

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

OBSERVANCE OF LAW ACT 1921

As in force at 1 July 2010

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OBSERVANCE OF LAW ACT 1921

An Act relating to the observance of law in the Northern Territory

1 Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Observance of Law Act 1921*.

2 Definitions

In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears:

Chairman means the person for the time being presiding over, or in charge of the conduct of the proceedings of, a public meeting;

officer of the Police Force or **officer of Police** means any member of the Police Force of the Northern Territory.

3 Misbehaviour at a public meeting

Any person who, in, at or near any place where a public meeting is being held:

- (a) behaves in a riotous, disorderly, indecent, offensive, threatening or insulting manner;
- (b) uses any threatening, abusive or insulting words; or
- (c) in any way whatsoever, except by lawful authority (proof whereof shall lie upon him) obstructs or interferes with any of the proceedings of the meeting or the Chairman in the conduct of the meeting,

shall be guilty of an offence.

Maximum penalty: \$40 or imprisonment for 3 months.

4 Powers of Chairman of public meeting

- (1) Where in the opinion of the Chairman, any person, in, at or near the place where a public meeting is being held:

- (a) behaves in a riotous, disorderly, indecent, offensive,

threatening or insulting manner;

- (b) uses any threatening, abusive or insulting words; or
- (c) in any way whatever, except by lawful authority (proof whereof shall lie upon him) obstructs or interferes with any of the proceedings at the meeting or with the chairman in the conduct of the meeting,

the Chairman may verbally direct any officer of the Police Force, or the police generally, to remove the person from the place and the neighbourhood thereof.

- (2) Upon a direction being given under subsection (1), it shall be the duty of any officer of police to whom it is addressed or who is present at, in or near the place, to remove the person in accordance with the direction.
- (3) Any person who obstructs or interferes with any officer of police in the performance of his duty under this section, shall be guilty of an offence.

Maximum penalty: 0.8 penalty unit or imprisonment for 6 months.

5 Institution of proceedings

Proceedings in respect of any offence under sections 3 and 4 may be instituted by any person.

11 Victimization as to employment and delivery of goods

Any person who, by threats, intimidation, violence, force or any physical act, interferes with the right of any person:

- (a) to carry on his lawful occupation;
- (b) to obtain or accept or continue in employment; or
- (c) to obtain any goods or services or the delivery of any goods,

shall be guilty of an offence.

Maximum penalty: 0.8 penalty unit or imprisonment for 6 months.

ENDNOTES
1**KEY**

Key to abbreviations

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

2**LIST OF LEGISLATION*****Observance of Law Ordinance 1921 (Act No. 13, 1921)***

Assent date	21 October 1921
Commenced	21 October 1921

Observance of Law Ordinance 1930 (Act No. 1, 1930)

Assent date	16 January 1930
Commenced	16 January 1930

Observance of Law Ordinance (No. 2) 1930 (Act No. 8, 1930)

Assent date	7 July 1930
Commenced	7 July 1930

Observance of Law Ordinance 1958 (Act No. 22, 1958)

Assent date	14 November 1958
Commenced	14 November 1958

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

Statute Law Revision Act (No. 4) 1981 (Act No. 4, 1982)

Assent date 12 February 1982
 Commenced 12 February 1982

Justice Legislation Amendment (Penalties) Act 2010 (Act No. 12, 2010)

Assent date 20 May 2010
 Commenced 1 July 2010 (*Gaz G24*, 16 June 2010, p 2)

3 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 Ordinance 1973* (Act No. 87, 1973) (as amended) to the following provisions: ss 3, 4, 5 and 11.

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 *Interpretation Legislation Amendment Act 2018* (Act No. 22, 2018) to: s 1.

5 LIST OF AMENDMENTS

It	amd No. 4, 1982, s 3
s 1	amd No. 4, 1982, s 3
s 2	amd No. 1, 1930, s 2; No. 4, 1982, s 3
s 3	amd No. 1, 1930, s 3; No. 4, 1982, s 3; No. 12, 2010, s 3
s 4	amd No. 4, 1982, s 3; No. 12, 2010, s 3
s 6	rep No. 8, 1930, s 2
ss 7 – 10	rep No. 22, 1958, s 2
s 11	amd No. 4, 1982, s 3; No. 12, 2010, s 3