

Rights and Privileges of Registered Union

A **registered trade union** is a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal. No civil suit or other legal proceeding can be initiated against a registered trade union in respect of any act done in furtherance of a trade dispute under certain conditions.

The rights of registered trade unions are as follows:

1. Right to admission
2. Right to represent
3. Right to own property
4. Right to contract
5. Right to amalgamate
6. Right to inspect books
7. Right to sue
8. Rights of minors to membership of trade unions
9. Right to change the name

1) Right to admission

Right to admission as a member of a trade union is not absolute right. A Trade union may impose certain restrictions qualifications for admissions subject to the provisions of the Trade Unions Act and rules and any other law in force.

2) Right to represent

A trade union can make a representation on behalf of the employee or individual dispute if such employee gives written authorization. With that authorization, a Trade union can make presentation before any consulation officer, Industrial Tribunal, or Labour Court.

3) Right to own property

A registered trade union can purchase and own movable or immovable property on its own name.

4) Right to contract

A registered trade union can enter into a contract on its own name, being it is a legal person.

5) Right to amalgamate (merge)

According to Section 24 of the Trade Unions Act 1926, any two or more registered trade unions may become amalgamated together as one trade union with or without dissolution or division of the funds of such trade unions or either or any of them, provided that the votes of at least one-half of the members of each or every such trade union entitled to vote are recorded, and that at least sixty percent of the votes recorded are in favor of the proposal.

6) Right to inspect books

According to Section 20 of the said Act, The account books of a registered trade union and the list of members thereof shall be open to inspection by an office-bearer or member of the trade union at such times as may be provided for in the rules of the trade union.

7) Right to sue

A registered trade union is a juristic person and hence it can sue the employer or any other person. It can argue before any labor courts, authorities, Courts on behalf of itself, and on behalf of its members.

8) Rights of minors to membership of trade unions

According to Section 21 of the said Act Any person who has attained the age of fifteen years may be a member of a registered trade union subject to any rules of the trade union to the contrary, and may, subject as aforesaid, enjoy all the rights of a member and execute all instruments and give all acquaintances necessary to be executed or given under the rules.

9) Right to change the name

According to Section 23 of the Act, Any registered trade union may, with the consent of not less than two-thirds of the total number of members and subject to the provisions of section 25, change its name.

A trade union enjoys the following advantages after registration:

- a) A trade union after registration becomes a body corporate.
- b) It gets perpetual succession and common seal.
- c) It can acquire and hold both movable and immovable property.
- d) It can enter into a contract.
- e) It can sue and be sued in its registered name.