withdrawal of whom the parties consent, or who are justly challenged or excused by the Court, to be set aside and other jury cards to be drawn from the ballot box and try that other issue with the residue of the original jury and with such jurors whose names appear on the cards so drawn as appear and are approved as indifferent.

## **Division 2 Civil trials**

### **39 Striking jury in civil cases**

- (1) When a civil issue that is to be tried with a jury is called on for trial, the proper officer:
  - (a) shall draw the jury cards out of the ballot box one at a time and call aloud the name and description on each card until, after all challenges for cause are allowed, 12 persons appear and remain approved as indifferent; and
  - (b) shall compile a list of the names of those jurors.



- (2) If all the jury cards are exhausted, by challenge or otherwise, before the list contains the names of 12 jurors:
  - (a) the Court may order the Sheriff to appoint from amongst such of the persons in or in the vicinity of the court as are qualified and liable to serve, and not exempt from serving, as jurors in a jury district as many persons as are sufficient to make up 12 jurors; and
  - (b) the Sheriff, upon so doing, shall place the names of the jurors so appointed on the list.
- (3) Talesman are subject to challenge in accordance with this Act.
- (4) Upon the list being completed, the list shall be delivered by the Sheriff successively to the plaintiff and to the defendant, each of whom may strike out 4 names from the list.
- (5) If no more than 4 names then remain on the list, the persons whose names so remain shall be the jury, but if more than 4 names then remain on the list, the persons whose names are the first 4 names so remaining shall be the jury.
- (6) The jurors so selected shall be sworn and empanelled as the jurors for the trial.
- (7) A card bearing the name of a juror who has been called but not empanelled shall, immediately after the jury has been sworn, be returned to the box.
- (8) When the trial has been completed, the cards bearing the names of the jurors empanelled shall, unless the Court otherwise orders, be returned to the box.
- (9) In this section, ***the plaintiff*** includes the plaintiff's solicitor or counsel and ***the defendant*** includes the defendant's solicitor or counsel.

#### **40 Different issues may be tried by same jury**

- (1) Where a jury has tried, or been drawn to try, a civil issue, the Court may, if no objection is made on behalf of the plaintiff or defendant to another civil issue:
  - (a) try that other issue with that jury without the jury cards of the jurors being returned to the ballot box and redrawn; or
  - (b) order the names of any jurors to the withdrawal of whom the parties consent, or who are justly challenged or excused by the Court, to be set aside and other jurors to be selected in

their stead and try that other issue with the residue of the original jury and with such jurors so selected as appear and are approved as indifferent.

- (2) The selection of jurors for the purposes of subsection (1)(b) shall be made according to the procedure set out in section 39 for striking a jury for the trial of a civil issue but so that the numbers "12" and "4" appearing in that section are replaced respectively by numbers bearing to those numbers respectively the same ratio as the number of jurors to be selected bears to the number "4".

**41 Reducing list where party does not appear**

Where a plaintiff or defendant does not appear in person or by counsel or solicitor, names on the list of jurors may be struck out on his behalf under section 39(4) by the proper officer or by some other officer of the Court approved by the Court.

**Part VIII Challenge**

**42 Right of challenge**

Subject to the provisions of this Act, challenge to the array and to the polls may be made and allowed for such and the like cause, in such and the like form and manner and under and subject to the like laws, rules and regulations in every respect as by law was or were established, used and practised in like cases in the Northern Territory immediately before the commencement of this Act.

**43 Standing jurors by limited**

The power of the Court on the trial of a criminal issue, at the request of the Crown, to order a juror to stand by is limited so that the number of jurors so ordered to stand by shall not exceed 6.

**44 Challenge in criminal cases**

- (1) Upon the trial of a criminal issue, the Crown and the person arraigned or his counsel may each challenge peremptorily:
- (a) in the case of a capital offence – 12 jurors; and
  - (b) in any other case – 6 jurors,
- and are not, except for cause shown, entitled to further challenges.
- (2) A peremptory challenge in excess of the number of peremptory challenges allowed under subsection (1) is void and the trial shall proceed as if such a challenge had not been made.

**46 Challenge in civil cases**

Subject to section 39, a person is not entitled to challenge a juror upon the trial of a civil issue except for cause shown.

**47 Informalities in summoning jurors**

- (1) An omission, error or irregularity by the Sheriff or any of his officers in the time and mode of service of a summons on a juror, or the summoning or return of a juror by a wrong name (if there is no question as to identity) is not a cause of challenge either to the array or to the juror.
- (2) A matter which might have been objected by way of challenge to the polls or to the array does not invalidate or affect any verdict in any case, civil or criminal, unless the objection is taken by way of challenge.

**Part IX Disagreement****49 Disagreement in civil cases**

- (1) Where, upon the trial of a civil issue:
  - (a) the jury has remained for a period of 6 hours or more in deliberation;
  - (b) the jurors are not unanimously agreed upon their verdict; and
  - (c) 3 of the jurors are agreed upon the verdict to be given,the decision of those 3 jurors shall be taken and entered as the verdict of all.
- (2) Where, upon the trial of a civil issue:
  - (a) the jury has remained for 12 hours or more in deliberation; and
  - (b) it is not possible to enter a verdict in accordance with subsection (1),

the Court shall discharge the jury and the cause may without new process be again set down for trial, either at the same or any subsequent sittings as the Court may order.

**Part X                      Offences****50                      Non-attendance of jurors**

A person, other than a person who is at the material time excused from attendance as a juror by or under this Act, shall comply with a summons to attend as a juror served on him under this Act.

Penalty:            \$500.

**51                      Non-attendance of talesman**

A talesman shall not:

- (a) fail to appear when required so to do by the Court; or
- (b) wilfully withdraw himself from the presence of the Court.

Penalty:            \$500.

**52                      Unlawful dismissal, &c.**

Where a person is summoned in pursuance of a jury precept to attend upon the Court, whether he serves upon a jury or not, the person in whose service he is employed, shall not:

- (a) dismiss that person from his service; or
- (b) act in any other way to the prejudice of that person in relation to his employment,

on account of that person's absence from his employment for the purposes of jury service.

Penalty:            \$5,000 or imprisonment for 12 months.

**54                      Limit of 3 days in civil cases**

Where a juror summoned, or a talesman appointed, for the trial of a civil issue or issues has attended for 3 consecutive days, he is excused from further attendance unless the Court otherwise orders.

**55                      Personation of jurors**

A person shall not personate, or attempt to personate, a juror whose name is on a panel of jurors for the purpose of sitting as that juror.

Penalty:            \$2,000.

**56 Excess of fees**

A juror or reserve juror shall not, under pretence of receiving fees or remuneration for attending a trial, receive or take from any person a sum in excess of the compensation which he is entitled to receive under this Act for his attendance.

Penalty: \$500.

**Part XI Miscellaneous****58 Oath by jurors**

Jurors shall be sworn in open court in accordance with the appropriate Form in Schedule 6.

**59 Oath of officer in charge of jury**

An officer may be sworn, in accordance with the form in Schedule 6, to take charge of a jury.

**60 Payment of jurors**

A juror summoned in pursuance of a precept, or a talesman who attends the Court, is, for each day during his attendance upon the Court, whether he has actually served upon a jury or not, entitled to receive payment for his attendance at the prescribed rate.

**61 View during trial**

- (1) In the trial of a civil issue with a jury, the Court may, at any time before the verdict of the jury, order a view of any place or property by the jury and may make all such orders upon the Sheriff or other person, and give such directions as the Court thinks necessary, for the purposes of the view.
- (3) When a view is ordered on the trial of a civil issue, the Court may direct that the expenses of the view shall be paid to such extent and by such person, in the first instance, as the Court orders.

**62 Reduction of jury**

- (1) If in any trial of a civil issue, the Court is satisfied that by reason of illness or a matter of special urgency or importance a juror should be excused from further attendance, the Court may order that the juror be excused from further attendance during the trial and such further period as the Court specifies.

- (2) Where a juror dies or is excused under subsection (1), the Court may, if the number of jurors is reduced to not less than 3, order that the trial shall proceed with the reduced number of jurors and the decision of those jurors shall be taken and entered as the verdict of all.

**63 Food and refreshment**

In any trial, the Court may, at any time after the jury has been empanelled and sworn and whether or not it has retired to consider its verdict, order that the jury be supplied with such food and refreshment as the Court thinks fit and the Sheriff shall thereupon supply that food and refreshment at public expense.

**65 Abolition of certain juries**

Special juries and juries de medietate linguae are abolished.

**66 Affirmations**

A person required by this Part to make an oath in accordance with a Form in Schedule 6 may make an affirmation in accordance with that Form, with such alterations as are necessary, and a person so making an affirmation shall, for the purposes of this Part, be deemed to have been sworn.

**68 Regulations**

- (1) The Administrator may make regulations, not inconsistent with this Act, prescribing all matters which are required or permitted by this Act to be prescribed or are necessary or convenient to be prescribed for giving effect to this Act.
- (2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), the Regulations may provide for:
- (a) prescribing the fees to be paid under section 8;
  - (b) prescribing the rates of payment under section 60;
  - (c) prescribing the areas of land comprising respectively the jury districts of Darwin and Alice Springs; and
  - (d) prescribing forms of acknowledgement, in answer to jury summonses, to be completed and returned to the sheriff.

**Schedule 1      Repeal**

section 4

**Part I**

Number of Act	Act	Extent of Repeal
No. 1 of 1862	The Jury Act, 1862	The whole
No. 3 of 1865	The Jury Amendment Act, 1865	The whole
No. 7 of 1865-6	An Act to amend the Jury Act, 1862	The whole
No. 38 of 1876	The Criminal Law Consolidation Act, 1876	Sections 365, 366 and 367, so far as they apply to fines imposed upon jurors
No. 116 of 1878	Supreme Court Act, 1878	Sections 22, 23 and 24
No. 379 of 1886	The Jury Act Amendment Act, 1886	The whole
No. 511 of 1891	The Criminal Jurors Payment Act	The whole
No. 564 of 1893	An Act for the Continuance of Certain Juries and for other Purposes	The whole
No. 781 of 1902	The Jury Act Amendment Act, 1902	The whole
No. 878 of 1905	The Jury Act Amendment Act, 1905	The whole
No. 891 of 1905	The Juries Separation Act, 1905	The whole
No. 923 of 1907	The Jury Act Further Amendment Act, 1907	The whole

**Part II**

*Jury Ordinance 1912*

*Jury Ordinance 1919*

*Jury Ordinance (No. 2) 1919*

*Jury Ordinance 1926*

*Jury Ordinance 1936*

*Jury Ordinance 1938*

*Jury Ordinance 1952*

*Jury Ordinance 1953*

*Jury Ordinance 1954*

*Jurors and Witnesses Payment Ordinance 1947*

*Jurors and Witnesses Payment Ordinance 1952*



### Schedule 3

## section 25

## NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

## ***Juries Act***

## JURY PRECEPT

To the Sheriff,

In pursuance of the *Juries Act*, I order you to summon before the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory of Australia to be held at the Court House at                    on                    the                    day of                    , 19                    ,

persons of the Territory qualified by law as jurors to make a jury for all such matters as shall be required of them and to return into the Supreme Court on that date:

- (a) this precept;
- (b) the names of the jurors summoned;
- (c) proof of the service, and of the time and the manner of service, of a summons on each of those jurors; and
- (d) a statement showing the reason why each of the other jurors chosen to be summoned, but not summoned, were not served with a summons.

Given under my hand and seal at

this                      day of                      , 19   .

Judge

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**Schedule 4**

section 29

**NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA**

***Juries Act***

**SUMMONS TO JUROR**

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF  
THE NORTHERN TERRITORY  
OF AUSTRALIA

To:

.....

.....

You are hereby required to appear as a juror in the Supreme Court to be held  
at                      on                      the                      day of                      ,  
19                      , at                      o'clock in the                      noon, and you are there to attend from day to  
day until you are discharged by the Court.

Failure to attend in obedience to this summons is punishable by a fine not  
exceeding \$500.

Dated this                      day of                      , 19                      .

Sheriff

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## Schedule 6

sections 58 and 59

### OATH BY JUROR IN A CRIMINAL TRIAL

I swear that I will faithfully try the several issues joined between our Sovereign Lady the Queen and the prisoner(s) at the bar and will give a true verdict according to the evidence ..... ***So help me, God!***

### OATH BY JUROR IN CIVIL TRIAL

I swear that I will faithfully try the issues and assess the damages in all causes that may be brought before me for trial or inquiry and will give a true verdict according to the evidence ..... ***So help me, God!***

### OATH OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF JURY

You swear that you will keep this jury in your custody and suffer no one to speak to them nor speak to them yourself except on some necessary occasion having reference to their health, business or family affairs. ***So help you God!***

## Schedule 7

### section 11

#### PERSONS EXEMPT FROM SERVICE AS JURORS

- the Administrator
- the Administrator's official secretary
- the secretary of the Executive Council
- a person who holds, or has, within the previous 10 years, held, a judicial office
- the spouse of a Judge
- a member of the Legislative Assembly
- the Ombudsman, and any employee referred to in section 11(1) of the *Ombudsman (Northern Territory) Act*
- a person regularly employed on duties on board aircraft used in aerial ambulance services
- a practising legal practitioner
- the articled clerk of a practising legal practitioner
- a clergyman in holy orders, a priest of the Roman Catholic faith and a minister of religion having an established congregation
- a monk, nun or other vowed member of a religious community
- a practising dentist or dental specialist registered under the *Dental Act*
- a practising medical practitioner
- a member of the Parole Board within the meaning of the *Parole of Prisoners Act*
- the secretary of the Parole Board within the meaning of the *Parole of Prisoners Act*
- a parole officer within the meaning of the *Parole of Prisoners Act*
- a member of the Police Force of the Northern Territory

an officer within the meaning of the *Prisons (Correctional Services) Act*

an employee as defined in the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act* who is employed in the Northern Territory Attorney-General's Department, Department of Correctional Services, the Office of Courts Administration or the Legal Aid Commission, or who is under the direct control of the Commissioner of Police

an employee as defined in the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act* who is employed in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

a person who is blind, deaf or dumb or otherwise incapacitated by disease or infirmity from discharging the duties of a juror

a person over the age of 65 years.

a person who is not liable to serve as a juror by virtue of, or who is exempted from service as a juror under, the *Jury Exemption Act 1965* of the Commonwealth

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## ENDNOTES

### 1 KEY

Key to abbreviations

<b>amd</b> = amended	<b>od</b> = order
<b>app</b> = appendix	<b>om</b> = omitted
<b>bl</b> = by-law	<b>pt</b> = Part
<b>ch</b> = Chapter	<b>r</b> = regulation/rule
<b>cl</b> = clause	<b>rem</b> = remainder
<b>div</b> = Division	<b>renum</b> = renumbered
<b>exp</b> = expires/expired	<b>rep</b> = repealed
<b>f</b> = forms	<b>s</b> = section
<b>Gaz</b> = <i>Gazette</i>	<b>sch</b> = Schedule
<b>hdg</b> = heading	<b>sdiv</b> = Subdivision
<b>ins</b> = inserted	<b>SL</b> = Subordinate Legislation
<b>lt</b> = long title	<b>sub</b> = substituted
<b>nc</b> = not commenced	

### 2 LIST OF LEGISLATION

***Juries Ordinance 1962 (Act No. 30, 1963)***

Assent date	8 May 1963
Commenced	13 May 1963 ( <i>Gaz</i> 18B, 7 May 1963, p 92B)

***Juries Ordinance 1963 (Act No. 33, 1963)***

Assent date	26 April 1963
Commenced	13 May 1963 (s 2, s 2 <i>Juries Ordinance 1962</i> (Act No. 30, 1963) and <i>Gaz</i> 18B, 7 May 1963, p 92B)

***Juries Ordinance 1965 (Act No. 23, 1965)***

Assent date	16 August 1965
Commenced	16 August 1965

***Juries Ordinance 1967 (Act No. 17, 1967)***

Assent date	22 June 1967
Commenced	22 June 1967

***Juries Ordinance 1970 (Act No. 36, 1970)***

Assent date	1 October 1970
Commenced	1 October 1970

***Juries Ordinance 1972 (Act No. 1, 1972)***

Assent date	13 March 1972
Commenced	13 March 1972

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**Ordinances Revision Ordinance 1973 (Act No. 87, 1973)**

Assent date 11 December 1973  
Commenced 11 December 1973 (s 12(2))

**Amending Legislation**

**Ordinances Revision Ordinance 1974 (Act No. 34, 1974)**

Assent date 26 August 1974  
Commenced 11 December 1973 (s 3(2))

**Ordinances Revision Ordinance (No. 2) 1974 (Act No. 69, 1974)**

Assent date 24 October 1974  
Commenced 11 December 1973 (s 3)

**Ordinances Revision Ordinance 1976 (Act No. 27, 1976)**

Assent date 28 June 1976  
Commenced ss 1, 2 and 6: 28 June 1976 (s 6(2));  
ss 3 and 4: 11 December 1973; s 5: 24 October 1974

**Juries Ordinance 1974 (Act No. 30, 1974)**

Assent date 26 August 1974  
Commenced 26 August 1974

**Juries Ordinance (No. 2) 1974 (Act No. 60, 1974)**

Assent date 15 October 1974  
Commenced 15 October 1974

**Juries Ordinance 1978 (Act No. 63, 1978)**

Assent date 1 July 1978  
Commenced 19 January 1979 (*Gaz G3*, 19 January 1979, p 4)

**Statute Law Revision Act 1978 (Act No. 95, 1978)**

Assent date 5 September 1978  
Commenced 5 September 1978

**Juries Act 1979 (Act No. 123, 1979)**

Assent date 15 October 1979  
Commenced 16 January 1980 (*Gaz S3*, 16 January 1980, p 1)

**Juries Act 1980 (Act No. 10, 1980)**

Assent date 12 February 1980  
Commenced 12 February 1980

**Juries Amendment Act 1982 (Act No. 51, 1982)**

Assent date 1 September 1982  
Commenced 10 December 1982 (*Gaz G49*, 10 December 1982, p 4)

**Juries (Criminal Code) Amendment Act 1983 (Act No. 63, 1983)**

Assent date 28 November 1983  
Commenced 1 January 1984 (s 2, s 2 *Criminal Code Act 1983* (Act No. 47, 1983), *Gaz G46*, 18 November 1983, p 11 and *Gaz G8*, 26 February 1986, p 5)

**Juries Amendment Act 1987 (Act No. 49, 1987)**

Assent date 16 November 1987  
Commenced 16 November 1987

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**Statute Law Revision Act (No. 2) 1987 (Act No. 59, 1987)**

Assent date 31 December 1987  
Commenced 31 December 1987

**Juries Amendment Act 1989 (Act No. 57, 1989)**

Assent date 2 October 1989  
Commenced 2 October 1989

**Director of Public Prosecutions (Consequential Amendments) Act 1990 (Act No. 29, 1990)**

Assent date 11 June 1990  
Commenced 21 January 1991 (s 2, s 2 *Director of Public Prosecutions Act 1990* (Act No. 35, 1990) and *Gaz G2*, 16 January 1991, p 9)

**Juries Amendment Act 1990 (Act No. 63, 1990)**

Assent date 14 December 1990  
Commenced 14 December 1990

**Dental (Consequential Amendments) Act 1991 (Act No. 75, 1991)**

Assent date 10 December 1991  
Commenced 31 January 1992 (*Gaz S7*, 31 January 1992)

**Juries Amendment Act 1992 (Act No. 73, 1992)**

Assent date 14 December 1992  
Commenced 14 December 1992

**Public Sector Employment and Management (Consequential Amendments) Act 1993 (Act No. 28, 1993)**

Assent date 30 June 1993  
Commenced 1 July 1993 (s 2, s 2 *Public Sector Employment and Management Act 1993* (Act No. 11, 1993) and *Gaz S53*, 29 June 1993)

**Sentencing (Consequential Amendments) Act 1996 (Act No. 17, 1996)**

Assent date 19 April 1996  
Commenced 1 July 1996 (s 2, s 2 *Sentencing Act 1995* (Act No. 39, 1995) and *Gaz S15*, 13 June 1996)

**Statute Law Revision Act 1996 (Act No. 42, 1996)**

Assent date 17 September 1996  
Commenced 17 September 1996

### 3 SAVINGS AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

s 9 *Juries Ordinance 1974* (Act No. 30, 1974)  
s 6 *Juries Ordinance (No. 2) 1974* (Act No. 60, 1974)  
s 13(2) *Juries Act 1979* (Act No. 123, 1979)  
s 4 *Juries Amendment Act 1982* (Act No. 51, 1982)  
s 4 *Juries Amendment Act 1990* (Act No. 63, 1990)

### 4 GENERAL AMENDMENTS

General amendments of a formal nature (which are not referred to in the table of amendments to this reprint) are made by the *Ordinances Revision*



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*Ordinance 1973* (Act No. 87, 1973) (as amended) to the following provisions:  
ss 4 – 8, 11, 14, 17, 21, 23, 25, 28-33, 37, 39 – 41, 44, 46, 48 – 59, 61, 62,  
66 – 68 and Second to Fifth schs.

## 5 LIST OF AMENDMENTS

It	amd No. 57, 1989, s 18
ss 1 – 2	amd No. 57, 1989, s 18
s 3	rep No. 123, 1979, s 4
s 4	amd No. 123, 1979, s 5; No. 57, 1989, s 18
s 5	amd No. 30, 1974, s 3; No. 123, 1979, ss 6 and 15; No. 51, 1982, s 5; No. 57, 1989, s 18; No. 73, 1992, s 3; No. 19, 1996, s 4
s 6	amd No. 57, 1989, s 18
s 7	amd No. 23, 1965, s 2 sub No. 17, 1967, s 2 amd No. 57, 1989, s 18
s 8	sub No. 17, 1967, s 2 amd No. 123, 1979, s 15
s 9	sub No. 30, 1974, s 4 amd No. 123, 1979, s 15 sub No. 57, 1989, s 3
s 10	sub No. 123, 1979, s 7 amd No. 57, 1989, s 4; No. 17, 1996, s 6
s 11	amd No. 36, 1970, s 2; No. 1, 1972, s 2; No. 30, 1974, s 5; No. 60, 1974, s 3; No. 63, 1978, s 4 sub No. 123, 1979, s 8 amd No. 57, 1989, s 18
s 11A	ins No. 30, 1974, s 6 sub No. 123, 1979, s 8 rep No. 57, 1989, s 5
s 12	amd No. 57, 1989, s 6
s 14	sub No. 57, 1989, s 7
s 15	amd No. 123, 1979, s 15 sub No. 57, 1989, s 7
ss 16 – 17	amd No. 123, 1979, s 15 rep No. 57, 1989, s 7
s 17A	ins No. 51, 1982, s 6 amd No. 57, 1989, s 8
s 18	amd No. 123, 1979, s 15 rep No. 57, 1989, s 9
s 18A	ins No. 123, 1979, s 9 amd No. 51, 1982, s 7 rep No. 57, 1989, s 9
s 18AB	ins No. 51, 1982, s 8 amd No. 57, 1989, s 18
s 19	amd No. 57, 1989, s 18
s 20	amd No. 30, 1974, s 7 sub No. 60, 1974, s 4
s 21	amd No. 23, 1965, s 3; No. 30, 1974, s 8; No. 51, 1982, s 9; No. 57, 1989, s 10
s 22	rep No. 57, 1989, s 11
s 22A	ins No. 51, 1982, s 10 rep No. 57, 1989, s 11
s 24	amd No. 123, 1979, s 15
s 25	amd No. 123, 1979, s 15; No. 57, 1989, s 18
s 26	amd No. 123, 1979, s 15

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s 27	amd No. 123, 1979, s 15; No. 51, 1982, s 11 sub No. 57, 1989, s 12
s 27A	ins No. 123, 1979, s 10 amd No. 57, 1989, s 18
s 28	amd No. 33, 1963, s 3; No. 23, 1965, s 4; No. 123, 1979, s 15 rep No. 51, 1982, s 12
s 29	amd No. 57, 1989, s 18
ss 30 – 31	amd No. 123, 1979, s 15 rep No. 51, 1982, s 13
s 32	amd No. 123, 1979, s 15 sub No. 51, 1982, s 14 amd No. 57, 1989, s 13; No. 73, 1992, s 4; No. 19, 1996, s 5
s 33	amd No. 123, 1979, s 15; No. 51, 1982, s 15; No. 57, 1989, s 14; No. 19, 1996, s 6
s 36	amd No. 123, 1979, s 15; No. 57, 1989, s 18
s 37	amd No. 51, 1982, s 16; No. 57, 1989, s 18; No. 29, 1990, s 7; No. 73, 1992, s 5; No. 19, 1996, s 7
s 37A	ins No. 51, 1982, s 17
s 38	amd No. 29, 1990, s 7; No. 19, 1996, s 8
s 39	amd No. 57, 1989, s 18; No. 19, 1996, s 9
s 40	amd No. 123, 1979, s 15; No. 19, 1996, s 10
s 41	amd No. 123, 1979, s 15
s 42	amd No. 57, 1989, s 18
s 43	sub No. 51, 1982, s 18 amd No. 29, 1990, s 7
s 45	rep No. 63, 1983, s 4
s 48	sub No. 123, 1979, s 11 amd No. 51, 1982, s 19 rep No. 63, 1983, s 4
s 50	amd No. 57, 1989, s 18
s 51	amd No. 123, 1979, s 15; No. 57, 1989, s 18
s 52	rep No. 57, 1989, s 15 ins No. 73, 1992, s 6
s 53	amd No. 123, 1979, s 15 rep No. 57, 1989, s 15
s 55	amd No. 57, 1989, s 18
s 56	amd No. 51, 1982, s 20; No. 57, 1989, s 18
s 57	amd No. 51, 1982, s 21 rep No. 63, 1983, s 4
s 58	amd No. 57, 1989, s 18
s 59	sub No. 57, 1989, s 16
s 61	amd No. 123, 1979, s 15; No. 63, 1983, s 5
s 62	amd No. 33, 1963, s 4; No. 123, 1979, s 12; No. 51, 1982, s 22; No. 63, 1983, s 6
s 64	amd No. 10, 1980, s 2 rep No. 63, 1983, s 7
s 66	amd No. 57, 1989, s 18
s 67	rep No. 123, 1979, s 13
s 68	amd No. 60, 1974, s 5; No. 95, 1978, s 14 sub No. 51, 1982, s 23
sch 1	amd No. 57, 1989, s 18
sch 2	rep No. 57, 1989, s 18
sch 3 – 4	amd No. 57, 1989, s 18
sch 5	rep No. 57, 1989, s 18
sch 6	amd No. 63, 1983, s 8; No. 59, 1987, s 5; No. 57, 1989, ss 17 and 18
sch 7	ins No. 123, 1979, s 14 amd No. 52, 1982, s 24; No. 49, 1987, s 2; No. 57, 1989, s 18; No. 29, 1990, s 4; No. 75, 1991, s 3; No. 73, 1992, s 7; No. 28, 1993, s 3; No. 42, 1996, s 6