



ST. CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS

CHAPTER 23.29

SIGNATURES TO PETITIONS 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—

SIGNATURES TO PETITIONS ACT

Act 8 of 1917 ... in force 30th August 1917

Amended by: Act 12 of 1967
Act 4 of 1974
Act 7 of 1976
Act 8 of 1986
Act 9 of 1986

Page
3

CHAPTER 23.29

SIGNATURES TO PETITIONS ACT

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

1. Short title
2. Prohibition against appending another's name to letter, etc., without consent
3. Certificate by person appending another's name to petition, etc.
4. Signature of Justice of the Peace or Notary Public equivalent to certificate
5. Saving as to application of Act
6. Penalty
7. Procedure where charge appears to be one proper for indictment

CHAPTER 23.29

SIGNATURES TO PETITIONS ACT

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR SIGNATURES TO PETITIONS; AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED OR INCIDENTAL MATTERS.

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Signatures to Petitions Act.

Prohibition against appending another's name to letter, etc., without consent.

2. Any person who appends to any petition or letter or similar document the name or mark of any other person without his or her knowledge and consent commits an offence against this Act.

Certificate by person appending another's name to petition, etc.

3. (1) Where the name or mark of any person is appended to any petition or letter or similar document at his or her request, the scribe who writes the name or makes the mark on the document shall certify under his or her hand on the document that the document was read and explained to the person whose name or mark is so appended and that the person appeared to understand its contents and approved of them and that the person's name or mark was appended at his or her request, and the scribe shall state, in the certificate, his or her full name and his or her occupation and usual place of abode.

(2) Any person who fails to append such a certificate or appends a certificate which is untrue in any particular commits an offence against this Act.

Signature of Justice of the Peace or Notary Public equivalent to certificate.

4. If the scribe is a Justice of the Peace or a Notary Public his or her signature appended to the document shall be deemed to be equivalent to the certificate hereinbefore required.

Saving as to application of Act.

5. Nothing in this Act shall apply to any petition or other document addressed to any Court of law, or to be filed or lodged in any proceeding in any Court of law, which has been prepared or drawn by a duly authorized legal practitioner.

Penalty.

6. Anyone who contravenes the provisions of this Act shall commits an offence against this Act and shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a penalty not exceeding one hundred and fifty dollars or to be imprisoned for a period not exceeding two months.

(Amended by Acts 7 of 1976 and 9 of 1986)

Procedure where charge appears to be one proper for indictment.

7. If, on the hearing of any complaint for an offence under this Act, it appears to the Magistrate that the case ought to be tried as an indictable offence before the High Court, or if the Director of Public Prosecutions intimates to the Magistrate his or her opinion in writing to that effect, all further proceedings thereon as for a summary offence shall be stayed, and depositions shall be taken and the case shall in all other

respects be dealt with, as if the complaint had been originally one for an indictable offence, or the Magistrate shall adjourn the case to enable proceedings for an indictable offence to be taken.

(Amended by Acts 12 of 1967 and 4 of 1974)
