
CHAPTER 28**PROBATION OF OFFENDERS****ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS**

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CHAPTER 28

PROBATION OF OFFENDERS

AN ACT TO MAKE PROVISION FOR PROBATION OF OFFENDERS AND FOR MATTERS INCIDENTAL THERETO AND CONNECTED THEREWITH

*10 of 1971
LN 46A of 1978
LN 88 of 1978*

[1st January, 1972]

1. This Act may be cited as the Probation of Offenders Act.
2. This Act shall apply within such areas of Solomon Islands as the Minister may in his discretion by order from time to time direct.
3. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —
 - “approved premises” means premises approved under section 13;
 - “conditional discharge” means a conditional discharge made under section 38 of the Penal Code;
 - “juvenile court” means a court established under any law relating to juvenile offenders;
 - “principal probation officer” means the person appointed to be the principal probation officer pursuant to section 11;
 - “probation committee” means a committee appointed by the Minister under section 12;
 - “probationer” means a person for the time being under supervision by virtue of a probation order;
 - “probation officer” means a person appointed to be a probation officer pursuant to section 11, and includes the principal probation officer and a voluntary probation officer;
 - “probation order” has the meaning assigned to it by section 4;
 - “probation period” means the period for which a probationer is placed under supervision by a probation order;
 - “superintendent”, in relation to any approved premises, means a person appointed by the Minister as superintendent of those premises;
 - “voluntary probation officer” means a voluntary probation officer appointed under section 11.

Short title

Application
LN 88 of 1978

Interpretation
LN 46A of 1978

Cap. 26

Probation

4. (1) Where a court by or before which a person is tried for an offence (not being an offence the sentence for which is fixed by law) is of the opinion that having regard to the circumstances, including the nature of the offence and the character of the offender, it is expedient to do so, the court may, upon proceeding to conviction, make a probation order, that is to say, an order requiring him to be under the supervision of a probation officer for a period to be specified in the order of not less than one year nor more than three years.

(2) A probation order may in addition require the offender to comply during the whole or any part of the probation period with such requirements as the court, having regard to the circumstances of the case, considers necessary for securing the good conduct of the offender or for preventing a repetition by him of the same offence or the commission of other offences.

(3) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (2), a probation order may include requirements relating to the residence of the offender:

Provided that —

(a) before making an order containing any such requirements, the court shall consider the home surroundings of the offender; and

(b) where the order requires the offender to reside in approved premises, the name of the premises and the period for which he is so required to reside shall be specified in the order, and that period shall not extend beyond twelve months from the date of the order; and

(c) where the order requires the offender to reside in any particular place (not being approved premises) or with any particular person, the name or description of such place or the name of such person, as the case may be, and the period for which the offender is so required to reside shall be specified in the order, and that period shall not extend beyond twelve months from the date of the order.

(4) No requirement shall be included in any probation order requiring an offender to reside with any particular person, including a parent or guardian, unless such person consents thereto.

(5) Before making a probation order, the court shall explain, or cause to be explained, to the offender in a language understood by him the effect of the order (including any additional requirements proposed to be inserted therein under subsections

(2) or (3)) and that if he fails to comply therewith or commits another offence he will be liable to be sentenced for the original offence; and if the offender is not less than fourteen years of age the court shall not make the order unless he expresses his willingness to comply with the requirements thereof.

(6) A probationer shall be subject to the supervision of the probation officer appointed or assigned to the area in which such probationer may from time to time reside, or to such other probation officer as the principal probation officer may nominate:

Provided that the probation officer under whose supervision a woman or girl is placed shall be a woman.

(7) The court by which a probation order is made, or any court by which an order is made under section 5(2) amending any such probation order, shall forthwith give copies of such order, or such amending order, as the case may be, to the probation officer responsible for the supervision of the probationer and he shall give a copy thereof to the probationer, and to the person in charge of any premises in which the probationer is or was by such order or such amending order required to reside.

5. (1) Any court may upon application made by a probation officer responsible for the supervision of an offender or by a probationer discharge a probation order:

Discharge,
amendment and
review of
probation orders

Provided that if the probation order was made by the High Court such order shall not be discharged except by that Court.

(2) Any court may, upon application made by the probation officer responsible for the supervision of an offender or by a probationer, by order amend a probation order by cancelling any of the requirements thereof or by inserting therein (either in addition to or in substitution for any such requirement) any requirement which could be included in the order if it were then being made by that court in accordance with section 4(2):

Provided that —

(a) a court shall not amend a probation order by reducing the probation period, or by extending that period beyond the end of three years from the date of the original probation order;

(b) a court shall not so amend a probation order that the probationer is thereby required to reside in approved premises for any period exceeding twelve months in all;

(c) a court shall not so amend a probation order that the probationer is thereby required to reside in any particular place (not being approved premises) or with any particular person for any period exceeding twelve months in all; and

(d) where the probation order was made by the High Court, the order shall not be amended except by that Court.

(3) Where a court proposes to amend a probation order under this section, otherwise than on the application of a probationer, it shall summon him to appear before the court; and if the probationer is not less than fourteen years of age, the court shall not amend the probation order unless the probationer expresses his willingness to comply with the requirements of such probation order as amended:

Provided that this subsection shall not apply to an order cancelling a requirement of a probation order or reducing the period of any requirement thereof.

(4) Where a probation order, whether as originally made or as amended under the provisions of this section, requires a probationer to reside in approved premises or at any particular place or with any particular person for a period extending beyond six months from the date of the order as originally made or of the amending order, as the case may be, the probation officer responsible for the supervision of the probationer shall, as soon as may be after the expiration of six months after such date, report on the case to a Magistrate's Court or, where the order was made or amended by the High Court, to that Court.

(5) On receipt of any report made under subsection (4) the court shall review the probation order for the purpose of considering whether to cancel the requirement as to residence or reduce the period thereof, and may, if it thinks fit, amend the order accordingly without the necessity for any application in that behalf.

(6) Where, under any of the provisions of this Act, a probation order is discharged or amended or the probationer is sentenced for the offence for which he was placed on probation, the court shall send for the record in which the original order of probation appears and shall endorse thereon any order it may make or any sentence it may pass, as the case may be, and where the probationer is sentenced for the offence for which he was placed on probation, the probation order shall cease to have effect.

6. Where pursuant to any regulations made under the provisions of this Act, a report by a probation officer is made to any court (other than a juvenile court) with a view to assisting the court in determining the most suitable method of dealing with any person in respect of an offence, that person, and in the case of a person under the age of eighteen the parent or guardian of that person, or his advocate, shall be entitled upon application to the court therefor to a copy of the report.

Reports of
probation
officers

7. (1) If at any time during the probation period it appears on information to a Magistrate that the probationer has failed to comply with any of the requirements of the order, the Magistrate may issue a summons requiring the probationer to appear at the place and time specified therein, or may, if the information is in writing and on oath, issue a warrant for his arrest.

Breach of
requirements of
probation orders

(2) If it is proved to the satisfaction of the Magistrate's Court before which a probationer appears or is brought under this section that the probationer has failed to comply with any of the requirements of the probation order, the court may, without prejudice to the continuance of the probation order, caution him or impose on him a fine not exceeding twenty dollars, or may—

(a) if the probation order was made by a Magistrate's Court, deal with the probationer for the offence in respect of which the probation order was made, in any manner in which the court could deal with him if he had just been tried for or convicted of that offence by or before that court or refer the case to the court by which the probation order was made;

(b) if the probation order was made by the High Court, commit him to custody or release him on bail (with or without sureties) until he can be brought or appear before that Court.

(3) Where the Magistrate's Court deals with the case as provided in subsection (2)(b), then—

(a) the court shall send to the High Court a certificate signed by the Magistrate, certifying that the probationer has failed to comply with such of the requirements of the probation order as may be specified in the certificate, together with such other particulars of the case as may be desirable; and a certificate purporting to be so signed shall be admissible as evidence before the High Court of the failure so to comply; and

(b) where the probationer is brought or appears before the High Court, and it is proved to the satisfaction of that Court that he has failed to comply with any of the requirements of the probation order, the Court may deal with him, for the offence in respect of which the probation order was made, in any manner in which the Court could deal with him if he had just been tried for or convicted of that offence by or before that Court.

Commission of
further offence
LN 88 of 1978

8. (1) If it appears to a Judge or Magistrate on whom jurisdiction is hereinafter conferred that a person in whose case a probation order or an order for conditional discharge has been made has been convicted by any court in Solomon Islands of an offence committed during the probation period or during the period of conditional discharge, and has been dealt with in respect of that offence, the Judge or Magistrate may issue a summons requiring that person to appear at the place and time specified therein, or may issue a warrant for his arrest:

Provided that a Magistrate shall not issue such a warrant except on information in writing and on oath.

(2) The following persons shall have jurisdiction for the purposes of subsection (1), that is to say —

(a) if the probation order or the order for conditional discharge was made by the High Court, a Judge of the High Court;

(b) if the order was made by a Magistrate's Court or by a juvenile court, the Magistrate of that court.

(3) A summons or warrant issued under this section shall direct the person so convicted to appear or be brought before the court by which the summons or warrant was issued or before the court by which the probation order or the order for conditional discharge was made:

Provided that if that court is the High Court and he cannot forthwith be brought before that Court a summons or warrant shall have effect as if it directed him to be brought before a Magistrate's Court or juvenile court and such Magistrate's Court or juvenile court shall commit him to custody or release him on bail, with or without sureties, until he can be brought or appear before the High Court.

(4) If a person in whose case a probation order or an order for conditional discharge has been made by the High Court is convicted and dealt with by a Magistrate's Court in respect of an

offence committed during the probation period or during the period of conditional discharge, the court may commit him to custody or release him on bail, with or without sureties, until he can be brought or appear before the High Court; and if it does so the Magistrate's Court shall send to the High Court a copy of the minute or memorandum of the conviction entered in the register, signed by the Magistrate.

(5) Where it is proved to the satisfaction of the court before which a probationer or a person subject to an order for conditional discharge appears or is brought pursuant to this section that the person in whose case such order was made has been convicted and dealt with in respect of an offence committed during the probation period, or during the period of conditional discharge, as the case may be, the court may deal with him, for the offence for which the order was made, in any manner in which the court could deal with him if he had just been tried for or convicted of that offence by or before that court.

(6) If a person in whose case a probation order or an order for conditional discharge has been made by a Magistrate's Court is convicted before the High Court or another Magistrate's Court of an offence committed during the probation period or during the period of conditional discharge, the High Court or such other Magistrate's Court may deal with him, for the offence for which the order was made, in any manner in which the Magistrate's Court by which the order was made could deal with him if he had just been tried for or convicted of that offence by or before that court.

9. (1) Without prejudice to the provisions of any other law relating to juvenile offenders which enables a court to order the parent or guardian of a child or young person charged with an offence to give security for his good behaviour, any court may, on making a probation order or an order for conditional discharge, if it thinks it expedient for the purpose of the reformation of the offender, allow any person who consents to do so to give security for the good behaviour of the offender; and the provisions of section 114 of the Criminal Procedure Code shall apply to the forfeiture of such security in like manner as it applies to the forfeiture of a recognisance.

(2) A court on making a probation order or an order for conditional discharge may, without prejudice to its power of awarding costs against him, order the offender to pay such damages for injury or compensation for loss as such court thinks reasonable:

Supplementary
provisions as to
probation and
discharge

Provided that, in the case of an order made by a Magistrate's Court, the damages and compensation together shall not exceed one hundred dollars.

(3) An order for the payment of damages or compensation as aforesaid may be enforced in like manner as an order for the payment of costs by the offender; and where a court, in addition to making such an order for the payment of damages or compensation to any person, orders the offender to pay to that person any costs, the orders for the payment of damages or compensation and for the payment of costs may be enforced as if they constituted a single order for the payment of costs.

(4) When a court makes any order under the provisions of this section, then if the offender —

(a) is under fourteen years of age, such order shall be enforced against the parent or guardian of the offender;

(b) is under eighteen years of age, such order may be enforced either against the parent or guardian of the offender or against the offender as to the court seems just in any particular case.

10. (1) Subject as hereinafter provided, a conviction of an offence for which a probation order or an order for conditional discharge is made shall be deemed not to be a conviction for any purpose other than the purposes of the proceedings in which the order is made and of any subsequent proceedings which may be taken against the offender under the foregoing provisions of this Act:

Provided that where an offender, being not less than eighteen years of age at the time of his conviction of an offence for which he is placed on probation or conditionally discharged, is subsequently sentenced under this Act for that offence, the provisions of this subsection shall cease to apply to the conviction.

(2) Without prejudice to the foregoing provisions of this section, the conviction of an offender who is placed on probation or conditionally discharged shall in any event be disregarded for the purposes of any enactment which imposes any disqualification or disability upon convicted persons, or authorises or requires the imposition of any such disqualification or disability.

(3) The foregoing provisions of this section shall not affect —

(a) any right of any such offender as aforesaid to appeal against his conviction, or to rely thereon in bar of any subsequent proceedings for the same offence;

Effects of probation and discharge

(b) the re-vesting or restoration of any property in consequence of the conviction of any such offender.

11. There shall be appointed —

(a) a principal probation officer; and

(b) such number of probation officers and voluntary probation officers as are necessary for giving effect to this Act,

and any such appointment shall, if the appointment is to an office in the public service be made pursuant to the Constitution, but otherwise may be made by the Minister.

Appointment of probation officers
LN 46A of 1978

12. The Minister may in his discretion appoint a probation committee or committees consisting of such persons as he shall think fit, who shall review the work of probation officers in individual cases, and perform such duties in connection with probation as may be prescribed.

Probation committees
LN 46A of 1978

13. The Minister may by order approve premises for the reception of persons who may be required to reside therein by a probation order.

Approved premises
LN 88 of 1978

14. If, with the permission of the superintendent of any approved premises, a probationer who resides in the premises is employed outside the premises under a contract of service or apprenticeship, and is paid wages, the superintendent may require the probationer to pay such charge in respect of his food and accommodation at the premises as the principal probation officer, with the approval of the Minister, may determine.

Charges for food and accommodation
LN 88 of 1978

15. The Minister may make regulations prescribing or providing for —

Regulations
LN 46A of 1978

(a) the duties of the principal probation officer;

(b) the duties of probation officers;

(c) the constitution and duties of probation committees;

(d) the regulation, management and inspection of approved premises;

(e) the form of records to be kept under this Act;

(f) fees and charges to be made for any act, matter or thing to be done or observed under this Act;

(g) generally, the carrying into effect of the provisions of this Act.

CHAPTER 28

PROBATION OF OFFENDERS

Subsidiary Legislation

LN 31/1977

THE PROBATION OF OFFENDERS ACT (APPLICATION) ORDER
(Section 2)

[18th February 1977]

Citation

1. This Order may be cited as the Probation of Offenders Act (Application) Order.

Application of Act

2. The Act shall apply throughout the whole of Solomon Islands.

THE PROBATION OF OFFENDERS REGULATIONS

ARRANGMENT OF REGULATIONS

REGULATION

PART I

PRELIMINARY

1. CITATION
2. INTERPRETATION

PART II

PROBATION COMMITTEES

CONSTITUTION AND PROCEDURE

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5. CHAIRMAN
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9. MINISTER TO SPECIFY AREAS

DUTIES

10. RECEIVING REPORTS OF PROBATION OFFICERS
11. DISCUSSING PROGRESS OF CASES
12. ADVICE ON MATTERS REFERRED

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DUTIES OF PROBATION OFFICERS

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17. ADVISING, ASSISTING AND BEFRIENDING PROBATIONERS
18. PROBATION OFFICERS TO SUBMIT REPORTS
19. CONTENT OF PROBATION OFFICER'S REPORT
20. RECORDS
21. FORMS

SCHEDULE

LN 66 of 1971

THE PROBATION OF OFFENDERS REGULATIONS
(Section 15)

[24th September 1971]

PART I

PRELIMINARY

Citation

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Probation of Offenders Regulations

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations —
 “Chairman” means a Chairman appointed under regulation 5;
 “supervising court” means the Magistrate’s Court having jurisdiction in the district or area in which a probationer is for the time being resident.

PART II

PROBATION COMMITTEES

Constitution and Procedure

Appointment and constitution of probation committees

3. A probation committee shall consist of not less than three members to be appointed by the Minister acting in his discretion.

Resignation

4. A member of a probation committee may at any time resign his office by giving notice in writing to the Minister.

Chairman

5. The Minister acting in his discretion shall appoint one of the members of each probation committee to be the Chairman of such committee.

Meetings and procedure

6. A probation committee shall meet at such times and places as it thinks fit and shall make such arrangements as to the transaction and management of its business as, subject to the provisions of these Regulations, it may deem proper.

Quorum

7. The quorum of a probation committee shall be two members present and sitting throughout the entire proceedings, one of whom shall be the Chairman.

Minutes of meetings

8. A probation committee shall keep minutes of the proceedings at its meetings, which shall be signed by the Chairman.

9. On the appointment of a probation committee the Minister acting in his discretion shall specify the area or province in respect of which such probation committee is appointed.

Minister to specify areas

Duties

10. A probation committee shall receive the written or oral reports of the probation officers serving in the area or province for which it is appointed and shall make or direct the making of any communication to a court which may be found necessary.

Receiving reports of probation officers

11. A probation committee shall discuss from time to time with probation officers the progress of each of the cases under their supervision and shall afford them such help and advice as it can in the carrying out of their duties.

Discussing progress of cases

12. A probation committee shall consider and advise upon any matter referred to it by the principal probation officer.

Advice on matters referred

PART III

DUTIES OF PROBATION OFFICERS

13. The duties to be performed by the principal probation officer shall include —

Duties of principal probation officer

- (a) the organisation and control of the probation service;
- (b) the supervision and training of probation officers and distribution of work amongst probation officers;
- (c) the administration of approved premises;
- (d) assisting probation committees.

14. A probation officer shall make such preliminary inquiries, including inquiries into the home surroundings, as a court may direct in respect of any offender in whose case the question of the making of a probation order may arise.

Preliminary case inquiries

15. A probation officer shall, when required by a probation order, undertake the supervision of a probationer and shall ascertain that the probationer understands the requirements and conditions of the probation order and shall by warning and persuasion endeavour to ensure compliance with those requirements. If the probationer fails to obey any of the conditions, the probation officer shall report as hereinafter directed.

Explaining requirements of probation orders

Maintaining
touch with
probationers

16. (1) A probation officer shall, subject to any provisions of the probation order, keep in close touch with any probationer under his supervision, meet him frequently, and unless there is good reason for not doing so, shall visit his home from time to time or require the probationer to report to him at stated intervals.

(2) The intervals at which, in accordance with this regulation, the probation officer shall meet the probationer, visit his home or require the probationer to report, shall be determined amongst other circumstances by the probationer's behaviour and progress, and regard shall be had to the importance of frequent meetings during the early stages of the probation period.

Advising
assisting and
befriending
probationers

17. A probation officer shall advise, assist and befriend the probationer, and when necessary endeavour to find him employment. For these purposes he shall secure as far as possible the co-operation and assistance of social and religious workers.

Probation
officers to
submit reports

18. (1) When any person has been placed on probation, the probation officer under whose supervision the probationer is for the time being shall, if so requested by the supervising court, from time to time report to such court upon the probationer's mode of life and generally upon his progress.

(2) A probation officer shall from time to time report to the principal probation officer and to the appropriate probation committee, if any, upon the conduct and mode of life and generally upon the probationer who has been placed under his supervision.

(3) Where a probationer fails to comply with any of the requirements of a probation order, the probation officer shall report the fact to the supervising court and to the appropriate probation committee, if any.

(4) Reports made under this regulation shall be made at such intervals and in such manner as may be directed by the supervising court or appropriate probation committee, if any, or by the principal probation officer, as the case may be, and they shall not be made in open court or published.

Content of
probation
officer's report

19.— (1) A report made in pursuance of section 5(4) of the Act shall include a report as to the suitability for the probationer of the approved premises or the particular place in which, or the particular person with whom, as the case may be, the probationer has been required to reside.

(2) It shall be the duty of the probation officer appointed or assigned to any area to furnish any other probation officer, on request, with a copy of any report made under paragraph (1).

20. Every probation officer shall keep in the form the manner prescribed by these Regulations a proper record concerning each probationer placed under his supervision and shall ensure that access to such record is not available to unauthorised persons.

Records

21. Every probation officer shall enter the particulars forming the record of each case under his supervision on the appropriate form prescribed in the Schedule.

Forms

Schedule

FORM 3

SOLOMON ISLANDS
PROBATION SERVICE

QUARTERLY SUMMARY

Court: Name:
Date Summary

FORM 4

SOLOMON ISLANDS
PROBATION SERVICE

PROBATION OFFICER'S REPORT

Court: Name

Address:

Case No. Age:

Offence:

FAMILY:

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HOME:

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EDUCATION:

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EMPLOYMENT:

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GENERAL INFORMATION:

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