



## **ST. CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS**

### **CHAPTER 23.10**

## **FATAL ACCIDENTS ACT**

### **Revised Edition**

showing the law as at 31 December 2002

This is a revised edition of the law, prepared by the Law Revision Commissioner under the authority of the Law Revision Act, No. 9 of 1986.

This edition contains a consolidation of the following laws—

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**CHAPTER 23.10**  
**FATAL ACCIDENTS ACT**

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## CHAPTER 23.10

### FATAL ACCIDENTS ACT

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE INSTITUTION OF ACTIONS IN RESPECT OF FATAL ACCIDENTS CAUSED BY WRONGFUL ACTS ETC; AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED OR INCIDENTAL MATTERS.

#### Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Fatal Accidents Act.

#### Interpretation.

2. (1) In this Act—

“child” includes son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, stepson and stepdaughter;

“parent” includes father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, stepfather and stepmother.

(2) For the purposes of this Act, a person shall be deemed to be the parent or child of a deceased person notwithstanding that he or she was only related to him or her by being born out of wedlock or in consequence of adoption; and accordingly in deducing any relationship which under the provisions of this Act only is included within the meaning of the expressions “parent” and “child”, any person born out of wedlock and any adopted person shall be treated as being, or as having been, the legitimate offspring of his or her mother and reputed father or, as the case may be, of his or her adopters.

(3) In this subsection (2), the expression “adopted person” means a person who has been adopted, whether before or after the coming into operation of that subsection, in pursuance of an adoption order made under the Adoption of Children Act, Cap. 12.01.

(4) The provisions of subsections (2) and (3) shall not apply in relation to any action in respect of the death of any person occurring before the coming into operation of those subsections.

#### Action may be brought where death caused by wrongful act.

3. (1) Where the death of a person is caused by wrongful act, neglect or default, and the act, neglect or default is such as would, if death had not ensued, have entitled the party injured to maintain an action and recover damages in respect thereof, the person who would have been liable, if death had not ensued, shall be liable to an action for damages notwithstanding the death of the person injured and although the death is caused in such circumstances as amount in law to felony.

(2) In assessing damages in any action, whether commenced before or after the coming into operation of this subsection, brought under this Act, there shall not be taken into account any sum paid or payable on the death of the deceased under any contract of assurance or insurance, whether made before or after the coming into operation of this subsection.

(3) In any action brought under this Act, damages may be awarded in respect of the funeral expenses of the deceased person if such expenses have been incurred by the parties for whose benefit the action is brought.

(4) The provisions of the preceding subsection shall not apply in relation to any action in respect of the death of any person before the coming into operation of that subsection.

**Action to be for benefit of certain relatives and brought by executor or administrator of deceased.**

4. (1) Every such action shall be for the benefit of the wife, husband, parent and child of the person whose death is so caused, and shall be brought by and in the name of the executor or administrator of the person deceased.

(2) The jury in any such action may give such damages as they may think proportioned to the injury resulting from such death to the parties respectively for whom and for whose benefit such action is brought.

(3) The amount so recovered, after deducting the costs not recovered from the defendant, shall be divided amongst the aforesaid persons in such shares as the jury by their verdict shall find and direct.

**Action to be commenced within year.**

5. Every such action shall be commenced within twelve calendar months after the death of such deceased person and not more than one action shall lie for and in respect of the same subject matter of complaint.

**Action may be brought by persons beneficially interested where no executor, etc.**

6. Where there is no executor or administrator of the deceased person, or where although there is such executor or administrator no such action has been brought within six calendar months after the death of such deceased person and in the name of his or her executor or administrator, the action may be brought by and in the name or names of all or any of the persons (if more than one) for whose benefit such action would have been, if it had been brought by and in the name of such executor or administrator, and every action so brought shall be for the benefit of the same person or persons and shall be subject to the same regulations and procedure, as nearly as may be, as if it were brought by and in the name of such executor or administrator.

**Plaintiff to deliver particulars.**

7. In any action brought under the provisions of this Act the plaintiff on the record shall deliver with the statement of claim to the defendant, or his or her solicitor, a statement containing full particulars of the person or persons for whom and on whose behalf such action is brought and of the nature of the claim in respect of which damages are sought to be recovered.

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