

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

MARRIED PERSONS (EQUALITY OF STATUS) ACT 1989

As in force at 12 December 1989

Table of provisions

1	Short title	1
2	Non-application of Act	1
3	Equality of status	1
4	Interspousal tort.....	2
5	Spouse as agent.....	2
6	Repeal	2
7	Amendment of other Acts	2

Schedule

ENDNOTES

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

This reprint shows the Act as in force at 12 December 1989. Any amendments that commence after that date are not included.

MARRIED PERSONS (EQUALITY OF STATUS) ACT 1989

An Act to provide for the Equality of Status of Married Persons, to repeal the *Married Women's Property Act* and the *Married Persons (Torts) Act*, and to amend certain other Acts

1 Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Married Persons (Equality of Status) Act 1989*.

2 Non-application of Act

This Act does not apply to a cause of action arising before the commencement of this Act.

3 Equality of status

- (1) A married person has legal capacity for all purposes and in all respects as if that person were an unmarried person.
- (2) For all purposes of the law in force in the Territory a married person has a legal personality that is independent, separate and distinct from that of the person's spouse.
- (3) This section does not apply to, interfere with or render inoperative any restriction on anticipation or alienation attached to the enjoyment of any property by virtue of an instrument executed before the commencement of this Act and for that purpose:
 - (a) a provision contained in an instrument made in exercise of a special power of appointment shall be deemed to be contained in the instrument in which the power was created; and
 - (b) the will of a testator or testatrix shall be deemed to be an instrument executed on the day of his or her death.

4 Interspousal tort

Without limiting the generality of section 3, a husband and wife each have a right of action in tort against the other as if they were not married.

5 Spouse as agent

Without limiting the generality of section 3, a husband or wife does not, by reason only of his or her status as a spouse, have authority to pledge the credit of the other spouse for necessaries or to act as agent for the other spouse for the purchase of necessaries.

6 Repeal

(1) The *Married Persons (Torts) Act 1969* (Ordinance No. 46 of 1969) is repealed.

(2) The *Married Women's Property Act* comprising the following Acts of the state of South Australia in their application to the Territory as laws of the Territory:

(a) The *Married Women's Property Act, 1883-4* (Act No. 300 of 1883);

(b) The *Married Women's Property Amendment Act, 1898* (Act No. 701 of 1898); and

(c) The *Married Women's Property Amendment Act, 1902* (Act No. 796 of 1902),

and the *Married Women's Property Ordinance 1969* of the Northern Territory (Ordinance No. 45 of 1969) are repealed.

7 Amendment of other Acts

The provisions of the Acts specified in the Schedule are amended or repealed as provided in that Schedule.

Schedule

section 7

Act and Provision	Amendment
<i>Domicile Act</i>	
Section 5	The section is repealed and the following substituted: "5. MARRIED WOMEN "The same rule applies to determine the domicile of a married woman as for a married man."
<i>Guardianship of Infants Act</i>	
Section 22	The section is repealed
<i>Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act</i>	
Part III	The Part is repealed
<i>Trustee Act</i>	
Section 16	The section is repealed
Section 69	The section is repealed

ENDNOTES

1

KEY

Key to abbreviations

amd = amended

app = appendix

bl = by-law

ch = Chapter

cl = clause

div = Division

exp = expires/expired

f = forms

Gaz = *Gazette*

hdg = heading

ins = inserted

lt = long title

nc = not commenced

od = order

om = omitted

pt = Part

r = regulation/rule

rem = remainder

renum = renumbered

rep = repealed

s = section

sch = Schedule

sdiv = Subdivision

SL = Subordinate Legislation

sub = substituted

2

LIST OF LEGISLATION

Married Persons (Equality Of Status) Act 1989 (Act No. 76 1989)

Assent date 12 December 1989

Commenced 12 December 1989