

## MAGISTRATES' COURTS ACT 32 OF 1944 <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup>

[ASSENTED TO 16 MAY 1944]

[DATE OF COMMENCEMENT: 2 JULY 1945]

*(Signed by the Officer Administering the Government in Afrikaans)*

**published in**  
GG 3346 of 19 May 1944

**commencement**  
(see s. 117 of this Act)

provisions	date	refer to
whole Act	2 July 1945	Proc 106 in GG 3497 of 1 June 1945

### as amended

by	with effect from	refer to
Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 40 of 1952	2 July 1945	s. 10 (2) of Act 40 of 1952
	27 June 1952	s. 33 of Act 40 of 1952
Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 14 of 1954	2 April 1954	s. 4 of Act 14 of 1954
General Law Amendment Act 62 of 1955	6 July 1955	s. 39 of Act 62 of 1955
General Law Amendment Act 50 of 1956	22 June 1956	s. 33 of Act 50 of 1956
General Law Amendment Act 68 of 1957	28 June 1957	s. 60 of Act 68 of 1957
Criminal Law Amendment Act 16 of 1959	1 September 1959	s. 50 of Act 16 of 1959; Proc 173 in GG 6274 of 28 August 1959
Criminal Law Further Amendment Act 75 of 1959	17 July 1959	s. 7 of Act 75 of 1959
General Law Further Amendment Act 93 of 1962	4 July 1962	s. 45 of Act 93 of 1962
Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 19 of 1963	15 March 1963	s. 25 of Act 19 of 1963
General Law Amendment Act 37 of 1963	2 May 1963	s. 19 of Act 37 of 1963
General Law Further Amendment Act 93 of 1963	12 July 1963	s. 25 of Act 93 of 1963
General Law Amendment Act 80 of		

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<b>by</b>	<b>with effect from</b>	<b>refer to</b>
1964	24 June 1964	s. 47 of Act 80 of 1964
	30 August 1968	s. 8 (2) of Act 80 of 1964; Proc R161 in GG 2102 of 21 June 1968
	1 November 1970	s. 9 (2) of Act 80 of 1964; Proc R236 in GG 2890 of 16 October 1970
Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 48 of 1965	5 May 1965	s. 4 of Act 48 of 1965
Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 8 of 1967	17 February 1967	s. 3 of Act 8 of 1967
General Law Amendment Act 70 of 1968	21 June 1968	s. 63 of Act 70 of 1968
	30 August 1968	Proc R225 in GG 2146 of 16 August 1968
Establishment of the Northern Cape Division of the Supreme Court of South Africa Act 15 of 1969	1 May 1969	s. 21 of Act 15 of 1969; Proc R92 in GG 2356 of 18 April 1969
Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 17 of 1969	26 March 1969	s. 5 of Act 17 of 1969
General Law Amendment Act 101 of 1969	30 June 1969	s. 30 of Act 101 of 1969
General Law Amendment Act 17 of 1970	6 March 1970	s. 8 of Act 17 of 1970
Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 53 of 1970	1 December 1970	s. 23 of Act 53 of 1970; Proc R283 in GG 2922 of 13 November 1970
General Law Amendment Act 80 of 1971	14 July 1971	s. 30 of Act 80 of 1971
General Law Amendment Act 102 of 1972	2 July 1972	ss. 7 (2), 8 (2) of Act 102 of 1972
General Law Amendment Act 29 of 1974	15 March 1974	s. 24 of Act 29 of 1974
Second General Law Amendment Act 94 of 1974	1 May 1973	s. 24 (2) of Act 94 of 1974
	20 November 1974	s. 52 (1) of Act 94 of 1974
	1 March 1975	s. 52 (2) of Act 94 of 1974; Proc R32 in GG 4586 of 14 February 1975
Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 63 of 1976	1 January 1979	s. 12 of Act 63 of 1976; Proc R286 in GG 6208 of 10 November 1978
Criminal Procedure Act 51 of 1977	22 July 1977	s. 345 of Act 51 of 1977; Proc R148 in GG 5654 of 15 July

<b>by</b>	<b>with effect from</b>	<b>refer to</b>
		1977
Lower Courts Amendment Act 91 of 1977	22 July 1977	s. 17 of Act 91 of 1977; Proc R147 in GG 5654 of 15 July 1977
Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 28 of 1981	11 March 1981	s. 5 of Act 28 of 1981
Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 59 of 1982	21 April 1982	s. 2 of Act 59 of 1982
Appeals Amendment Act 105 of 1982	1 April 1983	s. 27 of Act 105 of 1982; Proc R36 in GG 8617 of 25 March 1983
Courts of Justice Amendment Act 53 of 1983	4 May 1983	s. 4 of Act 53 of 1983
Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 56 of 1984	2 May 1984	s. 3 of Act 56 of 1984
Matrimonial Property Act 88 of 1984	1 November 1984	s. 38 of Act 88 of 1984; Proc R158 in GG 9413 of 7 September 1984
Criminal Procedure Matters Amendment Act 109 of 1984	1 September 1984	s. 9 of Act 109 of 1984; Proc R151 in GG 9401 of 31 August 1984
Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 19 of 1985	3 April 1985	s. 14 of Act 19 of 1985
Rules Board for Courts of Law Act 107 of 1985	20 February 1987	s. 12 of Act 107 of 1985; Proc R27 in GG 10626 of 20 February 1987
Special Courts for Blacks Abolition Act 34 of 1986	1 August 1986	s. 3 of Act 34 of 1986; Proc R138 in GG 10376 of 28 July 1986
Sheriffs Act 90 of 1986	1 March 1990	s. 66 of Act 90 of 1986; Proc R32 in GG 12317 of 1 March 1990
Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 25 of 1987	24 June 1987	s. 10 of Act 25 of 1987
	1 January 1988	Proc R176 in GG 11063 of 11 December 1987
	1 July 1989	Proc R50 in GG 11833 of 21 April 1989
Law of Evidence Amendment Act 45 of 1988	3 October 1988	s. 10 of Act 45 of 1988; Proc 171 in GG 11519 of 30 September 1988
Attorneys Amendment Act 87 of 1989	29 September 1989	s. 36 of 87 of 1989; Proc R176 in GG 12126 of 29 September 1989
Criminal Law Amendment Act 107 of 1990	1 August 1990	s. 21 (2) of Act 107 of 1990; Proc R128 in GG 12678 of 31 July

<b>by</b>	<b>with effect from</b>	<b>refer to</b>
		1990
Judicial Matters Amendment Act 4 of 1991	28 March 1991	s. 7 of Act 4 of 1991
Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 118 of 1991	1 March 1992	s. 2 of Act 118 of 1991; Proc R14 in GG 13802 of 28 February 1992
Magistrates Act 90 of 1993	11 March 1994	s. 19 of Act 90 of 1993; Proc R37 in GG 15565 of 11 March 1994
Attorneys Amendment Act 115 of 1993	1 August 1993	s. 24 of Act 115 of 1993; Proc R65 in GG 15025 of 1 August 1993
Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993	to be proclaimed - see PENDLEX  7 January 2000	s. 75 of Act 120 of 1993  Proc R133 in GG 20781 of 30 December 1999
General Law Third Amendment Act 129 of 1993	1 September 1993	s. 85 of Act 129 of 1993; Proc R81 in GG 15102 of 1 September 1993
General Law Fourth Amendment Act 132 of 1993	1 December 1993	s. 40 of Act 132 of 1993; Proc R123 in GG 15308 of 1 December 1993
General Law Fifth Amendment Act 157 of 1993	1 December 1993	s. 12 of Act 157 of 1993; Proc R125 in GG 15308 of 1 December 1993
General Law Sixth Amendment Act 204 of 1993	1 March 1994	s. 25 of Act 204 of 1993; Proc R34 in GG 15527 of 1 March 1994
Justice Laws Rationalisation Act 18 of 1996	1 April 1997	s. 18 of Act 18 of 1996; Proc R23 in GG 17849 of 12 March 1997
Abolition of Restrictions on the Jurisdiction of Courts Act 88 of 1996	22 November 1996	s. 109 of Act 88 of 1996
Judicial Matters Amendment Act 104 of 1996	14 February 1997	s. 26 of Act 104 of 1996; Proc R18 in GG 17794 of 14 February 1997
Abolition of Corporal Punishment Act 33 of 1997	5 September 1997	s. 3 of Act 33 of 1997
Magistrates' Courts Second Amendment Act 80 of 1997	10 December 1997	s. 3 of Act 80 of 1997
Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 81 of 1997	10 December 1997	s. 16 of Act 81 of 1997
Magistrates Amendment Act 66 of 1998	7 October 1998	s. 9 of Act 66 of 1998
Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act	to be proclaimed -	s. 6 of Act 67 of 1998

<b>by</b>	<b>with effect from</b>	<b>refer to</b>
67 of 1998	see PENDLEX 20 April 2000	Proc R24 in GG 21124 of 20 April 2000
Sheriff's Amendment Act 74 of 1998 <sup>3</sup>	1 March 1999	s. 26 of Act 74 of 1998; Proc R24 in GG 19802 of 1 March 1999
Debt Collectors Act 114 of 1998	7 February 2003	s. 28 of Act 114 of 1998; Proc R6 in GG 24351 of 7 February 2003
Judicial Matters Amendment Act 62 of 2000	23 March 2001	s. 38 of Act 62 of 2000; Proc R21 in GG 22159 of 23 March 2001
Judicial Matters Amendment Act 55 of 2002	17 January 2003	s. 20 of Act 55 of 2002
Judicial Officers (Amendment of Conditions of Service) Act 28 of 2003	1 November 2003	s. 20 of Act 28 of 2003
Judicial Matters Amendment Act 22 of 2005	2 November 2007	s. 19 (2) of Act 22 of 2005; Proc R31 in GG 30435 of 2 November 2007
National Credit Act 34 of 2005	1 June 2006	s. 173 of Act 34 of 2005; Proc 22 in GG 28824 of 11 May 2006
Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act 32 of 2007	16 December 2007	s. 72 (1) of Act 32 of 2007
Jurisdiction of Regional Courts Amendment Act 31 of 2008	9 August 2010	s. 11 of Act 31 of 2008; Proc R41 in GG 33448 of 6 August 2010
Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 19 of 2010	7 December 2010	s. 5 of Act 19 of 2010
Judicial Matters Amendment Act 42 of 2013	22 January 2014	s. 43 (1) of Act 42 of 2013
Judicial Matters Amendment Act 24 of 2015	8 January 2016	s. 23 of Act 24 of 2015

### **Regulations under this Act**

#### **ACT**

#### **To consolidate and amend the law relating to Magistrates' Courts.**

[NB: The long title has been substituted by s. 73 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

#### **DIVISION OF ACT**

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The Act is divided as follows:

Definitions (section 1).

*Part I:* Courts (Chapters I to V; sections 2 to 25).

*Part II:* Civil Matters (Chapters VI to XI; sections 26 to 88).

*Part III:* Criminal Matters (Chapters XII to XVI; sections 89 to 105).

*Part IV:* Offences (Chapter XVII; sections 106 to 109).

*Part V:* General and Supplementary (Chapter XVIII; sections 110 to 117).

*Schedule:* Laws repealed.

and the content is as follows-

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<sup>1</sup> Rule concerning conflicting legislation: Part D of Chapter 4, ss. 127, 129, 131, 132 and 164 and Chapter 7 of the National Credit Act 34 of 2005 prevail to the extent that there is any conflict with s. 57, s. 58 or Chapter IX of this Act with effect from 1 June 2006. See Schedule 1 (s. 172 (1)) to the National Credit Act 34 of 2005

<sup>2</sup> This Act has been updated to include all available historical commencement details

<sup>3</sup> In respect of the territories of the former Republics of Transkei, Venda and Ciskei and the former self-governing territories of Gazankulu, KaNgwane, KwaNdebele, KwaZulu, Lebowa and Qwaqwa

## 1 Definitions

**[NB:** Definitions of '**civil court**', '**civil division**', '**civil magistrate**', '**district**', '**family court**', '**family division**', '**family magistrate**', '**magistrate's court**', '**regional court**', '**regional division**', '**regional magistrate**' and '**senior civil magistrate**' have been inserted, the definitions of '**court**', '**court of appeal**', '**judicial officer**', '**magistrate**', '**Minister**' and '**practitioner**' have been substituted and the definitions of '**province**', '**Republic**' and '**territory**' have been deleted by s. 1 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

In this Act, except where the context otherwise indicates-

**'administrative region'** means an administrative region created by the Minister under section 2 (2);

[Definition of 'administrative region' inserted by s. 1 (a) of Act 66 of 1998 (wef 7 October 1998).]

**'court'** means a magistrate's court for any district or for any regional division;

[Definition of 'court' substituted by s. 1 of Act 31 of 2008 (wef 9 August 2010).]

**'court of appeal'** means the High Court to which an appeal lies from the magistrate's court;

[Definition of 'court of appeal' substituted by s. 1 of Act 105 of 1982 (wef 1 April 1983) and by s. 1 (b) of Act 66 of 1998 (wef 7 October 1998).]

**'head of the administrative region'** means the magistrate designated as such by the Minister, after consultation with the Magistrates Commission;

[Definition of 'head of the administrative region' inserted by s. 1 (c) of Act 66 of 1998 (wef 7 October 1998).]

**'judgment'**, in civil cases, includes a decree, a rule and an order;

**'judicial officer'** means a magistrate, an additional magistrate or an assistant magistrate;

**'magistrate'** does not include an assistant magistrate;

**'Magistrates Commission'** means the Magistrates Commission established by section 2 of the Magistrates Act, 1993 (Act 90 of 1993);

[Definition of 'Magistrates Commission' inserted by s. 1 (d) of Act 66 of 1998 (wef 7 October 1998).]



**'Minister'** <sup>4</sup> means the Minister of Justice;

[Definition of 'Minister' substituted by s. 23 of Act 94 of 1974 (wef 20 November 1974), by s. 2 of Act 34 of 1986 (wef 1 August 1986) and by s. 1 (e) of Act 66 of 1998 (wef 7 October 1998).]

**'offence'** means an act or omission punishable by law;

**'practitioner'** means an advocate, an attorney, an articled clerk such as is referred to in section 21 or an agent such as is referred to in section 22;

**'province'** includes the territory;

**'Republic'** includes the territory;

**'territory'** means the territory of South-West Africa;

**'to record'** means to take down in writing or in shorthand or to record by mechanical means, and **'recorded'** has a corresponding meaning;

**'the district'**, if used in relation to any court, means the district, subdistrict, or area for which such court is established;

**'the rules'** means the rules referred to in section 6 of the Rules Board for Courts of Law Act, 1985 (Act 107 of 1985);

[Definition of 'the rules' substituted by s. 1 of Act 4 of 1991 (wef 28 March 1991).]

**'this Act'** includes the rules.

[S. 1 amended by s. 2 of Act 40 of 1952 (wef 27 June 1952) and by s. 15 of Act 15 of 1969 (wef 1 May 1969) and substituted by s. 1 of Act 53 of 1970 (wef 1 December 1970).]

4

The administration and the powers or functions entrusted by legislation to the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development transferred to the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services - Proc 47 in GG 37839 of 15 July 2014

## **PART I COURTS (ss 2-25)**

### **CHAPTER I ESTABLISHMENT AND NATURE OF COURTS (ss 2-7A)**

#### **2 Minister's powers relative to districts, regional divisions and courts**

(1) The Minister may, by notice in the *Gazette*-

- (a) create districts, define the local limits of each district, which may consist of various non-contiguous areas, and declare the name by which any district shall be known;
- (b) create regional divisions consisting of a number of districts, or of a district together with one or more sub-districts, and declare the name by which any regional division shall be known;
- (c) increase or decrease the local limits of any district;
- (d) increase or decrease the limits of any regional division;
- (e) for all purposes or for such purposes as he or she may declare, annex any district or any portion thereof to another district;
- (eA) for all purposes or for such purposes as he or she may declare, annex any regional division or any portion thereof to another regional division;

- (f) establish a court for any district for the purposes of-
  - (i) the trial of persons accused of committing any offence which shall have jurisdiction contemplated in sections 89 and 92; and
  - (ii) adjudicating civil disputes contemplated in section 29 (1);
- (g) establish a court for any regional division for the purposes of-
  - (i) the trial of persons accused of committing any offence, which shall have increased jurisdiction contemplated in sections 89 and 92; and
  - (ii) adjudicating civil disputes contemplated in section 29 (1) and 29 (1B);
- (h) appoint one or more places within each district for the holding of a court for such district, and may by like notice prescribe the local limits of an area in a district, which area may include any portion of an adjoining district, and declare the name by which such area shall be known, and appoint one or more places in such area for the holding of a court for such district; of which places, if more than one is appointed, one shall be specified as the seat of the magistracy;
- (i) appoint one or more places in each regional division for the holding of a court for the adjudication of offences contemplated in section 89 (2);
- (iA) appoint one or more places within each regional division for the holding of a court for the adjudication of civil disputes contemplated in-
  - (i) section 29 (1); or
  - (ii) section 29 (1B); or
  - (iii) section 29 (1) and (1B),
 and prescribe the local limits within which such courts shall have jurisdiction, and may include within those limits any portion of an adjoining regional division;
- (j) within any district appoint places other than the seat of magistracy for the holding of periodical courts, and prescribe the local limits within which such courts shall have jurisdiction, and include within those limits any portion of an adjoining district;
- (k) detach a portion of a district or portions of two or more adjoining districts as a sub-district to form the area of jurisdiction of a detached court, and declare the name by which such sub-district shall be known, and appoint the places where such detached court is to be held;
- (l) withdraw or vary any notice under this section and abolish any regional division, district, sub-district or other area of jurisdiction and the court thereof.

(2) The Minister may, by notice in the *Gazette* and after consultation with the Magistrates Commission, join any group of districts together to create an administrative region for administrative purposes.

[S. 2 amended by s. 3 of Act 40 of 1952 (wef 27 June 1952), by s. 37 of Act 68 of 1957 (wef 28 June 1957) and by s. 5 of Act 17 of 1970 (wef 6 March 1970), substituted by s. 2 of Act 53 of 1970 (wef 1 December 1970), amended by s. 7 (1) of Act 102 of 1972 (wef 2 July 1945), by s. 2 of Act 34 of 1986 (wef 1 August 1986) and by s. 2 of Act 66 of 1998 (wef 7 October 1998) and substituted by s. 2 of Act 31 of 2008 (wef 9 August 2010).]

**[NB:** S. 2 has been substituted by s. 2 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

### 3 Existing courts and districts to continue

(1) The courts and districts existing immediately before the commencement of this Act shall be deemed to have been established under this Act.

(2) All references in any other law to magistrates' courts or courts of resident magistrates shall be read as referring to courts established under this Act.

(3) After the commencement of this Act no new district or sub-district and no regional division shall be created until a report upon the proposal to create such district or sub-district or division has been obtained from the Public Service Commission.

[Sub-s. (3) amended by s. 4 of Act 40 of 1952 (wef 27 June 1952).]

**[NB:** S. 3 has been substituted by s. 3 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

### 4 Nature of the courts and force of process

(1) Every court shall be a court of record.

(2) .....

[Sub-s. (2) deleted by s. 5 (a) of Act 40 of 1952 (wef 27 June 1952).]

(3) Every process issued out of any court shall be of force throughout the Republic.

[Sub-s. (3) amended by s. 5 (b) of Act 40 of 1952 (wef 27 June 1952) and by s. 3 of Act 53 of 1970 (wef 1 December 1970).]

(4) Any process issued out of any court may be served or executed by the messenger of the court appointed for the area within which such process is to be served or executed.

[Sub-s. (4) substituted by s. 26 of Act 70 of 1968 (wef 30 August 1968).]

**[NB:** Sub-s. (4) has been amended by s. 4 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

### 5 Courts to be open to the public, with exceptions

(1) Except where otherwise provided by law, the proceedings in every court in all criminal cases and the trial of all defended civil actions shall be carried on in open court, and recorded by the presiding officer or other officer appointed to record such proceedings.

(2) The court may in any case, in the interests of good order or public morals, direct that a civil trial shall be held with closed doors, or that (with such exceptions as the court may direct) minors or the public generally shall not be permitted to be present thereat.

[Sub-s. (2) substituted by s. 1 (a) of Act 91 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977) and by s. 3 of Act 132 of 1993 (wef 1 December 1993).]

(3) If any person present at any civil proceedings in any court disturbs the peace or order of the court, the court may order that person to be removed and detained in custody until the rising of the court, or, if in the opinion of the court peace cannot be otherwise secured, may order the court room to be cleared and the doors thereof to be closed to the public.

[Sub-s. (3) substituted by s. 1 (a) of Act 91 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977).]

(4) .....

[Sub-s. (4) amended by s. 6 of Act 40 of 1952 (wef 27 June 1952) and deleted by s. 1 (b) of

Act 91 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977).]

## **6 Medium to be employed in proceedings**

(1) Either of the official languages may be used at any stage of the proceedings in any court and the evidence shall be recorded in the language so used.

[Sub-s. (1) amended by s. 7 of Act 40 of 1952 (wef 27 June 1952).]

(2) If, in a criminal case, evidence is given in a language with which the accused is not in the opinion of the court sufficiently conversant, a competent interpreter shall be called by the court in order to translate such evidence into a language with which the accused professes or appears to the court to be sufficiently conversant, irrespective of whether the language in which the evidence is given, is one of the official languages or of whether the representative of the accused is conversant with the language used in the evidence or not.

## **7 Public access to records and custody thereof**

(1) Subject to the provisions of section 7A and the rules the records of the court, other than a record with reference to which a direction has been issued under section 153 (2) or 154 (1) of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977, or with reference to which the provisions of section 154 (2) (a) or 154 (3) of that Act apply, shall be accessible to the public under supervision of the clerk of the court at convenient times and upon payment of the fees prescribed from time to time by the Minister in consultation with the Minister of Finance, and for this purpose and for all other purposes the records of any magistrate's court which has at any time existed within the Republic, shall be deemed to be the records of the court of the district in which the place where such court was held is situated, and such records shall be preserved at the seat of magistracy of that district for such periods as the Director-General: Justice may from time to time determine: Provided that the said Director-General may order that the records of a court for any regional division shall be so preserved at such a place or places within that division as he may from time to time determine: Provided further that payment of such fees shall not be required from any person who satisfies the magistrate of the district where the records of the court are preserved, or any judicial officer designated by the said magistrate from among the members of his staff, that he desires access to the records of the court in connection with research for academic purposes.

**[NB:** Sub-s. (1) has been substituted by s. 5 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(2) The Director-General: Justice may order that after expiry of the periods referred to in subsection (1) the records so preserved be removed to a central place of custody or be destroyed or otherwise disposed of.

[S. 7 amended by s. 23 of Act 93 of 1962 (wef 4 July 1962) and by s. 7 of Act 80 of 1964 (wef 24 June 1964), substituted by s. 1 of Act 8 of 1967 (wef 17 February 1967), amended by s. 27 of Act 70 of 1968 (wef 21 June 1968), by s. 14 of Act 80 of 1971 (wef 14 July 1971) and by s. 2 of Act 91 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977) and substituted by s. 1 of Act 25 of 1987 (wef 1 July 1989).]

## **7A Custody of civil summonses and returns thereto**

(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 7, but subject to the provisions of the rules, a summons issued to institute a civil action and the return of service of such summons, shall be preserved by the person who caused the summons to be issued or by his attorney.

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(2) A summons and return of service preserved in terms of subsection (1) shall not be accessible to the public.

[S. 7A inserted by s. 2 of Act 25 of 1987 (wef 1 July 1989).]

## **CHAPTER II JUDICIAL OFFICERS (ss 8-12)**

### **8 Before whom courts to be held**

Every court held under this Act shall be presided over by a judicial officer appointed in the manner provided by this Act.

### **9 Appointment of judicial officers**

(1) (a) Subject to the Magistrates Act, 1993, and section 10 of this Act, the Minister may appoint for any district or sub-district a magistrate, one or more additional magistrates or one or more assistant magistrates and for every regional division a magistrate or magistrates.

[Para. (a) substituted by s. 17 of Act 90 of 1993 (wef 11 March 1994) and by s. 1 (a) of Act 19 of 2010 (wef 7 December 2010).]

(aA) The Minister may, in a particular case or generally and subject to such directions as he or she may deem fit, delegate the power conferred upon him or her by paragraph (a) to the Director-General of his or her department or another officer of that department with the rank of director or an equivalent or higher rank or a magistrate at the head of a regional division or a person occupying the office of chief magistrate, including an acting chief magistrate.

[Para. (aA) inserted by s. 11 of Act 29 of 1974 (wef 15 March 1974) and substituted by s. 1 of Act 28 of 1981 (wef 11 March 1981), by s. 3 (a) of Act 104 of 1996 (wef 14 February 1997) and by s. 3 (a) of Act 66 of 1998 (wef 7 October 1998).]

(b) .....

[Para. (b) substituted by s. 3 (b) of Act 66 of 1998 (wef 7 October 1998) and deleted by s. 1 (b) of Act 19 of 2010 (wef 7 December 2010).]

(c) .....

[Para. (c) substituted by s. 24 (1) (a) of Act 94 of 1974 (wef 1 March 1975) and deleted by s. 3 of Act 31 of 2008 (wef 9 August 2010).]

(d) A magistrate, an additional magistrate or an assistant magistrate of a district or subdistrict may at the same time also be a magistrate, an additional magistrate or an assistant magistrate of another district.

[Para. (d) added by s. 24 (1) (b) of Act 94 of 1974 (wef 1 May 1973).]

(1A) .....

[Sub-s. (1A) inserted by s. 8 (1) of Act 102 of 1972 (wef 2 July 1945) and deleted by s. 2 of Act 34 of 1986 (wef 1 August 1986).]

(2) (a) A person appointed as judicial officer under this section shall, before commencing with his or her functions in terms of this Act for the first time, take an oath or make an affirmation subscribed by him or her, in the form set out below:

'I,

.....

(full name)

do hereby swear/solemnly affirm that in my capacity as a judicial officer I will be faithful to the Republic of South Africa, will uphold and protect the Constitution and the human

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rights entrenched in it, and will administer justice to all persons alike without fear, favour or prejudice, in accordance with the Constitution and the law.'

[Para. (a) substituted by s. 4 of Act 53 of 1970 (wef 1 December 1970) and by s. 1 of Act 62 of 2000 (wef 23 March 2001).]

(b) Any such oath or affirmation shall be taken or made in open court before the most senior available magistrate of the district concerned or a justice of the peace who shall at the foot thereof endorse a statement of the fact that it was taken or made before him and of the date on which it was so taken or made and append his signature thereto.

(3) Subject to subsections (4) and (5), the Minister, after consultation with the head of the court concerned, may appoint any appropriately qualified and fit and proper person to act-

- (a) in the place of any magistrate, additional magistrate or assistant magistrate who is not available; or
- (b) in any vacant office of magistrate; or
- (c) as a magistrate in addition to any magistrate of a regional division or a district.

[Sub-s. (3) substituted by s. 3 (b) of Act 104 of 1996 (wef 14 February 1997), by s. 3 (c) of Act 66 of 1998 (wef 7 October 1998) and by s. 1 of Act 28 of 2003 (wef 1 November 2003).]

(4) (a) A magistrate at the head of a regional division or a person occupying the office of chief magistrate, including an acting chief magistrate authorized thereto in writing by the Minister, may-

- (i) whenever a magistrate, additional magistrate or assistant magistrate is for any reason unavailable to carry out the functions of his or her office; and
- (ii) in consultation with the Minister or an officer in the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development designated by the Minister,

temporarily appoint any competent person in the place of the magistrate concerned.

(b) An appointment in terms of paragraph (a) remains valid for the duration of the unavailability of the magistrate in question, or for a period not exceeding five consecutive court days, whichever period is the shortest.

(c) Any person appointed in terms of paragraph (a) may-

- (i) upon the expiry of the appointment in terms of paragraph (b); and
- (ii) if the magistrate in whose place the appointment has been made, is still unavailable,

be reappointed once only in terms of paragraph (a) in the place of that magistrate.

[Sub-s. (4) substituted by s. 3 (b) of Act 104 of 1996 (wef 14 February 1997), by s. 3 (c) of Act 66 of 1998 (wef 7 October 1998) and by s. 1 of Act 28 of 2003 (wef 1 November 2003).]

(5) (a) Any person appointed in terms of subsection (3)-

- (i) holds that office for a period determined by the Minister at the time of the appointment, but the period so determined may not exceed 12 months; and

[Sub-para. (i) substituted by s. 1 (a) of Act 24 of 2015 (wef 8 January 2016).]

- (ii) may be reappointed to that office in terms of subsection (3).

(b) The Minister must cause Parliament and the Magistrates Commission to be informed whenever any vacancy in the office of a magistrate has remained unfilled for a continuous period exceeding 12 months.

[Para. (b) substituted by s. 1 (b) of Act 24 of 2015 (wef 8 January 2016).]

[Sub-s. (5) deleted by s. 2 of Act 34 of 1986 (wef 1 August 1986), added by s. 3 (c) of Act 104

of 1996 (wef 14 February 1997) and substituted by s. 1 of Act 28 of 2003 (wef 1 November 2003).]

(6) Any person appointed in terms of subsection (3) or (4) is also deemed to have been so appointed in respect of any period during which he or she is necessarily engaged in connection with the disposal of any proceedings-

- (a) in which he or she has participated as such a magistrate, including an application for leave to appeal in respect of such proceedings; and
- (b) which have not yet been disposed of at the expiry of the period for which he or she was appointed.

[Sub-s. (6) added by s. 1 of Act 28 of 2003 (wef 1 November 2003).]

(7) (a) A magistrate appointed in terms of subsection (1) who presided in criminal proceedings in which a plea was recorded in accordance with section 106 of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 (Act 51 of 1977), shall, notwithstanding his or her subsequent vacation of the office of magistrate at any stage, dispose of those proceedings and, for such purpose, shall continue to hold such office in respect of any period during which he or she is necessarily engaged in connection with the disposal of those proceedings-

- (i) in which he or she participated, including an application for leave to appeal in respect of such proceedings; and
- (ii) which were not disposed of when he or she vacated the office of magistrate.

(b) The proceedings contemplated in paragraph (a) shall be disposed of at the court where the proceedings were commenced, unless all parties to the proceedings agree unconditionally in writing to the proceedings being resumed in another court mentioned in the agreement.

(c) If the magistrate contemplated in paragraph (a) has subsequently been appointed as a Constitutional Court judge or judge as defined in section 1 of the Judges' Remuneration and Conditions of Employment Act, 2001 (Act 47 of 2001)-

- (i) he or she shall only be entitled to the benefits to which such a Constitutional Court judge or judge is entitled as contemplated in the Judges' Remuneration and Conditions of Employment Act, 2001, in respect of any period taken to dispose of the proceedings as contemplated in paragraph (a); and
- (ii) the period taken to dispose of the proceedings as contemplated in paragraph (a) is deemed to be active service for purposes of the Judges' Remuneration and Conditions of Employment Act, 2001.

(d) If the magistrate contemplated in paragraph (a) has subsequently not been appointed as a Constitutional Court judge or judge as contemplated in paragraph (c), he or she is entitled to such benefits as determined by the Minister from time to time by notice in the *Gazette* at an hourly rate.

(e) A magistrate contemplated in paragraph (a) who is, in the opinion of the Minister-

- (i) unfit to continue holding the office of magistrate for purposes of disposing of the proceedings in question; or
- (ii) incapacitated and is not able to dispose of the proceedings in question due to such incapacity,

may be exempted by the Minister from the provisions of this subsection, after consultation with the Chief Justice.

[Sub-s. (7) added by s. 1 of Act 22 of 2005 (wef 2 November 2007).]

[S. 9 amended by s. 8 of Act 40 of 1952 (wef 27 June 1952), by s. 17 of Act 50 of 1956 (wef 22

June 1956), by s. 38 of Act 68 of 1957 (wef 28 June 1957), by s. 24 of Act 93 of 1962 (wef 4 July 1962), by s. 1 of Act 19 of 1963 (wef 15 March 1963) and by s. 1 of Act 48 of 1965 (wef 5 May 1965) and substituted by s. 2 of Act 8 of 1967 (wef 17 February 1967).]

**[NB:** S. 9 has been substituted by s. 6 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

### **9bis** .....

[S. 9bis inserted by s. 2 of Act 48 of 1965 (wef 5 May 1965), amended by s. 5 of Act 53 of 1970 (wef 1 December 1970) and by s. 2 of Act 28 of 1981 (wef 11 March 1981) and repealed by s. 4 (a) of Act 104 of 1996 (wef 14 February 1997).]

**[NB:** Ss. 9ter and 9quat have been inserted by s. 8 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

## **10 Qualifications for appointment of judicial officers**

Subject to the provisions of the Magistrates Act, 1993 (Act 90 of 1993), any appropriately qualified woman or man who is a fit and proper person may be appointed as a magistrate, an additional magistrate or a magistrate of a regional division.

[S. 10 substituted by s. 4 of Act 66 of 1998 (wef 7 October 1998) and by s. 2 of Act 19 of 2010 (wef 7 December 2010).]

**[NB:** S. 10 has been substituted by s. 9 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

## **11 Existing judicial officers to continue in office**

(1) All magistrates, additional magistrates and assistant magistrates holding office at the commencement of this Act shall be deemed to have been appointed under this Act.

(2) References in any other law to chief magistrates, resident magistrates, magistrates, additional magistrates, civil magistrates or criminal magistrates, shall be read as referring to magistrates appointed under this Act.

(3) All such references to assistant resident magistrates or to assistant magistrates shall be read as referring to assistant magistrates appointed under this Act.

**[NB:** S. 11 has been substituted by s. 10 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

## **12 Powers of judicial officers**

(1) A magistrate-

(a) may hold a court, provided that a court of a regional division may, subject to subsection (6), only be held by a magistrate of the regional division;

[Para. (a) amended by s. 9 of Act 40 of 1952 (wef 27 June 1952) and substituted by s. 4 (a) of Act 31 of 2008 (wef 9 August 2010).]

(b) shall possess the powers and perform the duties conferred or imposed upon magistrates by any law for the time being in force within the province wherein his district is situate;

(c) shall be subject to the administrative control of the head of the administrative region in which his or her district is situate.

[Para. (c) added by s. 5 of Act 66 of 1998 (wef 7 October 1998).]

(2) An additional magistrate or an assistant magistrate-

(a) may hold a court;

(b) shall possess such powers and perform such duties conferred or imposed upon magistrates by law.



[Para. (b) substituted by s. 4 (b) of Act 31 of 2008 (wef 9 August 2010).]

(3) An acting magistrate, additional magistrate, or assistant magistrate, respectively, shall possess the powers and jurisdiction and perform the duties of the magistrate, additional magistrate, or assistant magistrate in whose place he is appointed to act, for the particular case or during the time or in the circumstances for which he is appointed to act.

(4) Every additional magistrate and every assistant magistrate shall, in each district for which he has been appointed, be subject to the administrative direction of the magistrate; and the magistrate shall allocate the work among the additional magistrates and assistant magistrates.

(5) .....

[Sub-s. (5) added by s. 25 of Act 94 of 1974 (wef 1 March 1975) and repealed by s. 4 (c) of Act 31 of 2008 (wef 9 August 2010).]

(6) Only a magistrate of a regional division whose name appears on the list referred to in subsection (7), may adjudicate on civil disputes contemplated in section 29 (1) or 29 (1B), in accordance with the criteria set out in subsection (8).

[Sub-s. (6) added by s. 4 (d) of Act 31 of 2008 (wef 9 August 2010) and substituted by s. 3 of Act 19 of 2010 (wef 7 December 2010).]

(7) The Magistrates Commission must enter the names of magistrates of regional divisions on a list of magistrates who may adjudicate on civil disputes contemplated in-

- (a) section 29 (1) or 29 (1B); or
- (b) both sections 29 (1) and 29 (1B).

[Sub-s. (7) added by s. 4 (d) of Act 31 of 2008 (wef 9 August 2010) and substituted by s. 3 of Act 19 of 2010 (wef 7 December 2010).]

(8) The Magistrates Commission may only enter the name of a magistrate on the list in terms of subsection (7) if one or more places have been appointed in terms of section 2 (1) (iA) within the regional division in respect of which the magistrate in question had been appointed for the adjudication of civil disputes, and-

- (a) the head of the South African Judicial Education Institute has issued a duly signed certificate that the magistrate has successfully completed an appropriate training course in the adjudication of civil disputes; or
- (b) the Magistrates Commission is satisfied that, before the establishment of the Institute referred to in paragraph (a), the magistrate has successfully completed an appropriate training course in the adjudication of civil disputes; or
- (c) the Magistrates Commission is satisfied that the magistrate, on account of previous experience, has suitable knowledge of, and expertise in, civil litigation matters to preside over the adjudication of civil disputes contemplated in section 29 (1) or 29 (1B) or both sections 29 (1) and 29 (1B).

[Sub-s. (8) added by s. 4 (d) of Act 31 of 2008 (wef 9 August 2010) and substituted by s. 3 of Act 19 of 2010 (wef 7 December 2010).]

**[NB:** S. 12 has been substituted by s. 11 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

### **CHAPTER III** **OFFICERS OF THE COURT (ss 13-19)**

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### 13 Clerk of the court

(1) There shall be appointed for every court by the magistrate of the district in which such court is situated so many clerks of the court and assistant clerks of the court as may be necessary.

[Sub-s. (1) substituted by s. 3 of Act 91 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977).]

**[NB:** Sub-s. (1) has been substituted by s. 12 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(2) A refusal by the clerk of the court to do any act which he is by any law empowered to do shall be subject to review by the court on application either *ex parte* or on notice as the circumstances may require.

### 13A Registrar of regional division

(1) The Director-General of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development must appoint for each regional division a registrar and so many assistant registrars as may be necessary.

(2) Any clerk of the court and any assistant clerk of the court may also be appointed as the registrar or an assistant registrar of a regional division.

(3) A refusal by a registrar or assistant registrar to do any act which he or she is by any law empowered to do, shall be subject to review by the court of the regional division in question on application either *ex parte* or on notice, as the circumstances may require.

(4) Any reference in any law to a 'clerk of the court' is, in so far as that law relates to a court of a regional division, deemed to be a reference to the registrar or assistant registrar of that regional division.

[S. 13A inserted by s. 5 of Act 31 of 2008 (wef 9 August 2010).]

### 14 Messengers of the court <sup>5</sup>

(1) .....

[Sub-s. (1) substituted by s. 10 (1) (a) of Act 40 of 1952 (wef 2 July 1945) and by s. 28 (1) (a) of Act 70 of 1968 (wef 30 August 1968), amended by s. 12 of Act 29 of 1974 (wef 15 March 1974) and by s. 3 of Act 28 of 1981 (wef 11 March 1981) and repealed by s. 64 (1) of Act 90 of 1986 (wef 1 March 1990).]

(1A) .....

[Sub-s. (1A) inserted by s. 28 (1) (b) of Act 70 of 1968 (wef 30 August 1968) and repealed by s. 64 (1) of Act 90 of 1986 (wef 1 March 1990).]

(2) .....

[Sub-s. (2) amended by s. 28 (1) (c) of Act 70 of 1968 (wef 30 August 1968) and repealed by s. 64 (1) of Act 90 of 1986 (wef 1 March 1990).]

(3) to (5) .....

[Sub-ss. (3) to (5) inclusive repealed by s. 64 (1) of Act 90 of 1986 (wef 1 March 1990).]

(6) .....

[Sub-s. (6) substituted by s. 10 (1) (b) of Act 40 of 1952 (wef 2 July 1945) and repealed by s. 64 (1) of Act 90 of 1986 (wef 1 March 1990).]

(7) A messenger receiving any process for service or execution from a practitioner or plaintiff by whom there is due and payable to the messenger any sum of money in respect of services performed more than three months previously in the execution of any

duty of his office, and which notwithstanding request has not been paid, may refer such process to the magistrate of the court out of which the process was issued with particulars of the sum due and payable by the practitioner or plaintiff; and the magistrate may, if he is satisfied that a sum is due and payable by the practitioner or plaintiff to the messenger as aforesaid which notwithstanding request has not been paid, by writing under his hand authorize the messenger to refuse to serve or execute such process until the sum due and payable to the messenger has been paid.

[Sub-s. (7) amended by s. 10 (1) (c) of Act 40 of 1952 (wef 27 June 1952).]

(8) A magistrate granting any such authority shall forthwith transmit a copy thereof to the practitioner or plaintiff concerned and a messenger receiving any such authority shall forthwith return to the practitioner or plaintiff the process to which such authority refers with an intimation of his refusal to serve or execute the same and of the grounds for such refusal.

[Sub-s. (8) amended by s. 10 (1) (c) of Act 40 of 1952 (wef 27 June 1952).]

(9) .....

[Sub-s. (9) substituted by s. 6 of Act 53 of 1970 (wef 1 December 1970) and repealed by s. 64 (1) of Act 90 of 1986 (wef 1 March 1990).]

**[NB:** S. 14 has been substituted by s. 13 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

5

S. 14 repealed in respect of the territories of the former Republics of Transkei, Venda and Ciskei and the former self-governing territories of Gazankulu, KaNgwane, KwaNdebele, KwaZulu, Lebowa and Qwaqwa

## 15 Service of process by the police <sup>6</sup>

(1) (a) Whenever process of the court in a civil case is to be served or executed within any area for which no messenger has been appointed, and whenever process of any court in a criminal case is to be served, a member of the police force shall be as qualified to serve or execute all such process and all other documents in such a case as if he had been duly appointed messenger.

**[NB:** Para. (a) has been amended by the substitution of the expression 'National Revenue Fund' for the expression 'State Revenue Fund' by s. 14 (a) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation.]

(b) The fees payable in respect of or in connection with any such service to a messenger shall in any such case be chargeable but shall be paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

**[NB:** Para. (b) has been amended by s. 14 (b) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

[Sub-s. (1) amended by s. 11 (i) and (ii) of Act 40 of 1952 (wef 27 June 1952) and substituted by s. 29 of Act 70 of 1968 (wef 30 August 1968).]

(2) Whenever under any law a public body has the right to prosecute privately in respect of any offence or whenever under any law any fine imposed on conviction in respect of any offence is to be paid into the revenue of a public body, the process of the court and all other documents in the case in which prosecution takes place for such offence, shall be served-

(a) by a person authorized in writing by such public body;

(b) where it is expedient that such process shall be served in the area of

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jurisdiction of another public body, by a person authorized as contemplated in paragraph (a) by such other public body; or

- (c) with the consent of the Minister by a member of the police force, in which case fees in accordance with the scale set out in the rules shall be paid by the public body or such compounded amount in respect of all such process and other documents in any year as may be agreed between the said public body and the Minister, and such fees or such amount shall be paid into the National Revenue Fund.

[Para. (c) amended by s. 4 of Act 18 of 1996 (wef 1 April 1997).]

[Sub-s. (2) amended by s. 11 (iii) of Act 40 of 1952 (wef 27 June 1952) and substituted by s. 1 of Act 59 of 1982 (wef 21 April 1982).]

(2A) The Minister may, by notice in the *Gazette*, determine the conditions of authorisation of a person referred to in subsection (2) (a) or any other matter relating to that authorisation.

[Sub-s. (2A) inserted by s. 4 of Act 19 of 2010 (wef 7 December 2010).]

(3) An officer in the service of a province of a class defined by the Premier of that province by notice in the *Provincial Gazette* of the province concerned, shall be competent to serve any process of the court or any other document in a case in which a prosecution takes place for an offence in terms of any law of that province as if he had been appointed as a deputy messenger of the court.

[Sub-s. (3) added by s. 2 (b) of Act 19 of 1963 (wef 15 March 1963) and amended by s. 4 of Act 18 of 1996 (wef 1 April 1997).]

**[NB:** Sub-s. (3) has been amended by the substitution of the expression 'deputy sheriff' for the expression 'deputy messenger of the court' by s. 14 (c) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation.]

(4) An officer or employee in the service of the State of a class defined by the Minister by notice in the *Gazette*,<sup>7</sup> shall be competent to serve any process of the court or any other document in a case in which a prosecution takes place for an offence in terms of a provision of any law specified by the Minister in such notice,<sup>8</sup> as if he had been appointed as a sheriff of the court.

[Sub-s. (4) added by s. 26 of Act 94 of 1974 (wef 20 November 1974) and amended by s. 64 (1) of Act 90 of 1986 (wef 1 March 1990).]

<sup>6</sup> S. 15 repealed in respect of the territories of the former Republics of Transkei, Venda and Ciskei and the former self-governing territories of Gazankulu, KaNgwane, KwaNdebele, KwaZulu, Lebowa and Qwaqwa

<sup>7</sup> Road Transportation Officer in the Department of Transport - GN R437 in GG 18772 of 27 March 1998  
All employees of the South African Revenue Service occupying a post on a level of grade 2 or higher of the post grading system of the South African Revenue Service - GN R926 in GG 29204 of 15 September 2006

<sup>8</sup> Road Transportation Act 74 of 1977, and any regulations made thereunder - GN R437 in GG 18772 of 27 March 1998

All Acts administered by the Commissioner for the South African Revenue Service as contemplated in Schedule 1 to the South African Revenue Service Act 34 of 1997 - GN R926 in GG 29204 of 15 September 2006

## 16 Messenger's duties respecting detention of persons by order of court

The messenger shall receive and cause to be lodged in a prison all persons arrested

by such messenger or committed to his custody.

[S. 16 amended by s. 1 of Act 17 of 1969 (wef 26 March 1969).]

**[NB:** S. 16 has been substituted by s. 15 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

## **17 Messenger's return to be evidence**

The return of a messenger or of any person authorized to perform any of the functions of a messenger to any civil process of the court, shall be *prima facie* evidence of the matters therein stated.

[S. 17 substituted by s. 4 of Act 91 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977).]

**[NB:** S. 17 has been substituted by s. 16 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

## **18 .....**

[S. 18 repealed by s. 64 (1) of Act 90 of 1986 (wef 1 March 1990).]

## **18A .....**

[S. 18A inserted by s. 1 of Act 53 of 1983 (wef 4 May 1983) and repealed by s. 64 (1) of Act 90 of 1986 (wef 1 March 1990).]

## **19 Officers appointed previously to remain in office**

Every officer of the court holding office immediately prior to the commencement of this Act shall be deemed to be duly appointed under this Act, and shall be invested with power, duties and authority accordingly.

**[NB:** S. 19 has been substituted by s. 17 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

# **CHAPTER IV PRACTITIONERS (ss 20-23)**

## **20 Advocates and attorneys**

An advocate or attorney of any division of the Supreme Court may appear in any proceeding in any court.

## **21 Candidate attorneys**

A candidate attorney as defined in section 1 of the Attorneys Act, 1979 (Act 53 of 1979), may, subject to section 8 of that Act, appear instead and on behalf of the attorney to whom he has been articulated, or under whom he serves community service in terms of a contract of service, in any proceedings in any court.

[S. 21 amended by s. 18 of Act 50 of 1956 (wef 22 June 1956) and substituted by s. 35 of Act 87 of 1989 (wef 29 September 1989) and by s. 22 of Act 115 of 1993 (wef 1 August 1993).]

## **22 Agents**

(1) A person who, immediately prior to the commencement of this Act, was entitled to practise as an agent in any court may practise in any court in which he was so entitled, and shall be entitled to be enrolled and to practise in any other court in which he would have been entitled to be enrolled if this Act had not been passed.

(2) The Supreme Court shall possess in respect of any such agent the same powers as it possesses in respect of attorneys of the Supreme Court.

(3) The law society of any Province may bring to the notice of the Supreme Court any facts regarding the conduct of any such agent which, in the opinion of the said Society, ought to be brought to the notice of the Supreme Court, in the same manner as if such agent were an attorney of the Supreme Court.

### **23 Misconduct of practitioners**

Whenever in the opinion of a judicial officer a practitioner has been guilty of misconduct or dishonourable practice he shall report the fact-

- (a) in the case of an advocate, to the branch of the Society of Advocates or Bar Council at the centre in which such advocate practises; and
- (b) in the case of all other practitioners, to the law society concerned.

## **CHAPTER V**

### **24 .....**

[S. 24 repealed by s. 7 of Act 53 of 1970 (wef 1 December 1970).]

### **25 .....**

[S. 25 amended by s. 19 of Act 50 of 1956 (wef 22 June 1956), by s. 2 of Act 93 of 1963 (wef 12 July 1963), by s. 2 of Act 101 of 1969 (wef 30 June 1969), by s. 8 of Act 53 of 1970 (wef 1 December 1970) and by s. 1 of Act 19 of 1985 (wef 3 April 1985) and repealed by s. 10 of Act 107 of 1985 (wef 20 February 1987).]

## **PART II CIVIL MATTERS (ss 26-88)**

### **CHAPTER VI CIVIL JURISDICTION (ss 26-50)**

#### **26 Area of jurisdiction**

(1) Except where it is otherwise by law provided, the area of jurisdiction of a court shall be the district, subdistrict or area for which such court is established.

(2) A court established for a district shall have no jurisdiction in a subdistrict or in an area referred to in section (2) (h).

(3) Nothing in subsection (2) shall affect proceedings pending in the court of a district at the time of the creation of a subdistrict or an area referred to in section 2 (h).

[S. 26 substituted by s. 9 of Act 53 of 1970 (wef 1 December 1970).]

**[NB:** S. 26 has been substituted by s. 18 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

#### **27 Jurisdiction of periodical courts**

The jurisdiction of a periodical court within the area for which it has been appointed shall be subject to the following provisions-

- (a) the court of a district within which the said area or any part thereof is situate shall retain concurrent jurisdiction with the periodical court within such portions of such area as shall be situate within such district; and
- (b) no person shall, without his own consent, be liable to appear as a party before any periodical court to answer any claim unless he resides nearer to the place where the periodical court is held than to the seat of magistracy of

the district.

**[NB:** Para. (b) has been substituted by s. 19 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

## 28 Jurisdiction in respect of persons

(1) Saving any other jurisdiction assigned to a court by this Act or by any other law, the persons in respect of whom the court shall, subject to subsection (1A), have jurisdiction shall be the following and no other:

- (a) Any person who resides, carries on business or is employed within the district or regional division;
- (b) any partnership which has business premises situated or any member whereof resides within the district or regional division;
- (c) any person whatever, in respect of any proceedings incidental to any action or proceeding instituted in the court by such person himself or herself;
- (d) any person, whether or not he or she resides, carries on business or is employed within the district or regional division, if the cause of action arose wholly within the district or regional division;
- (e) any party to interpleader proceedings, if-
  - (i) the execution creditor and every claimant to the subject matter of the proceedings reside, carry on business, or are employed within the district or regional division; or
  - (ii) the subject-matter of the proceedings has been attached by process of the court; or
  - (iii) such proceedings are taken under section 69 (2) and the person therein referred to as the 'third party' resides, carries on business, or is employed within the district or regional division; or
  - (iv) all the parties consent to the jurisdiction of the court;
- (f) any defendant (whether in convention or reconvention) who appears and takes no objection to the jurisdiction of the court;
- (g) any person who owns immovable property within the district or regional division in actions in respect of such property or in respect of mortgage bonds thereon.

**[NB:** Sub-s. (1) has been amended by s. 20 (a) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(1A) For the purposes of section 29 (1B) a court for a regional division shall have jurisdiction if the parties are or if either of the parties is-

- (i) domiciled in the area of jurisdiction of the court on the date on which proceedings are instituted; or
- (ii) ordinarily resident in the area of jurisdiction of the court on the said date and has or have been ordinarily resident in the Republic for a period of not less than one year immediately prior to that date.

(2) **'Person'** and **'defendant'** in this section include the State.

[S. 28 amended by s. 12 of Act 40 of 1952 (wef 27 June 1952) and substituted by s. 6 of Act 31 of 2008 (wef 9 August 2010).]

## 29 Jurisdiction in respect of causes of action

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(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act and the National Credit Act, 2005 (Act 34 of 2005), a court in respect of causes of action, shall have jurisdiction in-

- (a) actions in which is claimed the delivery or transfer of any property, movable or immovable, not exceeding in value the amount <sup>9</sup> determined by the Minister from time to time by notice in the *Gazette*;
- (b) actions of ejection against the occupier of any premises or land within the district or regional division: Provided that, where the right of occupation of any such premises or land is in dispute between the parties, such right does not exceed the amount <sup>10</sup> determined by the Minister from time to time by notice in the *Gazette* in clear value to the occupier;
- (c) actions for the determination of a right of way, <sup>11</sup> notwithstanding the provisions of section 46;
- (d) actions on or arising out of a liquid document or a mortgage bond, where the claim does not exceed the amount <sup>12</sup> determined by the Minister from time to time by notice in the *Gazette*;
- (e) actions on or arising out of any credit agreement <sup>13</sup> as defined in section 1 of the National Credit Act, 2005 (Act 34 of 2005);
- (f) actions in terms of section 16 (1) of the Matrimonial Property Act, 1984 (Act 88 of 1984), where the claim or the value of the property in dispute does not exceed the amount <sup>14</sup> determined by the Minister from time to time by notice in the *Gazette*;
- (fA) actions, including an application for liquidation, in terms of the Close Corporations Act, 1984 (Act 69 of 1984);
- (g) actions other than those already mentioned in this section, where the claim or the value of the matter in dispute does not exceed the amount <sup>15</sup> determined by the Minister from time to time by notice in the *Gazette*.

**[NB:** Sub-s. (1) has been amended by s. 21 (a) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(1A) The Minister may determine different amounts contemplated in subsection (1) (a), (b), (d), (f) and (g) in respect of courts for districts and courts for regional divisions.

[Sub-s. (1A) substituted by s. 1 (b) of Act 42 of 2013 (wef 22 January 2014).]

(1B) (a) A court for a regional division, in respect of causes of action, shall, subject to section 28 (1A), have jurisdiction to hear and determine suits relating to the nullity of a marriage or a civil union and relating to divorce between persons and to decide upon any question arising therefrom, and to hear any matter and grant any order provided for in terms of the Recognition of Customary Marriages Act, 1998 (Act 120 of 1998).

(b) A court for a regional division hearing a matter referred to in paragraph (a) shall have the same jurisdiction as any High Court in relation to such a matter.

(c) The presiding officer of a court for a regional division hearing a matter referred to in paragraph (a) may, in his or her discretion, summon to his or her assistance two persons to sit and act as assessors in an advisory capacity on questions of fact.

(d) Any person who has been appointed as a Family Advocate or Family Counsellor under the Mediation in Certain Divorce Matters Act, 1987 (Act 24 of 1987), shall be deemed to have also been appointed in respect of any court for a regional division having jurisdiction in the area for which he or she has been so appointed.



(1C) Jurisdiction conferred on a court for a regional division in terms of this section shall be subject to a notice having been issued under section 2 (1) (iA) in respect of the place for the holding, and the extent of the civil adjudication, of such court.

(2) In subsection (1) '**action**' includes a claim in reconvention.

**[NB:** Sub-ss. (3) and (4) have been added by s. 21 (b) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]  
[S. 29 amended by s. 13 of Act 40 of 1952 (wef 27 June 1952), by s. 39 of Act 68 of 1957 (wef 28 June 1957), by s. 3 of Act 19 of 1963 (wef 15 March 1963) and by s. 10 of Act 53 of 1970 (wef 1 December 1970), substituted by s. 27 of Act 94 of 1974 (wef 1 March 1975), amended by s. 1 of Act 56 of 1984 (wef 2 May 1984) and by s. 35 of Act 88 of 1984 (wef 1 November 1984), substituted by s. 3 of Act 25 of 1987 (wef 1 January 1988), amended by s. 2 of Act 157 of 1993 (wef 1 December 1993) and by s. 172 (2) of Act 34 of 2005 (wef 1 June 2006) and substituted by s. 7 of Act 31 of 2008 (wef 9 August 2010).]

9 District court: R200 000 - GN 217 in GG 37477 of 27 March 2014; regional divisions: above R200 000 up to R400 000 - GN 216 in GG 37477 of 27 March 2014

10 District court: R200 000 - GN 217 in GG 37477 of 27 March 2014; regional divisions: above R200 000 up to R400 000 - GN 216 in GG 37477 of 27 March 2014

11 District court: R200 000 - GN 217 in GG 37477 of 27 March 2014

12 District court: R200 000 - GN 217 in GG 37477 of 27 March 2014; regional divisions: above R200 000 up to R400 000 - GN 216 in GG 37477 of 27 March 2014

13 Regional divisions: above R200 000 up to R400 000 - GN 216 in GG 37477 of 27 March 2014

14 District court: R200 000 - GN 217 in GG 37477 of 27 March 2014; regional divisions: above R200 000 up to R400 000 - GN 216 in GG 37477 of 27 March 2014

15 District court: R200 000 - GN 217 in GG 37477 of 27 March 2014; regional divisions: above R200 000 up to R400 000 - GN 216 in GG 37477 of 27 March 2014

## **29A Jurisdiction in respect of appeals against decisions of Black chiefs, headmen and chiefs' deputies**

(1) If a party appeals to a magistrate's court in terms of the provisions of section 12 (4) of the Black Administration Act, 1927 (Act 38 of 1927), the said court may confirm, alter or set aside the judgment after hearing such evidence as may be tendered by the parties to the dispute, or as may be deemed desirable by the court.

(2) A confirmation, alteration or setting aside in terms of subsection (1), shall be deemed to be a decision of a magistrate's court for the purposes of the provisions of Chapter XI.

[S. 29A inserted by s. 2 of Act 34 of 1986 (wef 1 August 1986).]

**[NB:** S. 29A has been substituted by s. 22 and a s. 29B has been inserted by s. 23 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, provisions which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

## **30 Arrests and interdicts**

(1) Subject to the limits of jurisdiction prescribed by this Act, the court may grant against persons and things orders for attachments, interdicts and *mandamenten van spolie*.

[Sub-s. (1) substituted by s. 2 (a) of Act 42 of 2013 (wef 22 January 2014).]

(2) Confirmation by the court of any such attachment or interdict in the judgment in **Copyright Juta and Company (Pty) Ltd**

the action shall operate as an extension of the attachment or interdict until execution or further order of the court.

(3) .....

[Sub-s. (3) amended by s. 4 of Act 19 of 1963 (wef 15 March 1963) and by s. 11 of Act 53 of 1970 (wef 1 December 1970) and deleted by s. 2 (b) of Act 42 of 2013 (wef 22 January 2014).]

### **30bis Attachment to found or confirm jurisdiction**

The court may order attachment of property to found or confirm jurisdiction against any person who does not reside in the Republic, in respect of an action within its jurisdiction, where the claim or the value of the matter in dispute amounts to at least R2 500, exclusive of any costs in respect of the recovery thereof, and may grant an order allowing service of any process in such action to be effected in such manner as may be stated in such order.

[S. 30bis inserted by s. 8 (1) of Act 80 of 1964 (wef 30 August 1968) and substituted by s. 3 of Act 42 of 2013 (wef 22 January 2014).]

### **31 Automatic rent interdict**

(1) When a summons is issued in which is claimed the rent of any premises, the plaintiff may include in such summons a notice prohibiting any person from removing any of the furniture or other effects thereon which are subject to the plaintiff's hypothec for rent until an order relative thereto has been made by the court.

(2) The messenger shall, if required by the plaintiff and at such plaintiff's expense, make an inventory of such furniture or effects.

**[NB:** Sub-s. (2) has been amended by s. 24 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(3) Such notice shall operate to interdict any person having knowledge thereof from removing any such furniture or effects.

(4) Any person affected by such notice may apply to the court to have the same set aside.

### **32 Attachment of property in security of rent**

(1) Upon an affidavit by or on behalf of the landlord of any premises situate within the district, that an amount of rent not exceeding the jurisdiction of the court is due and in arrear in regard to the said premises, and that the said rent has been demanded in writing for the space of seven days and upwards, or, if not so demanded, that the deponent believes that the tenant is about to remove the movable property upon the said premises, in order to avoid the payment of such rent, and upon security being given to the satisfaction of the clerk to the court to pay all damages, costs and charges which the tenant of such premises, or any other person, may sustain or incur by reason of the attachment hereinafter mentioned, if the said attachment be thereafter set aside, the court may, upon application, issue an order to the messenger requiring him to attach so much of the movable property upon the premises in question and subject to the landlord's hypothec for rent as may be sufficient to satisfy the amount of such rent, together with the costs of such application and of any action for the said rent.

**[NB:** Sub-s. (1) has been amended by s. 25 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(2) Any person affected by such order may apply to have it set aside.

(3) A respondent whose property has been so attached may by notice in writing to the clerk of the court admit that such property is subject to the landlord's hypothec for an amount to be specified in such notice and may consent that such property (other than property protected from seizure by the provisions of section *sixty-seven*) be sold in satisfaction of such amount and costs; and such notice shall have the same effect as a consent to judgment for the amount specified.

### 33 *Curator ad litem*

The court may appoint a *curator ad litem* in any case in which such a curator is required or allowed by law for a party to any proceedings brought or to be brought before the court.

### 34 Assessors

In any action the court may, upon the application of either party, summon to its assistance one or two persons of skill and experience in the matter to which the action relates who may be willing to sit and act as assessors in an advisory capacity.

**[NB:** S. 34 has been substituted by s. 1 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 67 of 1998, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

### 35 Transfer from one court to another

(1) An action or proceeding may, with the consent of all the parties thereto, or upon the application of any party thereto, and upon its being made to appear that the trial of such action or proceeding in the court wherein summons has been issued may result in undue expense or inconvenience to such party, be transferred by the court to any other court.

(2) An interpleader summons, if issued in the court of the district in which the property was attached, may, at the discretion of the court, be remitted for trial to the court in which the judgment was given.

**[NB:** Sub-s. (2) has been substituted by s. 26 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(3) An action commenced in a periodical court may, at the discretion of the court, be transferred to the court of the district, or (subject to the provisions of paragraph (b) of section *twenty-seven*) *vice versa*.

### 36 What judgments may be rescinded

(1) The court may, upon application by any person affected thereby, or, in cases falling under paragraph (c), *suo motu*-

- (a) rescind or vary any judgment granted by it in the absence of the person against whom that judgment was granted;
- (b) rescind or vary any judgment granted by it which was void *ab origine* or was obtained by fraud or by mistake common to the parties;
- (c) correct patent errors in any judgment in respect of which no appeal is pending;
- (d) rescind or vary any judgment in respect of which no appeal lies.

(2) If a plaintiff in whose favour a default judgment has been granted has agreed in writing that the judgment be rescinded or varied, a court must rescind or vary such judgment on application by any person affected by it.

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[S. 36 substituted by s. 1 of Act 55 of 2002 (wef 17 January 2003).]

### **37 Incidental jurisdiction**

(1) In actions wherein the sum claimed, being within the jurisdiction, is the balance of an account, the court may enquire into and take evidence if necessary upon the whole account, even though such account contains items and transactions exceeding the amount of the jurisdiction.

(2) Where the amount claimed or other relief sought is within the jurisdiction, such jurisdiction shall not be ousted merely because it is necessary for the court, in order to arrive at a decision, to give a finding upon a matter beyond the jurisdiction.

(3) In considering whether a claim is or is not within the jurisdiction, no prayer for interest on the principal sum claimed or for costs or for general or alternative relief shall be taken into account.

### **38 Abandonment of part claim**

(1) In order to bring a claim within the jurisdiction, a plaintiff may in his summons or at any time thereafter explicitly abandon part of such claim.

(2) If any part of a claim be so abandoned it shall thereby be finally extinguished: Provided that, if the claim be upheld in part only, the abandonment shall be deemed first to take effect upon that part of the claim which is not upheld.

### **39 Deduction of admitted debt**

In order to bring a claim within the jurisdiction a plaintiff may, in his summons or at any time after the issue thereof, deduct from his claim, whether liquidated or unliquidated, any amount admitted by him to be due by himself to the defendant.

### **40 Splitting of claims disallowed**

A substantive claim exceeding the jurisdiction may not be split with the object of recovering the same in more than one action if the parties to all such actions would be the same and the point at issue in all such actions would also be the same.

### **41 Joinder of plaintiffs**

(1) Any number of persons, each of whom has a separate claim against the same defendant, may join as plaintiffs in one action if their right to relief depends upon the determination of some question of law or fact which if separate actions were instituted would arise in each action: Provided that if such joint action be instituted the defendant may apply to court for an order directing that separate trials be held and the court in its discretion may make such order as it deems just and expedient.

(2) In any joint action instituted as aforesaid judgment may be given for such one or more of the plaintiffs as may be found entitled to relief.

(3) If all the plaintiffs fail in any such action, the court may make such order as to costs as to it may seem just; in particular, it may order that the plaintiffs pay the costs of the defendant jointly and severally, the one paying the other to be absolved, and that if one plaintiff pays more than his *pro rata* share of the costs of the defendant, he shall be entitled to recover from the other plaintiffs their *pro rata* share of such excess.

(4) If some of the plaintiffs succeed and others fail, the court may make such order as

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to costs as it may deem just.

#### **42 Joinder of defendants**

(1) Several defendants may be sued in the alternative or both in the alternative and jointly in one action, whenever it is alleged by the plaintiff that he has suffered damages and that it is uncertain which of the defendants is in law responsible for such damages: Provided that on the application of any of the defendants the court may in its discretion order that separate trials be held, or make such other order as it may deem just and expedient.

(2) If judgment is given in favour of any defendant or if any defendant is absolved from the instance, the court may make such order as to costs as to it may seem just; in particular, it may order-

- (a) the plaintiff to pay such defendant's costs; or
- (b) the unsuccessful defendants to pay the costs of the successful defendant jointly and severally, the one paying the other to be absolved, and that if one of the unsuccessful defendants pays more than his *pro rata* share of the costs of the successful defendant, he shall be entitled to recover from the other unsuccessful defendants their *pro rata* share of such excess, and the court may further order that if the successful defendant is unable to recover the whole or any part of his costs from the unsuccessful defendants, he shall be entitled to recover from the plaintiff such part of his costs as he cannot recover from the unsuccessful defendants.

(3) If judgment is given in favour of the plaintiff against more than one of the defendants the court may make such order as to costs as to it may seem just; in particular it may order those defendants against whom it gives judgment to pay the plaintiff's costs jointly and severally, the one paying the other to be absolved, and that if one of the unsuccessful defendants pays more than his *pro rata* share of the costs of the plaintiff he shall be entitled to recover from the other unsuccessful defendants their *pro rata* share of such excess.

#### **43 Jurisdiction cumulative**

(1) If two or more claims, each based upon a different cause of action, are combined in one summons, the court shall have the same jurisdiction to decide each such claim as it would have had if each claim had formed the sole subject of a separate action.

(2) If a claim for the confirmation of an interdict or arrest granted *pendente lite* be joined in the same summons with a claim for relief of any other character, the court shall have the same jurisdiction to decide each such claim as it would have had if each claim had formed the sole subject of a separate action, even though all the claims arise from the same cause of action.

#### **44 Application of sections 34, 35 and 37 to 43 inclusive to claims in reconvension**

In sections *thirty-four*, *thirty-five* and *thirty-seven to forty-three* inclusive, 'action', 'claim' and 'summons' include 'claim in reconvension', and 'plaintiff' and 'defendant' include 'plaintiff in reconvension' and 'defendant in reconvension' respectively.

#### **45 Jurisdiction by consent of parties**

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(1) Subject to the provisions of section *forty-six*, the court shall have jurisdiction to determine any action or proceeding otherwise beyond the jurisdiction, if the parties consent in writing thereto: Provided that no court other than a court having jurisdiction under section *twenty-eight* shall, except where such consent is given specifically with reference to particular proceedings already instituted or about to be instituted in such court, have jurisdiction in any such matter.

**[NB:** Sub-s. (1) has been amended by s. 27 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(2) Any provision in a contract existing at the commencement of the Act or thereafter entered into, whereby a person undertakes that, when proceedings have been or are about to be instituted, he will give such consent to jurisdiction as is contemplated in the proviso to subsection (1), shall be null and void.

#### 46 Matters beyond the jurisdiction

(1) .....

[Sub-s. (1) repealed by s. 8 of Act 31 of 2008 (wef 9 August 2010).]

**[NB:** Sub-s. (1) has been substituted by s. 28 (a) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(2) A court shall have no jurisdiction in matters-

- (a) in which the validity or interpretation of a will or other testamentary document is in question;
- (b) in which the status of a person in respect of mental capacity is sought to be affected;
- (c) in which is sought specific performance without an alternative of payment of damages, except in-
  - (i) the rendering of an account in respect of which the claim does not exceed the amount <sup>16</sup> determined by the Minister from time to time by notice in the *Gazette*;
  - (ii) the delivery or transfer of property, movable or immovable, not exceeding in value the amount <sup>17</sup> determined by the Minister from time to time by notice in the *Gazette*; and
  - (iii) the delivery or transfer of property, movable or immovable, exceeding in value the amount <sup>18</sup> determined by the Minister from time to time by notice in the *Gazette*, where the consent of the parties has been obtained in terms of section 45;

[Sub-para. (i) substituted by s. 4 of Act 25 of 1987 (wef 1 January 1988).]

[Sub-para. (ii) substituted by s. 4 of Act 25 of 1987 (wef 1 January 1988).]

[Sub-para. (iii) substituted by s. 4 of Act 25 of 1987 (wef 1 January 1988).]

[Para. (c) amended by s. 5 of Act 19 of 1963 (wef 15 March 1963) and substituted by s. 28 of Act 94 of 1974 (wef 1 March 1975) and by s. 2 of Act 56 of 1984 (wef 2 May 1984).]

(d) in which is sought a decree of perpetual silence.

**[NB:** Sub-s. (2) has been amended by s. 28 (b) and a s. 46A has been inserted by s. 29 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, provisions which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

<sup>16</sup> R200 000 - GN 217 in GG 37477 of 27 March 2014

<sup>17</sup> R200 000 - GN 217 in GG 37477 of 27 March 2014

<sup>18</sup> R200 000 - GN 217 in GG 37477 of 27 March 2014

## 47 Counterclaim exceeding jurisdiction

(1) When in answer to a claim within the jurisdiction the defendant sets up a counterclaim exceeding the jurisdiction, the claim shall not on that account be dismissed; but the court may, if satisfied that the defendant has *prima facie* a reasonable prospect on his counterclaim of obtaining a judgment in excess of its jurisdiction, stay the action for a reasonable period in order to enable him to institute an action in a competent court. The plaintiff in the magistrate's court may (notwithstanding his action therein) counterclaim in such competent court and in that event all questions as to the costs incurred in the magistrate's court shall be decided by that competent court.

**[NB:** Sub-s. (1) has been amended by s. 30 (a) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(2) If the period for which such action has been stayed has expired and the defendant has failed to issue and serve a summons in a competent court in relation to the matters and the subject of such counterclaim the magistrate's court shall on application either-

- (a) stay the action for a further reasonable period; or
- (b) dismiss the counterclaim (whether the defendant does or does not reduce such counterclaim to an amount within the jurisdiction of the court).

**[NB:** Sub-s. (2) has been amended by s. 30 (b) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(3) If the defendant has failed to institute action within such further period or if the action instituted by the defendant be stayed, dismissed, withdrawn, or abandoned, or if the competent court has granted absolution from the instance thereon, the magistrate's court shall, upon application, dismiss the counterclaim and shall proceed to determine the claim.

**[NB:** Sub-s. (3) has been amended by s. 30 (c) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

## 48 Judgment

The court may, as a result of the trial of an action, grant-

- (a) judgment for the plaintiff in respect of his claim in so far as he has proved the same;
- (b) judgment for the defendant in respect of his defence in so far as he has proved the same;
- (c) absolution from the instance, if it appears to the court that the evidence does not justify the court in giving judgment for either party;
- (d) such judgment as to costs (including costs as between attorney and client) as may be just;

[Para. (d) substituted by s. 3 of Act 48 of 1965 (wef 5 May 1965).]

- (e) an order, subject to such conditions as the court thinks fit, against the party in whose favour judgment has been given suspending wholly or in part the taking of further proceedings upon the judgment for a specified period pending arrangements by the other party for the satisfaction of the judgment.

[Para. (e) substituted by s. 12 of Act 53 of 1970 (wef 1 December 1970).]

- (f) an order against a party for the payment of an amount of money for which judgment has been granted in specified instalments or otherwise, including an order contemplated by section 65J or 73.

[Para. (f) added by s. 1 of Act 81 of 1997 (wef 10 December 1997).]

#### 49 Cession of costs

Costs awarded in interlocutory proceedings shall not be ceded without the consent of the court awarding such costs.

#### 50 Removal of actions from court to provincial or local division

(1) Any action in which the amount of the claim exceeds the amount <sup>19</sup> determined by the Minister from time to time by notice in the *Gazette*, exclusive of interest and costs, may, upon application to the court by the defendant, or if there is more than one defendant, by any defendant, be removed to the provincial or local division having jurisdiction where the court is held, subject to the following provisions-

- (a) notice of intention to make such application shall be given to the plaintiff, and to other defendants (if any) before the date on which the action is set down for hearing;
- (b) the notice shall state that the applicant objects to the action being tried by the court or any magistrate's court;

**[NB:** Para. (b) has been substituted by s. 31 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

- (c) the applicant shall give such security as the court may determine and approve, for payment of the amount claimed and such further amount to be determined by the court not exceeding the amount <sup>20</sup> determined by the Minister from time to time by notice in the *Gazette*, for costs already incurred in the action and which may be incurred in the said provincial or local division.

[Para. (c) amended by s. 6 of Act 19 of 1963 (wef 15 March 1963) and substituted by s. 5 (b) of Act 25 of 1987 (wef 1 January 1988).]

Upon compliance by the applicant with those provisions, all proceedings in the action in the court shall be stayed, and the action and all proceedings therein, shall, if the plaintiff so requires, be as to the defendant or defendants, forthwith removed from the court into the provincial or local division aforesaid having jurisdiction. Upon the removal, the summons in the court shall, as to the defendant or defendants, stand as the summons in the division to which the action is removed, the return date thereof being the date of the order of removal in an action other than one founded on a liquid document, and, in an action founded on a liquid document, being such convenient day on which the said division sits for the hearing of provisional sentence cases, as the court may order: Provided that the plaintiff in the action may, instead of requiring the action to be so removed, issue a fresh summons against the defendant or defendants in any competent court and the costs already incurred by the parties to the action shall be costs in the cause.

[Sub-s. (1) amended by s. 6 of Act 19 of 1963 (wef 15 March 1963) and by s. 5 (a) of Act 25 of 1987 (wef 1 January 1988).]

(2) If the plaintiff is successful in an action so removed to a provincial or local division, he may be awarded costs as between attorney and client.

**[NB:** A s. 50A has been inserted by s. 32 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of

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1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

19 R3 000 - GN 217 in GG 37477 of 27 March 2014

20 R3 000 - GN R3441 in GG 14498 of 31 December 1992

## **CHAPTER VII WITNESSES AND EVIDENCE (ss 51-54A)**

### **51 Modes of procuring attendance of witnesses and penalty for non-attendance**

(1) Any party to any civil action or other proceeding where the attendance of witnesses is required may procure the attendance of any witness (whether residing or for the time being within the district or not) in the manner in the rules provided.

**[NB:** Sub-s. (1) has been amended by s. 33 (a) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(2) (a) If any person, being duly subpoenaed to give evidence or to produce any books, papers or documents in his possession or under his control which the party requiring his attendance desires to show in evidence, fails, without lawful excuse, to attend or to give evidence or to produce those books, papers or documents according to the subpoena or, unless duly excused, fails to remain in attendance throughout the trial, the court may, upon being satisfied upon oath or by the return of the messenger that such person has been duly subpoenaed and that his reasonable expenses, calculated in accordance with the tariff prescribed under section 51*bis*, have been paid or offered to him, impose upon the said person a fine not exceeding R300, and in default of payment, imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months, whether or not such person is otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the court.

[Para. (a) amended by s. 7 of Act 19 of 1963 (wef 15 March 1963), substituted by s. 9 (1) of Act 80 of 1964 (wef 1 November 1970), amended by s. 5 of Act 91 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977) and substituted by s. 2 of Act 19 of 1985 (wef 3 April 1985).]

**[NB:** Para. (a) has been amended by s. 33 (b) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(b) If any person so subpoenaed fails to appear or, unless duly excused, to remain in attendance throughout the trial the court may also, upon being satisfied as aforesaid and in case no lawful excuse for such failure seems to the court to exist, issue a warrant for his apprehension in order that he may be brought up to give his evidence and to be otherwise dealt with according to law, whether or not such person is otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the court.

(c) The court may, on cause shown, remit the whole or any part of any fine or imprisonment which it has imposed under this subsection.

(d) The court may order the costs of any postponement or adjournment occasioned by the default of a witness or any portion of such costs to be paid out of any fine imposed upon such witness.

(3) Notwithstanding anything in this section contained, when a subpoena is issued to procure the attendance of a judicial officer to give evidence or to produce any book, paper or document in a criminal case, civil action or other proceeding, if it appears-

(i) that he is unable to give any evidence or to produce any book, paper or document which would be relevant to any issue in such case, action or

- proceedings; or
- (ii) that such book, paper or document could properly be produced by some other person; or
  - (iii) that the compelling of his attendance would be an abuse of the process of the court,

the court may, after reasonable notice to the party suing out the subpoena, make an order cancelling such subpoena.

### **51bis Witness fees**

(1) The Minister may in consultation with the Minister of Finance from time to time by notice in the *Gazette* prescribe a tariff of allowances which shall be paid to a witness in civil proceedings or to any person necessarily required to accompany any such witness on account of his youth or infirmity due to old age or any other infirmity.

(2) Such notice may differentiate between persons according to the distances which they have to travel to attend the court to which they are summoned or subpoenaed or according to their professions, callings or occupations or between different classes of persons, and may empower such officers in the service of the State as may be specified therein, in cases where payment of allowances in accordance with the tariffs so prescribed may cause undue hardship, to order payment of allowances in accordance with a higher tariff than the tariff so prescribed.

(3) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any law contained, the court may order that no allowances or only a portion of the allowances prescribed shall be paid to any witness.

[S. 51bis inserted by s. 10 of Act 80 of 1964 (wef 24 June 1964).]

### **52 Interrogatories**

(1) Whenever a witness resides or is in a district other than that wherein the case is being heard, the court may, if it appears to be consistent with the ends of justice, upon the application of either party approve of such interrogatories as either party shall desire to have put to such witness and shall transmit the same, together with any further interrogatories framed by the court, to the court of the district within which such witness resides or is.

**[NB:** Sub-s. (1) has been amended by s. 34 (a) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(2) The last-mentioned court shall thereupon subpoena such witness to appear and upon his appearance shall take his evidence in manner and form as if he were a witness in a case pending before that court, and shall put to the witness the said interrogatories and such other questions as may seem to it necessary to obtain full and true answers to the interrogatories and shall record the evidence of the witness and shall transmit such record to the court in which such case is pending. The said record shall (subject to all lawful objections) be received as evidence in that case.

(3) Every witness so subpoenaed to appear shall be liable to the like penalties in case of non-attendance or failure to give evidence or to produce books, papers or documents as if he had been subpoenaed to give evidence in the court of the district in which he resides or is.

**[NB:** Sub-s. (3) has been amended by s. 34 (b) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

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### **53 Commissions de bene esse**

(1) The court may in any case which is pending before it, where it may be expedient and consistent with the ends of justice to do so, appoint a person to be a commissioner to take evidence of any witness, whether within the Republic or elsewhere, upon the request of one of the parties to such case and after due notice to the other party.

[Sub-s. (1) amended by s. 13 of Act 53 of 1970 (wef 1 December 1970).]

(2) The person so appointed shall put to such witness such questions as have been transmitted to him on agreement between the parties, or otherwise shall allow the parties to examine such witness, and may himself examine such witness as if the witness were being examined in court, and shall record the evidence or cause it to be recorded, whereupon the evidence recorded shall be read over to the witness and shall be signed by him.

[Sub-s. (2) amended by s. 14 of Act 40 of 1952 (wef 27 June 1952).]

(3) The said record shall (subject to all lawful objections) be received as evidence in the case.

### **54 Pre-trial procedure for formulating issues**

(1) The court may at any stage in any legal proceedings in its discretion *suo motu* or upon the request in writing of either party direct the parties or their representatives to appear before it in chambers for a conference to consider-

- (a) the simplification of the issues;
- (b) the necessity or desirability of amendments to the pleadings;
- (c) the possibility of obtaining admissions of fact and of documents with a view to avoiding unnecessary proof;
- (d) the limitation of the number of expert witnesses;
- (e) such other matters as may aid in the disposal of the action in the most expeditious and least costly manner.

(2) The court shall make an order which recites the action taken at the conference, the amendments allowed to the pleadings, and the agreements made by the parties as to any of the matters considered, and which limits the issues for trial to those not disposed of by admissions or agreements of the parties or their representatives.

(3) Such order shall be binding on the parties unless altered at the trial to prevent manifest injustice.

(4) If a party refuses or neglects to appear at the conference the court may, without derogation from its power to punish for contempt of court, make such order as it considers equitable in the circumstances and upon conclusion of the proceedings may order the party who has so absented himself to pay such costs as in the opinion of the court were incurred as a result of the said absence.

(5) The Court may make such order as to the costs of any proceedings under this section as it deems fit.

### **54A .....**

[S. 54A inserted by s. 2 of Act 34 of 1986 (wef 1 August 1986) and repealed by s. 2 of Act 45 of 1988 (wef 3 October 1988).]

## CHAPTER VIII RECOVERY OF DEBTS (ss 55-60)

[Heading substituted by s. 1 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

### 55 Definition

In this Chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates-

**'debt'** means any liquidated sum of money due.

[S. 55 amended by s. 8 of Act 19 of 1963 (wef 15 March 1963) and substituted by s. 14 of Act 53 of 1970 (wef 1 December 1970) and by s. 1 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

### 56 Recovery of costs of letter of demand

If any person (in this section called the debtor) pays any debt due by him to any other person (in this section called the creditor) after the creditor has caused a registered letter of demand to be sent to the debtor through an attorney demanding payment of the debt, the creditor shall be entitled to recover from the debtor the fees and costs prescribed in the rules for a registered letter of demand: Provided that the amount of such fees and costs was stated in the letter of demand.

[S. 56 substituted by s. 1 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

### 57 Admission of liability and undertaking to pay debt in instalments or otherwise

(1) If any person (in this section called the defendant) has received a letter of demand or has been served with a summons demanding payment of any debt, the defendant may in writing-

- (a) admit liability to the plaintiff for the amount of the debt and costs claimed in the letter of demand or summons or for any other amount;
- (b) offer to pay the amount of the debt and costs for which he admits liability, in instalments or otherwise;
- (c) undertake on payment of any instalment in terms of his offer to pay the collection fees for which the plaintiff is liable in respect of the recovery of such instalment; and
- (d) agree that in the event of his failure to carry out the terms of his offer the plaintiff shall, without notice to the defendant, be entitled to apply for judgment for the amount of the outstanding balance of the debt for which he admits liability, with costs, and for an order of court for payment of the judgment debt and costs in instalments or otherwise in accordance with his offer,

and if the plaintiff or his attorney accepts the said offer, he shall advise the defendant of such acceptance in writing by registered letter.

(2) If, after having been advised by the plaintiff or his attorney in writing that his offer has been accepted, the defendant fails to carry out the terms of his offer, the clerk of the court shall, upon the written request of the plaintiff or his attorney accompanied by-

- (a) if no summons has been issued, a copy of the letter of demand;
- (b) the defendant's written acknowledgment of debt and offer and a copy of the plaintiff's or his attorney's written acceptance of the offer;

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- (c) an affidavit or affirmation by the plaintiff or a certificate by his attorney stating in which respects the defendant has failed to carry out the terms of his offer and, if the defendant has made any payments since the date of the letter of demand or summons, showing how the balance claimed is arrived at-
- (i) enter judgment in favour of the plaintiff for the amount or the outstanding balance of the amount of the debt for which the defendant has admitted liability, with costs; and
  - (ii) order the defendant to pay the judgment debt and costs in specified instalments or otherwise in accordance with his offer, and such order shall be deemed to be an order of the court mentioned in section 65A (1).

(3) When the judgment referred to in subsection (2) has been entered and an order made, and if the judgment debtor was not present or represented when the judgment was entered by the clerk of the court and the order made, the judgment creditor or his or her attorney shall forthwith advise the judgment debtor by registered letter of the terms of the judgment and order.

[Sub-s. (3) substituted by s. 2 of Act 81 of 1997 (wef 10 December 1997).]

(4) Any judgment entered in favour of the plaintiff under subsection (2) shall have the effect of a judgment by default.

[S. 57 amended by s. 15 of Act 53 of 1970 (wef 1 December 1970) and substituted by s. 1 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

## **58 Consent to judgment or to judgment and an order for payment of judgment debt in instalments**

(1) If any person (in this section called the defendant), upon receipt of a letter of demand or service upon him of a summons demanding payment of any debt, consents in writing to judgment in favour of the creditor (in this section called the plaintiff) for the amount of the debt and the costs claimed in the letter of demand or summons, or for any other amount, the clerk of the court shall, on the written request of the plaintiff or his attorney accompanied by-

- (a) if no summons has been issued, a copy of the letter of demand; and
- (b) the defendant's written consent to judgment-
  - (i) enter judgment in favour of the plaintiff for the amount of the debt and the costs for which the defendant has consented to judgment; and
  - (ii) if it appears from the defendant's written consent to judgment that he has also consented to an order of court for payment in specified instalments or otherwise of the amount of the debt and costs in respect of which he has consented to judgment, order the defendant to pay the judgment debt and costs in specified instalments or otherwise in accordance with this consent, and such order shall be deemed to be an order of the court mentioned in section 65A (1).

(2) The provisions of section 57 (3) and (4) shall apply in respect of the judgment and court order referred to in subsection (1) of this section.

[S. 58 substituted by s. 1 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

## **58A Judgment by default shall be deemed to be judgment of court**

Any judgment by default entered in terms of this Act by the clerk of the court, shall be

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deemed to be a judgment of the court.

[S. 58A inserted by s. 6 of Act 25 of 1987 (wef 24 June 1987).]

### **59 Written request constitutes first document in an action**

If no summons is issued in an action the written request referred to in sections 57 (2) and 58 (1) shall constitute the first document to be filed in the action and shall contain the particulars prescribed in the rules.

[S. 59 amended by s. 9 of Act 19 of 1963 (wef 15 March 1963) and substituted by s. 1 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

### **60 Prohibition of recovery of fees or remuneration by certain persons in connection with the collection of debts**

(1) Unless expressly otherwise provided in this Act or the rules and the National Credit Act, 2005 (Act 34 of 2005), and subject to the provisions of section 19 of the Debt Collectors Act, 1998, no person other than an attorney, an agent referred to in section 22 or a person authorised by or under the provisions of the National Credit Act, 2005 (Act 34 of 2005), to do so shall be entitled to recover from the debtor any fees or remuneration in connection with the collection of any debt.

[Sub-s. (1) substituted by s. 27 of Act 114 of 1998 (wef 7 February 2003) and by s. 172 (2) of Act 34 of 2005 (wef 1 June 2006).]

(2) Any person who contravenes any provision of subsection (1), shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding R4 000, or, in default of payment, to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 12 months, or to both such fine and such imprisonment.

[Sub-s. (2) added by s. 2 of Act 4 of 1991 (wef 28 March 1991).]

[S. 60 substituted by s. 1 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

## **CHAPTER IX EXECUTION (ss 61-79)**

### **61 Definition**

In this Chapter-

**'emoluments'** includes-

- (i) salary, wages or any other form of remuneration; and
- (ii) any allowances,

whether expressed in money or not; and

**'debts'** includes any income from whatever source other than emoluments.

### **62 Power to grant or set aside a warrant**

(1) Any court which has jurisdiction to try an action shall have jurisdiction to issue against any party thereto any form of process in execution of its judgment in such action.

(2) A court (in this subsection called a second court), other than the court which gave judgment in an action, shall have jurisdiction on good cause shown to stay any warrant of execution or arrest issued by another court against a party who is subject to the jurisdiction of the second court.

(3) Any court may, on good cause shown, stay or set aside any warrant of execution

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or arrest issued by itself, including an order under section *seventy-two*.

### **63 Execution to be issued within three years**

Execution against property may not be issued upon a judgment after three years from the day on which it was pronounced or on which the last payment in respect thereof was made, except upon an order of the court in which judgment was pronounced or of any court having jurisdiction, in respect of the judgment debtor, on the application and at the expense of the judgment creditor, after due notice to the judgment debtor to show cause why execution should not be issued.

### **64 Execution in case of judgment debt ceded**

Any person who has, either by cession or by operation of law, become entitled to the benefit of a judgment debt may, after notice to the judgment creditor, and the judgment debtor, be substituted on the record for the judgment creditor and may obtain execution in the manner provided for judgment creditors.

### **65 Offer by judgment debtor after judgment**

If at any time after a court has given judgment for the payment of a sum of money and before the issue of a notice under section 65A (1), the judgment debtor makes a written offer to the judgment creditor to pay the judgment debt in specified instalments or otherwise and such offer is accepted by the judgment creditor or his attorney, the clerk of the court shall, at the written request of the judgment creditor or his attorney, accompanied by the offer, order the judgment debtor to pay the judgment debt in specified instalments or otherwise in accordance with his offer, and such order shall be deemed to be an order of the court mentioned in section 65A (1).

[S. 65 substituted by s. 15 of Act 40 of 1952 (wef 27 June 1952), amended by s. 1 of Act 14 of 1954 (wef 2 April 1954), by s. 20 of Act 50 of 1956 (wef 22 June 1956), by s. 10 of Act 19 of 1963 (wef 15 March 1963), by s. 30 of Act 70 of 1968 (wef 21 June 1968) and by s. 2 of Act 17 of 1969 (wef 26 March 1969) and substituted by s. 2 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

### **65A Notice to judgment debtor if judgment remains unsatisfied**

(1) (a) If a court has given judgment for the payment of a sum of money or has ordered the payment in specified instalments or otherwise of such an amount, and such judgment or order has remained unsatisfied for a period of 10 days from the date on which it was given or on which such an amount became payable or from the expiry of the period of suspension ordered in terms of section 48 (e), as the case may be, the judgment creditor may issue, from the court of the district in which the judgment debtor resides, carries on business or is employed, or if the judgment debtor is a juristic person, from the court of the district in which the registered office or main place of business of the juristic person is situate, a notice calling upon the judgment debtor or, if the judgment debtor is a juristic person, a director or officer of the juristic person as representative of the juristic person and in his or her personal capacity, to appear before the court in chambers on a date specified in such notice in order to enable the court to inquire into the financial position of the judgment debtor and to make such order as the court may deem just and equitable.

(b) A notice referred to in paragraph (a) shall be drawn up by the judgment creditor or his or her attorney, signed by the judgment creditor or his or her attorney and the clerk of the court, and served by the sheriff, or by the attorney of the judgment creditor or any candidate attorney in his or her employ, on the judgment debtor or, if the judgment debtor is a juristic person, on the director or officer summonsed as the

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representative of the juristic person and in his or her personal capacity, in the manner prescribed by the rules for the service of process in general and at least ten days before the date fixed in the notice for the appearance before the court.

(c) The fees and charges in respect of a notice served by any attorney or candidate attorney shall be determined in accordance with the tariffs prescribed by the rules for the service of process by a sheriff: Provided that no such fees and charges shall be payable unless personal service of the notice has been effected.

[Sub-s. (1) substituted by s. 3 (a) of Act 81 of 1997 (wef 10 December 1997).]

(2) If the minutes of the proceedings do not show that the judgment debtor was present in person or represented by any person when judgment was given and if no warrant of execution pursuant to the judgment has been served on the judgment debtor personally, no notice under subsection (1) shall be issued unless the judgment creditor or his or her attorney provides proof to the satisfaction of the clerk of the court that he or she has advised the judgment debtor by registered letter of the terms of the judgment or of the expiry of the suspension ordered under section 48 (e), as the case may be, and a period of 10 days has elapsed since the date on which the said letter was posted.

[Sub-s. (2) substituted by s. 3 (b) of Act 81 of 1997 (wef 10 December 1997).]

(3) The court may, at any stage of the proceedings, if a director or officer mentioned in subsection (1) ceases to be a director or officer of the juristic person concerned or absconds, at the request of the judgment creditor, from time to time replace such director or officer by any other person who at the time of such replacement may be a director or officer of the juristic person, and the proceedings shall then continue as if there has been no replacement.

(4) If the court has given judgment for the payment of an amount of money in instalments, no notice under subsection (1) shall be issued unless the judgment creditor has delivered an affidavit or affirmation or his or her attorney has delivered a certificate to the clerk of the court in which is mentioned the outstanding balance of the judgment debt, in what respects the judgment debtor has failed to comply with the court order, to what extent he or she is in arrear with the payment of the instalments and that the judgment debtor was advised by registered letter of the terms of the judgment.

[Sub-s. (4) substituted by s. 3 (c) of Act 81 of 1997 (wef 10 December 1997).]

(5) If a judgment debtor fails to satisfy an order to pay the judgment debt in instalments or otherwise, or if an emoluments attachment order has not been satisfied, a judgment creditor may issue anew a notice in accordance with subsection (1).

[Sub-s. (5) added by s. 3 (d) of Act 81 of 1997 (wef 10 December 1997).]

(6) If the court is satisfied on the ground of sufficient proof or otherwise-

- (a) that the judgment debtor, director or officer concerned has knowledge of a notice referred to in subsection (1) and that he or she has failed to appear before the court and on the date and at the time specified in the notice;
- (b) that the judgment debtor, director or officer concerned, in the case where the relevant proceedings were postponed in his or her presence to a date and time determined by the court, has failed to appear before the court on that date and at that time; or
- (c) that the judgment debtor, director or officer concerned has failed to remain in attendance at the relevant proceedings or at the proceedings as so postponed,

the court may, at the request of the judgment creditor or his or her attorney, authorise

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the issue of a warrant directing a sheriff to arrest the said judgment debtor, director or officer and to bring him or her before a competent court at the earliest possible opportunity in order to enable that court to conduct an inquiry referred to in subsection (1).

[Sub-s. (6) added by s. 3 (d) of Act 81 of 1997 (wef 10 December 1997).]

(7) A warrant authorised under subsection (6) shall be prepared by the judgment creditor or his or her attorney, signed by the judgment creditor or his or her attorney and the clerk of the court, and executed by the sheriff.

[Sub-s. (7) added by s. 3 (d) of Act 81 of 1997 (wef 10 December 1997).]

(8) (a) Any person arrested under a warrant referred to in subsection (6) shall, in accordance with section 35 (1) (d) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act 108 of 1996), be brought as soon as reasonably possible before the court within the district of which that person was arrested: Provided that any such person, if it is not possible to bring him or her before the court concerned, may be detained at any police station pending his or her appearance before that court.

(b) In lieu of arresting a person contemplated in paragraph (a), the sheriff may, if the judgment creditor or his or her attorney consents thereto, hand to that person a notice in writing which-

- (i) specifies the name, the residential address and the occupation or status of that person;
- (ii) calls upon that person to appear before the court and on the date and at the time specified in the notice; and
- (iii) contains a certificate signed by the sheriff to the effect that he or she has handed the original of the notice to that person and that he or she has explained to that person the import thereof.

(c) The sheriff shall forthwith forward a duplicate original of the notice to the clerk of the court concerned, and the mere production in the court of such a duplicate original shall be *prima facie* proof that the original thereof was handed to the person specified therein.

(d) The provisions of subsection (6) shall *mutatis mutandis* apply in respect of a notice referred to in paragraph (b).

[Sub-s. (8) added by s. 3 (d) of Act 81 of 1997 (wef 10 December 1997).]

(9) Any person who-

- (a) is called upon to appear before a court under a notice referred to in subsection (1) or (8) (b) and who wilfully fails to appear before the court and on the date and at the time specified in the notice;
- (b) in the case where the relevant proceedings were postponed in his or her presence to a date and time determined by a court, wilfully fails to appear before the court on that date and at that time;
- (c) wilfully fails to remain in attendance at the relevant proceedings or at the proceedings as so postponed,

shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months.

[Sub-s. (9) added by s. 3 (d) of Act 81 of 1997 (wef 10 December 1997).]

(10) (a) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Act-

- (i) the court which authorised the issue of a warrant referred to in subsection (6)

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and the court contemplated in subsection (8) (a), if the latter court is not the court which authorised the issue of the warrant concerned, shall have jurisdiction to inquire in a summary manner into the commission of an offence referred to in subsection (9), and upon proof beyond reasonable doubt that the person concerned is guilty of such an offence, to so convict him or her and to impose on him or her any penalty provided for in the said subsection (9);

- (ii) the court contemplated in subsection (8) (a), if the court is not the court which authorised the issue of the warrant concerned, shall have jurisdiction to conduct an inquiry referred to in subsection (1) and to perform such other acts as the court which authorised the issue of the warrant concerned could lawfully have performed.

(b) On the appearance before the court of the judgment debtor, director or officer concerned in pursuance of either his or her arrest under a warrant referred to in subsection (6) or the delivery to him or her of a notice referred to in subsection (8) (b), the court shall inform him or her-

- (i) that the court intends to inquire in a summary manner into his or her alleged wilful failure to appear before the court and on the date and at the time specified in a notice referred to in subsection (1) or (8) (b), or to appear, in the case where the relevant proceedings were postponed in his or her presence to a date and time determined by any court, before that court on that date and at that time, or to remain in attendance at the relevant proceedings or at the proceedings as so postponed, as the case may be;
- (ii) that the court, if the court so convicts him or her, may impose on him or her any penalty provided for in subsection (9); and
- (iii) that he or she has the right to choose, and be represented by, a legal practitioner.

(c) A court before which proceedings under paragraph (b) are pending-

- (i) shall have due regard to the following rights, namely-
  - (aa) the right of an accused person to be presumed innocent, to remain silent and not to testify;
  - (bb) the right of an accused person to adduce and to challenge evidence; and
  - (cc) the right of an accused person not to be compelled to give self-incriminating evidence;
- (ii) may adjourn such proceedings to any date on such conditions not inconsistent with a provision of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 (Act 51 of 1977), and as the court may think fit;
- (iii) if the court is of the opinion that it is in the interests of the administration of justice, may at any time before the judgment debtor, director or officer concerned is acquitted or convicted of an offence referred to in subsection (9) suspend such proceedings and refer the matter to the public prosecutor concerned to take a decision on the prosecution of the said judgment debtor, director or officer for such an offence.

[Sub-s. (10) added by s. 3 (d) of Act 81 of 1997 (wef 10 December 1997).]

(11) After the court has dealt with the inquiry referred to in subsection (10) (b), the court shall proceed to the inquiry referred to in subsection (1) and deal with the matter

in accordance with the other sections of this Chapter: Provided that the court-

- (a) if the court is not the court which authorised the issue of the warrant concerned; and
- (b) if the court is of the opinion that it is in the interests of the administration of justice,

may transfer the matter to the court which authorised the issue of that warrant.

[Sub-s. (11) added by s. 3 (d) of Act 81 of 1997 (wef 10 December 1997).]

(12) (a) If the court before which proceedings under subsections (10) (b) and (11) are pending is not the court which authorised the issue of the warrant concerned, the clerk of the former court shall without any delay notify the clerk of the latter court of the appearance of the judgment debtor, director or officer concerned before the former court, and shall inform the judgment creditor or his or her attorney accordingly.

(b) The clerk of the court which authorised the issue of the warrant concerned shall without any delay furnish the court before which proceedings under subsections (10) (b) and (11) are pending with such records or documents relating to such proceedings as the latter court may direct.

[Sub-s. (12) added by s. 3 (d) of Act 81 of 1997 (wef 10 December 1997).]

[S. 65A inserted by s. 2 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

## **65B .....**

[S. 65B inserted by s. 2 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979) and repealed by s. 4 of Act 81 of 1997 (wef 10 December 1997).]

## **65C Joinder of proceedings**

If, under section 65A (1), two or more notices have been served on any judgment debtor or director or officer to appear on the same day as provided in that section, the proceedings in terms of such notices may be heard concurrently.

[S. 65C inserted by s. 2 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979) and substituted by s. 5 of Act 81 of 1997 (wef 10 December 1997).]

## **65D Determination of judgment debtor's financial position**

(1) On the appearance before the court of the judgment debtor or, if the judgment debtor is a juristic person, the director or officer of the juristic person summoned as the representative of the juristic person or in his or her personal capacity, on the return day of the notice referred to in section 65A (1) or (8) (b), in pursuance of his or her arrest under a warrant referred to in section 65A (6), or on any date to which the proceedings have been postponed, the court in chambers shall, subject to the provisions of subsection (2) of this section, call upon him or her to give evidence under oath or affirmation on his or her financial position or the financial position of the juristic person, as the case may be, and the court shall permit the examination or cross-examination of the judgment debtor or the said director or officer on all matters relevant to the judgment debtor's financial position and his or her ability to pay the judgment debt, and the court shall receive such further evidence as may be adduced either orally or by affidavit or in such other manner as the court may deem just, by or on behalf of either the judgment debtor or the judgment creditor, as is material to the determination of the judgment debtor's financial position and his or her ability to pay the judgment debt, and for the purposes of such evidence witnesses may be summoned in the manner prescribed in the rules.

[Sub-s. (1) substituted by s. 6 (a) of Act 81 of 1997 (wef 10 December 1997).]

(2) The court may at any time in the presence of the judgment debtor or the said director or officer postpone the proceedings to such date as the court may determine.

(3) When postponing the proceedings under subsection (2) the court-

- (a) shall inform the judgment debtor or the director or officer concerned of the provisions of section 65E (1) (c);
- (b) may order the judgment debtor or the director or officer to produce such documents as the court may specify at the hearing on the date determined by the court; and
- (c) may determine such conditions as it may deem fit.

(4) In determining the ability of the judgment debtor to pay the judgment debt in instalments or otherwise the court shall take into consideration-

- (a) in the case of a judgment debtor who is a natural person, the nature of his income, the amounts needed by him for his necessary expenses and those of the persons dependent on him, and for the making of periodical payments which he is obliged to make in terms of an order of court, agreement or otherwise in respect of his other commitments as disclosed in the evidence presented at the hearing of the proceedings; or
- (b) in the case of a judgment debtor who is a juristic person, the amounts required by such juristic person to meet its necessary administrative expenses and for the making of periodical payments which it is obliged to make in terms of an order of court, agreement or otherwise in respect of its other commitments as disclosed in the evidence presented at the hearing of the proceedings.

[Sub-s. (4) amended by s. 6 (b) of Act 81 of 1997 (wef 10 December 1997).]

(5) In determining the ability of the judgment debtor to pay the judgment debt in instalments or otherwise the court may, in its discretion, refuse to take account of the periodical payments that a judgment debtor has undertaken to make in terms of a credit agreement, as defined in section 1 of the National Credit Act, 2005 (Act 34 of 2005) for the purchase of goods which have not been exempted from seizure in terms of section 67 or which cannot, in the opinion of the court, be regarded as the judgment debtor's household requirements.

[Sub-s. (5) substituted by s. 6 (c) of Act 81 of 1997 (wef 10 December 1997) and amended by s. 172 (2) of Act 34 of 2005 (wef 1 June 2006).]

**[NB:** Sub-s. (5) has been substituted by s. 36 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

[S. 65D inserted by s. 2 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

## **65E Postponement of proceedings pending execution**

(1) If at the hearing of the proceedings in terms of a notice under section 65A (1) the court is satisfied-

- (a) that the judgment debtor has movable or immovable property which may be attached and sold in order to satisfy the judgment debt or any part thereof, the court may-
  - (i) authorize the issue of a warrant of execution against such movable or immovable property or such part thereof as the court may deem fit; or
  - (ii) authorize the issue of such a warrant together with an order in terms of section 73; or

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- (b) that there is a debt due to the judgment debtor which may be attached in terms of section 72 to satisfy the judgment debt and costs or a part thereof, the court may authorize the attachment of that debt in terms of that section; or
- (c) that the judgment debtor or, if the judgment debtor is a juristic person, the director or officer summoned as representative of the juristic person, at any time after receipt of a notice referred to in section 65A (1), has made an offer in writing to the judgment creditor or his attorney to pay the judgment debt and costs in specified instalments or otherwise, whether by way of an emoluments attachment order or otherwise, or, if such an offer has not been made, that the judgment debtor is able to pay the judgment debt and costs in reasonable instalments, the court may order the judgment debtor to pay the judgment debt and costs in specified instalments and, if the judgment debtor is employed by any person who resides, carries on business or is employed in the district, or if the judgment debtor is employed by the State in the district, in addition authorize the issue of an emoluments attachment order by virtue of section 65J (1) for the payment of the judgment debt and costs by the employer of the judgment debtor,

and postpone the further hearing of the proceedings.

(2) Any authorization under subsection (1) (a) shall, pending the execution of the warrant, serve as an interdict against the alienation of the property concerned by the judgment debtor.

(3) Proceedings postponed under subsection (1) may again be placed on the roll by the judgment creditor or his attorney by notice delivered personally or served by registered letter addressed to the judgment debtor or, if the judgment debtor is a juristic person, to the director or officer summoned as the representative of the juristic person and in his personal capacity and delivered or posted at least 10 days before the day appointed therein for the hearing.

(4) If the judgment creditor issues or causes to be issued a warrant of execution against movable property belonging to any judgment debtor before the hearing of proceedings in terms of a notice under section 65A (1) and a *nulla bona* return is made, the judgment creditor shall not be entitled to costs in connection with the issue and execution of such warrant unless the court on good cause shown orders otherwise at the hearing of the proceedings.

(5) The court may from time to time suspend, amend or rescind an order for the payment of a judgment debt and costs in specified instalments made in terms of subsection (1) (c) of this section or section 57, 58 or 65.

(6) Upon an order referred to in subsection (1) (c) of this section or section 57, 58 or 65 having been made and if the judgment debtor was not present or represented in court when the order was made, the judgment creditor or his or her attorney shall forthwith by registered letter advise the judgment debtor of the terms of the order.

[Sub-s. (6) substituted by s. 7 of Act 81 of 1997 (wef 10 December 1997).]

[S. 65E inserted by s. 2 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

## 65F .....

[S. 65F inserted by s. 2 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979), amended by s. 3 of Act 19 of 1985 (wef 3 April 1985) and repealed by s. 8 of Act 81 of 1997 (wef 10 December 1997).]

## **65G .....**

[S. 65G inserted by s. 2 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979) and repealed by s. 9 of Act 81 of 1997 (wef 10 December 1997).]

## **65H .....**

[S. 65H inserted by s. 2 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979) and repealed by s. 10 of Act 81 of 1997 (wef 10 December 1997).]

## **65I Application for administration order has preference**

(1) If, before or during the hearing of the proceedings in terms of a notice under section 65A (1) a judgment debtor has lodged or lodges with the court an application for an administration order for hearing on a date not later than the earliest date on which such application may be heard and it appears that he has complied with the provisions of section 74, the court shall postpone the hearing of the proceedings until the application for an administration order has been disposed of.

(2) If a judgment debtor has not lodged or does not lodge with the court an application for an administration order before or during the hearing of such proceedings and it appears at the hearing that the judgment debtor has other debts as well, the court shall consider whether all the judgment debtor's debts should be treated collectively and if it is of opinion that they should be so treated, it may, with a view to granting an administration order, postpone further hearing of the proceedings to a date determined by the court and order the judgment debtor to submit to the court a full statement of his affairs in the form prescribed in the rules, and containing the particulars for which the said rules make provision and to cause a copy thereof to be delivered by registered post to each of his creditors at least 3 days before the date appointed for the further hearing.

(3) If upon receipt of the statement referred to in subsection (2) it appears that the judgment debtor's total debts do not exceed the amount <sup>21</sup> determined by the Minister from time to time by notice in the *Gazette*, the court may grant an administration order under section 74 in respect of the judgment debtor's estate.

[Sub-s. (3) substituted by s. 4 of Act 19 of 1985 (wef 3 April 1985) and by s. 7 of Act 25 of 1987 (wef 1 January 1988).]

(4) If the court grants an administration order in respect of the judgment debtor's estate, it shall stay the proceedings in terms of the notice under section 65A (1), but may grant the judgment creditor costs already incurred in connection with such proceedings, and such costs may be added to the judgment debt.

[S. 65I inserted by s. 2 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

<sup>21</sup> R50 000 - GN 217 in GG 37477 of 27 March 2014

## **65J Emoluments attachment orders**

(1) (a) Subject to the provisions of subsection (2), a judgment creditor may cause an order (hereinafter referred to as an emoluments attachment order) to be issued from the court of the district in which the employer of the judgment debtor resides, carries on business or is employed, or, if the judgment debtor is employed by the State, in which the judgment debtor is employed.

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(b) An emoluments attachment order-

- (i) shall attach the emoluments at present or in future owing or accruing to the judgment debtor by or from his or her employer (in this section called the garnishee), to the amount necessary to cover the judgment and the costs of the attachment, whether that judgment was obtained in the court concerned or in any other court; and
- (ii) shall oblige the garnishee to pay from time to time to the judgment creditor or his or her attorney specific amounts out of the emoluments of the judgment debtor in accordance with the order of court laying down the specific instalments payable by the judgment debtor, until the relevant judgment debt and costs have been paid in full.

[Sub-s. (1) substituted by s. 11 (a) of Act 81 of 1997 (wef 10 December 1997).]

**[NB:** Sub-s. (1) has been amended by s. 38 (a) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(2) An emoluments attachment order shall not be issued-

- (a) unless the judgment debtor has consented thereto in writing or the court has so authorised, whether on application to the court or otherwise, and such authorisation has not been suspended; or
- (b) unless the judgment creditor or his or her attorney has first-
  - (i) sent a registered letter to the judgment debtor at his or her last known address advising him or her of the amount of the judgment debt and costs as yet unpaid and warning him or her that an emoluments attachment order will be issued if the said amount is not paid within ten days of the date on which that registered letter was posted; and
  - (ii) filed with the clerk of the court an affidavit or an affirmation by the judgment creditor or a certificate by his or her attorney setting forth the amount of the judgment debt at the date of the order laying down the specific instalments, the costs, if any, which have accumulated since that date, the payments received since that date and the balance owing and declaring that the provisions of subparagraph (i) have been complied with on the date specified therein.

[Sub-s. (2) substituted by s. 11 (b) of Act 81 of 1997 (wef 10 December 1997).]

(3) Any emoluments attachment order shall be prepared by the judgment creditor or his attorney, shall be signed by the judgment creditor or his attorney and the clerk of the court, and shall be served on the garnishee by the messenger of the court in the manner prescribed by the rules for the service of process.

[Sub-s. (3) substituted by s. 2 of Act 53 of 1983 (wef 4 May 1983).]

**[NB:** Sub-s. (3) has been amended by s. 38 (b) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(4) (a) Deductions in terms of an emoluments attachment order shall be made, if the emoluments of the judgment debtor are paid monthly, at the end of the month following the month in which it is served on the garnishee, or, if the emoluments of the judgment debtor are paid weekly, at the end of the second week of the month following the month in which it is so served on the garnishee, and all payments thereunder to the judgment creditor or his attorney shall be made monthly with effect from the end of the month following the month in which the said order is served on the garnishee.

(b) The judgment creditor or his or her attorney shall, at the reasonable request of the garnishee or the judgment debtor, furnish him or her free of charge with a statement

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containing particulars of the payments received up to the date concerned and the balance owing.

[Para. (b) added by s. 11 (c) of Act 81 of 1997 (wef 10 December 1997).]

(5) An emoluments attachment order may be executed against the garnishee as if it were a court judgment, subject to the right of the judgment debtor, the garnishee or any other interested party to dispute the existence or validity of the order or the correctness of the balance claimed.

(6) If, after the service of such an emoluments attachment order on the garnishee, it is shown that the judgment debtor, after satisfaction of the emoluments attachment order, will not have sufficient means for his own and his dependants' maintenance, the court shall rescind the emoluments attachment order or amend it in such a way that it will affect only the balance of the emoluments of the judgment debtor over and above such sufficient means.

(7) Any emoluments attachment order may at any time on good cause shown be suspended, amended or rescinded by the court, and when suspending any such order the court may impose such conditions as it may deem just and reasonable.

(8) (a) Whenever any judgment debtor to whom an emoluments attachment order relates leaves the service of a garnishee before the judgment debt has been paid in full, such judgment debtor shall forthwith advise the judgment creditor in writing of the name and address of his new employer, and the judgment creditor may cause a certified copy of such emoluments attachment order to be served on the said new employer, together with an affidavit or affirmation by him or a certificate by his attorney specifying the payments received by him since such order was issued, the costs, if any, incurred since the date on which that order was issued and the balance outstanding.

(b) An employer on whom a certified copy referred to in paragraph (a) has been so served, shall thereupon be bound thereby and shall then be deemed to have been substituted for the original garnishee, subject to the right of the judgment debtor, the garnishee or any other interested party to dispute the existence or validity of the order and the correctness of the balance claimed.

(9) (a) Whenever any judgment debtor to whom an emoluments attachment order relates, leaves the service of the garnishee before the judgment debt has been paid in full and becomes self-employed or is employed by someone else, he or she shall, or shall pending the service of the emoluments attachment order on his or her new employer, again be obliged to comply with the relevant order referred to in subsection (1) (b).

[Para. (a) substituted by s. 11 (d) of Act 81 of 1997 (wef 10 December 1997).]

(b) .....

[Para. (b) deleted by s. 11 (e) of Act 81 of 1997 (wef 10 December 1997).]

(10) Any garnishee may, in respect of the services rendered by him in terms of an emoluments attachment order, recover from the judgment creditor a commission of up to 5 per cent of all amounts deducted by him from the judgment debtor's emoluments by deducting such commission from the amount payable to the judgment creditor.

[S. 65J inserted by s. 2 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

## **65K Orders as to costs relating to certain proceedings**

(1) Unless at the hearing of any proceedings in terms of a notice under section 65A (1) it appears to the court that the judgment debtor, after learning of the judgment upon which such proceedings were founded, made an offer to pay the judgment debt in

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instalments which the court deems reasonable, or notified the judgment creditor that he was not able to make an offer and the court finds this to be true, the court may order the judgment debtor to pay the costs of such proceedings, but if it appears that the judgment creditor refused such offer, the court may order the judgment creditor to pay such costs, including the loss of wages suffered by the judgment debtor through having to appear in court in connection with the proceedings.

(2) .....

[Sub-s. (2) deleted by s. 12 of Act 81 of 1997 (wef 10 December 1997).]

(3) The provisions of this section shall not preclude the court from making such order regarding costs as it may deem just in any proceedings in terms of a notice under section 65A (1).

[S. 65K inserted by s. 2 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

#### **65L .....**

[S. 65L inserted by s. 2 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979) and repealed by s. 13 of Act 81 of 1997 (wef 10 December 1997).]

#### **65M Enforcement of certain judgments of Supreme Court**

If a judgment for the payment of any amount of money has been given by a division of the Supreme Court of South Africa, the judgment creditor may file with the clerk of the court from which the judgment creditor is required to issue a notice in terms of section 65A (1), a certified copy of such judgment and an affidavit or affirmation by the judgment creditor or a certificate by his attorney specifying the amount still owing under the judgment and how such amount is arrived at, and thereupon such judgment, whether or not the amount of such judgment would otherwise have exceeded the jurisdiction of the court, shall have all the effects of a judgment of such court and any proceedings may be taken thereon as if it were a judgment lawfully given in such court in favour of the judgment creditor for the amount mentioned in the affidavit or affirmation or the certificate as still owing under such judgment, subject however to the right of the judgment debtor to dispute the correctness of the amount specified in the said affidavit or affirmation or certificate.

[S. 65M inserted by s. 2 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

#### **66 Manner of execution**

(1) (a) Whenever a court gives judgment for the payment of money or makes an order for the payment of money in instalments, such judgment, in case of failure to pay such money forthwith, or such order in case of failure to pay any instalment at the time and in the manner ordered by the court, shall be enforceable by execution against the movable property and, if there is not found sufficient movable property to satisfy the judgment or order, or the court, on good cause shown, so orders, then against the immovable property of the party against whom such judgment has been given or such order has been made.

(b) Upon such failure to pay any instalment in accordance with any court order, execution may be effected in respect of the whole of the judgment debt and of costs then still unpaid, unless the court, on the application of the party that is liable, orders otherwise.

[Sub-s. (1) amended by s. 16 of Act 40 of 1952 (wef 27 June 1952) and substituted by s. 3 (a) of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

(2) No immovable property which is subject to any claim preferent to that of the **Copyright Juta and Company (Pty) Ltd**

judgment creditor shall be sold in execution unless-

- (a) the judgment creditor has caused such notice in writing of the intended sale in execution to be served personally upon the preferent creditor as may be prescribed by the rules; or
- (b) the magistrate or an additional or assistant magistrate of the district in which the property is situate has upon the application of the judgment creditor and after enquiry into the circumstances of the case, directed what steps shall be taken to bring the intended sale to the notice of the preferent creditor, and those steps have been carried out,

and unless-

**[NB:** Para. (b) has been substituted by s. 40 (a) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

- (c) the proceeds of the sale are sufficient to satisfy the claim of such preferent creditor, in full; or
- (d) the preferent creditor confirms the sale in writing, in which event he shall be deemed to have agreed to accept such proceeds in full settlement of his claim.

(3) A sale in execution of such immovable property as is referred to in subsection (2) shall take place within such period of the date of attachment and in such manner as may be provided by the rules.

(4) If a sale referred to in subsection (3) does not take place or the immovable property concerned is not released from attachment within a period of one year from the date of attachment, such attachment shall lapse.

[Sub-s. (4) added by s. 3 (b) of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

(5) The court may, upon the application and at the expense of the judgment creditor, after due notice of such application has been given to the judgment debtor, extend the period of one year referred to in subsection (4) by further periods of one year each.

[Sub-s. (5) added by s. 3 (b) of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

(6) A judgment creditor (whether by virtue of a judgment given in the Supreme Court of South Africa or in a magistrate's court) desiring to attach immovable property that is already under attachment (whether made by a deputy sheriff or by a messenger) and in respect of which a sale in execution is not pending, and who has lodged a warrant of execution with the deputy sheriff or messenger of the court, may, after notifying the interested parties, apply to the court for an order to the effect that the property may be sold in terms of this warrant.

[Sub-s. (6) added by s. 3 (b) of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

**[NB:** Sub-s. (6) has been substituted by s. 40 (b) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(7) A messenger who is directed to attach immovable property, shall not be precluded merely by the absence of the execution debtor from his place of residence or business, from discharging his duties, but may discharge his duties if he is able to do so and shall endorse a return of service to the court on the warrant.

[Sub-s. (7) added by s. 3 (b) of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

**[NB:** Sub-s. (7) has been amended by s. 40 (c) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(8) If the execution debtor, having been requested by the messenger of the court to point out property in order to satisfy a warrant of execution against movable property,

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declares that he has no movable property or insufficient movable property and the messenger is unable to find sufficient movable property to satisfy the warrant, the messenger shall request the execution debtor to declare whether he has immovable property which is executable and shall enter the execution debtor's reply in his return of service endorsed on such warrant.

[Sub-s. (8) added by s. 3 (b) of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

**[NB:** Sub-s. (8) has been amended by s. 40 (d) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

## 67 Property exempt from execution

In respect of any process of execution issued out of any court the following property shall be protected from seizure and shall not be attached or sold, namely:

(a) the necessary beds, bedding and wearing apparel of the execution debtor and of his family;

(b) the necessary furniture (other than beds) and household utensils in so far as they do not exceed in value the amount <sup>22</sup> determined by the Minister from time to time by notice in the *Gazette*;

[Para. (b) amended by s. 25 of Act 93 of 1962 (wef 4 July 1962) and substituted by s. 5 (a) of Act 19 of 1985 (wef 3 April 1985) and by s. 1 (a) of Act 204 of 1993 (wef 1 March 1994).]

(c) stock, tools and agricultural implements of a farmer in so far as they do not exceed in value the amount <sup>23</sup> determined by the Minister from time to time by notice in the *Gazette*;

[Para. (c) amended by s. 25 of Act 93 of 1962 (wef 4 July 1962) and substituted by s. 5 (b) of Act 19 of 1985 (wef 3 April 1985) and by s. 1 (a) of Act 204 of 1993 (wef 1 March 1994).]

(d) the supply of food and drink in the house sufficient for the needs of such debtor and of his family during one month;

(e) tools and implements of trade, in so far as they do not exceed in value the amount <sup>24</sup> determined by the Minister from time to time by notice in the *Gazette*;

[Para. (e) amended by s. 25 of Act 93 of 1962 (wef 4 July 1962) and substituted by s. 5 (c) of Act 19 of 1985 (wef 3 April 1985) and by s. 1 (b) of Act 204 of 1993 (wef 1 March 1994).]

(f) professional books, documents or instruments necessarily used by such debtor in his profession, in so far as they do not exceed in value the amount <sup>25</sup> determined by the Minister from time to time by notice in the *Gazette*;

[Para. (f) amended by s. 25 of Act 93 of 1962 (wef 4 July 1962) and substituted by s. 5 (d) of Act 19 of 1985 (wef 3 April 1985) and by s. 1 (b) of Act 204 of 1993 (wef 1 March 1994).]

(g) such arms and ammunition as such debtor is required by law, regulation or disciplinary order to have in his possession as part of his equipment:

Provided that the court shall have a discretion in exceptional circumstances and on such conditions as it may determine to increase the amounts determined by the Minister in respect of paragraphs (b), (c), (e) and (f).

[S. 67 amended by s. 5 (e) of Act 19 of 1985 (wef 3 April 1985) and by s. 1 (c) of Act 204 of 1993 (wef 1 March 1994).]

<sup>22</sup> R2 000 - GN R385 in GG 15527 of 1 March 1994

<sup>23</sup> R2 000 - GN R385 in GG 15527 of 1 March 1994

<sup>24</sup> R2 000 - GN R385 in GG 15527 of 1 March 1994

<sup>25</sup> R2 000 - GN R385 in GG 15527 of 1 March 1994

## 68 Property executable

(1) The messenger executing any process of execution against movable property may, by virtue of such process, also seize and take any money or bank notes, and may seize, take and sell in execution cheques, bills of exchange, promissory notes, bonds, or securities for money belonging to the execution debtor.

**[NB:** Sub-s. (1) has been amended by s. 41 (a) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(2) The messenger may also hold any cheques, bills of exchange, promissory notes, bonds or securities for money which have been seized or taken, as security for the benefit of the execution creditor for the amount directed to be levied by the execution so far as it is still unsatisfied; and the execution creditor may, when the time of payment has arrived, sue in the name of the execution debtor, or in the name of any person in whose name the execution debtor might have sued, for the recovery of the sum secured or made payable thereby.

**[NB:** Sub-s. (2) has been amended by s. 41 (b) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(3) The messenger may also under any process of execution against movable property attach and sell in execution the interest of the execution debtor in any movable property belonging to him and pledged or sold under a suspensive condition to a third person, and may also sell the interest of the execution debtor in property movable or immovable leased to the execution debtor or sold to him under any hire purchase contract or under a suspensive condition.

**[NB:** Sub-s. (3) has been amended by s. 41 (c) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(4) Whenever, if the sale had not been in execution, it would have been necessary for the execution debtor to endorse a document or to execute a cession in order to pass the property to a purchaser, the messenger may so endorse the document or execute the cession, as to any property sold by him in execution.

**[NB:** Sub-s. (4) has been amended by s. 41 (d) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(5) The messenger may also, as to immovable property sold by him in execution, do anything necessary to effect registration of transfer. Anything done by the messenger under this subsection or subsection (4) shall be as valid and effectual as if he were the execution debtor.

**[NB:** Sub-s. (5) has been amended by s. 41 (e) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(6) Where judgment is given against a member of a partnership or syndicate in an action in which he individually was plaintiff or defendant, his interest in the partnership or syndicate may be attached and sold in execution.

## 69 Interpleader claims

(1) (a) Where any person, not being the judgment debtor makes any claim to or in respect of any property attached or about to be attached in execution under the process of any court, or to the proceeds of such property sold in execution, his claim shall be adjudicated upon after issue of a summons in the manner provided by the rules.

(b) Upon the issue of such summons any action which may have been brought in any court whatsoever in respect of such property shall be stayed and shall abide the result of the proceedings taken upon such summons.

(2) Where two or more persons make adverse claims to any property in the custody or possession of a third party such claims shall be adjudicated upon after issue of a summons in the manner provided by the rules.

## **70 Sale in execution gives good title**

A sale in execution by the messenger shall not, in the case of movable property after delivery thereof or in the case of immovable property after registration of transfer, be liable to be impeached as against a purchaser in good faith and without notice of any defect.

**[NB:** S. 70 has been amended by s. 42 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

## **71 Surplus after execution**

If, after a sale in execution, there remains any surplus in the hands of the messenger, it shall be liable to attachment for any other unsatisfied judgment debt.

**[NB:** S. 71 has been amended by s. 43 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

## **71A Movable property which messenger cannot dispose of in terms of this Act, shall be sold by public auction**

(1) Any movable property in the custody of the messenger or any other person acting on his behalf in respect of which attachment has been withdrawn or which is released from attachment and in respect of which the owner or person from whose possession the property has been removed, cannot be traced, and which cannot be disposed of in terms of this Act, shall be sold by the messenger by public auction, and the proceeds of the sale shall, after deduction of the messenger's costs, be paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund: Provided that such sale shall not take place unless such property has remained unclaimed for a period of fourteen days after the messenger has published, in one English and one Afrikaans newspaper circulating in the district where the last known address of the judgment debtor is situate, a notice containing the name of the judgment debtor, a description of the property and stating the intention to sell such property if it is not claimed within the period specified therein.

(2) After the public auction referred to in subsection (1), the messenger shall draw up a vendue roll as if the sale was a sale in execution of property and shall attach the roll to his return in respect of the relevant process of the court in the case together with proof that the proceeds of the sale have been paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

(3) The proceeds of a sale paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund in terms of this section, shall be refunded out of accruing revenue to any person who satisfies a judicial officer of the district in which the sale took place that he would have been entitled to receive the property referred to in this section after the attachment thereof had been withdrawn or the property had been released from attachment.

[S. 71A inserted by s. 16 of Act 53 of 1970 (wef 1 December 1970).]

**[NB:** S. 71A has been substituted by s. 44 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

## **72 Attachment of debts**

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(1) The court may, on *ex parte* application by the judgment creditor or under section 65E (1) (b), order the attachment of any debt at present or in future owing or accruing to a judgment debtor by or from any other person (excluding the State), residing, carrying on business or employed in the district, to an amount sufficient to satisfy the judgment and the costs of the proceedings for attachment, whether such judgment has been obtained in such court or in any other magistrate's court, and make an order (hereinafter called a garnishee order) against such person (hereinafter called the garnishee) to pay to the judgment creditor or his attorney at the address of the judgment creditor or his attorney, so much of the debt as may be sufficient to satisfy the judgment and costs, and may enforce such garnishee order as if it were a judgment of the court.

**[NB:** Sub-s. (1) has been amended by s. 45 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(2) If, after any such garnishee order in respect of any debt has been granted, it is shown to the satisfaction of the court that sufficient means to maintain himself and those dependent upon him will not, after satisfaction of the garnishee order, be left to the judgment debtor, the court shall set aside the garnishee order or amend it in such manner that it will affect only the balance of the debt over and above such sufficient means.

(3) Any order under this section may at any time for good cause be suspended, amended or rescinded by the court.

(4) The court may, if it appears that there are unsatisfied claims owing to other creditors, postpone the application to enable the judgment debtor to make application for an administration order under section 74.

[S. 72 substituted by s. 17 of Act 40 of 1952 (wef 27 June 1952), amended by s. 26 of Act 93 of 1962 (wef 4 July 1962) and substituted by s. 4 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

### **73 Order for payment by instalments**

(1) The court may, upon the application of any judgment debtor or under section 65E (1) (a) (ii) or 65E (1) (c) and if it appears to the court that the judgment debtor is unable to satisfy the judgment debt in full at once, but is able to pay reasonable periodical instalments towards satisfaction thereof or if the judgment debtor consents to an emoluments attachment order or a garnishee order being made against him, suspend execution against that debtor either wholly or in part on such conditions as to security or otherwise as the court may determine.

[Sub-s. (1) amended by s. 18 of Act 40 of 1952 (wef 27 June 1952) and substituted by s. 5 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

(2) Nothing in this section contained shall be construed as authorizing the court to suspend the execution of a judgment upon any property subject to a hypothec for the judgment debt existing irrespective of attachment in execution.

(3) An order under paragraph (e) of section *forty-eight* or under this section may at any time and for good cause be varied or rescinded by the court.

### **74 Granting of administration orders**

(1) Where a debtor-

(a) is unable forthwith to pay the amount of any judgment obtained against him in court, or to meet his financial obligations, and has not sufficient assets

- capable of attachment to satisfy such judgment or obligations; and
- (b) states that the total amount of all his debts due does not exceed the amount <sup>26</sup> determined by the Minister from time to time by notice in the *Gazette*,  
[Para. (b) substituted by s. 6 (a) of Act 19 of 1985 (wef 3 April 1985) and by s. 8 (a) of Act 25 of 1987 (wef 1 January 1988).]

such court or the court of the district in which the debtor resides or carries on business or is employed may, upon application by the debtor or under section 65I, subject to such conditions as the court may deem fit with regard to security, preservation or disposal of assets, realization of movables subject to hypothec (except movables referred to in section 34 of the Land Bank Act, 1944 (Act 13 of 1944)), or otherwise, make an order (in this Act called an administration order) providing for the administration of his estate and for the payment of his debts in instalments or otherwise.

**[NB:** Sub-s. (1) has been amended by s. 46 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(2) An administration order shall not be invalid merely because at some time or other the total amount of the debtor's debts are found to exceed the amount <sup>27</sup> determined by the Minister from time to time by notice in the *Gazette*, but in such a case the court may, if it deems fit, rescind the order.

[Sub-s. (2) substituted by s. 6 (b) of Act 19 of 1985 (wef 3 April 1985) and by s. 8 (b) of Act 25 of 1987 (wef 1 January 1988).]

[S. 74 amended by s. 19 of Act 40 of 1952 (wef 27 June 1952), by s. 2 of Act 14 of 1954 (wef 2 April 1954), by s. 27 of Act 93 of 1962 (wef 4 July 1962), by s. 12 of Act 19 of 1963 (wef 15 March 1963) and by s. 29 of Act 94 of 1974 (wef 1 March 1975) and substituted by s. 6 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

<sup>26</sup> R50 000 - GN 217 in GG 37477 of 27 March 2014

<sup>27</sup> R50 000 - GN 217 in GG 37477 of 27 March 2014

#### **74A Documents to be submitted with application for administration order**

(1) With an application referred to in section 74 (1) the debtor shall submit a full statement of his affairs in the form prescribed in the rules.

(2) In the form referred to in section (1) provision shall be made for the following particulars, *inter alia*, namely-

- (a) the name and business address of the debtor's employer or, if the debtor is not employed, the reason why he is unemployed;
- (b) <sup>28</sup>a detailed list of the debtor's assets and their current market values and full particulars of interests in property and claims in his favour, including moneys in a savings or other account with a bank or elsewhere;
- (c) the debtor's trade or occupation and his gross weekly or monthly income and that of his wife living with him, and particulars of all deductions from such income by stop order or otherwise, supported as far as possible by written statements by the employers of the debtor and his wife;
- (d) a detailed list of the debtor's essential weekly or monthly expenses and those of the persons dependent on him, including his own transport expenses and those of his wife to and from work, and those of his children to and from school;

- (e) a complete list of all the debtor's creditors and their addresses, and the amount owing to each creditor, in which a clear distinction shall be made between-
- (i) debts the whole amount of which is owing, including judgment debts payable in instalments in terms of a court order, an emoluments attachment order or a garnishee order; and
  - (ii) obligations which are payable *in futuro* in periodical payments or otherwise or which will become payable under a maintenance order, agreement, stop order or otherwise, and in which the nature of such periodical payments is specified in each case or when the obligations will be payable and how they are then to be paid, the balance owing in each case and when, in each case, the obligation will terminate;
- (f) the security and the estimated value of the security that a creditor has or the name and address of any other person who, in addition to the debtor, is liable for any debt;
- (g) full particulars, supported as far as possible by a statement and a copy of the credit agreement, as defined in section 1 of the National Credit Act, 2005 (Act 34 of 2005), of goods purchased under that credit agreement, the purchase price, the instalments payable, the balance owing and the date on which the purchase price will be paid in full, and the reasons adduced by the debtor why provision should be made for the payment of the remaining instalments;
- [Para. (g) substituted by s. 47 (a) of Act 120 of 1993 (wef 7 January 2000) and amended by s. 172 (2) of Act 34 of 2005 (wef 1 June 2006).]
- (h) full particulars of any mortgage bond on immovable property owned by the debtor, the instalments payable, the balance owing, the date on which the mortgage debt will be paid in full and the reasons adduced by the debtor why provision should be made for the payment of the instalments payable in terms of such mortgage bond;
- (i) full particulars of any asset purchased under a written agreement other than a credit agreement referred to in paragraph (g), the instalments payable, the balance owing, and the date on which the purchase price will be paid in full, and the reasons adduced by the debtor why provision should be made for the payment of the instalments that become payable under such agreement;
- [Para. (i) amended by s. 47 (b) of Act 120 of 1993 (wef 7 January 2000) and by s. 172 (2) of Act 34 of 2005 (wef 1 June 2006).]
- (j) whether any administration order was made at any time in respect of the debtor's estate and, if so, whether such order lapsed or was set aside and, if so, when and for what reasons;
- (k) the number and ages of the persons dependent on the debtor and his wife and their kinship with them;
- (l) if an administration order is made, the amount of the weekly or monthly or other instalments which the debtor offers to pay towards settlement of the debts referred to in paragraph (e) (i).

(3) The statement referred to in subsection (1) shall be confirmed by an affidavit in which the debtor declares that to the best of his knowledge the names of all his creditors and the amounts owed by him to each of them severally are set forth in the statement and that the declarations made therein are true.

(4) The clerk of the court shall, if requested thereto by an illiterate debtor and upon  
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payment of the fee prescribed in the rules, assist the debtor in completing the statement referred to in subsection (1).

(5) The debtor shall lodge an application for an administration order and the statement referred to in subsection (1) with the clerk of the court and shall deliver to each of his creditors, at least 3 days before the date appointed for the hearing, personally or by registered post a copy of such application and statement on which shall appear the case number under which the original application was filed.

[S. 74A inserted by s. 6 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

<sup>28</sup> Editorial note: S. 172 (2) of the National Credit Act 34 of 2005 amends this paragraph. It appears that the legislature actually intended to amend paragraph (g)

#### **74B Hearing of application for administration order**

- (1) At the hearing of an application for an administration order-
- (a) any creditor, whether he has received notice in terms of section 74A (5) or not, may attend the hearing and provide proof of his debt and object to any debt listed by the debtor in the statement of his affairs referred to in section 74A (1);
  - (b) every debt listed by the debtor in the said statement shall be deemed to be proved, subject to any amendment made thereto by the court, unless any creditor raises objections thereto or the court rejects it or requires substantiation thereof by evidence;
  - (c) any creditor to whose debt an objection is raised by the debtor or any other creditor or who is required by the court to substantiate his debt with evidence shall provide proof of debt;
  - (d) the court may defer proof of debt and postpone consideration of the application for an administration order or proceed to deal with such application and, if an administration order is granted, the debt shall subsequently when proved be added to the debts listed;
  - (e) the debtor may be interrogated by the court and by any creditor whose debt has been acknowledged or proved, or by leave of the court, by any creditor the proof of whose debt has been deferred, or by the legal representative of such creditor with regard to-
    - (i) his assets and liabilities;
    - (ii) his present and future income and that of his wife living with him;
    - (iii) his standard of living, and the possibility of economising; and
    - (iv) any other matter that the court may deem relevant.

(2) If at the hearing it appears to the court that any debt other than a debt on the ground of or arising from any judgment debt is a matter of contention between the debtor and the creditor or between the creditor and any other creditor of the debtor, the court may, upon inquiry into the objection, allow or reject the debt or a part thereof.

(3) Any person whose debt has been rejected in accordance with subsection (2) may, notwithstanding the provisions of section 74P, institute proceedings or proceed with an action already instituted in respect of such debt.

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(4) If any person referred to in subsection (3) has obtained judgment in respect of any debt referred to in that subsection, the amount of the judgment shall be added to the list of proved debts referred to in subsection (1).

(5) No administration order shall be granted at the request of any debtor if it is proved that any administration order was rescinded within the preceding period of 6 months because of the debtor's non-compliance therewith, unless the debtor proves to the satisfaction of the court that his non-compliance with the order was not wilful.

[S. 74B inserted by s. 6 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

#### **74C Contents of administration order**

(1) An administration order shall be in the form prescribed by the rules and-

(a) shall lay down the amount of the weekly or monthly or other payments to be made in terms thereof; and

(b) may specify-

(i) the assets, if any, of the estate under administration which may be realized by the administrator for the purpose of distributing the proceeds among the creditors: Provided that no such asset that is the subject of any credit agreement regulated by the National Credit Act, 2005 (Act 34 of 2005), shall be realized without the written permission of the seller;

[Sub-para. (i) amended by s. 48 (a) of Act 120 of 1993 (wef 7 January 2000) and by s. 172 (2) of Act 34 of 2005 (wef 1 June 2006).]

(ii) .....

[Sub-para. (ii) deleted by s. 48 (b) of Act 120 of 1993 (wef 7 January 2000).]

(iii) the debtor's obligations which the court took account of in determining the amount of the weekly or monthly or other instalments to be paid by the debtor to the administrator;

(iv) the assets, if any, which shall not be disposed of by the debtor except by leave of the administrator or the court;

(v) such other provisions or conditions as the court may deem necessary or expedient.

(2) The amount of the weekly or monthly or other payments to be made by the debtor to the administrator in terms of the administration order shall, as nearly as possible, approximate the difference between the debtor's future income and the sum of-

(a) the amount determined by the court as the reasonable amount required by the debtor for his necessary expenses and those of the persons dependent on him;

(b) the periodical payments which the debtor is obliged to make under a credit agreement as defined in section 1 of the National Credit Act, 2005 (Act 34 of 2005): Provided that the court may in its discretion refuse to take into account the periodical payments which the debtor undertook to pay under such a transaction for the purchase of goods which are not exempt from execution in terms of section 67 or which, in the opinion of the court, cannot be regarded as the debtor's household requirements, unless the court is of opinion that in all the circumstances it is desirable to safeguard the goods concerned;

[Para. (b) amended by s. 48 (c) of Act 120 of 1993 (wef 7 January 2000) and by s. 172 (2) of

Act 34 of 2005 (wef 1 June 2006).]

- (c) the periodical payments to be made by the debtor in terms of an existing maintenance order;
- (d) the periodical payments to be made by the debtor under a mortgage bond or any other written agreement for the purchase of any asset in terms of which the liabilities thereunder are payable in instalments, if in all the circumstances the court is of opinion that the instalments payable are reasonable in view of the judgment debtor's income and the sums of money due by him to other creditors or that it is desirable to safeguard the mortgaged property or the asset to which the written agreement relates; and
- (e) the payments to be made by the debtor by virtue of any other obligation referred to in section 74A (2) (e) (ii).

(3) The court may take into account the income of the debtor's wife, who is living with him, in determining the amount referred to in subsection (2) (a) and, where the debtor is married in community of property, in determining the debtor's income.

[S. 74C inserted by s. 6 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

#### **74D Authorizing of issue of emoluments attachment order or garnishee order**

Where the administration order provides for the payment of instalments out of future emoluments or income, the court shall authorize the issue of an emoluments attachment order in terms of section 65J in order to attach emoluments at present or in future owing or accruing to the debtor by or from his employer, or shall authorize the issue of a garnishee order under section 72 in order to attach any debt at present or in future owing or accruing to the debtor by or from any other person (excluding the State), in so far as either of the said sections is applicable, and the court may suspend such an authorization on such conditions as the court may deem just and reasonable.

[S. 74D inserted by s. 6 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

#### **74E Appointment of administrator**

(1) When an administration order has been granted under section 74 (1), the court shall appoint a person as administrator, which appointment shall become effective only after a copy of the administration order has been handed or sent to him by registered post and, in the event of his being required as administrator to give security, after he has given such security.

(2) An administrator may on good cause shown be relieved of his appointment by the court, and the court may appoint any other person in his place.

(3) An administrator who is not an officer of the court or a practitioner shall, before a copy of the administration order is handed or sent to him by registered post, give security to the satisfaction of the court and thereafter as required by the court for the due and prompt payment by him to the parties entitled thereto of all moneys which come into his possession by virtue of his appointment as an administrator.

(4) An administrator shall not be obliged to give security in respect of his appointment as an administrator of the estate of any particular debtor if he has given or gives security to the satisfaction of the court for the due and prompt payment by him to the parties entitled thereto of all moneys which may come into his possession by virtue of his appointment as administrator of the estate of any debtor, irrespective of whether such appointment was made before or after the date on which the said security was given.

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[S. 74E inserted by s. 6 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

#### **74F Notice of and objections to administration orders**

(1) A copy of an administration order shall be handed or sent by registered post to the debtor and the administrator by the clerk of the court.

(2) The administrator shall forward a copy of the administration order by registered post to each creditor whose name is mentioned by the debtor in the statement of his affairs or who has given proof of a debt.

(3) A creditor who has not received notice of the application for an administration order and who wishes to object to any debt listed with the order or to the manner in which payments shall be made in terms of the order shall, within a reasonable time as laid down in the rules, give notice of his objection and the grounds therefor to the clerk of the court, the debtor and the administrator and, if he objects to the inclusion of any debt, also to the creditor concerned.

(4) In considering the objection referred to in subsection (3) the court may-

- (a) uphold it;
- (b) refuse it; or
- (c) postpone consideration thereof for hearing after notice given to the persons concerned and on such conditions as to costs or otherwise as the court may deem fit.

[S. 74F inserted by s. 6 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

#### **74G List of creditors and debts and additions thereto**

(1) The administrator shall as soon as may be draw up and lodge with the clerk of the court a complete list on which shall appear the case number under which the application for an administration order has been filed, and which shall contain the names of the creditors and the amounts owing to them severally as at the date on which the administration order was granted.

(2) Any creditor who wishes to provide proof of a debt owing before the making of an administration order and not listed in such order, shall lodge his claim in writing with the administrator, who shall thereupon give the debtor notice thereof in the form prescribed in the rules.

(3) If, within the period allowed in the notice referred to in subsection (2), the debtor admits the claim or does not dispute it, the claim shall be deemed to be proved, subject to the right of any other creditor who has not received notice of the claim to object to the debt, and the administrator shall by notice lodged with the clerk of the court add the name of the creditor and the amount of the debt owing to him to the list referred to in subsection (1) and shall inform the creditor in the form prescribed in the rules that this has been done.

(4) If, within the period allowed in the notice referred to in subsection (2), the debtor gives notice in writing to the administrator that he disputes the claim, the administrator shall notify the creditor thereof and the creditor may request the clerk of the court to appoint a day and time for the hearing of the objection by the court and shall notify the debtor in writing of such day and time.

(5) At the hearing of the objection referred to in subsection (4) the court may-

- (a) refuse the claim as a whole;
- (b) allow the claim as a whole or in part;
- (c) require that the claim be supported by evidence; or
- (d) postpone the hearing on such conditions as it may deem fit.

(6) If the court allows a claim as a whole or in part under subsection (5), the debt shall, to the extent to which it has been allowed, be added to the list referred to in subsection (1).

(7) If any person who sold and delivered goods to the debtor under a credit agreement as defined in section 1 of the National Credit Act, 2005 (Act 34 of 2005), before the administration order was granted, is entitled or becomes entitled, by reason of the debtor's failure to fulfil any obligation under such agreement, to demand immediate payment of the sum of the purchase price then still owing, and if such person advises the administrator in writing that he elects so to do, such agreement shall be deemed to create a hypothec on the goods in favour of the seller whereby the amount still owing to him in terms of the agreement is secured, and any term or condition of the agreement with regard to the seller's right to dissolve or terminate such agreement or his right to the return of the goods to which the agreement relates shall not, in consequence of the debtor's non-compliance with any term or condition thereof, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any law contained, be enforceable.

[Sub-s. (7) substituted by s. 49 of Act 120 of 1993 (wef 7 January 2000) and amended by s. 172 (2) of Act 34 of 2005 (wef 1 June 2006).]

(8) The court may by order of court authorize the seller referred to in subsection (7) to take possession of the goods referred to in that subsection and to sell them by public auction by an auctioneer nominated by the court after giving the administrator and all the creditors written notice of the time and place of the sale and, if the court has so ordered, after publishing the notice or notices in the manner prescribed by the court, in one or more newspapers designated by the court or, if the seller, buyer and administrator so agree, to sell them by private treaty.

(9) Where the seller has sold the goods in terms of a court order referred to in subsection (8) he shall, if the sale was by public auction, forthwith lodge the auction list with the administrator and pay to the administrator the amount of the proceeds of the sale in excess of the amount of his debt and the costs connected with the sale or, if the net proceeds of the sale are insufficient to pay his debt in full, he may lodge a claim with the administrator in respect of the balance of the purchase price owing to him for inclusion in the list of creditors who are entitled to share in the *pro rata* distribution of funds received by the administrator.

(10) (a) The list of creditors referred to in subsection (1) shall be open to inspection by the creditors or their attorneys in the office of the clerk of the court and the office of the administrator at any time during office hours.

(b) Any creditor may, in the manner and within the period prescribed in the rules, object to any debt included in the list of creditors.

[S. 74G inserted by s. 6 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

#### **74H Inclusion of creditors in list after granting of administration order**

(1) Any person who becomes a creditor of the judgment debtor after an administration order has been granted and who is desirous of providing proof of debt, shall lodge his claim in writing with the administrator, who shall thereupon advise the  
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debtor thereof in the form prescribed in the rules.

(2) If the debtor admits the claim or does not dispute it within the period allowed in the notice referred to in subsection (1), the provisions of section 74G (3) shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply, but the creditor shall not be entitled to a dividend in terms of the administration order until the creditors who were creditors on the date of the granting of the order have been paid in full.

(3) If the debtor disputes the claim within the period allowed in the notice referred to in subsection (1), the provisions of section 74G (4), (5) and (6) shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply but if the court allows the claim as a whole or in part, such claim shall be subject to the rights referred to in subsection (2), of creditors who were creditors on the date on which the administration order was granted.

(4) The provisions of section 74G (7), (8) and (9) and of subsections (1), (2) and (3) of this section shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to any person who after the granting of an administration order sold and delivered goods to the debtor under a credit agreement as defined in section 1 of the National Credit Act, 2005 (Act 34 of 2005), and is desirous of providing proof of debt.

[Sub-s. (4) substituted by s. 50 of Act 120 of 1993 (wef 7 January 2000) and amended by s. 172 (2) of Act 34 of 2005 (wef 1 June 2006).]

[S. 74H inserted by s. 6 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

#### **74I Payments by debtor in terms of administration order**

(1) The debtor shall, subject to the provisions of this section, pay the administrator the amounts of the weekly or monthly or other payments that he is required to make in terms of the administration order.

(2) If a debtor fails to make the payments to the administrator that he is required to make in terms of the administration order, the provisions of sections 65A to 65L shall *mutatis mutandis* apply, while any reference in the said provisions to the judgment concerned, the judgment creditor or the judgment debtor shall be construed as a reference to the administration order concerned, the administrator or the debtor, respectively.

(3) If, in addition to the administration order, the court has authorised the issue of an emoluments attachment order or a garnishee order and has suspended such authorization conditionally and the debtor fails to comply with the conditions of suspension, the administrator may lodge a certificate to this effect with the clerk of the court, and the clerk of the court shall thereupon issue the emoluments attachment order or garnishee order, as the case may be.

(4) An emoluments attachment order or garnishee order referred to in subsection (3) shall be prepared by the administrator or his attorney, shall be signed by the administrator or his attorney and the clerk of the court, and shall be served on the garnishee by the messenger of the court by registered post.

**[NB:** Sub-s. (4) has been amended by s. 51 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(5) (a) When an emoluments attachment order or garnishee order referred to in subsection (3) has been served on the garnishee, he shall be obliged to pay to the administrator the amounts concerned as provided by the order and such payments shall constitute a first preference against the debtor's income.

(b) The provisions of section 65J (4) to (8) and (10) shall *mutatis mutandis* apply

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to the emoluments attachment order referred to in paragraph (a), and in such application any reference in the said provisions to the judgment creditor shall be construed as a reference to the administrator.

[Para. (b) substituted by s. 4 of Act 28 of 1981 (wef 11 March 1981).]

[S. 74I inserted by s. 6 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

## **74J Duties of administrator**

(1) An administrator shall collect the payments to be made in terms of the administration order concerned and shall keep up to date a list (which shall be available for inspection, free of charge, by the debtor and creditors or their attorneys during office hours) of all payments and other funds received by him from or on behalf of the debtor, indicating the amount and date of each payment, and shall, subject to section 74L, distribute such payments *pro rata* among the creditors at least once every three months, unless all the creditors otherwise agree or the court otherwise orders in any particular case.

(2) If any debt or the balance of a debt be less than R10, the administrator may in his discretion pay such debt in full if such action will facilitate the distribution of funds in his possession.

(3) Claims that would enjoy preference under the laws relating to insolvency shall be paid out in the order prescribed by those laws.

(4) An administrator may, out of the moneys which he controls, pay any urgent or extraordinary medical, dental or hospital expenses incurred by the debtor after the date of the administration order.

(5) Every distribution account in respect of the periodical payments and other funds received by an administrator shall be numbered consecutively, shall bear the case number under which the administration order has been filed, shall be in the form prescribed in the rules, shall be signed by the administrator and shall be lodged at the office of the clerk of the court where it may be inspected free of charge by the debtor and the creditors or their attorneys during office hours.

(6) A distribution account referred to in subsection (5) shall at the request of any interested party be subject to review free of charge by any judicial officer.

[Sub-s. (6) substituted by s. 2 of Act 88 of 1996 (wef 22 November 1996).]

**[NB:** Sub-s. (6) has been amended by s. 52 (a) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(7) An administrator shall deposit all moneys received by him from or on behalf of debtors whose estates are under administration-

(a) if he is not a practising attorney, in a separate trust account with any bank in the Republic, and no amount with which any such account is credited shall be deemed to be part of the administrator's assets or, in the event of his death or insolvency, of his deceased or insolvent estate;

(b) if he is a practising attorney, in the trust account that he keeps in terms of section 33 of the Attorneys, Notaries and Conveyancers Admission Act, 1934 (Act 23 of 1934).

**[NB:** Para. (b) has been substituted by s. 52 (b) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(8) If a debtor should at any time, despite a registered letter of demand from the administrator, be 14 days in arrear with the payment of any instalment and if steps in

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terms of section 74I (3) cannot be taken or have been taken unsuccessfully, or if the debtor has disappeared, the administrator shall forthwith notify the creditors in writing thereof and request their instructions.

(9) If within the period allowed in a notice contemplated in subsection (8) the majority of the creditors instruct him to do so, or fail to respond, the administrator shall institute legal proceedings against the debtor for his committal for contempt of court or take such steps as may be necessary to trace the debtor who has disappeared, as the circumstances may require.

(10) If within the period allowed in a notice contemplated in subsection (8) the majority of the creditors instruct him to do so, the administrator shall apply to the court for the rescission of the administration order.

(11) If an administrator fails to lodge a distribution account with the clerk of the court within one month from the time his obligation to do so commenced, any interested party may apply to the court for an order directing him to lodge a distribution account with the clerk of the court within the time laid down in the order or relieving him of his office as administrator.

(12) If an administrator has lodged a distribution account with the clerk of the court but has failed to pay any amount of money due to any creditor in terms of such account within one month thereafter, the court may upon the application of the creditor order the administrator to pay the creditor the amount concerned within such period as may be fixed in the order and furthermore to pay to the debtor's estate an amount which is double the amount which he failed so to pay.

(13) The court may order an administrator to pay the costs of an application in terms of subsection (11) or (12) *de bonis propriis*.

(14) If any debt which was due at the time of the granting of an administration order in respect of a debtor's estate is paid in full or in part to the creditor by the debtor after the granting of the order, otherwise than by way of payments in terms of the administration order, such payment shall be invalid and the administrator may recover the amount paid from the creditor, unless the creditor proves that the payment was effected without his knowledge of the administration order, and, in addition, the creditor shall forfeit his claim against the estate of the debtor if the payment was effected at the request of the creditor whilst he had knowledge of the administration order.

[S. 74J inserted by s. 6 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

#### **74K Realization of assets by administrator**

(1) An administrator may, if authorized thereto by the court, subject to the provisions of subsection (2), realize any asset of the estate under administration, and in granting any such authorization the court may impose any such conditions as it may deem fit.

(2) An asset mentioned in subsection (1) which is the subject of any a [sic] credit agreement regulated by the National Credit Act, 2005 (Act 34 of 2005), shall not be realized except with the written permission of the credit provider.

[Sub-s. (2) amended by s. 172 (2) of Act 34 of 2005 (wef 1 June 2006).]

(3) If the credit provider as defined in section 1 of the National Credit Act, 2005 (Act 34 of 2005), is obliged to pay to the debtor an amount in terms of the said Act, that amount shall be paid to the administrator for *pro rata* distribution among the creditors.

[Sub-s. (3) amended by s. 172 (2) of Act 34 of 2005 (wef 1 June 2006).]

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(4) Whenever the court authorizes any administrator to realize any asset, the court may amend the payments to be made in terms of the administration order accordingly.

[S. 74K inserted by s. 6 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979) and substituted by s. 53 of Act 120 of 1993 (wef 7 January 2000).]

#### **74L Remuneration and expenses of administrator**

(1) An administrator may, before making a distribution-

- (a) deduct from the money collected his necessary expenses and a remuneration determined in accordance with a tariff prescribed in the rules;
- (b) retain a portion of the money collected, in the manner and up to an amount prescribed in the rules, to cover the costs that he may have to incur if the debtor is in default or disappears.

(2) The expenses and remuneration mentioned in subsection (1) (a) shall not exceed 12 1/2 per cent of the amount of collected moneys received and such expenses and remuneration shall, upon application by any interested party, be subject to taxation by the clerk of the court and review by any judicial officer.

**[NB:** Sub-s. (2) has been amended by s. 54 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

[S. 74L inserted by s. 6 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

#### **74M Furnishing of information by administrator**

The administrator shall upon payment of the fees prescribed in the rules-

- (a) furnish any creditor applying therefor with such information about the progress made in regard to the administration as he may desire; and
- (b) furnish any person applying therefor with a copy of the debtor's application and statement of his affairs mentioned in sections 74 and 74A (1), or with a list or account mentioned in section 74G (1) or 74J, or with the debtor's statement of his affairs mentioned in section 65I (2).

[S. 74M inserted by s. 6 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

#### **74N Failure by administrator to perform his duties**

An administrator shall take the proper steps to enforce an administration order, and if he fails to do so, any creditor may, by leave of the court, take those steps, and the court may thereupon order the administrator to pay the costs of the creditor *de bonis propriis*.

[S. 74N inserted by s. 6 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

#### **74O Costs of application for administration order**

Unless the court otherwise orders or this Act otherwise provides, no costs in connection with any application in terms of section 74 (1) shall be recovered from any person other than the administrator concerned, and then as a first claim against the moneys controlled by him.

[S. 74O inserted by s. 6 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

#### **74P Remedies restricted by administration order**

(1) As long as any administration order is of force and effect in respect of the estate of any debtor, no creditor shall have any remedy against the debtor or his property for collecting money owing, except in regard to any mortgage bond or any debt referred to

in section 74B (3) or by leave of the court and on such conditions as the court may impose.

(2) Any court in which proceedings have been instituted against a debtor in respect of any debt except a debt due under a mortgage bond or a debt referred to in section 74B (3) shall, upon receiving notice of the administration order, suspend such proceedings but may grant costs already incurred by the creditor, and such costs may be added to the judgment debt.

[S. 74P inserted by s. 6 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

#### **74Q Suspension, amendment or rescission of administration order**

(1) The court under whose supervision any administration order is being executed, may at any time upon application by the debtor or any interested party re-open the proceedings and call upon the debtor to appear for such further examination as the court may deem necessary, and the court may thereupon on good cause shown suspend, amend or rescind the administration order, and when it suspends such an order it may impose such conditions as it may deem just and reasonable.

(2) The court may at any time at the request of the administrator in writing and with the written consent of the debtor, amend any administration order.

(3) Upon any application for the rescission of an administration order the court may-

- (a) rescind the order under subsection (1); or
- (b) if it appears to the court that the debtor is unable to pay any instalment, suspend the order for such period and on such conditions as it may deem fit or amend the instalments to be paid in terms thereof and make the necessary amendments to any emoluments attachment order or garnishee order issued so as to ensure payment in terms of the administration order, or set aside the said emoluments attachment order or garnishee order; or
- (c) authorize the issue of an emoluments attachment order or garnishee order to ensure the payments in terms of the administration order; or
- (d) set aside or amend any emoluments attachment order or garnishee order issued so as to ensure payments in terms of the administration order.

(4) Any order rescinding an administration order shall be in the form prescribed in the rules and a copy thereof shall be delivered personally or sent by post by the administrator to the debtor and to each creditor, who shall also be informed of the debtor's last known address by the administrator.

(5) When an order of court for the payment of any judgment debt in instalments or any emoluments attachment order or garnishee order has lapsed in consequence of the granting of an administration order and such judgment debt has not been paid in full upon the rescission of the administration order, such court order, emoluments attachment order or garnishee order shall revive in respect of such judgment debt, unless the court otherwise orders.

[S. 74Q inserted by s. 6 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

#### **74R Administration order no bar to sequestration**

The granting of an order under section 74 (1) shall be no bar to the sequestration of the debtor's estate.

[S. 74R inserted by s. 6 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

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#### **74S Incurring of debts by person subject to administration order**

(1) Any person who is subject to an administration order and who during the currency of such order incurs any debt without disclosing that he is subject to an administration order shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 90 days or to periodical imprisonment for a period not exceeding 2 160 hours in accordance with the laws relating to prisons and, in addition, the court may, upon application by any interested person, set aside the administration order.

(2) The provisions of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1955 (Act 56 of 1955), with regard to periodical imprisonment shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to periodical imprisonment imposed in terms of subsection (1).

**[NB:** Sub-s. (2) has been substituted by s. 55 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

[S. 74S inserted by s. 6 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

#### **74T Change of address by debtor subject to administration order**

(1) Any debtor subject to an administration order who changes his place of residence, business or employment shall forthwith notify the clerk of the court and the administrator of his new place of residence, business or employment.

(2) When any debtor subject to an administration order moves to any other district, the court under whose supervision the administration order is being executed may transfer the proceedings to the court of that district.

[S. 74T inserted by s. 6 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

#### **74U Lapsing of administration order**

As soon as the costs of the administration and the listed creditors have been paid in full, an administrator shall lodge a certificate to that effect with the clerk of the court and send copies thereof to the creditors (who shall also be informed therein of the debtor's last known address), and thereupon the administration order shall lapse.

[S. 74U inserted by s. 6 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

#### **74V Interruption of prescription**

(1) In the case of any debt mentioned in the statement referred to in section 74A (1), prescription shall be interrupted on the date on which such statement is lodged and, in the case of any debt not mentioned in such statement, prescription shall be interrupted on the date on which any claim against the debtor is lodged with the court or the administrator.

(2) If the relevant prescriptive period of a debt referred to in subsection (1), had it not been for the provisions of subsection (1), would be completed on or before or within one year of, the day on which the restriction referred to in subsection 74P (1) has ceased to exist, the prescriptive period shall not be completed until a year after the said day has elapsed.

[S. 74V inserted by s. 6 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

#### **74W Failure of administrator to carry out certain duty**

Any administrator who fails to carry out the duty assigned to him by section 74J (7) shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction liable to a fine not exceeding R500 or in

default of payment to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months.

[S. 74W inserted by s. 6 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979) and substituted by s. 7 of Act 19 of 1985 (wef 3 April 1985).]

## **75 Jurisdiction to decide disputes arising out of garnishee orders**

(1) If the garnishee disputes that the debt or emoluments sought to be attached are owing or accruing or alleges that they are subject to a set-off or belong to or are subject to a claim by some third person, the court may determine the rights and liabilities of all the parties and may declare the claim of that third person to be barred, provided that the claim or value of the matter in dispute is otherwise within the jurisdiction of the court.

(2) If it be proved that such third person neither resides nor carries on business nor is employed within the Republic and that he has a *prima facie* claim to the debt, the court shall not have jurisdiction under this section.

[Sub-s. (2) amended by s. 17 of Act 53 of 1970 (wef 1 December 1970).]

## **75bis Review of conditions of sale of immovable property to be sold in execution of a Supreme Court judgment**

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any law contained, the court may, on the application of any interested party, review and confirm, modify or settle the conditions of sale in respect of any immovable property to be sold in execution of any judgment of any division of the Supreme Court of South Africa.

[S. 75bis inserted by s. 11 of Act 80 of 1964 (wef 24 June 1964).]

## **76 Execution or payment is discharge *pro tanto***

Payment made by or execution levied upon the garnishee under the provisions of this Act shall be valid discharge of the debt or amount of emoluments due from him to the judgment debtor to the extent of the amount paid or levied.

## **77 Saving of existing laws prohibiting attachment**

Save where under section 65E (1) an order may be granted against the State, nothing in this Act contained shall be construed as authorizing the attachment of any debt or emoluments or any moneys or property specially declared by any law not to be liable to attachment.

[S. 77 substituted by s. 7 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

## **78 Execution or suspension in case of appeal, etc**

Where an appeal has been noted or an application to rescind, correct or vary a judgment has been made, the court may direct either that the judgment shall be carried into execution or that execution thereof shall be suspended pending the decision upon the appeal or application. The direction shall be made upon such terms, if any, as the court may determine as to security for the due performance of any judgment which may be given upon the appeal or application.

## **79 Person who has made a *nulla bona* return not to incur debts**

Any person shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding R300 if after a return of *nulla bona* has been made in respect of a judgment against him and before satisfaction of the said judgment, he obtains credit to an amount or amounts exceeding one hundred rand in the aggregate without previously informing all persons from whom he so obtains credit that there is an unsatisfied judgment against him and that a return

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of *nulla bona* has been made in respect thereof.

[S. 79 amended by s. 13 of Act 19 of 1963 (wef 15 March 1963) and by s. 6 of Act 91 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977) and substituted by s. 8 of Act 19 of 1985 (wef 3 April 1985).]

## **CHAPTER X COSTS (ss 80-81)**

### **80 Costs to be in accordance with scales and to be taxed**

(1) The stamps, fees, costs and charges in connection with any civil proceedings in magistrates' courts shall, as between party and party, be payable in accordance with the scales prescribed by the rules.

**[NB:** Sub-s. (1) has been substituted by s. 56 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(2) As between attorney and client, the clerk of the court may in his discretion (subject to the review hereinafter mentioned) allow costs and charges for services reasonably performed by the attorney at the request of the client for which no remuneration is recoverable as between party and party and for which no provision is made in the rules.

(3) Payment of costs awarded by the court (otherwise than by a judgment in default of the defendant's appearance to defend or on the defendant's consent to judgment before the time for such appearance has expired) may not be enforced until they have been taxed by the clerk of the court.

(4) Any person who is liable to pay or who is sued for costs of any civil proceedings in a court otherwise than under an award by the court or under a special agreement, may require that those costs shall be taxed by the clerk of the court as between attorney and client; and thereupon any action for the recovery of those costs shall be stayed pending the taxation. The costs of and incidental to such a taxation shall be borne, if not more than one-sixth of such costs is disallowed on taxation, by the person requiring the taxation, and, if more than one-sixth is so disallowed, by the person claiming the costs.

### **81 Review of taxation**

Taxation by the clerk of the court shall be subject to review free of charge by a judicial officer of the district; and the decision of such judicial officer may at any time within one month thereafter be brought in review before a judge of the court of appeal in the manner prescribed by the rules.

**[NB:** S. 81 has been amended by s. 57 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

## **CHAPTER XI APPEAL AND REVIEW (ss 82-88)**

### **82 By consent, decision of magistrate's court be final**

No appeal shall lie from the decision of a court if, before the hearing is commenced, the parties lodge with the court an agreement in writing that the decision of the court shall be final.

### **83 Appeal from magistrate's court**

Subject to the provisions of section 82, a party to any civil suit or proceeding in a court may appeal to the provincial or local division of the Supreme Court having

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jurisdiction to hear the appeal, against-

- (a) any judgment of the nature described in section 48;
- (b) any rule or order made in such suit or proceeding and having the effect of a final judgment, including any order under Chapter IX and any order as to costs;
- (c) any decision overruling an exception, when the parties concerned consent to such an appeal before proceeding further in an action or when it is appealed from in conjunction with the principal case, or when it includes an order as to costs.

[S. 83 substituted by s. 16 of Act 15 of 1969 (wef 1 May 1969) and amended by s. 2 of Act 105 of 1982 (wef 1 April 1983).]

#### **84 Time, manner and conditions of appeal**

Every party so appealing shall do so within the period and in the manner prescribed by the rules; but the court of appeal may in any case extend such period.

#### **85 No peremption of appeal by satisfaction of judgment**

A party shall not lose the right to appeal through satisfying or offering to satisfy the judgment in respect of which he appeals or any part thereof or by accepting any benefit from such judgment, decree or order.

#### **86 Respondent may abandon judgment**

(1) A party may by notice in writing abandon the whole or any part of a judgment in his favour.

(2) Where the party so abandoning was the plaintiff, or applicant, judgment in respect of the part abandoned shall be entered for the defendant or respondent with costs.

(3) Where the party so abandoning was the defendant or respondent, judgment in respect of the part abandoned shall be entered for the plaintiff or applicant in terms of the claim in the summons or application.

(4) A judgment so entered shall have the same effect in all respects as if it had been the judgment originally pronounced by the court in the action or matter.

#### **87 Procedure of court of appeal**

The court of appeal may-

- (a) confirm, vary or reverse the judgment appealed from, as justice may require;
- (b) if the record does not furnish sufficient evidence or information for the determination of the appeal, remit the matter to the court from which the appeal is brought, with instructions in regard to the taking of further evidence or the setting out of further information;
- (c) order the parties or either of them to produce at some convenient time in the court of appeal such further proof as shall to it seem necessary or desirable; or
- (d) take any other course which may lead to the just, speedy and as much as may be inexpensive settlement of the case; and
- (e) make such order as to costs as justice may require.

## 88 Execution of judgment of court of appeal

The judgment of the court of appeal shall be recorded in the court appealed from, and may be enforced as if it had been given in such last-mentioned court.

### **PART III CRIMINAL MATTERS (ss 89-105)**

#### **CHAPTER XII CRIMINAL JURISDICTION (ss 89-93ter)**

## 89 Jurisdiction in respect of offences

(1) The court, other than the court of a regional division, shall have jurisdiction over all offences, except treason, murder, rape and compelled rape as contemplated in sections 3 and 4 of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act, 2007, respectively.

[Sub-s. (1) substituted by s. 68 (2) of Act 32 of 2007 (wef 16 December 2007).]

(2) The court of a regional division shall have jurisdiction over all offences except treason.

[Sub-s. (2) amended by s. 7 of Act 91 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977) and substituted by s. 17 of Act 107 of 1990 (wef 1 August 1990).]

[S. 89 substituted by s. 1 of Act 75 of 1959 (wef 17 July 1959).]

**[NB:** S. 89 has been substituted by s. 58 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

## 90 Local limits of jurisdiction

(1) Subject to the provisions of section *eighty-nine*, any person charged with any offence committed within any district or regional division may be tried by the court of that district or of that regional division, as the case may be.

(2) When any person is charged with any offence-

(a) committed within the distance of four kilometres beyond the boundary of the district or of the regional division; or

[Para. (a) amended by s. 8 (a) of Act 91 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977).]

(b) committed in or upon any vehicle on a journey which or part whereof was performed in, or within the distance of four kilometres of, the district or the regional division; or

[Para. (b) amended by s. 8 (a) of Act 91 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977).]

(c) committed on board any vessel on a journey upon any river within the Republic or forming the boundary of any portion thereof, and such journey or part thereof was performed in, or within the distance of four kilometres of, the district or the regional division; or

[Para. (c) amended by s. 8 (a) of Act 91 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977).]

(d) committed on board any vessel on a voyage within the territorial waters of the Republic (including the territory of South-West Africa), and the said territorial waters adjoin the district or the regional division; or

**[NB:** Para. (d) has been substituted by s. 59 (a) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(e) begun or completed within the district or within the regional division,

such person may be tried by the court of the district or of the regional division, as the case may be, as if he had been charged with an offence committed within the district or within the regional division respectively.

[Sub-s. (2) substituted by s. 3 of Act 17 of 1969 (wef 26 March 1969).]

(3) Where it is uncertain in which of several jurisdictions an offence has been committed, it may be tried in any of such jurisdictions.

(4) A person charged with an offence may be tried by the court of any district, or any regional division, as the case may be, wherein any act or omission or event which is an element of the offence took place.

(5) A person charged with theft of property or with obtaining property by an offence, or with an offence which involves the receiving of any property by him, may also be tried by the court of any district or of any regional division, as the case may be, wherein he has or had part of the property in his possession.

(6) A person charged with kidnapping, child-stealing or abduction may also be tried by the court of any district or of any regional division, as the case may be, through or in which he conveyed or concealed or detained the person kidnapped, stolen or abducted.

(7) Where by any special provision of law a magistrate's court has jurisdiction in respect of an offence committed beyond the local limits of the district, or of the regional division, as the case may be, such court shall not be deprived of such jurisdiction by any of the provisions of this section.

**[NB:** Sub-s. (7) has been amended by s. 59 (b) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(8) Where an accused is alleged to have committed various offences within different districts within the area of jurisdiction of any attorney-general, the attorney-general concerned may in writing direct that criminal proceedings in respect of such various offences be commenced in the court of any particular district within his area of jurisdiction, whereupon such court shall have jurisdiction to act with regard to any such offence as if such offence had been committed within the area of jurisdiction of that court, and the court of the regional division within whose area of jurisdiction the court of such district is situated, shall likewise have jurisdiction in respect of any such offence if such offence is an offence which may be tried by the court of a regional division.

[Sub-s. (8) substituted by s. 8 (b) of Act 91 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977).]

**[NB:** Sub-s. (8) has been substituted by s. 59 (c) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(9) Notwithstanding anything contained in this section, the provisions of section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977, shall *mutatis mutandis* apply in respect of the trial of any person by any court.

[Sub-s. (9) added by s. 2 of Act 75 of 1959 (wef 17 July 1959) and substituted by s. 8 (b) of Act 91 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977).]

[S. 90 substituted by s. 20 of Act 40 of 1952 (wef 27 June 1952).]

## 91 Criminal jurisdiction of periodical court

The jurisdiction of the periodical court in criminal matters shall be subject, *mutatis mutandis*, to the provisions contained in section *twenty-seven* and in subsection (3) of section *thirty-five*.

**[NB:** S. 91 has been substituted by s. 60 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]



## 92 Limits of jurisdiction in the matter of punishments

(1) Save as otherwise in this Act or in any other law specially provided, the court, whenever it may punish a person for an offence-

- (a) by imprisonment, may impose a sentence of imprisonment for a period not exceeding three years, where the court is not the court of a regional division, or not exceeding 15 years, where the court is the court of a regional division;

[Para. (a) substituted by s. 9 of Act 91 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977) and by s. 6 of Act 66 of 1998 (wef 7 October 1998).]

**[NB:** Para. (a) has been substituted by s. 61 (a) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

- (b) by fine, may impose a fine not exceeding the amount <sup>29</sup> determined by the Minister from time to time by notice in the *Gazette* for the respective courts referred to in paragraph (a);

[Para. (b) substituted by s. 9 of Act 91 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977), by s. 1 of Act 109 of 1984 (wef 1 September 1984) and by s. 9 of Act 25 of 1987 (wef 1 January 1988).]

- (c) .....

[Para. (c) deleted by s. 2 of Act 33 of 1997 (wef 5 September 1997).]

- (d) by correctional supervision, may impose correctional supervision for a period as contemplated in section 276A (1) (b) of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 (Act 51 of 1977).

[Para. (d) added by s. 2 of Act 129 of 1993 (wef 1 September 1993).]

(2) (a) The court shall have jurisdiction to impose any punishment prescribed in respect of an offence under an ordinance of a province or the territory which relates to vehicles and the regulation of traffic on public roads, notwithstanding that such punishment exceeds the jurisdiction referred to in subsection (1).

(b) Where a person is convicted of culpable homicide arising out of the driving of a vehicle as defined in any applicable ordinance referred to in paragraph (a), the court shall have jurisdiction to impose any punishment which the court may impose under that paragraph in respect of the offence of driving a vehicle recklessly on a public road.

**[NB:** Sub-s. (2) has been substituted by s. 61 (b) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

[S. 92 amended by s. 21 of Act 40 of 1952 (wef 27 June 1952), substituted by s. 1 of Act 16 of 1959 (wef 1 September 1959), amended by s. 14 of Act 19 of 1963 (wef 15 March 1963) and substituted by s. 30 of Act 94 of 1974 (wef 20 November 1974).]

<sup>29</sup>

R120 000 where the court is not the court of a regional division, and R600 000 where the court is the court of a regional division, with effect from 1 February 2013 - GN 217 in GG 37477 of 27 March 2014

## 93 .....

[S. 93 amended by s. 22 of Act 40 of 1952 (wef 27 June 1952), by s. 24 of Act 62 of 1955 (wef 6 July 1955) and by s. 12 of Act 80 of 1964 (wef 24 June 1964) and repealed by s. 344 (1) of Act 51 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977).]

## 93bis .....

[S. 93bis inserted by s. 23 of Act 40 of 1952 (wef 27 June 1952), substituted by s. 31 of Act 70 of 1968 (wef 21 June 1968) and by s. 18 of Act 53 of 1970 (wef 1 December 1970) and repealed by s. 344 (1) of Act 51 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977).]

### **93ter Magistrate may be assisted by assessors**

(1) The judicial officer presiding at any trial may, if he deems it expedient for the administration of justice-

- (a) before any evidence has been led; or
- (b) in considering a community-based punishment in respect of any person who has been convicted of any offence,

summon to his assistance any one or two persons who, in his opinion, may be of assistance at the trial of the case or in the determination of a proper sentence, as the case may be, to sit with him as assessor or assessors: Provided that if an accused is standing trial in the court of a regional division on a charge of murder, whether together with other charges or accused or not, the judicial officer shall at that trial be assisted by two assessors unless such an accused requests that the trial be proceeded with without assessors, whereupon the judicial officer may in his discretion summon one or two assessors to assist him.

[Sub-s. (1) substituted by s. 10 (a) of Act 91 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977) and by s. 1 (a) of Act 118 of 1991 (wef 1 March 1992).]

**[NB:** Sub-s. (1) has been amended by s. 62 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(2) (a) In considering whether summoning assessors under subsection (1) would be expedient for the administration of justice, the judicial officer shall take into account-

- (i) the cultural and social environment from which the accused originates;
- (ii) the educational background of the accused;
- (iii) the nature and the seriousness of the offence of which the accused stands accused or has been convicted;
- (iv) the extent or probable extent of the punishment to which the accused will be exposed upon conviction, or is exposed, as the case may be;
- (v) any other matter or circumstance which he may deem to be indicative of the desirability of summoning an assessor or assessors,

and he may question the accused in relation to the matters referred to in this paragraph.

(b) For the purposes of subsection (1) (b) a community-based punishment means-

- (i) correctional supervision as defined in section 1 of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 (Act 51 of 1977);
- (ii) a punishment contemplated in section 297 (1) (a) (i) (cc) of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977; or
- (iii) a punishment contemplated in section 297 (1) (b) or (4) of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977, and where the performance of community service as referred to in the said section 297 (1) (a) (i) (cc), is a condition for the suspension.

[Sub-s. (2) amended by s. 2 (a) of Act 16 of 1959 (wef 1 September 1959), deleted by s. 10 (b) of Act 91 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977) and inserted by s. 1 (b) of Act 118 of 1991 (wef 1 March 1992).]

(3) Before the trial or the imposition of punishment, as the case may be, the said judicial officer shall administer an oath to the person or persons whom he has so called to his assistance that he or they will give a true verdict or a considered opinion, as the case may be, according to the evidence upon the issues to be tried or regarding the punishment, as the case may be, and thereupon he or they shall be a member or

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members of the court subject to the following provisions:

- (a) Any matter of law arising for decision at such trial, and any question arising thereat as to whether a matter for decision is a matter of fact or a matter of law, shall be decided by the presiding judicial officer and no assessor shall have a voice in any such decision;
- (b) the presiding judicial officer may adjourn the argument upon any such matter or question as is mentioned in paragraph (a) and may sit alone for the hearing of such argument and the decision of such matter or question;
- (c) whenever the said judicial officer shall give a decision in terms of paragraph (a) he shall give his reasons for that decision;
- (d) upon all matters of fact the decision or finding of the majority of the members of the court shall be the decision or finding of the court, except when only one assessor sits with the presiding judicial officer in which case the decision or finding of such judicial officer shall be the decision or finding of the court if there is a difference of opinion;
- (e) it shall be incumbent on the court to give reasons for its decision or finding on any matter made under paragraph (d);
- (f) in the event of a conviction the question of the punishment to be inflicted shall, except in a case contemplated in subsection (1) (b), be deemed, for the purposes of paragraph (a), to be a question of law.

[Para. (f) substituted by s. 1 (d) of Act 118 of 1991 (wef 1 March 1992).]

[Sub-s. (3) amended by s. 1 (c) of Act 118 of 1991 (wef 1 March 1992).]

(4) If any such assessor is not a person employed in a full-time capacity in the service of the State he shall be entitled to such compensation as the Minister, in consultation with the Minister of Finance, may determine in respect of expenses incurred by him in connection with his attendance at the trial, and in respect of his services as assessor.

[Sub-s. (4) substituted by s. 10 (c) of Act 91 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977).]

(5) Every assessor shall, upon registration on the roll of assessors referred to in subsection (1), in writing take an oath or make an affirmation subscribed by him or her before the magistrate of the district concerned in the form set out below, namely-

'I ..... (full name) do hereby swear/solemnly affirm that whenever I may be called upon to perform the functions of an assessor in terms of section 93*ter* of the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1944, I shall to the best of my ability make a considered finding or decision, or give a considered opinion, as the case may be, according to the evidence tendered in the matter.'

[Sub-s. (5) added by s. 2 (b) of Act 16 of 1959 (wef 1 September 1959) and substituted by s. 10 (d) of Act 91 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977) and by s. 2 of Act 67 of 1998 (wef 20 April 2000).]

(6) to (9) inclusive .....

**[NB:** Sub-ss. (6) to (9) inclusive have been added by s. 2 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 67 of 1998, a provision which, in so far as it adds these subsections, will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(10) (a) A judicial officer who is assisted by an assessor may, on application by the prosecutor or the accused person, order the recusal of the assessor from the proceedings if the judicial officer is satisfied that-

- (i) the assessor has a personal interest in the proceedings concerned;
- (ii) there are reasonable grounds for believing that there is likely to be a conflict of interests as a result of the assessor's participation in the proceedings

concerned; or

(iii) there are reasonable grounds for believing that there is a likelihood of bias on the part of the assessor.

(b) An assessor may recuse himself or herself from the proceedings for the reasons contemplated in paragraph (a).

(c) The prosecutor and the accused person shall-

- (i) before the recusal of an assessor is ordered in terms of paragraph (a); or
- (ii) in so far as it is practicable, before the recusal of an assessor in terms of paragraph (b),

be given an opportunity to address arguments to the judicial officer on the desirability of such recusal.

(d) The assessor concerned shall be given an opportunity to respond to any arguments referred to in paragraph (c), and the judicial officer may put such questions regarding the matter to the assessor as he or she may deem fit.

(e) The judicial officer shall give reasons for an order referred to in paragraph (a).

[Sub-s. (10) added by s. 2 of Act 67 of 1998 (wef 20 April 2000).]

(11) (a) If an assessor-

- (i) dies;
- (ii) in the opinion of the presiding officer becomes unable to act as an assessor;
- (iii) is for any reason absent; or
- (iv) has been ordered to recuse himself or herself or has recused himself or herself in terms of subsection (10),

at any stage before the completion of the proceedings concerned, the presiding judicial officer may, in the interests of justice and after due consideration of the arguments put forward by the accused person and the prosecutor-

- (aa) direct that the proceedings continue before the remaining member or members of the court;
- (bb) direct that the proceedings start afresh; or
- (cc) in the circumstances contemplated in subparagraph (iii), postpone the proceedings in order to obtain the assessor's presence:

Provided that if the accused person has legal representation and the prosecutor and the accused person consent thereto, the proceedings shall, in the circumstances contemplated in subparagraphs (i), (ii) or (iv), continue before the remaining member or members of the court.

(b) If, at proceedings which are continued in terms of this subsection, the judicial officer is assisted by the remaining assessor, the finding or decision of the judicial officer shall, in respect of any matter where there is a difference of opinion between the judicial officer and the assessor, be the finding or decision of the court.

(c) The judicial officer shall give reasons for any direction referred to in paragraph (a), and for any finding or decision referred to in paragraph (b).

[Sub-s. (11) added by s. 2 of Act 67 of 1998 (wef 20 April 2000).]

[S. 93ter inserted by s. 3 of Act 14 of 1954 (wef 2 April 1954).]

**[NB:** S. 93ter has been substituted by s. 2 and a s. 93quat has been inserted by s. 3 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 67 of 1998. S. 2 in so far as it substitutes s. 93ter (5) and inserts s. 93ter (10) and (11) came into operation on 20 April 2000. The remainder of s. 2 will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

## CHAPTER XIII

### 94 .....

[S. 94 substituted by s. 3 of Act 16 of 1959 (wef 1 September 1959) and repealed by s. 344 (1) of Act 51 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977).]

### 95 .....

[S. 95 amended by s. 24 of Act 40 of 1952 (wef 27 June 1952), by s. 15 of Act 19 of 1963 (wef 15 March 1963) and by s. 31 of Act 94 of 1974 (wef 20 November 1974) and repealed by s. 344 (1) of Act 51 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977).]

## CHAPTER XIV

[Heading amended by s. 17 of Act 19 of 1963 (wef 15 March 1963).]

### 96 .....

[S. 96 amended by s. 25 of Act 40 of 1952 (wef 27 June 1952), by s. 25 of Act 62 of 1955 (wef 6 July 1955), by s. 4 of Act 16 of 1959 (wef 1 September 1959), by s. 16 of Act 19 of 1963 (wef 15 March 1963) and by s. 4 of Act 17 of 1969 (wef 26 March 1969), substituted by s. 32 of Act 94 of 1974 (wef 20 November 1974) and repealed by s. 344 (1) of Act 51 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977).]

### 97 .....

[S. 97 repealed by s. 344 (1) of Act 51 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977).]

### 98 .....

[S. 98 amended by s. 40 of Act 68 of 1957 (wef 28 June 1957), by s. 28 of Act 93 of 1962 (wef 4 July 1962) and by s. 18 of Act 19 of 1963 (wef 15 March 1963) and repealed by s. 344 (1) of Act 51 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977).]

### 98bis .....

[S. 98bis inserted by s. 19 of Act 19 of 1963 (wef 15 March 1963) and repealed by s. 344 (1) of Act 51 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977).]

### 99 .....

[S. 99 repealed by s. 344 (1) of Act 51 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977).]

## CHAPTER XV

### 100 .....

[S. 100 amended by s. 26 of Act 40 of 1952 (wef 27 June 1952) and by s. 5 of Act 16 of 1959 (wef 1 September 1959) and repealed by s. 344 (1) of Act 51 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977).]

### 101 .....

[S. 101 amended by s. 6 of Act 16 of 1959 (wef 1 September 1959) and by s. 20 of Act 19 of 1963 (wef 15 March 1963), substituted by s. 1 of Act 37 of 1963 (wef 2 May 1963) and repealed by s. 344 (1) of Act 51 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977).]

### 102 .....

[S. 102 amended by s. 7 of Act 16 of 1959 (wef 1 September 1959) and by s. 2 of Act 37 of 1963 (wef 2 May 1963) and repealed by s. 344 (1) of Act 51 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977).]

## CHAPTER XVI

### **103 .....**

[S. 103 amended by s. 8 of Act 16 of 1959 (wef 1 September 1959), by s. 29 of Act 93 of 1962 (wef 4 July 1962) and by s. 17 of Act 15 of 1969 (wef 1 May 1969) and repealed by s. 344 (1) of Act 51 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977).]

### **104 .....**

[S. 104 amended by s. 26 of Act 62 of 1955 (wef 6 July 1955) and repealed by s. 344 (1) of Act 51 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977).]

### **105 .....**

[S. 105 amended by s. 18 of Act 15 of 1969 (wef 1 May 1969) and repealed by s. 344 (1) of Act 51 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977).]

## **PART IV (ss 106-109)**

### **CHAPTER XVII OFFENCES (ss 106-109)**

#### **106 Penalty for disobedience of judgment or order of court**

Any person wilfully disobeying, or refusing or failing to comply with any judgment or order of a court or with a notice lawfully endorsed on a summons for rent prohibiting the removal of any furniture or effects shall be guilty of contempt of court and shall, upon conviction, be liable to a fine, or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months or to such imprisonment without the option of a fine.

[S. 106 amended by s. 27 of Act 40 of 1952 (wef 27 June 1952) and by s. 21 of Act 19 of 1963 (wef 15 March 1963) and substituted by s. 8 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979), by s. 9 of Act 19 of 1985 (wef 3 April 1985) and by s. 14 of Act 81 of 1997 (wef 10 December 1997).]

#### **106A Offence by garnishee**

Any garnishee who, by reason of an emoluments attachment order having been served on him in respect of the emoluments of a judgment debtor not occupying a position of trust in which he handles or has at his disposal moneys, securities or other articles of value, dismisses or otherwise terminates the service of such judgment debtor, shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction liable to a fine not exceeding R300 or, in default of payment, to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months.

[S. 106A inserted by s. 8 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979) and substituted by s. 10 of Act 19 of 1985 (wef 3 April 1985).]

#### **106B Offence by employer**

Any employer who, having been requested by an employee to furnish a written statement containing full particulars of such employee's emoluments, fails or neglects to do so within a reasonable time, or who wilfully or negligently furnishes incorrect relevant particulars, shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction liable to a fine not exceeding R300 or, in default of payment, to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months.

[S. 106B inserted by s. 8 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979) and substituted by s. 11 of Act 19 of 1985 (wef 3 April 1985).]

#### **107 Offences relating to execution <sup>30</sup>**

Any person who-

(1) obstructs a messenger or deputy sheriff in the execution of his duties;

**[NB:** Sub-s. (1) has been amended by s. 63 (a) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(2) being aware that goods have been placed under arrest, interdict or attachment by the court, makes away with or disposes of those goods in any manner not authorized by law, or knowingly permits those goods, if in his possession or under his control, to be made away with or disposed of in any such manner;

(3) being a judgment debtor and being required by a messenger or deputy sheriff to point out property to satisfy a warrant issued in execution of judgment against such person, either-

(a) falsely declares to that messenger or deputy sheriff that he possesses no property or not sufficient property to satisfy the warrant; or

(b) although owning such property neglects or refuses to point out the same; or

**[NB:** Sub-s. (3) has been amended by s. 63 (b) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(4) being a judgment debtor refuses or neglects to comply with any requirement of a messenger or deputy sheriff in regard to the delivery of documents in his possession or under his control relating to the title of the immovable property under execution,

**[NB:** Sub-s. (4) has been amended by s. 63 (c) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

shall be guilty of an offence and liable upon conviction to a fine not exceeding R500 or, in default of payment, to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months or to such imprisonment without the option of a fine.

[S. 107 amended by s. 22 of Act 19 of 1963 (wef 15 March 1963), substituted by s. 19 of Act 53 of 1970 (wef 1 December 1970) and by s. 12 of Act 19 of 1985 (wef 3 April 1985) and amended by s. 64 (1) of Act 90 of 1986 (wef 1 March 1990).]

<sup>30</sup>

S. 107 repealed in respect of the territories of the former Republics of Transkei, Venda and Ciskei and the former self-governing territories of Gazankulu, KaNgwane, KwaNdebele, KwaZulu, Lebowa and Qwaqwa

## 108 Custody and punishment for contempt of court

(1) If any person, whether in custody or not, wilfully insults a judicial officer during his sitting or a clerk or messenger or other officer during his attendance at such sitting, or wilfully interrupts the proceedings of the court or otherwise misbehaves himself in the place where such court is held, he shall (in addition to his liability to being removed and detained as in subsection (3) of section 5 provided) be liable to be sentenced summarily or upon summons to a fine not exceeding R2 000 or in default of payment to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months or to such imprisonment without the option of a fine. In this subsection the word 'court' includes a preparatory examination held under the law relating to criminal procedure.

[Sub-s. (1) amended by s. 23 of Act 19 of 1963 (wef 15 March 1963), substituted by s. 13 of Act 19 of 1985 (wef 3 April 1985) and amended by s. 3 of Act 4 of 1991 (wef 28 March 1991).]

**[NB:** Sub-s. (1) has been amended by s. 64 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(2) In any case in which the court commits or fines any person under the provisions of

this section, the judicial officer shall without delay transmit to the registrar of the court of appeal for the consideration and review of a judge in chambers, a statement, certified by such judicial officer to be true and correct, of the grounds and reasons of his proceedings, and shall also furnish to the party committed a copy of such statement.

### **109 Judgment debtor to inform court of his address**

(1) Any person against whom a court has, in a civil case, given any judgment or made any order, who has not satisfied in full such judgment or order and paid all costs for which he is liable in connection therewith, shall, if he has changed his place of residence, business or employment, within 14 days from the date of every such change notify the clerk of the court which gave such judgment or made such order and the judgment creditor or the judgment creditor's attorney or, if his estate is under administration, the administrator or his attorney, fully and correctly in writing of his new place of residence, business or employment.

(2) Any judgment debtor who fails to comply with the provisions of subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and upon conviction, be liable to a fine, or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months.

[Sub-s. (2) substituted by s. 15 (a) of Act 81 of 1997 (wef 10 December 1997).]

(3) to (8) inclusive .....

[Sub-ss. (3) to (8) inclusive repealed by s. 15 (b) of Act 81 of 1997 (wef 10 December 1997).]

[S. 109 substituted by s. 28 of Act 40 of 1952 (wef 27 June 1952), amended by s. 24 of Act 19 of 1963 (wef 15 March 1963) and substituted by s. 9 of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

## **PART V (ss 110-117)**

### **CHAPTER XVIII GENERAL AND SUPPLEMENTARY (ss 110-117)**

#### **110 Pronouncements on validity of law or conduct of President**

(1) A court shall not be competent to pronounce on the validity of any law or conduct of the President.

(2) If in any proceedings before a court it is alleged that-

(a) any law or any conduct of the President is invalid on the grounds of its inconsistency with a provision of the Constitution; or

(b) any law is invalid on any ground other than its constitutionality,

the court shall decide the matter on the assumption that such law or conduct is valid: Provided that the party which alleges that a law or conduct of the President is invalid, may adduce evidence regarding the invalidity of the law or conduct in question.

[S. 110 substituted by s. 20 of Act 53 of 1970 (wef 1 December 1970) and by s. 1 of Act 80 of 1997 (wef 10 December 1997).]

#### **111 Amendment of proceedings**

(1) In any civil proceedings, the court may, at any time before judgment, amend any summons or other document forming part of the record: Provided that no amendment shall be made by which any party other than the party applying for such amendment may (notwithstanding adjournment) be prejudiced in the conduct of his action or defence.



(2) In civil proceedings an amendment may be made upon such terms as to costs and otherwise as the court may judge reasonable.

(3) No misnomer in regard to the name of any person or place shall vitiate any proceedings of the court if the person or place is described as commonly known, and the court may, on application, correct such misnomer at any time before or after judgment is given.

[Sub-s. (3) substituted by s. 10 (a) of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979).]

(4) .....

[Sub-s. (4) added by s. 10 (b) of Act 63 of 1976 (wef 1 January 1979) and deleted by s. 4 of Act 132 of 1993 (wef 1 December 1993).]

### **112 Administration of oath or affirmation**

The oath to be taken by any witness in any civil proceedings in any court shall be administered by the officer presiding at such proceedings or by the clerk of the court (or any person acting in his stead) in the presence of the said officer, or if the witness is to give his evidence through an interpreter, by the said officer through the interpreter or by the interpreter in the said officer's presence.

[S. 112 substituted by s. 11 of Act 91 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977).]

### **113 .....**

[S. 113 repealed by s. 33 of Act 94 of 1974 (wef 20 November 1974).]

### **114 Savings and non-application of Act**

(1) Nothing in this Act contained shall be construed as affecting the operation of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977.

[Sub-s. (1) substituted by s. 9 of Act 16 of 1959 (wef 1 September 1959) and amended by s. 12 of Act 91 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977).]

(2) Nothing in this Act contained shall be construed as depriving any superior court of any power to review and correct the proceedings of any magistrate's court.

**[NB:** Sub-s. (2) has been amended by s. 67 (a) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

(3) Nothing in this Act contained shall be construed as affecting the provisions of section *one hundred and five* of the South Africa Act, 1909, relating to appeals to the Appellate Division.

**[NB:** Sub-s. (3) has been deleted by s. 67 (b) of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation.]

(4) .....

[Sub-s. (4) deleted by s. 5 of Act 104 of 1996 (wef 14 February 1997).]

### **115 Saving of pending proceedings**

(1) Nothing in this Act shall affect proceedings pending at the commencement of this Act and such proceedings shall be continued and concluded in every respect as if this Act had not been passed.

(2) Proceedings shall, for the purposes of this section, be deemed to be pending if, at the commencement of this Act, summons had been issued or the accused had pleaded but judgment had not been given; and to be concluded when judgment is given.

(3) At the expiration of one year from the commencement of this Act, subsection (1) of this section shall cease to have effect; and any cases pending at the commencement of this Act and not concluded within one year thereafter shall become subject to the provisions of this Act.

**[NB:** S. 115 has been repealed by s. 68 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation.]

### 115A Application of Act to the territory of South-West Africa

(1) This Act and any amendment thereof shall apply also in the territory, including the Eastern Caprivi Zipfel.

(2) and (3) .....

[Sub-ss. (2) and (3) deleted by s. 13 of Act 91 of 1977 (wef 22 July 1977).]

[S. 115A inserted by s. 21 of Act 53 of 1970 (wef 1 December 1970).]

**[NB:** S. 115A has been repealed by s. 69 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation.]

### 116 Laws repealed

The laws specified in the Schedule to this Act are hereby repealed to the extent set out in the third column of that Schedule.

### 117 Short title

This Act may be cited for all purposes as the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1944, and shall come into operation on a date to be fixed by the Governor-General by proclamation in the *Gazette*.

**[NB:** S. 117 has been substituted by s. 72 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. See PENDLEX.]

## Schedule 1 LAWS REPEALED

No. and year	Title	Extent of repeal
Act 32 of 1917	Magistrates' Courts Act	The whole, except the Second Schedule
Act 13 of 1921	Magistrates' Courts Act Amendment Act	So much as remains unrepealed
Act 9 of 1923	Magistrates' Courts Act, 1917, Further Amendment Act	So much as remains unrepealed
Act 39 of 1926	Criminal and Magistrates' Courts Procedure (Amendment) Act	Sections <i>forty-nine</i> to <i>sixty</i> inclusive
Act 17 of 1932	Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act	The whole
Act 46 of 1935	General Law Amendment Act	Sections <i>eighty-three</i> to <i>ninety-nine</i> inclusive
Act 21 of 1942	Civil Imprisonment Restriction Act	Sections <i>one</i> , <i>two</i> and <i>three</i>

**[NB:** A Schedule 2 has been added by s. 4 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 67 of 1998, a provision which will be put into operation by proclamation. Schedule 2 has subsequently been substituted by s. 68 (2) of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act 32 of 2007 (wef 16 December 2007). See PENDLEX.]

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**PENDLEX: Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 after amendment by the  
Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993 with effect from a date to be  
put into operation by proclamation**

**Long title**

**ACT**

**To consolidate and amend the law relating to Lower Courts.**

**Section 1 - definitions**

'**civil court**' means a civil court established under section 2 (i), (j) or (k);

'**civil division**' means a civil division established under section 2 (c);

'**civil magistrate**' means a civil magistrate appointed under section 9 (1) (a) (ii);

'**court**' means-

(a) any court established under section 2 (g), (h), (i), (j) or (k); and

(b) subject to the provisions of section 29B (2), in Chapters VI to XI, inclusive, or if the expression is used in relation to any civil case, a civil court; or

(c) in Chapters XII to XVI, inclusive, or when the expression is used in relation to any criminal case, a regional court or a magistrate's court;

'**court of appeal**' means the provincial or local division of the Supreme Court to which an appeal lies from any court;

'**district**' in Chapters VI to XI, inclusive, includes a civil or family division;

'**family court**' means a family court established under section 2 (k);

'**family division**' means a family division established under section 2 (d);

'**family magistrate**' means a family magistrate appointed under section 9 (1) (a) (v);

'**judicial officer**' means any holder of an office, whether in a permanent, acting or temporary capacity, who may hold a court under this Act;

'**magistrate**' means a magistrate appointed under section 9 (1) (a) (i);

'**magistrate's court**' means a magistrate's court established under section 2 (g);

'**Minister**' means the Minister of Justice;

'**practitioner**' means an advocate, an attorney, a candidate attorney such as is referred to in section 21 or an agent such as is referred to in section 22;

'**regional court**' means a regional court established under section 2 (h);

'**regional division**' means a regional division established under section 2 (b);

'**regional magistrate**' means a regional magistrate appointed under section 9 (1) (a) (iii);

'**senior civil magistrate**' means a senior civil magistrate appointed under section 9 (1) (a) (iv);

'**province**', '**Republic**' and '**territory**' - deleted

**Section 2 - Minister's powers relative to districts, regional divisions, civil divisions, family divisions and courts**

The Minister may, by notice in the *Gazette*-

- (a) establish districts, define the local limits of each district, which may consist of various non-contiguous areas, and determine the name by which any district shall be known;
- (b) establish regional divisions consisting of a number of districts, or of a district together with one or more subdistricts, and determine the name by which any regional division shall be known;
- (c) establish civil divisions consisting of one or more districts, or of a district together with one or more subdistricts, and determine the name by which any civil division shall be known;
- (d) establish family divisions of the civil court consisting of one or more districts, or of a district together with one or more subdistricts, and determine the name by which any family division shall be known;
- (e) increase or decrease the local limits of any district or regional, civil or family division;
- (f) for all purposes or for such purposes as he may determine, annex any district or any portion thereof to another district;
- (g) establish a magistrate's court for any district;
- (h) establish a regional court for any regional division;
- (i) establish a civil court for any district;
- (j) establish a civil court for any civil division;
- (k) establish a family court for any family division;
- (l) appoint one or more places within each district for the holding of the magistrate's court of such district, and define the local limits of an area in a district, which area may include any portion of an adjoining district, and determine the name by which such area shall be known, and appoint one or more places in such area for the holding of the magistrate's court of such area; of which first-mentioned places, if more than one is appointed, one shall be appointed as the seat of the magistracy;
- (m) appoint one or more places in each regional division for the holding of the regional court of such regional division;
- (n) appoint one or more places within each district for the holding of the civil court of such district, and define the local limits of an area in a district, which area may include any portion of an adjoining district, and determine the name by which such area shall be known, and appoint one or more places in such area for the holding of the civil court of such area; of which first-mentioned places, if more than one such place is appointed, one shall be appointed as the seat of the civil court;
- (o) appoint one or more places in each civil division for the holding of the civil court of such civil division;
- (p) appoint one or more places in each family division for the holding of the family court of such family division;
- (q) within any district appoint places other than the seat of magistracy for the holding of periodical magistrates' courts, and define the local limits within which such court shall have jurisdiction, and include within those limits any portion of an adjoining district;

- (r) detach a portion of a district or portions of two or more adjoining districts as a subdistrict to form the area of jurisdiction of a detached magistrate's court, and determine the name by which such subdistrict shall be known, and appoint the places where such detached court is to be held;
- (s) within any district appoint places other than the seat of the civil court for the holding of periodical civil courts, and define the local limits within which such court shall have jurisdiction, and include within those limits any portion of an adjoining district;
- (t) detach a portion of a district or portions of two or more adjoining districts as a subdistrict to form the area of jurisdiction of a detached civil court, and determine the name by which such subdistrict shall be known, and appoint the places where such detached court is to be held;
- (u) withdraw or vary any notice under this section and abolish any regional, civil or family division or district, subdistrict or other area of jurisdiction and also the court thereof.

### **Section 3 - Existing courts, districts and regional divisions to continue, and interpretation of certain expressions**

(1) The courts, districts and regional divisions existing immediately before the commencement of section 3 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act, 1993, shall be deemed to have been established under this Act.

(2) All references in any other law to magistrate's court, magistrate's courts, lower court or lower courts shall be read as referring to the court or courts concerned, as the case may be, established under this Act.

### **Section 4 (4)**

Any process issued out of any court may be served or executed by the sheriff appointed for the area within which such process is to be served or executed.

### **Section 7 (1)**

Subject to the provisions of section 7A and the rules, the records of the court, other than a record with reference to which a direction has been issued under section 153 (2) or 154 (1) of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977, or with reference to which the provisions of section 154 (2) (a) or 154 (3) of that Act apply, shall be accessible to the public under supervision of the clerk of the court at convenient times and upon payment of the fees prescribed from time to time by the Minister in consultation with the Minister of Finance, and for this purpose and for all other purposes the records of any court which has at any time existed within the Republic, shall be deemed to be the records of the court of the district in which the place where such court was held is situated, and such records shall be preserved at the seat of magistracy or civil court, as the case may be, of that district for such periods as the Director-General: Justice may from time to time determine: Provided that the said Director-General may order that the records of a regional court, a civil court of a civil division or a family court shall be so preserved at such a place or places within that regional, civil or family division, as the case may be, as he may from time to time determine: Provided further that payment of such fees shall not be required from any person who satisfies any judicial officer of the court in respect of which the records are desired that he desires access to the records of the court in connection with research for academic purposes.

### **Section 9 - Appointment of judicial officers**

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(1) (a) Subject to the provisions of the Magistrates Act, 1993, and the provisions of section 10, the Minister may-

- (i) for every district or subdistrict appoint a magistrate, one or more additional magistrates or one or more assistant magistrates;
- (ii) for every district or subdistrict appoint one or more civil magistrates;
- (iii) for every regional division appoint one or more regional magistrates;
- (iv) for every civil division appoint one or more senior civil magistrates;
- (v) for every family division appoint one or more family magistrates.

(b) The Minister may, in a particular case or generally and subject to such directions as he or she may deem fit, delegate the power conferred upon him or her by paragraph (d) to the Director-General of his or her Department or another officer of that Department with the rank of director or an equivalent or higher rank.

(c) A judicial officer of a district, subdistrict or regional, civil or family division may at the same time also be such a judicial officer of another district, subdistrict or regional, civil or family division, respectively.

(d) The Minister may, with due regard to the circumstances and the extent of judicial functions in a particular district for which a magistrate's court and a civil court have been established, appoint a judicial officer as magistrate, additional magistrate or assistant magistrate and civil magistrate for that district, and in any such case any such person shall possess the powers and jurisdiction and perform the duties connected to both such offices: Provided that a magistrate, additional magistrate or assistant magistrate who presided at criminal proceedings from which a civil action arises in a civil court and in which the same parties are involved, shall not preside in that court in respect of that action unless the parties agree thereto.

(2) (a) Any person appointed as judicial officer under this section shall, before commencing with his or her functions in terms of this Act for the first time, take an oath or make an affirmation subscribed by him or her, in the form set out below:

'I, .....  
(full name)

do hereby swear/solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that whenever I may be called upon to perform the functions of a judicial officer in any court, I will administer justice to all persons alike without fear, favour or prejudice and, as the circumstances of any particular case may require, in accordance with the law and customs of the Republic of South Africa.'

(b) Any such oath or affirmation shall be taken or made in open court before the most senior available judicial officer of the court concerned or a justice of the peace, who shall at the foot thereof endorse a statement of the fact that it was taken or made before him or her and of the date on which it was so taken or made and append his or her signature thereto.

(3) Whenever by reason of absence or incapacity a judicial officer is unable to carry out the functions of his or her office or whenever such office becomes vacant, the Minister or an officer of the Department of Justice authorized thereto in writing by the Minister, may appoint any other competent officer of the public service or any competent retired officer of the public service to act in the place of the absent or incapacitated judicial officer during such absence or incapacity or to act in the vacant office until the vacancy is filled: Provided that no person shall be appointed as an acting regional, senior civil or family magistrate unless he or she has satisfied all the requirements for the

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degree referred to in section 10 (b) or has passed an examination referred to in that section.

(4) The Minister or an officer of the Department of Justice authorized thereto in writing by the Minister, may appoint temporarily any person to act, subject to such conditions or restriction as the Minister or such officer may determine, either generally or in a particular matter, as judicial officer of a district, subdistrict or regional, civil or family division, as the case may be, in addition to any other judicial officer or acting judicial officer of any such district, subdistrict or regional, civil or family division.

(5) The provisions of section 9quat (2) and (4) shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to any person appointed under subsection (3) or (4): Provided that the provisions of section 9quat (4) shall not apply to any such person who is subject to the laws governing the public service.

### **Section 9ter - Establishment of Senior Civil and Family Magistrates Appointments Advisory Board**

(1) The Minister shall establish a board, to be known as the Senior Civil and Family Magistrates Appointments Advisory Board, to determine from time to time the suitability of persons for appointment as senior civil and family magistrates and to advise the Minister as to the suitability of such persons for appointment as senior civil and family magistrates.

(2) The board referred to in subsection (1) shall consist of-

- (a) the Director-General: Justice, who shall be the chairman thereof;
- (b) the Chief Director: Justice College;
- (c) the Chief Family Advocate;
- (d)
  - (i) two senior civil magistrates;
  - (ii) two family magistrates; and
  - (iii) two judicial officers designated in terms of section 12 (6) to exercise administrative control over civil, senior civil and family magistrates, appointed by the Minister after consultation with the Magistrates Commission established by section 2 of the Magistrates Act, 1993; and
- (e) one advocate and one attorney nominated by the General Council of the Bar of South Africa and the Association of Law Societies of the Republic of South Africa, respectively.

(3) The board referred to in subsection (1) shall designate one of the members as the vice-chairman thereof.

(4) The provisions of section 9bis (3) to (6), inclusive, shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to the meetings of the board referred to in subsection (1).

(5) (a) For the purposes of the initial functioning of the board referred to in subsection (1), the board shall consist of the members referred to in subsection (2) (a) to (c), inclusive, and (e), as well as six judicial officers appointed by the Minister for a period not exceeding two years.

(b) The Minister may at any time before the expiry of the period for which a judicial officer has been appointed in terms of paragraph (a), appoint a senior civil or family magistrate or another judicial officer in the place of the first-mentioned judicial officer.

### **Section 9quat - Appointment of certain practitioners as civil, senior civil or**

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### family magistrates in acting capacity

(1) Subject to the provisions of section 10 (b), the Minister may, if he deems it desirable that an advocate or an attorney be appointed, whether in general or in a specific case, to act as civil, senior civil or family magistrate of a district or civil or family division, as the case may be-

- (a) in the place of any civil, senior civil or family magistrate; or
- (b) in addition to the civil, senior civil and family magistrates of such district or civil or family division, as the case may be; or
- (c) in any vacancy in such district or civil or family division, as the case may be,

so appoint such advocate or attorney for such period as the Minister may determine, from persons whose names have been submitted for that purpose by the board referred to in section 9ter (1), after consultation with the General Council of the Bar of South Africa and the Association of Law Societies of the Republic of South Africa.

(2) Any appointment as judicial officer made under subsection (1) shall be deemed to have been made also in respect of any period during which the person appointed is necessarily engaged in connection with the disposal of proceedings in which he has taken part as such judicial officer and which have not been disposed of at the expiry of the period for which he was appointed or, having been disposed of before or after such expiry, are reopened.

(3) The provisions of section 9 (2) shall *mutatis mutandis* apply in relation to a person appointed under subsection (1).

(4) The Minister may, with the concurrence of the Minister of State Expenditure, determine the remuneration and allowances and the method of calculation of such remuneration and allowances payable to a person appointed under subsection (1) for services rendered.

(5) (a) Any person appointed under subsection (1) may resign by notice in writing to the Minister.

(b) The Minister may, on the recommendation of the board referred to in section 9ter (1) revoke the appointment of any person appointed under subsection (1).

### Section 10 - Qualifications for appointment as judicial officer

Subject to the provisions of section 11-

- (a) a person who has not before the commencement of section 9 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act, 1993, held a substantive appointment as magistrate shall not hold an appointment as magistrate or civil magistrate and a person who has not before the said commencement held a substantive appointment as assistant magistrate shall not hold an appointment as magistrate or civil magistrate, unless in either case he has passed the diploma *iuris* examination or an examination deemed by the Magistrates Commission established by section 2 of the Magistrates Act, 1993, to be equivalent thereto or of a higher standard;
- (b) no person shall be appointed as a regional, senior civil or family magistrate unless he is a magistrate, additional magistrate or civil magistrate or an advocate or attorney who has satisfied all the requirements for the degree of *baccalaureus legum* of a university in the Republic or has passed the diploma *legum* examination or an examination deemed by the Magistrates Commission mentioned in paragraph (a) to be equivalent or of a higher



standard, and the board referred to in section 9*bis* (1) or 9*ter* (1), as the case may be, has advised the Minister that he is suitable for appointment as regional, senior civil or family magistrate, as the case may be: Provided that no person who does not satisfy all the requirements for the degree of *baccalaureus legum*, shall be appointed as a family magistrate.

### **Section 11 - Existing judicial officers to continue in office, and interpretation of certain expressions**

(1) All judicial officers holding office at the commencement of section 9 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act, 1993, shall be deemed to have been appointed under this Act.

(2) References in any other law to chief magistrates, resident magistrates, magistrates, additional magistrates, civil magistrates or criminal magistrates, shall be read as referring to judicial officers, as the case may be, appointed under this Act.

(3) All such references to assistant resident magistrates or to assistant magistrates shall be read as referring to assistant magistrates appointed under this Act.

### **Section 12 - Powers of judicial officers**

(1) A magistrate of a district or subdistrict-

- (a) may hold a court in the magistrate's court;
- (b) shall possess the powers and perform the duties conferred or imposed upon magistrates by law;
- (c) shall exercise administrative control over and distribute the work among the additional magistrates and assistant magistrates of the district or subdistrict for which he was appointed.

(2) An additional magistrate or an assistant magistrate-

- (a) may hold a court in the magistrate's court;
- (b) shall possess the powers and perform the duties conferred or imposed upon magistrates by law in so far as he is not expressly prohibited from exercising or performing either by the Minister or by the magistrate of the district.

(3) A civil magistrate-

- (a) may hold a court in the civil court of a district;
- (b) shall possess the powers and perform the duties conferred or imposed upon civil magistrates by law.

(4) A senior civil magistrate-

- (a) may hold a court in the civil court of a district as well as a civil division;
- (b) shall possess the powers and perform the duties conferred or imposed upon civil magistrates and senior civil magistrates by law;
- (c) who has been appointed as a family magistrate, shall possess the powers and perform the duties conferred or imposed upon civil, senior civil and family magistrates by law.

(5) A family magistrate-

- (a) may hold a court in the family court of a family division;
- (b) shall possess the powers and perform the duties conferred or imposed upon family magistrates by law.

(6) A civil, senior civil and family magistrate shall be subject to the administrative control of a judicial officer designated for that purpose in respect of one or more areas of jurisdiction concerned by the Minister or an officer of the Department of Justice authorized thereto by the Minister in writing, and such judicial officer shall distribute the work among the civil, senior civil and family magistrates, as the case may be, of the area or areas of jurisdiction concerned.

(7) A regional magistrate-

- (a) may hold a court in the regional court;
- (b) shall possess the powers and perform the duties conferred or imposed upon regional magistrates by law.

(8) A person appointed as judicial officer under section 9 (3), shall during the period of his appointment possess the powers and jurisdiction and perform the duties connected with the office in which he is acting.

(9) Any person appointed temporarily under section 9 (4) to act as judicial officer of a district, subdistrict or regional, civil or family division shall, during the period of his appointment, and subject to such conditions or restrictions as the Minister or the officer so appointing him may impose, possess the powers and jurisdiction and perform the duties connected with the office in which he is so acting.

(10) Any person appointed as a judicial officer under section 9 *quat* (1), shall during the period of his appointment possess the powers and jurisdiction and perform the duties connected with the office in which he is acting.

### **Section 13 (1)**

The magistrate of the district in which a magistrate's court, regional court, civil court of a district, civil court of a civil division or family court is situate, shall for every such court appoint such number of clerks of the court and assistant clerks of the court as may be necessary.

### **Section 14 - Sheriff may in certain circumstances refuse to serve or execute process**

(1) A sheriff receiving any process for service or execution from a practitioner or plaintiff by whom there is due and payable to the sheriff any sum of money in respect of services performed more than three months previously in the execution of any duty of his office, and which notwithstanding request has not been paid, may refer such process to any judicial officer of the court out of which the process was issued, with particulars of the sum due and payable by the practitioner or plaintiff; and the judicial officer may, if he is satisfied that a sum is due and payable by the practitioner or plaintiff to the sheriff as aforesaid which notwithstanding request has not been paid, by writing under his hand authorize the sheriff to refuse to serve or execute such process until the sum due and payable to the sheriff has been paid.

(2) A judicial officer granting any such authority shall forthwith transmit a copy thereof to the practitioner or plaintiff concerned and a sheriff receiving any such authority shall forthwith return to the practitioner or plaintiff the process to which such authority refers with an intimation of his refusal to serve or execute the same and of the grounds for such refusal.

(3) If any process referred to in subsection (1) was issued out of any court of a civil or family division, the sheriff may refer it to any judicial officer of any civil court of a district

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situate within that civil or family division, who may exercise the powers contemplated in that subsection.

### **Section 15 (1) (b)**

The fees payable in respect of or in connection with any such service to a sheriff shall in any such case be chargeable but shall be paid into the National Revenue Fund.

### **Section 16 - Sheriff's duties relative to detention of persons by order of court**

The sheriff shall receive and cause to be lodged in a prison all persons arrested by such sheriff or committed to his custody.

### **Section 17 - Sheriff's return to be evidence**

The return of a sheriff or of any person authorized to perform any of the functions of a sheriff to any civil process of the court, shall be *prima facie* evidence of the matters therein stated.

### **Section 19 - Officers appointed previously to remain in office**

Every officer of the court holding office immediately prior to the commencement of section 12 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act, 1993, shall be deemed to be duly appointed under this Act, and shall be invested with power, duties and authority accordingly.

### **Section 26 - Area of jurisdiction**

(1) Except where it is otherwise by law provided, the area of jurisdiction of a court shall be the civil or family division or district, subdistrict or area for which such court is established.

(2) A court established for a district shall have no jurisdiction in a subdistrict or in an area referred to in section 2 (*n*).

(3) Nothing in subsection (2) shall affect proceedings pending in the court of a district at the time of the establishment of a subdistrict or an area referred to in section 2 (*n*).

### **Section 27 (b)**

no person shall, without his own consent, be liable to appear as a party before any periodical court to answer any claim unless he resides nearer to the place where the periodical court is held than to the seat of the civil court of the district.

### **Section 28 (1)**

Saving any other jurisdiction assigned to a court by this Act or by any other law, the persons in respect of whom the court shall have jurisdiction shall be the following and no other-

- (a) any person who resides, carries on business or is employed within the area of jurisdiction of the court;
- (b) any partnership which has business premises situated or any member whereof resides within the area of jurisdiction of the court;
- (c) any person whatever, in respect of any proceedings incidental to any action or proceeding instituted in the court by such person himself;
- (d) any person, whether or not he resides, carries on business or is employed within the area of jurisdiction of the court, if the cause of action arose wholly within the area of jurisdiction of the court;

- (e) any party to interpleader proceedings, if-
  - (i) the execution creditor and every claimant to the subject matter of the proceedings reside, carry on business, or are employed within the area of jurisdiction of the court; or
  - (ii) the subject matter of the proceedings has been attached by process of the court; or
  - (iii) such proceedings are taken under subsection (2) of section *sixty-nine* and the person therein referred to as the 'third party' resides, carries on business, or is employed within the area of jurisdiction of the court; or
  - (iv) all the parties consent to the jurisdiction of the court;
- (f) any defendant (whether in convention or reconvention) who appears and takes no objection to the jurisdiction of the court;
- (g) any person who owns immovable property within the area of jurisdiction of the court in actions in respect of such property or in respect of mortgage bonds thereon.

#### **Section 29 (1) - words preceding para. (a)**

Subject to the provisions of this Act, a civil court of a district or a civil division, in respect of causes of action, shall have jurisdiction in-

#### **Section 29 (3)**

The Minister may, in respect of the actions referred to in paragraphs (a), (b) and (d) to (g), inclusive, of subsection (1), from time to time after consultation with the judges president of the Supreme Court of South Africa, by notice in the *Gazette* determine different amounts for a civil court of a district and a civil division.

#### **Section 29 (4)**

In addition to any other jurisdiction conferred upon a family court by this Act or any other law, a family court shall have jurisdiction in respect of any divorce action as defined in section 1 of the Divorce Act, 1979 (Act 70 of 1979).

#### **Section 29A - Jurisdiction in respect of appeals against decisions of chiefs, headmen and chiefs' deputies**

(1) If a party appeals to the civil court of a district in terms of the provisions of section 12 (4) of the Black Administration Act, 1927 (Act 38 of 1927), the said court may confirm, alter or set aside the judgment after hearing such evidence as may be tendered by the parties to the dispute, or as may be deemed desirable by the court.

(2) A confirmation, alteration or setting aside in terms of subsection (1), shall be deemed to be a decision of the civil court of a district for the purposes of the provisions of Chapter XI.

#### **Section 29B - Jurisdiction of civil court of district relative to interlocutory orders and execution emanating from actions in court of civil division**

(1) Except where it is otherwise by law provided, a party or parties to any suit pending in a court of a civil division may, in accordance with the rules, apply to the civil court of the district in which the summons was issued for any interlocutory order, including any order contemplated in section 30, 30*bis*, 31 or 32 which may emanate from such suit, and that court may grant such order.

(2) (a) Execution in terms of the provisions of Chapter IX of a judgment for the  
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payment of any amount of money or an order for the payment in specified instalments of such an amount, and an administration order, shall in all cases be dealt with by the civil court of the district in which the summons was issued.

(b) The provisions of section 65M in relation to the execution of a judgment for the payment of any amount of money that has been given by a division of the Supreme Court of South Africa, shall *mutatis mutandis* apply in relation to any such judgment given by any court of a civil division.

### **Section 31 (2)**

The sheriff shall, if required by the plaintiff and at such plaintiff's expense, make an inventory of such furniture or effects.

### **Section 32 (1)**

Upon an affidavit by or on behalf of the landlord of any premises situate within the area of jurisdiction, that an amount of rent not exceeding the jurisdiction of the court is due and in arrear in regard to the said premises, and that the said rent has been demanded in writing for the space of seven days and upwards, or, if not so demanded, that the deponent believes that the tenant is about to remove the movable property upon the said premises, in order to avoid the payment of such rent, and upon security being given to the satisfaction of the clerk to the court to pay all damages, costs and charges which the tenant of such premises, or any other person, may sustain or incur by reason of the attachment hereinafter mentioned, if the said attachment be thereafter set aside, the court may, upon application, issue an order to the sheriff requiring him to attach so much of the movable property upon the premises in question and subject to the landlord's hypothec for rent as may be sufficient to satisfy the amount of such rent, together with the costs of such application and of any action for the said rent.

### **Section 35 (2)**

An interpleader summons, if issued in the court of the district or division in which the property was attached, may, at the discretion of the court, be remitted for trial to the court in which the judgment was given.

### **Section 45 (1) - words preceding the proviso**

Subject to the provisions of sections 46 and 46A, the court shall have jurisdiction to determine any action or proceeding otherwise beyond its jurisdiction, if the parties consent in writing thereto:

### **Section 46 (1)**

A civil court of a district shall have no jurisdiction in matters in which the dissolution of a marriage is sought.

### **Section 46 (2) - words preceding para. (a)**

A civil court of a district shall have no jurisdiction in matters-

### **Section 46A - Matters beyond jurisdiction of court of civil division**

A court of a civil division shall have no jurisdiction in matters in which-

- (a) the dissolution of a marriage is sought; and
- (b) the validity or interpretation of a will or other testamentary document is in question.

### **Section 47 (1)**

When in answer to a claim within the jurisdiction the defendant sets up a counterclaim

exceeding the jurisdiction, the claim shall not on that account be dismissed; but the court may, if satisfied that the defendant has *prima facie* a reasonable prospect on his counterclaim of obtaining a judgment in excess of its jurisdiction, stay the action for a reasonable period in order to enable him to institute an action in a competent court. The plaintiff in the civil court may (notwithstanding his action therein) counterclaim in such competent court and in that event all questions as to the costs incurred in the civil court shall be decided by that competent court.

#### **Section 47 (2) - words preceding para. (a)**

If the period for which such action has been stayed has expired and the defendant has failed to issue and serve a summons in a competent court in relation to the matters and the subject of such counterclaim the civil court shall on application either-

#### **Section 47 (3)**

If the defendant has failed to institute action within such further period or if the action instituted by the defendant be stayed, dismissed, withdrawn, or abandoned, or if the competent court has granted absolution from the instance thereon, the civil court shall, upon application, dismiss the counterclaim and shall proceed to determine the claim.

#### **Section 50 (1) (b)**

the notice shall state that the applicant objects to the action being tried by the court or any other civil court;

#### **Section 50A - Removal of divorce action from family court to provincial or local division**

Any family court in which a divorce action as defined in section 1 of the Divorce Act, 1979 (Act 70 of 1979), is pending-

(a) may at any stage of the proceedings-

(i) on its own accord;

(ii) on application by any party; or

(iii) on application by a Family Advocate appointed under section 2 (1) of the Mediation in Certain Divorce Matters Act, 1987 (Act 24 of 1987),

if in the opinion of the court the circumstances so justify;

(b) shall, on application of any party, if the other party agrees thereto, suspend the proceedings and order the clerk of the court to refer that action in accordance with the rules to the registrar of the provincial or local division having jurisdiction where the court is held, for enrolment.

(2) Any question as to costs already incurred in the action referred to in subsection (1) shall abide the result of the action.

#### **Section 51 (1)**

Any party to any civil action or other proceeding where the attendance of witnesses is required may procure the attendance of any witness (whether residing or for the time being within the area of jurisdiction of the court or not) in the manner in the rules provided.

#### **Section 51 (2) (a)**

If any person, being duly subpoenaed to give evidence or to produce any books, papers or documents in his possession or under his control which the party requiring his attendance desires to show in evidence, fails, without lawful excuse, to attend or to give

evidence or to produce those books, papers or documents according to the subpoena or, unless duly excused, fails to remain in attendance throughout the trial, the court may, upon being satisfied upon oath or by the return of the sheriff that such person has been duly subpoenaed and that his reasonable expenses, calculated in accordance with the tariff prescribed under section 51*bis*, have been paid or offered to him, impose upon the said person a fine not exceeding R300, and in default of payment, imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months, whether or not such person is otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the court.

### **Section 52 (1)**

Whenever a witness resides or is in an area of jurisdiction other than that wherein the case is being heard, the court may, if it appears to be consistent with the ends of justice, upon the application of either party approve of such interrogatories as either party shall desire to have put to such witness and shall transmit the same, together with any further interrogatories framed by the court, to the court of the area of jurisdiction within which such witness resides or is.

### **Section 52 (3)**

Every witness so subpoenaed to appear shall be liable to the like penalties in case of non-attendance or failure to give evidence or to produce books, papers or documents as if he had been subpoenaed to give evidence in the court of the area of jurisdiction in which he resides or is.

### **Section 65D (5)**

The court may, in its discretion, refuse to take account of the periodical payments that a judgment debtor has undertaken to make in terms of a credit transaction as defined in section 1 of the Credit Agreements Act, 1980 (Act 75 of 1980), for the purchase of goods which have not been exempted from seizure in terms of section 67 or which cannot, in the opinion of the court, be regarded as the judgment debtor's household requirements.

### **Section 65J (1) - words following upon para. (e)**

the judgment creditor may, subject to the provisions of subsection (2), issue an order (hereinafter called an emoluments attachment order) from the court of the district in which the employer of the judgment debtor resides, carries on business or is employed, or, if the judgment debtor is employed by the State, in which he is employed, attaching the emoluments at present or in future owing or accruing to the judgment debtor by or from such employer (in this section called the garnishee) to the amount necessary to cover the judgment and the costs of the attachment, whether such judgment was obtained in that court or in any other civil court, and obliging the garnishee to pay from time to time to the judgment creditor or his attorney at the address of such judgment creditor or his attorney specific amounts out of the emoluments of the judgment debtor in accordance with the order of court laying down the specific instalments payable by the judgment debtor, until such judgment debt and costs have been paid in full.

### **Section 65J (3)**

Any emoluments attachment order shall be prepared by the judgment creditor or his attorney, shall be signed by the judgment creditor or his attorney and the clerk of the court, and shall be served on the garnishee by the sheriff in the manner prescribed by the rules for the service of process.

### **Section 65L (b)**

when the judgment creditor or his attorney or the sheriff certifies in writing

that the judgment debt and costs mentioned in the warrant have been paid, or in the case where a court has given judgment for the payment of an amount of money in specified instalments, that the amount of any arrear instalment and costs have been paid, which certificate shall be handed by the judgment creditor or his attorney or the sheriff to the officer in charge of the prison as soon as practicable after any such payment;

#### **Section 66 (2) (b)**

a civil magistrate of the district in which the property is situated has upon the application of the judgment creditor and after enquiry into the circumstances of the case, directed what steps shall be taken to bring the intended sale to the notice of the preferent creditor, and those steps have been carried out,

#### **Section 66 (6)**

A judgment creditor (whether by virtue of a judgment given in the Supreme Court of South Africa or in a civil court) desiring to attach immovable property that is already under attachment and in respect of which a sale in execution is not pending, and who has lodged a warrant of execution with the sheriff, may, after notifying the interested parties, apply to the court for an order to the effect that the property may be sold in terms of this warrant.

#### **Section 66 (7)**

A sheriff who is directed to attach immovable property, shall not be precluded merely by the absence of the execution debtor from his place of residence or business, from discharging his duties, but may discharge his duties if he is able to do so and shall endorse a return of service to the court on the warrant.

#### **Section 66 (8)**

If the execution debtor, having been requested by the sheriff to point out property in order to satisfy a warrant of execution against movable property, declares that he has no movable property or insufficient movable property and the sheriff is unable to find sufficient movable property to satisfy the warrant, the sheriff shall request the execution debtor to declare whether he has immovable property which is executable and shall enter the execution debtor's reply in his return of service endorsed on such warrant.

#### **Section 68 (1)**

The sheriff executing any process of execution against movable property may, by virtue of such process, also seize and take any money or bank notes, and may seize, take and sell in execution cheques, bills of exchange, promissory notes, bonds, or securities for money belonging to the execution debtor.

#### **Section 68 (2)**

The sheriff may also hold any cheques, bills of exchange, promissory notes, bonds or securities for money which have been seized or taken, as security for the benefit of the execution creditor for the amount directed to be levied by the execution so far as it is still unsatisfied; and the execution creditor may, when the time of payment has arrived, sue in the name of the execution debtor, or in the name of any person in whose name the execution debtor might have sued, for the recovery of the sum secured or made payable thereby.

#### **Section 68 (3)**

The sheriff may also under any process of execution against movable property attach



and sell in execution the interest of the execution debtor in any movable property belonging to him and pledged or sold under a suspensive condition to a third person, and may also sell the interest of the execution debtor in property movable or immovable leased to the execution debtor or sold to him under any hire purchase contract or under a suspensive condition.

#### **Section 68 (4)**

Whenever, if the sale had not been in execution, it would have been necessary for the execution debtor to endorse a document or to execute a cession in order to pass the property to a purchaser, the sheriff may so endorse the document or execute the cession, as to any property sold by him in execution.

#### **Section 68 (5)**

The sheriff may also, as to immovable property sold by him in execution, do anything necessary to effect registration of transfer. Anything done by the sheriff under this subsection or subsection (4) shall be as valid and effectual as if he were the execution debtor.

#### **Section 70 - Sale in execution gives good title**

A sale in execution by the sheriff shall not, in the case of movable property after delivery thereof or in the case of immovable property after registration of transfer, be liable to be impeached as against a purchaser in good faith and without notice of any defect.

#### **Section 71 - Surplus after execution**

If, after a sale in execution, there remains any surplus in the hands of the sheriff, it shall be liable to attachment for any other unsatisfied judgment debt.

#### **Section 71A - Movable property which sheriff cannot dispose of in terms of this Act, shall be sold by public auction**

(1) Any movable property in the custody of the sheriff or any other person acting on his or her behalf in respect of which attachment has been withdrawn or which is released from attachment and in respect of which the owner or person from whose possession the property has been removed, cannot be traced, and which cannot be disposed of in terms of this Act, shall be sold by the sheriff by public auction, and the proceeds of the sale shall, after deduction of the sheriff's costs, be paid into the National Revenue Fund: Provided that such sale shall not take place unless such property has remained unclaimed for a period of fourteen days after the sheriff has published, in one English and one Afrikaans newspaper circulating in the district where the last known address of the judgment debtor is situated, a notice containing the name of the judgment debtor and a description of the property and stating the intention to sell such property if it is not claimed within the period specified therein.

(2) After the public auction referred to in subsection (1), the sheriff shall draw up a venue roll as if the sale was a sale in execution of property and shall attach the roll to his or her return in respect of the relevant process of the court in the case together with proof that the proceeds of the sale have been paid into the National Revenue Fund.

(3) The proceeds of a sale paid into the National Revenue Fund in terms of this section, shall be refunded out of accruing revenue to any person who satisfies a civil magistrate of the district in which the sale took place that he or she would have been entitled to receive the property referred to in this section after the attachment thereof had been withdrawn or the property had been released from attachment.

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### **Section 72 (1)**

The court may, on *ex parte* application by the judgment creditor or under section 65E (1) (b), order the attachment of any debt at present or in future owing or accruing to a judgment debtor by or from any other person (excluding the State), residing, carrying on business or employed in the area of jurisdiction of the court, to an amount sufficient to satisfy the judgment and the costs of the proceedings for attachment, whether such judgment has been obtained in such court or in any other civil court, and make an order (hereinafter called a garnishee order) against such person (hereinafter called the garnishee) to pay to the judgment creditor or his attorney at the address of the judgment creditor or his attorney, so much of the debt as may be sufficient to satisfy the judgment and costs, and may enforce such garnishee order as if it were a judgment of the court.

### **Section 74 (1) - words following upon para. (b)**

such court or the court of the district in which the debtor resides or carries on business or is employed may, upon application by the debtor or under section 65I, subject to such conditions as the court may deem fit with regard to security, preservation or disposal of assets, realization of movables subject to hypothec, or otherwise, make an order (in this Act called an administration order) providing for the administration of his estate and for the payment of his debts in instalments or otherwise.

### **Section 74I (4)**

An emoluments attachment order or garnishee order referred to in subsection (3) shall be prepared by the administrator or his attorney, shall be signed by the administrator or his attorney and the clerk of the court, and shall be served on the garnishee by the sheriff by registered post.

### **Section 74J (6)**

A distribution account referred to in subsection (5) shall at the request of any interested party be subject to review free of charge by any civil magistrate whose decision shall be final.

### **Section 74J (7) (b)**

if he is a practising attorney, in the trust account that he keeps in terms of section 78 of the Attorneys Act, 1979 (Act 53 of 1979).

### **Section 74L (2)**

The expenses and remuneration mentioned in subsection (1) (a) shall not exceed 12 per cent of the amount of collected moneys received and such expenses and remuneration shall, upon application by any interested party, be subject to taxation by the clerk of the court and review by any civil magistrate.

### **Section 74S (2)**

The provisions of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 (Act 51 of 1977), with regard to periodical imprisonment shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to periodical imprisonment imposed in terms of subsection (1).

### **Section 80 (1)**

The stamps, fees, costs and charges in connection with any civil proceedings in civil courts shall, as between party and party, be payable in accordance with the scales prescribed by the rules.

### **Section 81 - Review of taxation**

Taxation by the clerk of the court shall be subject to review free of charge by a judicial officer of the court; and the decision of such judicial officer may at any time within one month thereafter be brought in review before a judge of the court of appeal in the manner prescribed by the rules.

### **Section 89 - Jurisdiction in respect of offences**

(1) The magistrate's court shall have jurisdiction over all offences except treason, murder and rape.

(2) The regional court shall have jurisdiction over all offences except treason.

### **Section 90 (2) (d)**

committed on board any vessel on a voyage within the territorial waters of the Republic, and the said territorial waters adjoin the district or the regional division; or

### **Section 90 (7)**

Where by any special provision of law a court has jurisdiction in respect of an offence committed beyond the local limits of the district, or of the regional division, as the case may be, such court shall not be deprived of such jurisdiction by any of the provisions of this section.

### **Section 90 (8)**

Where an accused is alleged to have committed various offences within different districts within the area of jurisdiction of any attorney-general, the attorney-general concerned may in writing direct that criminal proceedings in respect of such various offences be commenced in any particular magistrate's court within his area of jurisdiction, whereupon such court shall have jurisdiction to act with regard to any such offence as if such offence had been committed within the area of jurisdiction of that court, and the regional court within whose area of jurisdiction such magistrate's court is situated, shall likewise have jurisdiction in respect of any such offence if such offence is an offence which may be tried by a regional court.

### **Section 91 - Criminal jurisdiction of periodical courts**

(1) (a) The court of the district within which an area is situate for which a periodical court has been established, shall retain concurrent jurisdiction with the periodical court within such portion of that area as is situate within such district.

(b) No person shall, without his consent, be liable to appear as an accused before any periodical court unless he resides nearer to the place where the periodical court is held than to the seat of magistracy of the district.

(2) A criminal case that has been instituted in a periodical court may, subject to the provisions of subsection (1) (b), in the discretion of the court be transferred to the court of the district and *vice versa*.

### **Section 92 (1) (a)**

by imprisonment, may impose a sentence of imprisonment for a period not exceeding 12 months, if the court is a magistrate's court, or not exceeding 10 years, if the court is a regional court;

### **Section 92 (2)**

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(a) The magistrate's court shall have jurisdiction to impose any punishment prescribed in respect of an offence under any law which relates to vehicles and the regulation of traffic on public roads, notwithstanding that such punishment exceeds the jurisdiction referred to in subsection (1).

(b) Where a person is convicted of culpable homicide arising out of the driving of a vehicle as defined in any applicable law referred to in paragraph (a), the magistrate's court shall have jurisdiction to impose any punishment which the court may impose under that paragraph in respect of the offence of driving a vehicle recklessly on a public road.

### **Section 93ter (1)**

The judicial officer presiding at any trial may, if he deems it expedient for the administration of justice-

- (a) before any evidence has been led; or
- (b) in considering a community-based punishment in respect of any person who has been convicted of any offence,

summon to his assistance any one or two persons who, in his opinion, may be of assistance at the trial of the case or in the determination of a proper sentence, as the case may be, to sit with him as assessor or assessors: Provided that if an accused is standing trial in any regional court on a charge of murder, whether together with other charges or accused or not, the judicial officer shall at that trial be assisted by two assessors unless such an accused requests that the trial be proceeded with without assessors, whereupon the judicial officer may in his discretion summon one or two assessors to assist him.

### **Section 107 (1)**

obstructs a sheriff or deputy sheriff in the execution of his duties;

### **Section 107 (3) - words preceding para. (a)**

being a judgment debtor and being required by a sheriff or deputy sheriff to point out property to satisfy a warrant issued in execution of judgment against such person, either-

### **Section 107 (4)**

being a judgment debtor refuses or neglects to comply with any requirement of a sheriff or deputy sheriff in regard to the delivery of documents in his possession or under his control relating to the title of the immovable property under execution,

### **Section 108 (1)**

If any person, whether in custody or not, wilfully insults a judicial officer during his sitting or a clerk or sheriff or other officer during his attendance at such sitting, or wilfully interrupts the proceedings of the court or otherwise misbehaves himself in the place where such court is held, he shall (in addition to his liability to being removed and detained as in subsection (3) of section 5 provided) be liable to be sentenced summarily or upon summons to a fine not exceeding R2 000 or in default of payment to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months or to such imprisonment without the option of a fine. In this subsection the word 'court' includes a preparatory examination held under the law relating to criminal procedure.

### **Section 114 (2)**

Nothing in this Act contained shall be construed as depriving any superior court of any

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power to review and correct the proceedings of any court.

### **Section 114 (3) - deleted**

### **Sections 115 and 115A - repealed**

### **Section 117 - Short title and commencement**

This Act may be cited for all purposes as the Lower Courts Act, 1944, and shall come into operation on a date to be fixed by the Governor-General by proclamation in the *Gazette*.

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## **PENDLEX: Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 after amendment by the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 67 of 1998 with effect from a date to be put into operation by proclamation**

### **Section 34 - Assessors**

In any action the court may, upon the application of either party, summon to its assistance one or two persons who are suitable and available and who may be willing to sit and act as assessors in an advisory capacity.

### **Section 93ter - Magistrate to be assisted by assessors at certain criminal proceedings**

**[NB:** S. 2 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 67 of 1998 substitutes s. 93ter. S. 2 was put into operation with effect from 20 April 2000 in so far as it substitutes sub-s. (5) and inserts sub-ss. (10) and (11). The remainder of s. 93ter as substituted by s. 2 of Act 67 of 1998 is reproduced below.]

(1) In this section '**assessor**' means a person whose name is registered on a roll of assessors, in terms of a regulation referred to in section 93quat.

(2) A judicial officer shall be assisted by two assessors at the trial of an accused person in respect of any offence referred to in Schedule 2.

(3) The judicial officer presiding at-

- (a) any application for bail by an accused person;
- (b) the trial of an accused person, other than a trial contemplated in subsection (2); or

(c) proceedings concerning the imposition of a sentence upon a convicted person, may, if he or she considers it expedient for the administration of justice-

- (i) in the case of proceedings referred to in paragraphs (a) and (c), summon one or two assessors; and

(ii) in the case of a trial referred to in paragraph (b), summon two assessors, to assist him or her at the proceedings concerned.

(4) (a) In considering whether summoning assessors under subsection (3) would be expedient for the administration of justice, the judicial officer shall take into account-

- (i) the cultural and social environment of the accused person;
- (ii) the educational background of the accused person;
- (iii) the nature and the seriousness of the offence in respect of which the accused person is applying for bail, or stands accused of, or has been convicted;
- (iv) the extent or probable extent of the punishment to which the accused person

will be exposed upon conviction, or is exposed, as the case may be;

- (v) the views, if any, of the accused person regarding the summoning of assessors in respect of the proceedings concerned;
- (vi) any particular interest which the community in general, or any specific community, may have in the adjudication of the matter concerned; or
- (vii) any other matter or circumstance which he or she may deem to be indicative of the desirability of summoning an assessor or assessors.

(b) The judicial officer may question the accused person in relation to the matters referred to in paragraph (a), or obtain such information from his or her legal representative.

(5) .....

(6) Whenever a judicial officer is assisted by assessors at a trial referred to in subsection (2) of (3) (b), the assessors shall only commence with their functions as assessors after the plea in the matter has been recorded.

(7) An assessor shall be a member of the court, subject to the following provisions:

- (a) An assessor shall, at the consideration of a bail application or in determining an appropriate sentence, assist the judicial officer in an advisory capacity only.
- (b) At any trial referred to in subsection (2) or (3) (b)-
  - (i) any matter of law arising for decision at the proceedings concerned; and
  - (ii) any question arising thereat as to whether a matter for decision is a matter of fact or a matter of law,shall be decided by the judicial officer.
- (c) The judicial officer shall adjourn the proceedings regarding any matter or question referred to in paragraph (b) and shall sit alone for the hearing of such proceedings and the decision of such matter or question.
- (d) Whenever the judicial officer makes a decision in terms of paragraph (b) the judicial officer shall give his or her reasons for that decision.
- (e) Upon all matters of fact the finding or decision of the majority of the members of the court shall be the finding or decision of the court.

(8) Whenever a judicial officer is assisted by assessors at a trial referred to in subsection (2) or (3) (b), the judicial officer shall, after the conclusion of the arguments by the prosecutor and the accused person, but before judgment is passed in the matter, explain to the assessors any specific rule of evidence or any other matter that is relevant in respect of the evidence tendered to the court.

(9) The record of any proceedings where a judicial officer has been assisted by assessors-

- (a) regarding the evidence adduced at the proceedings, shall include any explanation or instruction given to the assessors by the judicial officer in respect of any applicable rule of evidence or any other matter; and
- (b) regarding the judgment, shall indicate clearly whether the findings in respect of each material aspect of the evidence-
  - (i) are the unanimous findings of the members of the court; and
  - (ii) in the event of any member of the court making a finding different to

that of the other members, set out the reasons for such different finding.

(10) and (11) .....

(12) (a) A judicial officer assisted by assessors at a trial referred to in subsection (2) or (3) (b), where an accused person is convicted and sentenced, shall-

- (i) if the accused person is not assisted by a legal adviser; and
- (ii) if the judicial officer is of the opinion that the assessors concerned have clearly made an incorrect finding in a material respect which probably led to a wrongful conviction of the accused person,

record the reasons for his or her opinion and transmit them, together with the record of the proceedings, to the registrar of the High Court having jurisdiction, and such registrar shall, as soon as is practicable, submit the said reasons and the record to a judge in chambers for review, who shall have the same powers in respect of such proceedings as if the record thereof had been submitted to him or her in terms of section 303 of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 (Act 51 of 1977).

(b) When a judicial officer acts in terms of paragraph (a), he or she shall inform the accused person accordingly and, if the accused person is in custody, the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977, relating to the granting of bail pending an appeal shall be applicable.

(c) The provisions of paragraph (a)-

- (i) shall not be applicable in respect of a matter which is subject to review in terms of section 302 of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977; and
- (ii) shall be suspended in respect of an accused person who has appealed against a conviction or sentence and has not abandoned the appeal, and shall cease to apply with reference to such an accused person when judgment on appeal is given.

### **Section 93quat - Regulations pertaining to assessors**

(1) The Minister has the power, from time to time, to determine the criteria for the qualification of persons to serve as assessors in terms of section 93ter, including the criteria for the disqualification of persons to serve as such assessors.

(2) The Minister may make regulations regarding-

- (a) the procedure to be followed at, and criteria to be applied for, the designation and registration of persons from the community, who are suitable and available to serve as assessors in terms of section 93ter, on a roll of assessors for each district and regional division;
- (b) the method to be followed in respect of the allocation of assessors in respect of proceedings referred to in section 93ter;
- (c) a code of conduct for such assessors, and mechanisms for the enforcement of the code of conduct, including the liability of an assessor if any provision of the code of conduct is contravened by him or her;
- (d) the establishment of a mechanism to deal with any grievance or complaint by or against an assessor;
- (e) training of assessors;
- (f) the payment of allowances to assessors;
- (g) any other matter which the Minister deems expedient to prescribe in order to

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regulate the service of assessors in the courts.

(3) Any regulation made under this section which may result in expenditure for the State, shall be made in consultation with the Minister of Finance.

(4) A regulation made under subsection (1) (c) may provide that any person who contravenes a provision thereof or fails to comply therewith shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction be liable to a fine or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months.

(5) Any regulation made under this section shall be tabled in Parliament before publication thereof in the *Gazette*.

## **Schedule 2 - OFFENCES IN RESPECT OF WHICH JUDICIAL OFFICERS MUST BE ASSISTED BY TWO ASSESSORS IN TERMS OF SECTION 93TER**

[Schedule 2 substituted by s. 68 of Act 32 of 2007 (wef 16 December 2007).]

1. Murder.
  2. Rape or compelled rape as contemplated in sections 3 or 4 of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act, 2007, respectively.
  3. Robbery, where serious bodily harm has been inflicted on the victim.
  4. Assault, where serious bodily harm has been inflicted on the victim.
- 

## **MAGISTRATES' COURTS AMENDMENT ACT 40 OF 1952**

[ASSENTED TO 20 JUNE 1952]

[DATE OF COMMENCEMENT: 27 JUNE 1952]

(Unless otherwise indicated)

*(Afrikaans text signed by the Governor-General)*

### **as amended by**

Criminal Procedure Act 56 of 1955

Criminal Procedure Act 51 of 1977

### **ACT**

**To amend the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1944, and the law relating to criminal procedure and evidence in matters incidental thereto.**

#### **1 Definitions**

In this Act-

'**principal Act**' means the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1944 (Act 32 of 1944);

'**Criminal Code**' means the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act, 1917 (Act 31 of 1917), as amended.

#### **2 to 9 inclusive**

Amend respectively the following sections of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 12.

#### **10**

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Amends section 14 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraphs (a) and (b) substitute respectively subsections (1) and (6) (date of commencement: 2 July 1945); and paragraph (c) amends subsections (7) and (8).

**11 to 14 inclusive**

Amend respectively the following sections of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944: 15, 28, 29, 53.

**15**

Substitutes section 65 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

**16**

Amends section 66 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

**17**

Substitutes section 72 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

**18 and 19**

Amend respectively sections 73 and 74 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

**20**

Substitutes section 90 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

**21**

Amends section 92 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

**22 to 26 inclusive .....**

[Ss. 22 to 26 inclusive repealed by s. 344 (1) of Act 51 of 1977.]

**27**

Amends section 106 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

**28**

Substitutes section 109 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

**29 to 32 inclusive .....**

[Ss. 29 to 32 inclusive repealed by s. 391 of Act 56 of 1955.]

**33 Short title**

This Act shall be called the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act, 1952.

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**MAGISTRATES' COURTS AMENDMENT ACT 14 OF 1954**

[ASSENTED TO 31 MARCH 1954]

[DATE OF COMMENCEMENT: 2 APRIL 1954]

*(Afrikaans text signed by the Governor-General)*

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## ACT

### To amend the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1944.

#### 1 and 2

Amend respectively sections 65 and 74 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

#### 3

Inserts section 93ter in the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

#### 4 Short title

This Act shall be called the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act, 1954.

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## MAGISTRATES' COURTS AMENDMENT ACT 19 OF 1963

[ASSENTED TO 9 MARCH 1963]

[DATE OF COMMENCEMENT: 15 MARCH 1963]

(Unless otherwise indicated)

*(Afrikaans text signed by the State President)*

### as amended by

Criminal Procedure Act 51 of 1977

## ACT

### To amend the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1944.

#### 1 to 10 inclusive

Amend respectively the following sections of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944: 9, 15, 29, 30, 46, 50, 51, 55, 59, 65.

#### 11

Amends section 72 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

[Date of commencement of s. 11: 4 July 1962.]

#### 12 to 15 inclusive

Amend respectively the following sections of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944: 74, 79, 92, 95.

#### 16 to 20 inclusive .....

[Ss. 16 to 20 inclusive repealed by s. 344 (1) of Act 51 of 1977.]

#### 21 to 24 inclusive

Amend respectively the following sections of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944: 106, 107, 108, 109.

#### 25 Short title

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This Act shall be called the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act, 1963.

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## **MAGISTRATES' COURTS AMENDMENT ACT 48 OF 1965**

[ASSENTED TO 29 APRIL 1965]

[DATE OF COMMENCEMENT: 5 MAY 1965]

*(English text signed by the State President)*

### **ACT**

**To amend the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1944.**

**1**

Amends section 9 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

**2**

Inserts section *9bis* in the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

**3**

Amends section 48 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

**4 Short title**

This Act shall be called the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act, 1965.

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## **MAGISTRATES' COURTS AMENDMENT ACT 8 OF 1967**

[ASSENTED TO 9 FEBRUARY 1967]

[DATE OF COMMENCEMENT: 17 FEBRUARY 1967]

*(English text signed by the State President)*

### **ACT**

**To amend section 7 of the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1944, in order to change the period of preservation of court records at magistrates' courts; to amend section 9 of that Act in order to make more effective provision for acting appointments of judicial officers in magistrates' courts; and to provide for matters incidental thereto.**

**1 and 2**

Substitute respectively sections 7 and 9 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

**3 Short title**

This Act shall be called the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act, 1967.

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## **MAGISTRATES' COURTS AMENDMENT ACT 17 OF 1969**

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[ASSENTED TO 13 MARCH 1969]

[DATE OF COMMENCEMENT: 26 MARCH 1969]

*(Afrikaans text signed by the State President)*

**as amended by**

Criminal Law Procedure Act 51 of 1977

**ACT**

**To amend the provisions of the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1944, relating to the local limits of jurisdiction of a magistrate's court and sentences which are subject to automatic review; and to provide for incidental matters.**

**1**

Amends section 16 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting the words 'a prison' for the word 'gaol'.

**2**

Amends section 56 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting subsection (9) (d).

**3**

Amends section 90 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting subsection (2).

**4 .....**

[S. 4 repealed by s. 344 (1) of Act 51 of 1977.]

**5 Short title**

This Act shall be called the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act, 1969.

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**MAGISTRATES' COURTS AMENDMENT ACT 53 OF 1970**

[ASSENTED TO 15 SEPTEMBER 1970]

[DATE OF COMMENCEMENT: 1 DECEMBER 1970]

*(Afrikaans text signed by the State President)*

**as amended by**

Criminal Procedure Act 51 of 1977

**ACT**

**To amend the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1944, so as to apply that Act to the territory of South-West Africa; to provide for the determination of an area in a district and a place in such area for the holding of a court for such district; to amend the constitution of the Regional Divisions Appointments Advisory Board; to provide for the disposal in certain circumstances of property in respect of which an attachment has been withdrawn; to make further provision for the Copyright Juta and Company (Pty) Ltd**

**suspension of judgments; to delete certain references to the civil record book and to the rules contained in the Second Schedule to the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1917; to make further provision for the transfer of proceedings to the court of a regional division; to amend certain penalties; to substitute in certain provisions the word 'Republic' for the word 'Union'; and to provide for incidental matters.**

**1 and 2**

Substitute respectively sections 1 and 2 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

**3**

Amends section 4 (3) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting the word 'Republic' for the word 'Union'.

**4**

Amends section 9 (2) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting paragraph (a).

**5**

Amends section 9 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting subsection (2).

**6**

Amends section 14 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting subsection (9).

**7**

Repeals section 24 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

**8**

Amends section 25 (3) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by deleting paragraph (b).

**9**

Substitutes section 26 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

**10**

Amends section 29 (1) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting paragraph (e).

**11**

Amends section 30 (3) (c) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting the word 'Republic' for the word 'Union'.

**12**

Amends section 48 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting paragraph (e).

### **13**

Amends section 53 (1) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting the word 'Republic' for the word 'Union'.

### **14**

Amends section 55 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting subsection (1).

### **15**

Amends section 57 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting subsection (1).

### **16**

Inserts section 71A in the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

### **17**

Amends section 75 (2) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting the word 'Republic' for the word 'Union'.

### **18** .....

[S. 18 repealed by s. 344 (1) of Act 51 of 1977.]

### **19 and 20**

Substitute respectively sections 107 and 110 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

### **21**

Inserts section 115A in the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

### **22 Repeal of laws and savings**

(1) Section 3 of the South-West Africa Affairs Act, 1922 (Act 24 of 1922), is hereby repealed in so far as it relates to the attendance of witnesses in any civil action in any magistrate's court in the territory of South-West Africa.

(2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (3), the laws of the territory of South-West Africa specified in the Schedule are hereby repealed to the extent set out in the third column of the Schedule.

(3) Any regulation, rule, notice, approval, authority, return, certificate, document or appointment made, issued or given, and any other act done under any provision of any law repealed by this Act, shall be deemed to have been made, issued, given or done under the corresponding provision of the principal Act.

(4) This section shall apply also in the Eastern Caprivi Zipfel.

### **23 Short title and commencement**

This Act shall be called the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act, 1970, and shall come into operation on a date to be fixed by the State President by proclamation in the *Gazette*.

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**Schedule  
LAWS REPEALED**

<b>No. and year of law</b>	<b>Short title</b>	<b>Extent of repeal</b>
Ordinance 29 of 1963	Magistrates' Courts Ordinance, 1963	The whole
Ordinance 36 of 1965	General Law Amendment Ordinance, 1965	Sections 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14
Ordinance 4 of 1968	General Law Amendment Ordinance, 1968	Sections 2, 3 and 4

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**MAGISTRATES' COURTS AMENDMENT ACT 63 OF 1976**

[ASSENTED TO 4 MAY 1976]

[DATE OF COMMENCEMENT: 1 JANUARY 1979]

*(English text signed by the State President)*

**ACT**

**To amend the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1944, so as to make further provisions for the recovery of debts and the granting of administration orders; to regulate the recovery from a debtor of fees or remuneration in connection with the collection of any debt; to further regulate the manner of execution of judgments of magistrates' courts; to extend the provisions with regard to change of address by certain judgment debtors; and to provide for the amendment of court records with reference to misnomers in regard to names and women married in community of property; and to provide for matters connected therewith.**

**1**

Substitutes Chapter VIII (headings and section 55 to 60) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

**2**

Substitutes section 65 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 and adds sections 65A to 65M.

**3**

Amends section 66 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph (a) substitutes subsection (1); and paragraph (b) adds subsections (4), (5), (6), (7) and (8).

**4**

Substitutes section 72 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

**5**

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Amends section 73 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting subsection (1).

**6**

Substitutes section 74 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 and adds sections 74A to 74W.

**7**

Substitutes section 77 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

**8**

Substitutes section 106 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by sections 106, 106A and 106B.

**9**

Substitutes section 109 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

**10**

Amends section 111 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph (a) substitutes subsection (3); and paragraph (b) adds subsection (4).

**11 Saving in respect of matters effected in terms of principal Act**

The provisions of this Act shall not affect any proceedings, notice, appointment, judgment, order, warrant or anything else incidental thereto, commenced, effected, issued, made, granted or done prior to the commencement of this Act in terms of any provision of the principal Act replaced by this Act, and such proceedings, notice, appointment, judgment, order, warrant or thing shall be proceeded with, disposed of and given effect to, as the case may be, as if this Act had not been passed.

**12 Short title and commencement**

This Act shall be called the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act, 1976, and shall come into operation on a date to be fixed by the State President by proclamation in the *Gazette*.

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**LOWER COURTS AMENDMENT ACT 91 OF 1977**

[ASSENTED TO 20 JUNE 1977]

[DATE OF COMMENCEMENT: 22 JULY 1977]

*(English text signed by the State President)*

**as amended by**

Internal Security Act 74 of 1982

**ACT**

**To amend the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1944, in order to restrict the operation of certain provisions to civil matters; to exclude certain records in criminal cases**

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**from records to which the public has access; to provide for the appointment of a clerk of the court by the magistrate of the district; to increase the fines in respect of certain offences; to provide for additional circumstances in which a magistrate's court and the court of a regional division shall have jurisdiction in criminal cases; to increase the punitive jurisdiction of magistrate's courts and the courts of regional divisions; to change the basis on which compensation is payable to assessors; to amend section 21 of the General Law Amendment Act, 1962, and the Terrorism Act, 1967, in order to extend the jurisdiction of courts of regional divisions to offences under those Acts; and to provide for incidental matters.**

**1**

Amends section 5 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph (a) substitutes subsections (2) and (3); and paragraph (b) deletes subsection (4).

**2**

Amends section 7 (1) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting the words preceding the first proviso.

**3**

Amends section 13 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting subsection (1).

**4**

Substitutes section 17 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

**5**

Amends section 51 (2) (a) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting the words 'one hundred rand' for the words 'fifty rand'.

**6**

Amends section 79 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting the words 'one hundred' for the word 'fifty', wherever it occurs.

**7**

Amends section 89 (2) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by deleting the proviso.

**8**

Amends section 90 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph (a) substitutes in subsection (2) (a), (b) and (c) the words 'four kilometres' for the words 'two miles'; and paragraph (b) substitutes subsections (8) and (9).

**9**

Amends section 92 (1) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting paragraphs (a) and (b).

**10**

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Amends section 93 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph (a) substitutes subsection (1); paragraph (b) deletes subsection (2); paragraph (c) substitutes subsection (4); and paragraph (d) substitutes subsection (5).

#### 11

Substitutes section 112 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

#### 12

Amends section 114 (1) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting the expression '1977' for the expression '1955'.

#### 13

Amends section 115 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by deleting subsections (2) and (3).

#### 14 to 16 inclusive .....

[Ss. 14 to 16 inclusive repealed by s. 73 (1) of Act 74 of 1982.]

#### 17 Short title and commencement

(1) This Act shall be called the Lower Courts Amendment Act, 1977, and shall come into operation on a date to be fixed by the State President by proclamation in the *Gazette*.

(2) The State President may under subsection (1) fix different dates in respect of different provisions of this Act and may fix different dates for the commencement of any such provision in the Republic, the territory and the Eastern Caprivi Zipfel.

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### MAGISTRATES' COURTS AMENDMENT ACT 28 OF 1981

[ASSENTED TO 20 FEBRUARY 1981]

[DATE OF COMMENCEMENT: 11 MARCH 1981]

*(English text signed by the State President)*

#### ACT

**To amend the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1944, so as to substitute or delete certain obsolete references therein; alter the composition of the Regional Divisions Appointments Advisory Board; and make further provision for the recovery of commission by a garnishee for services rendered by him in terms of an emoluments attachment order; and to make provision for matters connected therewith.**

#### 1

Amends section 9 (1) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting paragraph (aA).

#### 2

Amends section 9bis of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting

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subsection (2).

### 3

Amends section 14 (1) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting paragraph (b).

### 4

Amends section 74I (5) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting paragraph (b).

### 5 Short title

This Act shall be called the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act, 1981.

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## MAGISTRATES' COURTS AMENDMENT ACT 59 OF 1982

[ASSENTED TO 26 MARCH 1982]

[DATE OF COMMENCEMENT: 21 APRIL 1982]

*(English text signed by the State President)*

### ACT

**To amend the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1944, so as to further regulate the service of process; and to provide for matters connected therewith.**

### 1

Amends section 15 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting subsection (2).

### 2 Short title

This Act shall be called the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act, 1982.

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## MAGISTRATES' COURTS AMENDMENT ACT 56 OF 1984

[ASSENTED TO 10 APRIL 1984]

[DATE OF COMMENCEMENT: 2 MAY 1984]

*(Afrikaans text signed by the State President)*

### ACT

**To amend the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1944, so as to increase the civil jurisdiction of magistrates' courts in respect of causes of action; and to provide for matters connected therewith.**

### 1

Amends section 29 (1) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph (a) substitutes paragraph (a); paragraph (b) substitutes the proviso to paragraph (b); paragraph (c) substitutes paragraph (d); and paragraph (d) substitutes

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paragraph (e); and paragraph (e) substitutes paragraph (f).

## 2

Amends section 46 (2) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting paragraph (c).

## 3 Short title

This Act shall be called the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act, 1984.

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# MAGISTRATES' COURTS AMENDMENT ACT 19 OF 1985

[ASSENTED TO 18 MARCH 1985]

[DATE OF COMMENCEMENT: 3 APRIL 1985]

*(Afrikaans text signed by the State President)*

## ACT

**To amend the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1944, so as to provide that the rules made by the Rules Board shall be tabled in the respective Houses of Parliament; to increase the maximum amounts of certain fines which may be imposed in terms of that Act; to replace references to the Criminal Procedure Act, 1955, by references to the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977, and to replace references to sections of the former Act by references to the corresponding sections of the latter Act; to increase the amount of a judgment debtor's total debts with reference to which a power is conferred upon the court to grant an administration order in respect of the judgment debtor's estate; and to increase the extent of the exemption in relation to those classes of property which are to a limited extent exempt from execution; and to provide for incidental matters.**

## 1

Amends section 25 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting subsection (6).

## 2

Amends section 51 (2) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting paragraph (a).

## 3

Amends section 65 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph (a) substitutes subsection (4); and paragraph (b) substitutes subsection (5).

## 4

Amends section 65 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting subsection (3).

## 5

Amends section 67 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph (a) substitutes paragraph (b); paragraph (b) substitutes paragraph (c); paragraph (c)

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substitutes paragraph (e); paragraph (d) substitutes paragraph (f); and paragraph (e) substitutes the proviso.

## 6

Amends section 74 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph (a) substitutes subsection (1) (b); and paragraph (b) substitutes subsection (2).

## 7 to 12 inclusive

Substitute respectively sections 74W, 79, 106, 106A, 106B, and 107 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

## 13

Amends section 108 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting subsection (1).

## 14 Short title

This Act shall be called the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act, 1985.

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# MAGISTRATES' COURTS AMENDMENT ACT 25 OF 1987

[ASSENTED TO 16 JUNE 1987]

[DATE OF COMMENCEMENT: 24 JUNE 1987]

(Unless otherwise indicated)

*(English text signed by the State President)*

## ACT

**To amend the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1944, so as to further regulate the access to and preservation of a civil summons; to empower the Minister of Justice from time to time to adjust the monetary limit in respect of certain causes of action and the punitive jurisdiction relating to fines of magistrates' courts and the courts of regional divisions; and to provide that a judgment by default shall be deemed to be a judgment of the court; and to provide for incidental matters.**

## 1

Substitutes section 7 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

[Date of commencement of s. 1: 1 July 1989.]

## 2

Inserts section 7A in the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

[Date of commencement of s. 2: 1 July 1989.]

## 3

Substitutes section 29 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

[Date of commencement of s. 3: 1 January 1988.]

## 4

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Amends section 46 (2) (c) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting subparagraphs (i), (ii) and (iii).

[Date of commencement of s. 4: 1 January 1988.]

## 5

Amends section 50 (1) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph (a) substitutes the words preceding paragraph (a); and paragraph (b) substitutes paragraph (c).

[Date of commencement of s. 5: 1 January 1988.]

## 6

Inserts section 58A in the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

## 7

Amends section 65I of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting subsection (3).

[Date of commencement of s. 7: 1 January 1988.]

## 8

Amends section 74 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph (a) substitutes paragraph (b) of subsection (1); and paragraph (b) substitutes subsection (2).

[Date of commencement of s. 8: 1 January 1988.]

## 9

Amends section 92 (1) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting paragraph (b).

[Date of commencement of s. 9: 1 January 1988.]

## 10 Short title and commencement

(1) This Act shall be called the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act, 1987.

(2) Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9 shall come into operation on a date fixed by the State President by proclamation in the *Gazette*.

(3) Different dates may be determined under subsection (2) in respect of different provisions of this Act.

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## MAGISTRATES' COURTS AMENDMENT ACT 118 OF 1991

[ASSENTED TO 27 JUNE 1991]

[DATE OF COMMENCEMENT: 1 MARCH 1992]

*(Afrikaans text signed by the State President)*

### ACT

**To amend the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1944, so as to further regulate assistance by assessors at criminal proceedings; and to provide for matters connected therewith.**

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## 1

Amends section 93 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph (a) substitutes subsection (1); paragraph (b) inserts subsection (2); paragraph (c) substitutes in subsection (3) the words preceding paragraph (a); and paragraph (d) substitutes subsection (3) (f).

## 2 Short title and commencement

(1) This Act shall be called the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act, 1991, and shall come into operation on a date to be fixed by the State President by proclamation in the *Gazette*.

(2) Different dates may be fixed in terms of subsection (1) in respect of different districts and regional divisions as referred to in the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1944 (Act 32 of 1944).

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## MAGISTRATES' COURTS AMENDMENT ACT 120 OF 1993

[ASSENTED TO 9 JULY 1993]

[DATE OF COMMENCEMENT: TO BE PROCLAIMED]  
(Unless otherwise indicated)

*(Afrikaans text signed by the State President)*

### as amended by

Justice Laws Rationalisation Act 18 of 1996  
Judicial Matters Amendment Act 104 of 1996  
Magistrates' Courts Second Amendment Act 80 of 1997  
Judicial Matters Amendment Act 62 of 2000

### ACT

**To amend the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1944, in order to make provision for the establishment and jurisdiction of civil courts for civil divisions and the appointment of senior civil magistrates for the said courts; to create a separate court structure for the adjudication of civil cases; to further regulate the constitution of the Regional Magistrates Appointments Advisory Board; to provide for the establishment of family courts for the adjudication of divorce actions and the appointment of family magistrates for the said courts; to provide that advocates and attorneys may, in certain circumstances, be appointed as judicial officers; to delete or replace certain obsolete expressions; to amend the Afrikaans text; to replace the short title; and to replace the long title; to amend the Black Administration Act, 1927, the Deeds Registries Act, 1937, the Interpretation Act, 1957, the General Law Amendment Act, 1957, the Attorneys Act, 1979, the Small Claims Courts Act, 1984, the Matrimonial Property Act, 1984, the Rules Board for Courts of Law Act, 1985, and the Short Process Courts and Mediation in Certain Civil Cases Act, 1991, in order to effect certain consequential amendments; to amend the Black Administration Act, 1927, Amendment Act, 1929, in order to abolish separate divorce courts for**

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**Blacks; to amend the Divorce Act, 1979, in order to provide for certain procedures in connection with divorce actions; to amend the Mediation in Certain Divorce Matters Act, 1987, in order to empower the Minister of Justice to make the provisions thereof applicable to a divorce action adjudicated in a family court; and to provide for matters in connection therewith.**

**1**

Amends section 1 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph (a) inserts the definitions of 'civil court', 'civil division' and 'civil magistrate'; paragraph (b) substitutes the definition of 'court'; paragraph (c) substitutes the definition of 'court of appeal'; paragraph (d) inserts the definitions of 'district', 'family court', 'family division' and 'family magistrate'; paragraph (e) substitutes the definition of 'judicial officer'; paragraph (f) substitutes the definition of 'magistrate'; paragraph (g) inserts the definition of 'magistrate's court'; paragraph (h) substitutes the definition of 'Minister'; paragraph (i) substitutes the definition of 'practitioner'; paragraph (j) inserts the definitions of 'regional court', 'regional division', 'regional magistrate' and 'senior civil magistrate'; and paragraph (k) deletes the definitions of 'province', 'Republic' and 'territory'.

**2 and 3**

Substitute respectively sections 2 and 3 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

**4**

Amends section 4 (4) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting the expression 'sheriff' for the expression 'messenger of the court'.

**5**

Amends section 7 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting subsection (1).

**6 .....**

[S. 6 substituted by s. 4 of Act 18 of 1996 and repealed by s. 30 of Act 62 of 2000.]

**7 .....**

[S. 7 repealed by s. 20 of Act 104 of 1996.]

**8**

Inserts sections *9ter* and *9quat* in the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

**9 to 11 inclusive**

Substitute respectively sections 10, 11 and 12 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

**12**

Amends section 13 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting subsection (1).

**13**

Substitutes section 14 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

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## **14**

Amends section 15 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph (a) substitutes in subsection (1) (a) the expression 'sheriff' for the expression 'messenger', wherever it occurs; paragraph (b) substitutes in subsection (1) (b) the expressions 'sheriff' and 'State Revenue Fund' for the expressions 'messenger' and 'Consolidated Revenue Fund', respectively; and paragraph (c) substitutes in subsection (3) the expression 'deputy sheriff' for the expression 'deputy messenger of the court'.

[Para. (b) substituted by s. 4 of Act 18 of 1996.]

## **15 to 18 inclusive**

Substitute respectively sections 16, 17, 19 and 26 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

## **19**

Amends section 27 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting paragraph (b).

## **20**

Amends section 28 (1) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph (a) substitutes the expression 'area of jurisdiction of the court' for the expression 'district', wherever it occurs; and paragraph (b) substitutes paragraph (c) of the Afrikaans text.

## **21**

Amends section 29 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph (a) substitutes in subsection (1) the words preceding paragraph (a); and paragraph (b) adds subsections (3) and (4).

## **22**

Substitutes section 29A of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

## **23**

Inserts section 29B in the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

## **24**

Amends section 31 (2) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting the expression 'sheriff' for the expression 'messenger'.

## **25**

Amends section 32 (1) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting the expressions 'area of jurisdiction' and 'sheriff' for the expressions 'district' and 'messenger', respectively.

## **26**

Amends section 35 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting subsection (2).

## 27

Amends section 45 (1) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting the words preceding the proviso.

## 28

Amends section 46 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph (a) substitutes subsection (1); and paragraph (b) substitutes in subsection (2) the words preceding paragraph (a).

## 29

Inserts section 46A in the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

## 30

Amends section 47 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph (a) substitutes in subsection (1) the expression 'civil court' for the expression 'magistrate's court', wherever it occurs; paragraph (b) substitutes in subsection (2), in the words preceding paragraph (a), the expression 'civil court' for the expression 'magistrate's court'; and paragraph (c) substitutes in subsection (3) the expression 'civil court' for the expression 'magistrate's court'.

## 31

Amends section 50 (1) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting paragraph (b).

## 32

Inserts section 50A in the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

## 33

Amends section 51 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph (a) substitutes in subsection (1) the expression 'area of jurisdiction of the court' for the expression 'district'; and paragraph (b) substitutes in subsection (2) (a) the expression 'sheriff' for the expression 'messenger'.

## 34

Amends section 52 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph (a) substitutes in subsection (1) the expression 'area of jurisdiction' for the expression 'district', wherever it occurs; and paragraph (b) substitutes in subsection (3) the expression 'area of jurisdiction' for the expression 'district'.

## 35

Amends section 65B of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting the expression 'sheriff' for the expression 'messenger of the court'.

## 36

Amends section 65D of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting subsection (5).

### 37

Amends section 65H of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting the expression 'sheriff' for the expression 'messenger of the court'.

### 38

Amends section 65J of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph (a) substitutes in subsection (1), in the words following upon paragraph (e), the expression 'civil court' for the expression 'magistrate's court'; and paragraph (b) substitutes in subsection (3) the expression 'sheriff' for the expression 'messenger of the court'.

### 39

Amends section 65L (b) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting the expression 'sheriff' for the expressions 'messenger of the court' and 'messenger'.

### 40

Amends section 66 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph (a) substitutes subsection (2) (b); paragraph (b) substitutes subsection (6); paragraph (c) substitutes in subsection (7) the expression 'sheriff' for the expression 'messenger'; and paragraph (d) substitutes in subsection (8) the expression 'sheriff' for the expressions 'messenger of the court' and 'messenger', wherever they occur.

### 41

Amends section 68 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph (a) substitutes in subsection (1) the expression 'sheriff' for the expression 'messenger'; paragraph (b) substitutes in subsection (2) the expression 'sheriff' for the expression 'messenger'; paragraph (c) substitutes in subsection (3) the expression 'sheriff' for the expression 'messenger'; paragraph (d) substitutes in subsection (4) the expression 'sheriff' for the expression 'messenger'; and paragraph (e) substitutes in subsection (5) the expression 'sheriff' for the expression 'messenger', wherever it occurs.

### 42 and 43

Amend respectively sections 70 and 71 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting the expression 'sheriff' for the expression 'messenger'.

### 44

Substitutes section 71A of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

[S. 44 substituted by s. 4 of Act 18 of 1996.]

### 45

Amends section 72 (1) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting the expressions 'area of jurisdiction of the court' and 'civil court' for the expressions 'district' and 'magistrate's court', respectively.

### 46

Amends section 74 (1) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting the words following upon paragraph (b).

#### 47

Amends section 74A of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph (a) substitutes subsection (2) (g); paragraph (b) substitutes in subsection (2) (i) the expression 'credit transaction referred to in paragraph (g)' for the expression 'hire-purchase agreement'; and paragraph (c) substitutes subsection (4) of the Afrikaans text.

[Date of commencement of s. 47: 7 January 2000.]

#### 48

Amends section 74C of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph (a) substitutes the proviso to subsection (1) (b) (i); paragraph (b) deletes subsection (1) (b) (ii); and paragraph (c) substitutes in subsection (2) (b) the expressions 'credit transaction as defined in section 1 of the Credit Agreements Act, 1980' and 'transaction' for the expressions 'hire-purchase agreement' and 'agreement', respectively.

[Date of commencement of s. 48: 7 January 2000.]

#### 49

Amends section 74G of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting subsection (7).

[Date of commencement of s. 49: 7 January 2000.]

#### 50

Amends section 74H of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting subsection (4).

[Date of commencement of s. 50: 7 January 2000.]

#### 51

Amends section 74I (4) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting the expression 'sheriff' for the expression 'messenger of the court'.

#### 52

Amends section 74J of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph (a) substitutes in subsection (6) the expression 'civil magistrate' for the expression 'judicial officer'; and paragraph (b) substitutes subsection (7) (b).

#### 53

Substitutes section 74K of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

[Date of commencement of s. 53: 7 January 2000.]

#### 54

Amends section 74L (2) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting the expression 'civil magistrate' for the expression 'judicial officer'.

#### 55

Amends section 74S of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting subsection (2).

#### 56

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Amends section 80 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting subsection (1).

#### 57

Amends section 81 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting the expression 'court' for the expression 'district'.

#### 58

Substitutes section 89 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

#### 59

Amends section 90 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph (a) substitutes subsection (2) (d); paragraph (b) substitutes in subsection (7) the expression 'court' for the expression 'magistrate's court'; and paragraph (c) substitutes subsection (8).

#### 60

Substitutes section 91 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

#### 61

Amends section 92 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph (a) substitutes subsection (1) (a); and paragraph (b) substitutes subsection (2).

#### 62

Amends section 93*ter* (1) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting the expression 'any regional court' for the expression 'the court of a regional division'.

#### 63

Amends section 107 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph (a) substitutes in subsection (1) the expression 'sheriff' for the expression 'messenger'; paragraph (b) substitutes in subsection (3) in the words preceding paragraph (a) and in paragraph (a) the expression 'sheriff' for the expression 'messenger'; and paragraph (c) substitutes in subsection (4) the expression 'sheriff' for the expression 'messenger'.

#### 64

Amends section 108 (1) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting the expression 'sheriff' for the expression 'messenger'.

#### 65

Amends section 109 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph (a) substitutes in subsection (3) the expression 'sheriff' for the expression 'messenger of the court'; and paragraph (b) substitutes subsection (7).

#### 66 .....

[S. 66 repealed by s. 2 of Act 80 of 1997.]

#### 67

Amends section 114 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph

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(a) substitutes in subsection (2) the expression 'court' for the expression 'magistrate's court'; and paragraph (b) deletes subsections (3) and (4).

## **68 and 69**

Repeal respectively sections 115 and 115A of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

## **70 Transitional provisions regarding certain civil cases**

(1) No provision of this Act shall affect any civil matter pending at the commencement of the provision concerned, and such matter shall be continued and concluded in every respect as if this Act had not been passed.

(2) A civil matter shall, for the purposes of this section, be deemed to be pending if, at the commencement of the provision concerned of this Act, summons had been issued but judgment had not been given, and to be concluded when judgment is given.

## **71 Transitional provisions regarding divorce actions**

(1) Any divorce court established under section 10 of the Black Administration Act, 1927, Amendment Act, 1929 (Act 9 of 1929), shall, notwithstanding the repeal of that section by section 74, for all purposes be deemed to be a family court established under section 2 (k) of the Lower Courts Act, 1944 (Act 32 of 1944), and the area of jurisdiction of the first-mentioned court shall be deemed, subject to any amendment thereto, to constitute a family division established under section 2 (d) of the last-mentioned Act.

(2) Any rule applicable to a divorce court referred to in subsection (1) immediately before the commencement of this section, shall, notwithstanding the repeal of section 10 mentioned in that subsection by section 74, remain in force until it is repealed or amended by any rule applicable under section 6 of the Rules Board for Courts of Law Act, 1985 (Act 107 of 1985), to divorce actions.

(3) Any president of a divorce court referred to in subsection (1) shall for all purposes be deemed to be a family magistrate who has been appointed under section 9 (1) (a) (v) of the Lower Courts Act, 1944.

(4) Any divorce action pending in the Supreme Court or a divorce court referred to in subsection (1) immediately before the commencement of section 21 (b) and this section, shall be continued and concluded as if this Act had not been passed.

(5) For the purposes of this section any divorce action shall be deemed to be pending if a summons has been issued or the notice of motion has been lodged or the notice has been delivered in terms of the rules of court, as the case may be, but no judgment has been given, and it shall be deemed to have been concluded if judgment has been given.

## **72**

Substitutes section 117 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

## **73**

Substitutes the long title of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

## **74 Repeal or amendment of laws**

The laws mentioned in the Schedule are hereby repealed or amended in so far as indicated in the third column thereof.

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## 75 Short title and commencement

(1) This Act shall be called the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act, 1993, and shall come into operation on a date to be fixed by the State President by proclamation in the *Gazette*.

(2) Different dates may be so fixed in respect of-

- (a) different provisions of this Act; and
- (b) different areas in the Republic.

### Schedule LAWS REPEALED OR AMENDED

NO AND YEAR OF ACT	TITLE	EXTENT OF REPEAL OR AMENDMENT
Act 38 of 1927	Black Administration Act, 1927	Amendment of section 12 by the substitution in subsection (4) for the expression 'magistrate's court' wherever it occurs of the expression 'civil court of a district'.
Act 9 of 1929	Black Administration Act, 1927 Amendment Act, 1929	Repeal of section 10.
Act 47 of 1937	Deeds Registries Act, 1937	Amendment of section 102 by the substitution for the definition of ' <b>court</b> ' or ' <b>the court</b> ' of the following definition:  " <b>court</b> " or " <b>the court</b> " means the provincial or local division of the Supreme Court having jurisdiction or any judge thereof and, in section 45 <i>bis</i> , includes a family court established under section 2 ( <i>k</i> ) of the Lower Courts Act, 1944 (Act 32 of 1944), or any family magistrate of such court;'.
Act 33 of 1957	Interpretation Act, 1957	Amendment of section 2 by the substitution for the definition of ' <b>district</b> ' of the following definition:  " <b>district</b> " means the area subject to the jurisdiction of a magistrate's court;'.
Act 68 of 1957	General Law Amendment Act, 1957	Amendment of section 7- (a) by the deletion of 'and' at the end of paragraph (a) of subsection (1); and (b) by the deletion of paragraph (b) of subsection (1).
Act 53 of 1979	Attorneys Act, 1979	(a) Amendment of section 8 by the substitution for the proviso to subsection (1) of the following proviso:  'Provided that such a candidate attorney shall not be entitled to appear in a regional court, civil court of a civil division or family court established under section 2 of the Lower Courts Act, 1944 (Act 32 of 1944), unless he was so admitted as

Act 70 of 1979	Divorce Act, 1979	<p>an advocate or is entitled to be so admitted and-'.  <b>(b)</b> Amendment of section 14 by the substitution for paragraph <i>(a)</i> of subsection (1) of the following paragraph:  '<i>(a)</i> the practice and procedure in the Supreme Court and in courts established under the Lower Courts Act, 1944 (Act 32 of 1944);'.  <b>(c)</b> Amendment of the said Act by the substitution for the expression 'Magistrates' Courts Act' wherever it occurs in the said Act of the expression 'Lower Courts Act'.  <b>(a)</b> Amendment of section 1-  <b>(i)</b> by the insertion after the definition of '<b>divorce action</b>' of the following definition:  "<b>Family Advocate</b>" means any Family Advocate appointed under section 2 (1) of the Mediation in Certain Divorce Matters Act, 1987 (Act 24 of 1987);'; and  <b>(ii)</b> by the substitution for the definition of '<b>court</b>' of the following definition:  "<b>court</b>" means the provincial or local division of the Supreme Court of South Africa, or a family court established under section 2 (<i>k</i>) of the Lower Courts Act, 1944 (Act 32 of 1944), which has jurisdiction with respect to a divorce action;'.  <b>(b)</b> Amendment of section 11 by the addition of the following subsection, the existing section becoming subsection (1):  '(2) Subject to the rules of court in relation to divorce actions, any divorce action which is pending in the Supreme Court may at any stage of the proceedings be referred to a family court established under section 2 (<i>k</i>) of the Lower Courts Act, 1944 (Act 32 of 1944), having jurisdiction if the court may deem it desirable, and the court may, in respect of such proceedings, make such order for costs as it may deem fit.'.</p>
Act 61 of 1984	Small Claims Courts Act, 1984	<p><b>(a)</b> Amendment of section 1 by the substitution for the definition of '<b>district</b>' of the following definition:  "<b>district</b>" means a district established under section 2 (<i>a</i>) of the</p>



Act 88 of 1984	Matrimonial Property Act, 1984	<p>Lower Courts Act, 1944 (Act 32 of 1944);'</p> <p>(b) Amendment of the said Act-</p> <p>(i) by the substitution for the expression 'Magistrates' Courts Act' wherever it occurs in the said Act of the expression 'Lower Courts Act';</p> <p>(ii) by the substitution for the expression 'messenger of the court' or 'deputy messenger of the court' wherever it occurs in the said Act of the expression 'sheriff' or 'deputy sheriff', respectively; and</p> <p>(iii) by the substitution for the expression 'magistrate's court' wherever it occurs in the said Act of the expression 'civil court'.</p> <p>Amendment of section 1 by the substitution for the definition of '<b>court</b>' of the following definition:</p> <p><b>"court"</b> means a provincial or local division of the Supreme Court of South Africa or a family court established under section 2 (k) of the Lower Courts Act, 1944 (Act 32 of 1944), and includes, for the purposes of section 16, a judge in chambers, and, for the purposes of section 16 (1), a lower court which has jurisdiction in the matter concerned.'</p>
Act 107 of 1985	Rules Board for Courts of Law Act, 1985	<p>Amendment of section 1 by the substitution for the definition of '<b>lower court</b>' of the following definition:</p> <p><b>"lower court"</b> means a court established under section 2 (g), (h), (i), (j) or (k) of the Lower Courts Act, 1944 (Act 32 of 1944), and 'lower courts' has a corresponding meaning;'</p>
Act 24 of 1987	Mediation in Certain Divorce Matters Act, 1987	<p>(a) Amendment of the said Act by the insertion after section 1 of the following section:</p> <p><b>'1A Application of Act to family courts</b></p> <p>(1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (2), the provisions of this Act shall not be applicable to divorce actions adjudicated in a family court established under section 2 (k) of the Lower Courts Act, 1944 (Act 32 of 1944).</p> <p>(2) The Minister may from time to time by notice in the <i>Gazette</i> with effect from a date determined by him and specified in the notice, declare the provisions of this Act to be applicable</p>

<p>Act 103 of 1991</p>	<p>Short Process Courts and Mediation in Certain Civil Cases Act, 1991</p>	<p>to divorce actions adjudicated in one or more family courts referred to in subsection (1) and specified in such notice.'</p> <p>(b) Amendment of section 5 by the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection: '(2) No regulations may be made under subsection (1) (c) or (d) except with the concurrence of the Minister of State Expenditure.'</p> <p>(a) Amendment of section 1-</p> <p>(i) by the substitution for the definition of 'district' of the following definition: "<b>district</b>" means a district established under section 2 of the Lower Courts Act, 1944 (Act 32 of 1944);';</p> <p>(ii) by the deletion of the definition of 'magistrate's court';</p> <p>(iii) by the deletion in the Afrikaans text of 'en' at the end of the definition of 'notuleer'; and</p> <p>(iv) by the insertion after the definition of 'adjudicator' of the following definition: "<b>civil court</b>" means a civil court of a district established under section 2 of the Lower Courts Act, 1944 (Act 32 of 1944);'.</p> <p>(b) Amendment of the said Act-</p> <p>(i) by the substitution for the expression 'magistrate's court' wherever it occurs in the said Act of the expression 'civil court'; and</p> <p>(ii) by the substitution for the expression 'Magistrates' Courts Act' wherever it occurs in the said Act of the expression 'Lower Courts Act'.</p> <p>(c) Amendment of section 9 by the substitution for the words preceding the proviso to subsection (2) of the following words: 'If the adjudication of an action instituted in the civil court is proceeded with in a court under the proviso to paragraph (b) of subsection (1), the record of the proceedings of the civil court shall form part of the record of that court:'.</p>
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## MAGISTRATES' COURTS SECOND AMENDMENT ACT 80 OF 1997

[ASSENTED TO 26 NOVEMBER 1997]

[DATE OF COMMENCEMENT: 10 DECEMBER 1997]

*(Afrikaans text signed by the President)*

### ACT

**To amend the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1944, so as to further regulate the power of a magistrates' court to pronounce on the validity of any law or conduct of the President; to amend the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act, 1993, so as to repeal an obsolete provision; and to provide for matters connected therewith.**

BE IT ENACTED by the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, as follows:-

#### 1

Substitutes section 110 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

#### 2

Repeals section 66 of the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act 120 of 1993.

#### 3 Short title

This Act shall be called the Magistrates' Courts Second Amendment Act, 1997.

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## MAGISTRATES' COURTS AMENDMENT ACT 81 OF 1997

[ASSENTED TO 26 NOVEMBER 1997]

[DATE OF COMMENCEMENT: 10 DECEMBER 1997]

*(English text signed by the President)*

### ACT

**To amend the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1944, so as to repeal or amend certain provisions in order to bring the Act into line with a judgment of the Constitutional Court; and to provide for matters connected therewith.**

BE IT ENACTED by the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, as follows:-

#### 1

Amends section 48 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by adding paragraph *(f)*.

#### 2

Amends section 57 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting subsection (3).

#### 3

Amends section 65A of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph *(a)* substitutes subsection (1); paragraph *(b)* substitutes subsection (2); paragraph *(c)* substitutes subsection (4); and paragraph *(d)* adds subsection (5) up to and including **Copyright Juta and Company (Pty) Ltd**

(12).

**4**

Repeals section 65B of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

**5**

Substitutes section 65C of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

**6**

Amends section 65D of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph (a) substitutes subsection (1); paragraph (b) substitutes in subsection (4) the words preceding paragraph (a); and paragraph (c) substitutes subsection (5).

**7**

Amends section 65E of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting subsection (6).

**8 to 10 inclusive**

Repeal respectively sections 65F, 65G and 65H of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

**11**

Amends section 65J of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph (a) substitutes subsection (1); paragraph (b) substitutes subsection (2); paragraph (c) adds subsection (4) (b), the existing section becoming paragraph (a); paragraph (d) substitutes subsection (9) (a); and paragraph (e) deletes subsection (9) (b).

**12**

Amends section 65K of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by deleting subsection (2).

**13**

Repeals section 65L of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

**14**

Substitutes section 106 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

**15**

Amends section 109 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph (a) substitutes subsection (2); and paragraph (b) deletes subsections (3) up to and including (8).

**16 Short title**

This Act shall be called the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act, 1997.

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**MAGISTRATES' COURTS AMENDMENT ACT 67 OF 1998**

[ASSENTED TO 28 SEPTEMBER 1998]

[DATE OF COMMENCEMENT: TO BE PROCLAIMED]  
(Unless otherwise indicated)

*(English text signed by the President)*

## ACT

**To amend the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1944, so as to further regulate the summoning of assessors in civil and criminal proceedings; to further regulate the procedure in the event of death, incapacity, absence or recusal of an assessor; to empower the Minister of Justice to make regulations in connection with matters pertaining to assessors; and to provide for matters connected therewith.**

BE IT ENACTED by the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, as follows:-

### 1

Substitutes section 34 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

### 2

Substitutes section 93*ter* of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

[Date of commencement of s. 2 in so far as it substitutes sub-s. (5) and inserts sub-ss. (10) and (11): 20 April 2000.]

### 3

Inserts section 93*quat* in the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

### 4

Inserts Schedule 2 while the existing schedule becomes Schedule 1 in the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

## 5 Transitional provision

Proceedings in which an assessor or assessors were summoned in terms of section 93*ter* of the Principal Act, and which are pending at the commencement of section 2 of this Act, shall be continued and concluded as if this Act had not been passed: Provided that the provisions of section 93*ter* (8) to (12) of the principal Act, as amended by this Act, shall at all relevant times be applicable in respect of such pending proceedings.

## 6 Short title

(1) This Act is called the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act, 1998, and shall take effect on a date fixed by the President by proclamation in the *Gazette*.

(2) Different dates may be so fixed in respect of-

- (a) different items contained in Schedule 2 to the principal Act; and
- (b) different areas in the Republic.

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## MAGISTRATES' COURTS AMENDMENT ACT 19 OF 2010

[ASSENTED TO 3 DECEMBER 2010]

[DATE OF COMMENCEMENT: 7 DECEMBER 2010]

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*(English text signed by the President)*

## **ACT**

**To amend the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1944, so as to regulate anew the qualifications required for the appointment of a person as a magistrate, additional magistrate and magistrate of a regional division; to further regulate the inclusion of magistrates of regional divisions on the list of magistrates who may adjudicate on civil disputes; to authorise the Minister to determine the conditions relating to the authorisation of a person to serve process of court or other documents on behalf of a public body; and to provide for matters connected therewith.**

PARLIAMENT of the Republic of South Africa enacts, as follows:-

### **1**

Amends section 9 (1) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, as follows: paragraph (a) substitutes paragraph (a); and paragraph (b) deletes paragraph (b).

### **2**

Substitutes section 10 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944.

### **3**

Amends section 12 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by substituting subsections (6), (7) and (8).

### **4**

Amends section 15 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944 by inserting subsection (2A).

### **5 Short title**

This Act is called the Magistrates' Courts Amendment Act, 2010.

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