

CHAPTER 12

CODE OF ORGANIZATION AND CIVIL PROCEDURE

*To amend and consolidate the Laws of Organization and Civil Procedure.**

1st August, 1855

ORDINANCE IV of 1854 as amended by Ordinances: V, VII and X of 1856, XII of 1857, XI of 1858, XI of 1859, IV of 1862, III of 1863, V of 1864, IV of 1865, IV of 1868, IX of 1871, VII of 1876, I, VI and VII of 1880, XV of 1885, IX of 1886, VII of 1892; the Malta (Use of the English Language in legal proceedings) Order-in-Council, 1899; Ordinances: XV of 1900, VI and VIII of 1901, II and VIII of 1903, V of 1904, IV of 1905, XV of 1913, I, II and XVII of 1914, II of 1916; Government Notices: No. 340 of 1916, No. 162 of 1917; Ordinance XII of 1918; Government Notices: Nos 136 and 137 of 1919, No. 203 of 1920; Acts: XVI of 1922, IV and XII of 1924, XIII of 1925, XI, XVI and XX of 1929; Government Notices: Nos. 78 and 475 of 1929; Act XI of 1932; Government Notice No. 105 of 1933; Ordinances: IV, XVI, XIX, XXXI and XXXIII of 1934; Government Notice No. 393 of 1934; Ordinance XXVIII of 1935; Government Notice No. 138 of 1935; Ordinances: XXI of 1936, XXXVI of 1938, III and XXIX of 1939; Government Notice No. 549 of 1939; Ordinances: II and XV of 1940; Government Notice No. 249 of 1941; Ordinances: XI and XII of 1942; Government Notice No. 653 of 1942. Incorporating also Ordinance II of 1868 as amended by Ordinance VI of 1895.

The Code was subsequently amended by Government Notice No. 199 of 1944; Ordinance II of 1947; Acts: LIII and LXII of 1948; Government Notice No. 139 of 1949; Act XXIX of 1952; Government Notice No. 33 of 1953; Act II of 1954; Ordinances: IV of 1961, XXI and XXV of 1962; Act XXII of 1963; Legal Notice 4 of 1963; Acts: XIII and XV of 1964, XIX and XXXII of 1965; Legal Notice 46 of 1965; Acts: XXXI of 1966, XX of 1968; Legal Notices: 2, 7 and 9 of 1968; Acts: I and XXI of 1969, XXVII of 1970, XXIII and XXX of 1971; Legal Notice 78 of 1971; Acts: XI and XLVI of 1973, V, VII, XXXV and LVIII of 1974, X and XXIV of 1975; Legal Notices: 148 and 154 of 1975; Acts: XVIII and XXII of 1976, XI and XXVII of 1977, XII of 1978, XXVII of 1979; Legal Notices: 29 and 95 of 1979; Acts: XI, XIV and XXXI of 1980; Legal Notices: 49, 99 and 102 of 1980; Acts: VIII, XLIX and LII of 1981; Legal Notices: 56 and 96 of 1981; Act XVI of 1982; Legal Notice 42 of 1982; Acts: XIII and XV of 1983, IV and XI of 1984, XII, XIII and XX of 1985, V and XXXIX of 1986; Legal Notices: 3 of 1986, 1 of 1987, 28 of 1988, 120 of 1989; Acts: VIII of 1990, XVII of 1991; Legal Notice 116 of 1992; Acts: XXII of 1992, XXI of 1993, XI of 1994 and V of 1995; Legal Notices 91 and 190 of 1995; Act XXIV of 1995; Legal Notice 18 of 1996; Acts II and IV of 1996; Legal Notices: 121, 122, 124, 153 and 154 of 1996; 149 and 226 of 1997; Acts XI and XVIII of 1999; Legal Notices I, 142 and 197 of 2000, and 8 and 34 of 2001; Acts: IV and VI of 2001, III, XVIII and XXXI of 2002, and XVII of 2003; Legal Notices 383 of 2003 and 248 of 2004; Acts III, IX, X, XVI and XVIII of 2004, and XIII and XXII of 2005; Legal Notices 277, 290 and 342 of 2005; Acts I, XI, XIV and XVI of 2006; Legal Notices 68 and 181 of 2006; Acts VII, VIII and XXXI of 2007; Legal Notice 407 of 2007; Acts III, XV and XVI of 2008; Legal Notice 36 of 2009; Acts I, XII, XV and XXIII of 2009; Acts V, VIII and IX of 2010; Legal Notice 447 of 2010; Act VI of 2011; Legal Notices 371 and 372 of 2011, and 79, 158, 218 and 426 of 2012; Acts II, XVII and XXIV of 2012, and III, VII and XXIV of 2014; Legal Notices 224 of 2014, and 36 and 69 of 2015; Acts XIX and XXVI of 2015, IV, XVI, XLV and LII of 2016, VIII of 2017, XV of 2017, XVII of 2017, XXIII of 2017 and Legal Notice 327 of 2017 and Acts I of 2018, XI of 2018 and XXXII of 2018 and XVI and XXXI and XXV and XXVIII of 2019 and XXI, XXVIII, XLI, LIII and LXI of 2020, and V, XIX and XXVII of 2021, XXXII of 2021, XXXVII of 2021, XLIV of 2021, LXII of 2021 and VIII of 2022 and Legal Notices 45 of 2019 and 137 of 2020.

*This Code, enacted by Ordinance IV of 1854, was promulgated by Proclamation No. VI of the 1st of May, 1855.

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Title. **1.** The title of this Code is Code of Organization and Civil Procedure.

BOOK FIRST

Title 1

OF THE COURTS OF JUSTICE GENERALLY

Civil courts of justice.

Amended by:
XXII.1976.4;
XXXI.2002.3.

2. (1) The courts of justice of civil jurisdiction for Malta are either superior or inferior. Each court may be divided into different sections.

(2) Unless otherwise established by law, the President of Malta may by Order establish the sections of each Court, and designate the categories of cases assigned to each section; and may by subsequent Order amend, revoke or substitute such Order.

(3) Saving any other provision of law, the courts of justice of civil jurisdiction are exclusively vested with the judicial authority in civil matters within the jurisdiction of the tribunals of Malta.

Superior courts.

Amended by:
XIII.1964.2.
Substituted by:
L.N. 148 of 1975;
XXIV.1995.2.

3. The superior courts are:

- (a) the Civil Court;
- (b) the Court of Appeal; and
- (c) the Constitutional Court.

Inferior courts.

Amended by:
XV.1913.1;
VIII.1990.3.

4. The inferior courts are:

- (a) the Court of Magistrates (Malta) for the Island of Malta;
- (b) the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) for the Islands of Gozo and Comino.

Jurisdiction of superior and inferior courts.

Amended by:
IX.1886.1.

5. (1) Save as otherwise provided by law, the jurisdiction of the superior courts is general for Malta.

(2) The jurisdiction of the inferior courts is limited to particular places.

Constitution of superior courts.

Amended by:
IX.1886.2;
IV.1905.2;
XV.1913.2;
XVII.1914.1;
XXXI.1934.2;
XXVIII.1935.2.
Substituted by:
XIII.1964.3;
L.N. 148 of 1975.
Amended by:
XXII.1992.2.

6. (1) The Chief Justice and President of the Court of Appeal and all other judges shall sit in the superior courts as by law provided.

(2) Besides the Chief Justice, the judges of the Superior Courts shall be thirteen or such greater number as the President of Malta may by Order prescribe.

7. (1) The magistrates shall sit in the inferior courts.
- (2) The Chief Justice may designate one of the magistrates as Senior Magistrate; such designation shall be for a specified time or until another magistrate is so designated.
- (3) Without prejudice to the provisions of this Code or of any other law prescribing the court or courts in which a magistrate shall sit, the Senior Magistrate shall perform such duties and functions as may be assigned by the Chief Justice or as may be provided by any law for the time being in force.
8. (1) Saving the cases expressly provided for in this Code, the judges shall not, except in open court, either directly or indirectly, hold any communication with any suitor in any of the courts, or with any advocate, legal procurator, or other person on behalf of such suitor, in regard to any suit which is pending at the time, or is about to be commenced or prosecuted. Nor shall they, without the permission of the President of Malta, first had and obtained on an application to that effect, act as advocates or in any case give counsel or advice in regard to any suit which they know to be already commenced, or which they foresee as likely to commence.
- (2) The provisions contained in this article shall not apply in the case of lawsuits concerning any of the parties mentioned in article 734(a), (b), (c) and (e).
- (3) Nothing in the preceding sub-article shall be deemed to preclude a judge or magistrate from communicating with the advocate or legal procurator of a party in connection with any matter concerning the management of a cause pending before the judge or magistrate:
- Provided that a magistrate shall not be debarred from holding any communication for the purposes of any inquiry into any criminal matter when such magistrate is holding an inquiry under Title II of Part I of Book Second of the [Criminal Code](#).
9. Moreover, it shall not be lawful for any of the judges to act as an arbitrator, or to accept any tutorship or other administration except activities within the Judicial Studies Committee or such as may be assigned to him by law.
10. (1) The judges shall, before entering on the execution of their office, take, before the President of Malta, the oath of allegiance set out in the [Constitution](#) of Malta and the following oath:

Constitution of inferior courts.

Amended by:

IX.1886.3.

Substituted by:

XIII.1964.4.

Amended by:

VII.2007.2.

Judges may not communicate with suitors, etc.

Amended by:

L.N. 46 of 1965;

LVIII.1974.68;

L.N. 148 of 1975;

XXXI.2002.4.

Exceptions.

Cap. 9.

Judges may not act as arbitrators etc.

Amended by:

L.N.148 of 1975;

VII.2007.3.

Oaths of allegiance and of office to be taken by judges.

Amended by:

XIII.1964.5;

L.N. 46 of 1965;

LVIII.1974.68;

L.N. 148 of 1975;

XII.1978.2;

XXIV.1995.3;

XXXI.2002.5.

Form of oath of office.

Oath of Office

I..... do swear that I will faithfully perform the duties of Judge without favour or partiality, according to justice and right, and in accordance with the laws and customs of Malta, to the honour of God and the Republic of Malta, and that I will not hold, either directly or indirectly, any communication with any suitor in any of the Courts, whether superior or inferior, his Advocates or Legal Procurators, or with any other person on behalf of such suitor, in regard to any suit pending or about to be commenced or prosecuted in any of the said Courts, except in open court, saving the cases expressly provided for by law; and that I will disclose in open court, and make known to the President of Malta any such communication as may be made to me. And I do further swear that I will not act, either directly or indirectly, as an Advocate, or arbitrator, nor give in any case counsel or advice to any person in regard to any suit already commenced or to be commenced in any of the said Courts, saving the cases excepted by law, without the permission of the President of Malta first had and obtained upon an application to that effect. So help me God.

(2) Where any communication as is referred to in the form of oath contained in sub-article (1) consists in an anonymous letter or in a letter the writer whereof cannot be readily identified, or where any such communication contains insulting or offensive expressions, the judge who received the communication need not read out the communication in open court but may instead disclose in open court the fact of such receipt and shall in any case make the content thereof known to the President of Malta.

Distribution of duties of judges.
Amended by:
[I.1914.1;](#)
[XII.1918.2;](#)
[XII.1964.6;](#)
[L.N. 46 of 1965;](#)
[XXIII.1971.2;](#)
[LVIII.1974.68;](#)
[L.N. 148 of 1975;](#)
[XXII.1992.3;](#)
[XXXI.2002.6.](#)
Substituted by:
[VII.2007.4.](#)

11. (1) The President of Malta shall assign to each of the judges his duties by assigning to him the court or the chamber of the court or section in which he is to sit ordinarily, and may transfer a judge from one court or chamber or section of a court to another:

Provided that a judge may be assigned to sit ordinarily in more than one court or more than one chamber or section of one or more courts.

(2) The President of Malta is also empowered to surrogate a judge in case of a vacancy in the number of judges.

(3) Where more than one judge is assigned to sit ordinarily in a court, or in a chamber or section of a court, the distribution of duties in general between the said judges shall be made by the Chief Justice, and the registrar shall assign cases and other judicial acts to the judges as directed by the Chief Justice:

Provided that, except where cases or judicial acts are assigned according to general directives or according to rules made pursuant to sub-article (6), where the Chief Justice may be challenged or may abstain from taking cognizance of a case for any of the reasons mentioned in article 734(1)(a), (b), (c), (d)(ii) and (iii), (e) and (g), the assignment of such a case shall be made by the Senior Administrative Judge referred to in sub-article (11).

(4) Whenever any judge, other than the Chief Justice, is challenged or otherwise lawfully impeded, the Chief Justice shall

assign another judge to take cognizance of the case:

Provided that, except where cases or judicial acts are assigned according to general directives or according to rules made pursuant to sub-article (6), where the Chief Justice may be challenged or may abstain from taking cognizance of a case for any of the reasons mentioned in article 734(1)(a), (b), (c), (d)(ii) and (iii), (e) and (g), the assignment of a judge to take cognizance of that case shall be made by the Senior Administrative Judge referred to in sub-article (11).

(5) Without prejudice to the provisions of article 12(2), and except where cases and judicial acts are assigned according to general directives or according to rules made pursuant to sub-article (6), where the Chief Justice is challenged or otherwise lawfully impeded, the Senior Administrative Judge referred to in sub-article (11) shall assign another judge to take cognizance of the case.

(6) The Rule-Making Board established under article 29 may make rules providing for the manner of the distribution of cases and other judicial acts for the purposes of sub-articles (3), (4) and (5).

(7) Any assignment, transfer or subrogation made by the President of Malta, and any distribution of duties in general, and the assignment of cases pursuant to a challenge or abstention made by the Chief Justice or, as the case may be, by the Senior Administrative Judge referred to in sub-article (11), shall be deemed to have been properly and sufficiently notified for all purposes if notice thereof is posted in such registry as the Minister may under article 27 prescribe for the purpose before or at the beginning of the period during which such assignment, transfer, subrogation or distribution is to take effect.

(8) The registrar shall keep a record of all notices posted up in terms of the last preceding sub-article and of the date of such posting.

(9) Where any dispute arises as to whether a case or other judicial act is to be assigned to one judge or to another judge sitting in the same court or in the same chamber or section of a court, or when a dispute arises as to which chamber or section of a court is to deal with a particular case or a particular judicial act, the matter shall be referred to the Chief Justice who shall, *in camera*, determine the judge or chamber or section to which the case or judicial act shall be assigned. The determination by the Chief Justice shall be registered in the records of the case and shall be final:

Provided that where the Chief Justice may be challenged or may abstain from taking cognizance of that case or judicial act for any of the reasons mentioned in article 734(1)(a), (b), (c), (d)(ii) and (iii), (e) and (g), the determination shall be made by the Senior Administrative Judge referred to in sub-article (11).

(10) When more than one judge is assigned to sit in a chamber or section of a court not being an appellate court, the Chief Justice may designate one of the judges as President of that chamber or

section; such designation shall be for a specified time or until another judge is so designated. The Judge so designated shall perform such duties and functions as may be assigned by the Chief Justice or as may be provided by any law for the time being in force.

(11) For the purposes of this article, and in order to perform the duties listed in this article, the Chief Justice shall nominate a Senior Administrative Judge.

Applicability of certain provisions to President of Court of Appeal.

Amended by:
[I.1914.2](#);
[XXXI.1934.3](#);
[XIII.1964.7](#);
[XXXI.2002.7](#);
[VII.2007.5](#).

12. (1) The provisions of articles 8, 9, 10 and 11(1) shall, *mutatis mutandis*, also apply to the President of the Court of Appeal.

(2) Whenever the President of the Court of Appeal is, in the cases provided for by law, challenged or otherwise lawfully impeded, the senior of the judges constituting the Court of Appeal shall be the President of that court.

Appointment of supplementary judges.

Amended by:
[XII.1918.3](#);
[XXXI.1934.4](#).
Substituted by:
[XIII.1964.8](#).
Amended by:
[LVIII.1974.68](#).

13. *Repealed by* [XXXI.2002.8](#).

Oaths to be taken by supplementary judges.

Amended by:
[XV.1913.3](#);
[XII.1918.4](#);
[XIII.1964.9](#);
[L.N. 46 of 1965](#);
[LVIII.1974.68](#).

14. *Repealed by* [XXXI.2002.8](#).

Applicability of certain provisions to magistrates.

Amended by:
[XV.1913.5](#);
[IV.1924.3](#);
[VIII.1990.3](#);
[XXIV.1995.4](#).
Substituted by:
[XXXI.2002.9](#);
[VII.2007.6](#).

15. The provisions of articles 8, 9, 10 and 11 shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to magistrates; and the references to the Senior Administrative Judge in sub-articles (3), (4), (7) and (9) of article 11 shall be construed as references to the Senior Magistrate referred to in article 7(2).

Judges and magistrates may not hold other offices of profit. Exceptions.

Amended by:
[IV.1868.1](#);
[XV.1913.5](#);
[IV.1924.4](#).
Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.5](#).
Amended by:
[XXXI.2002.10](#).

16. It shall not be lawful for any judge or magistrate to carry out any other profession, business or trade, or to hold any other office of profit whatsoever, even though of a temporary nature, with the exception of any judicial office on any international Court or tribunal or any international adjudicating body, the office of examiner at the University of Malta.

17. *Repealed by [XXXI.2002.11](#).* Oaths to be taken by magistrates.
Amended by:
XV.1913.5;
IV.1924.5;
L.N. 46 of 1965;
LVIII.1974.68;
L.N.148 of 1975;
XII.1978.3.
18. *Repealed by [XXXI.2002.11](#).* Surrogation of magistrates.
Amended by:
XV.1913.6;
XXXI.1934.5;
L.N. 46 of 1965;
LVIII.1974.68;
XXIV.1995.6.
19. *Repealed by [XXXI.2002.11](#).* Power of President of Malta to make regulations respecting the distribution of duties of magistrates in Malta or Gozo.
Added by:
IX.1886.4.
Amended by:
XV.1913.6;
L.N. 46 of 1965;
LVIII.1974.68;
VIII.1990.3;
XXIV.1995.7.
20. *Repealed by [XXXI.2002.11](#).* Supplementary magistrates for Gozo.
Amended by:
XV.1913.6;
XIII.1964.11;
L.N. 46 of 1965;
LVIII.1974.68;
VIII.1990.3;
XXIV.1995.8.
21. (1) The Maltese language shall be the language of the courts and, subject to the provisions of the [Judicial Proceedings \(Use of English Language\) Act](#), all the proceedings shall be conducted in that language.
- (2) Where any party does not understand the language in which the oral proceedings are conducted, such proceedings shall be interpreted to him either by the court or by a sworn interpreter.
- (3) Any evidence submitted by affidavit shall be drawn up in the language normally used by the person taking such affidavit. The affidavit, when not in Maltese is to be filed together with a translation in Maltese, which translation is furthermore to be confirmed on oath by the translator.
22. (1) Causes shall be tried in public:
- Provided that it shall be lawful for the court to order that the cause be heard with closed doors, should decency or good morals so require.
- Language of the courts.
Amended by:
Order-in-Council of 1899, s.11;
II.1914.1;
Letters Patent, 1921, s.57(3);
XVI.1929.5.6;
XI.1932.1.2;
XXXI.1934.6;
XXI.1936.2.
Substituted by:
XXXII.1965.8.
Amended by:
XXIV.1995.9.
Cap. 189.
- Causes to be tried in public.
Exceptions.
Amended by:
IV.1862.2.

(2) It shall also be lawful for the court, in any other case, at the request of both parties, upon good reason being shown, to order that the cause be heard with closed doors.

Order of court to be recorded.

(3) In any of the said cases, the order of the court shall be recorded.

Judgments to be delivered in public.
Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.10.](#)

23. The judgment shall in all cases be delivered in public. The court delivering the judgment shall read out the operative part which is to be included in the concluding part of the judgment. The operative part of the judgment shall include a reference to the claims or pleas which have been decided upon and every declaration intended to be conclusive or binding. Immediately upon delivery the judge or magistrate shall deposit a signed transcript of the judgment in the records of the case.

Each court to deal with matters pending before it.

24. Any order in regard to any matter pending before the courts shall be given by the court to which such matter appertains, and any application for any such order shall be made to such court exclusively.

Suitors, etc., not to have private communication with judges or magistrates.
Amended by:
[XI.1859.1;](#)
[XXXI.1934.7;](#)
[L.N. 148 of 1975.](#)

25. Saving the proviso to article 15, suitors as well as advocates, legal procurators and all other persons acting in the name and on behalf of such suitors, are, under the penalties laid down in article 997, forbidden to make any private application to the judges or to the magistrates in regard to matters pending or to be brought before any of the courts of justice.

Mode of applying to court for any order.

26. Any suitor, advocate or legal procurator, desiring to apply to the court for any order, may do so either when the court is sitting or at any other time; but, in the latter case, the application must be made through the registrar.

Registry of superior courts.
Amended by:
[VI.1880.2;](#)
[L.N 46 of 1965;](#)
[X.1975.2;](#)
[XXI.V.1995.11.](#)
Substituted by:
[XXXI.2002.12.](#)

27. (1) There shall be such number of registries as the Minister responsible for justice may prescribe by regulations. Such regulations may also establish the place of such registries, the acts that each registry is competent to receive and all other matters necessary for the proper functioning thereof.

(2) Any provision in this Code or in another law or regulation which makes reference to a registry or to a section of a court shall be construed as a reference to the registry of the specific court or section established for the purpose under sub-article (1).

(3) The Minister responsible for justice shall designate a public officer to be responsible for each registry that is established under sub-article (1) and, in making any such designation, the Minister responsible for justice may also determine the functions to be performed by such person and all matters ancillary thereto.

Court archives.
Amended by:
[VI.1880.3;](#)
[XI.1942.2;](#)
[L.N. 4 of 1963;](#)
[XXXI.1966.2.](#)
Sosititwit:
[XXXI.2002.13.](#)

28. There shall be such archives wherein there shall be deposited all the acts of the courts which are to be deposited in terms of article 65. The Minister responsible for justice may prescribe the number of archives to be set up, the acts which shall be deposited in each archive, their location, the manner in which records are to be kept and any other matter relating or ancillary thereto.

29. (1) There shall be a Board composed of the Chief Justice, as chairman, who shall also have a casting vote, a judge ordinarily sitting in the Court of Appeal and a magistrate appointed by the President of Malta on the recommendation of the Chief Justice, the Attorney General, the President of the Chamber of Advocates and the President of the Chamber of Legal Procurators whose function shall be to make rules, to be called Rules of Court, for the purposes specified in sub-article (2) or in any other provision of this Code or of any other law.

(2) Rules of Court may be made generally in respect of all matters concerning the conduct of the courts and the conduct of causes with the object of ensuring a proper and efficient administration of justice and, in particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the aforesaid -

- (a) for governing the conduct of the courts and for securing and maintaining order and decorum within the building of the courts;
- (b) for fixing the days, hours, duration and number of the sittings of the courts, determining the manner of distribution of the causes among judges and the magistrates appointed to sit in a particular court or chamber thereof, and for making other provision in respect of any matter aforesaid as the Board may deem appropriate;
- (c) for regulating leave of absence, for any reason, by judges, or magistrates, including a requirement of authorisation or sanctioning of such leave by the competent authorities;
- (d) for establishing any forms not provided for in this Code;
- (e) for carrying into effect the provisions of the [Judicial Proceedings \(Use of English Language\) Act](#), as regards the language to be used in the proceedings;
- (f) for making provision with respect to judicial acts and matters of or incidental to practice and procedure not provided for in this Code or in any other law;
- (g) for establishing case management procedures;
- (h) for fixing the sessions of the forensic year and the vacation days in the superior and inferior courts, and matters ancillary or incidental to such sessions and vacation days;

Provided that nothing contained in such rules shall be inconsistent with or repugnant to the provisions of this Code or any other law:

Provided further that the Minister responsible for justice may, in the absence of the Rules of Court made in accordance with the provisions of this sub-article, make regulations on any matter referred to in this sub-article.

- (3) The Board may act notwithstanding any vacancy in its

Rule-Making Board.

Amended by:

XV.1913.7;

XXXI.1934.8;

XXI.1936.3;

XIII.1964.12;

XIX.1965.2;

XXXII.1965.8;

L.N. 46 of 1965;

XXX.1971.3;

LVIII.1974.68;

L.N. 148 of 1975;

LII.1981.2;

XXII.1992.4.

Substituted by:

XXIV.1995.12.

Amended by:

XXXI.2002.14;

VII.2007.7.

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membership but shall not act unless at least the Chief Justice and another two members are present.

(4) Rules made under this article shall be subject to the approval of the President of Malta, and shall come into force on or after the day of their publication in the Gazette, as may be specified therein.

(5) The Minister responsible for justice may by regulations confer on the Board additional powers and functions for the amelioration of the administration of justice.

(6) The Chief Justice may from time to time convene meetings of judges and magistrates, either separately or collectively, and shall regularly consult with the same, individually or collectively, regarding matters concerning the conduct and trial of causes, the application and conduct of court procedures and proceedings, the implementation of administrative procedures connected with the trial of causes and the conduct of proceedings, the relationship between the judiciary and the Commission for the Administration of Justice, the making of rules of court and such other matters as the Chief Justice may deem appropriate to discuss.

(7) Subject to the foregoing provisions of this article and to any rules or regulations made thereunder, the judges and the magistrates shall have power to regulate the conduct of proceedings and of the trial of the causes before the respective courts over which they preside, and to give directives for the maintenance of order at the sittings of the court, according to law.

(8) Without prejudice to the provisions of sub-article (7), the Chief Justice may, in his discretion, transfer any case from one court to another:

Provided that in the execution of this function the Chief Justice shall discuss the matter with the judges or magistrates concerned, either during any of the meetings convened in accordance with sub-article (6) or during an *ad hoc* meeting held for the purpose.

Advocates and legal procurators when appearing in court to be deemed officers of court.

30. Advocates and legal procurators, when they appear before the superior or inferior courts, shall be deemed to be officers of the court.

Title II

OF THE SUPERIOR COURTS

Civil Court.
Division of same.

31. *Repealed by [XXXI.2002.15](#).*

Civil Court.
Amended by:
XI.1859.2;
L.N.148 of 1975.
Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.13](#);
[XXXI.2002.16](#).

32. (1) One Judge shall sit in each section of the Civil Court.

(2) The Civil Court shall take cognisance of all causes of a civil and commercial nature, and of all causes which are expressly assigned by law to the said Civil Court.

33. The exercise of voluntary jurisdiction in matters of a civil nature shall be assigned to the Civil Court.

Voluntary jurisdiction.
Amended by:
L.N. 148 of 1975.
Substituted by:
[XXXI.2002.17.](#)

34. Save where otherwise provided by this Code or any other law, judgments of the Civil Court, First Hall, are subject to appeal to the Court of Appeal:

Appeal from judgements of Civil Court, First Hall.
Amended by:
[XVI.1913.8;](#)
[XXIV.1995.14;](#)
[IX.2004.3;](#)
L.N. 181 of 2006.

Provided that in cases where a cause commenced by a sworn application, and where no explicit decision has been requested and given as to the interpretation of the [Constitution](#) in terms of article 95(2)(d) of the said [Constitution](#), is decided by the First Hall of the Civil Court by a judgement wherein points of law about fundamental human rights or references to the Constitution are discussed and decided as part of the merits of the cause, the Court of Appeal shall still be deemed to be competent and to have jurisdiction to decide an appeal from such judgement of the First Hall of the Civil Court.

35. No appeal shall lie from any decree of the Court of voluntary jurisdiction; but it shall be lawful for any party, who deems himself aggrieved, to bring an action before the Civil Court, First Hall, for the necessary order.

Mode of impugning decrees of Court of voluntary jurisdiction.
Amended by:
[IX.2004.11.](#)

36. (1)* The Civil Court, First Hall and the Civil Court (Family Section) shall be competent to hear cases in Malta and Gozo.

Competence of the Civil Court.
Added by:
[I.2018.2.](#)
Amended by:
[XVI.2019.3;](#)
[V.2021.64.](#)

(2)† The Civil Court, First Hall and the Civil Court (Family Section) shall hold sittings both in Malta and in Gozo.

(3)‡ When the Civil Court, First Hall and the Civil Court (Family Section) hold sittings in Malta, they shall take cognizance of all claims against persons residing or having their ordinary abode in the Island of Malta, and of all other causes expressly assigned by law to such sections of the Civil Court.

(4)§ When the Civil Court, First Hall and the Civil Court (Family Section) hold sittings in Gozo, they shall take cognizance of all claims against persons residing or having their ordinary abode in the Islands of Gozo and Comino, and of all other causes expressly assigned by law to such sections of the Civil Court.

(5)** The rules set out in this Code concerning the *privilegium fori* and the exceptions thereto shall apply also between the Civil Court, First Hall and the Civil Court (Family Section) when sitting in the island of Malta and when sitting in the island of Gozo.

(6)†† Causes which are not included in the causes which may be heard by the Civil Court, First Hall and the Civil Court (Family

*Not yet in force. See Legal Notice [164 of 2018.](#)

†Not yet in force.

‡Not yet in force.

§Not yet in force.

**Not yet in force.

††Not yet in force.

Section) when holding sittings in the island of Gozo shall be heard by the said Courts sitting in Malta.

(7) The Civil Court (Commercial Section) shall take cognizance of all claims against persons, whether natural or legal, residing or having their ordinary abode or registered office in the Islands of Malta and the Islands of Gozo and Comino and of all other causes, expressly assigned by law to such section of the Civil Court:

Provided that where the Civil Court (Commercial Section) is to hear causes concerning claims against persons, whether natural or legal, residing or having their ordinary abode or registered office in the Islands of Gozo and Comino, it shall hold its sittings in the building of the Courts of Gozo:

Provided further that the provisions of Sub-title IV of Title I of Book Third of this Code, sub-titled "Of Referees" shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to matters relating to the [Competition Act](#) and any regulations made thereunder and the [Consumer Affairs Act](#) and any regulations made thereunder.

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(7A) The Civil Court (Asset Recovery Section) shall take cognizance of all claims against persons whether natural or legal residing or having their ordinary abode or registered office or owning assets or property of any kind in the Island of Malta and in the Islands of Gozo and Comino and of actions *in rem*, for the recovery of proceeds of crime by the State or by an entity of the State or for the non-conviction based confiscation of assets and property of any kind as may be provided in any law from time to time in force and of all other causes expressly assigned by law to such section of the Civil Court:

Provided that when the Civil Court (Asset Recovery Section) shall take cognizance of claims against persons, whether natural or legal, residing or having their ordinary abode in the Islands of Gozo and Comino it shall hold its sittings in the building of the courts of Gozo.

(8)* The Civil Court (Voluntary Jurisdiction Section) shall also sit in Malta and in Gozo.

(9)† It shall be lawful to add the words "(Gozo)" in any written pleading, judicial act, court decree, court judgment, *procès-verbal*, form or any other document whatsoever filed or used by the Civil Court, First Hall, the Civil Court (Family Section) or the Civil Court (Voluntary Jurisdiction Section) when such documents relate to acts, claims or proceedings of the said courts in respect of which sittings are held in the island of Gozo.

*Not yet in force.

†Not yet in force.

37. *Repealed by: [XXIV.1995.15](#).* Further jurisdiction of Commercial Court.
Amended by: IV.1862.3; IV.1905.4.
38. *Repealed by: [XXIV.1995.15](#).* Jurisdiction in bankruptcy, etc.
Amended by: XI.1858.2; IV.1862.3; IV.1905.3; XV.1913.10.
39. Any Judge sitting in the Civil Court, or any section thereof shall regulate the proceedings concerning average and shall attend, either personally or through an advocate deputed by him for the purpose, at the drawing up of sea-protests. Duties of Judge of Civil Court, First Hall in respect of proceedings concerning average and sea-protests.
Amended by: IV.1862.3; IV.1905.5; [XXII.1992.5](#); [XXIV.1995.357](#); [XXXI.2002.18](#).
- 39A. *Repealed by: [XXXI.2002.19](#).* Courts may consist of more than one chamber.
*Added by: [XXII.1992.6](#).
Amended by: [XXIV.1995.16](#).*
40. *Repealed by: [XXIV.1995.17](#).* Appeal from judgements of Commercial Court.
Amended by: XV.1913.11.
41. (1) The Court of Appeal shall consist of one or more chambers. Court of Appeal Constitution. Jurisdiction.
Amended by: VII.1880.7; XV.1913.14; XIII.1964.13; L.N. 46 of 1965; XXX.1971.4; LVIII.1974.68; L.N. 148 of 1975; VIII.1990.3; [XXII.1992.7](#); [XXIV.1995.18](#); VI.2001.3; [XVII.2012.2](#); [I.2018.3](#).
- (2) Where the Court of Appeal consists of one or two chambers each chamber shall consist of the Chief Justice and two other judges.
- (3) Where the Court of Appeal consists of three or more chambers, the third and other chambers may each be presided by a judge to be nominated upon the advice of the Chief Justice.
- (4) Each chamber of the Court of Appeal shall exercise and have all powers as are by this Code or any other law vested in the Court of Appeal.
- (5) The number of chambers shall be determined by an Order of the President of Malta.
- (6) Where an Order is made by the President of Malta providing for more than one chamber of the Court of Appeal, the rule-making board established under article 29 of the Code shall provide the manner in which cases shall be distributed between the various chambers.
- (7) (a) An Order as is referred to in sub-article (3) hereof may

provide that where one of the judges, other than the Chief Justice, sitting in one of the chambers, abstains or is otherwise challenged and the challenge is accepted, the case in which such abstention or challenge takes place shall be heard by such other of the chambers as is prescribed in the Order.

(b) Where the Chief Justice is challenged and the challenge is accepted or abstains, the senior judge (other than the Chief Justice) in such other chamber as may be determined in the Order, shall be surrogated for the Chief Justice in the chamber where the case is being heard.

(c) Where notwithstanding the provisions of any orders made under paragraphs (a) and (b) hereof the case may not be heard by any of the chambers as provided for in such order because of a challenge or abstention of the Chief Justice or any other of the judges, the President of Malta shall surrogate another judge or other judges to sit in lieu of the judges challenged or lawfully impeded in the chamber in which the case was first assigned under the provisions of sub-article (3) hereof.

(8)* The Court of Appeal shall hear and determine all appeals from judgments of the Civil Court, First Hall, Civil Court, First Hall(Gozo), the Civil Court (Family Section), the Civil Court (Family Section) (Gozo) and the Civil Court (Commercial Section).

Appeal from
inferior courts for
Malta.

(9)† The Court of Appeal shall also hear and determine appeals from judgments of the Court of Magistrates (Malta) and Court of Magistrates (Gozo) in its inferior jurisdiction. But, for the purposes of such appeals, the Court of Appeal shall be constituted by one of its members only, and any one of the judges, appointed by the President of Malta to sit for the hearing of such appeals, shall be deemed to be a member of such court. The Court of Appeal as constituted under this sub-article may also be referred to as the Court of Appeal (Inferior Jurisdiction).

(10) Where the Court of Appeal is to hear appeals from the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) in its inferior jurisdiction or from judgments or decisions of any board or tribunal delivered by such board or tribunal when sitting in Gozo, it shall hold its sitting in the building of the Courts in Gozo, and for the purpose of such appeals the registry of the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) shall also be the Registry of the Court of Appeal.

* In force as from 11th June 2018, *see* also Legal Notice [187 of 2018](#).

Previous sub-article (8):

(8)It shall hear and determine all appeals from judgments of -

the Civil Court, First Hall; and

the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) in its superior jurisdiction:

Provided that the reference to the "Civil Court, First Hall" in this sub-article shall be deemed to include a reference to the Civil Court (Family Section) and to have included such a reference as from the date of establishment of the sections of the civil courts.

† See Legal Notice [187 of 2018](#).

42. The Court of Appeal shall be exclusively competent to take cognizance of the appeals referred to in article 6 of the [Marriage Legacies Law](#).

Jurisdiction of Court of Appeal in respect of appeals under Marriage Legacies Law.
Amended by:
VI.1880.4;
XV.1913.15;
II.1940.2.
Cap. 3.

43. Repealed by: [XXIV.1995.19](#).

Jurisdiction of Court of Appeal in issues connected with execution of judgments or warrants.
Amended by:
IV.1862.5;
IV.1905.6;
XV.1913.13.

44. The Court of Appeal, besides taking cognizance of the causes referred to in this Title, shall also take cognizance of all other causes which by express provision of the law are assigned to it.

Further jurisdiction of Court of Appeal.

45. The Constitutional Court shall be so constituted and shall exercise such jurisdiction as is provided in the [Constitution](#) of Malta.

Constitutional Court.
Added by:
XIII.1964.14.
Amended by:
LVIII.1974.68.

46. The provisions of article 34 and of article 41(9) shall be without prejudice to the provisions of article 46(4), and article 95(2) of the [Constitution](#) of Malta and article 4(4) of the [European Convention Act](#).

Saving.
Added by:
XIII.1964.14.
Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.20](#).
Cap. 319.

Title III

OF THE INFERIOR COURTS

47. (1) A magistrate shall sit in the Court of Magistrates (Malta), and such court shall, as a court of first instance, hear and determine all claims of an amount not exceeding fifteen thousand euro (€15,000), against persons residing or having their ordinary abode in any part of the Island of Malta.

Civil Court of Magistrates (Malta).
Constitution and jurisdiction.
Amended by:
IV.1865.1;
XV.1913.16;
XXXI.1934.9;
XXIII.1971.3;
XIII.1983.5;
XII.1985.2;
VIII.1990.3;
XXIV.1995.21;
VI.2001.3;
XXXI.2002.21;
L.N. 407 of 2007;
IV.2016.3.

(2) Such court shall also take cognizance of all other causes expressly assigned to it by law.

(3) Nevertheless, causes involving questions of ownership of immovable property, or relating to easements, burdens or other rights annexed to such property, including any claim for the ejectment or eviction from immovable property, whether urban or rural, tenanted or occupied by persons residing or having their ordinary abode within the limits of the jurisdiction of such court, shall not fall within the jurisdiction of the Court of Magistrates (Malta) independently of the value of the claim.

Further jurisdiction.
 Amended by:
 XXXI.1934.9;
 XXIII.1971.4;
[XIII.1983.5](#);
[XII.1985.3](#);
[VIII.1990.3](#);
[XXIV.1995.22](#);
[VI.2001.3](#).

Appeal from judgment of Court of Magistrates.
 Amended by:
 VII.1880.8;
 XV.1913.17;
[VIII.1990.3](#);
[XXIV.1995.23](#).
 Substituted by:
[XXXI.2002.23](#).

Court of Magistrates (Gozo) as court of first instance.
 Amended by:
 XV.1913.18;
 XIII.1925.2;
 XI.1929.2;
 XIII.1964.15; L.N. 46 of 1965;
 LVIII.1974.68;
[VIII.1990.3](#);
[XXIV.1995.24](#).

Constitution.
 Twofold jurisdiction.

Inferior, equal to jurisdiction of inferior court of Malta.

and superior which is equal to Civil Court, First Hall. Cap. 319.

Judgments subject to appeal to Court of Magistrates as an appellate court in its superior jurisdiction.
 Amended by:
 XXIII.1971.5;
[XIII.1983.5](#);
[XII.1985.4](#);
[VIII.1990.3](#).

48. Deleted by [XXXI.2002.22](#).

49. From the judgments of the Court of Magistrates (Malta) or from the Court of Magistrates (Gozo), an appeal shall lie to the Court of Appeal, constituted as provided in article 41(9).

50. (1) Subject to the provisions of article 770 and 771, the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) shall, to the exclusion of the courts of Malta, be competent to take cognizance of all claims against persons residing or having their ordinary abode in the Island of Gozo or Comino, as well as of all other causes expressly assigned by law to such court.

(2) Such court shall consist of one magistrate, and shall have a twofold jurisdiction, namely:

- (a) an inferior jurisdiction, by virtue of which it shall take cognizance of all causes of the nature of those which, according to articles 47 and 48, are triable by a magistrate for the Island of Malta; and
- (b) a superior jurisdiction, by virtue of which, subject to the provisions of article 46 of the [Constitution](#) of Malta and article 4 of the [European Convention Act](#), it shall take cognizance of all causes of the nature of those which, according to article 32, are triable by the Civil Court, First Hall.

51. Repealed by: [XXIV.1995.25](#).

- 52.** *Repealed by:* [XXIV.1995.25](#).
 Judgments subject to appeal to Court of Appeal.
Amended by:
[XXIII.1971.6](#);
[XIII.1983.5](#);
[XII.1985.5](#);
[VIII.1990.3](#).
- 53.** In regard to causes within the superior jurisdiction of the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) the provisions relating to the superior courts shall apply.
 Applicability of provisions relating to superior courts, to Gozo Court in its superior jurisdiction.
Amended by:
[XV.1913.19](#);
[XXXI.1934.10](#);
[VIII.1990.3](#).
- 54.** The Court of Magistrates (Gozo), consisting of one magistrate to be named by the President of Malta in that behalf, shall also have, within the limits of its local jurisdiction, the same powers as are assigned to the Civil Court, in its voluntary jurisdiction.
 Gozo court as court of voluntary jurisdiction.
Amended by:
[L.N. 46 of 1965](#);
[LVIII.1974.68](#);
[VIII.1990.3](#);
[XXXI.2002.24](#).
- 55.** *Repealed by* [XXXI.2002.25](#).
 Qualifications of magistrates and magistrates surrogate.
Amended by:
[VIII.1990.3](#);
[XXIV.1995.26](#).
- 56.** The provision of article 49 shall be without prejudice to the provision of article 46(4) and article 95(2) of the [Constitution](#) of Malta, and article 4(4) of the [European Convention Act](#).
 Saving.
Added by:
[XIII.1964.16](#).
Amended by:
[L.N.148 of 1975](#).
Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.27](#).
 Cap. 319.
- 56A.** Notwithstanding any of the provisions of this Code the inferior courts shall not take cognizance of any claim falling within the jurisdiction of the Small Claims Tribunal established under the [Small Claims Tribunal Act](#).
 Small Claims Tribunal.
Added by:
[V.1995.18](#).
 Cap. 380.

Title IV

OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE COURT

- 57.** (1) The Director General (Courts) shall be appointed by the Prime Minister and, unless the Minister responsible for justice otherwise directs, he shall be responsible for the administration of all registries, archives, court services and all other administrative offices of the courts.
 Duties of Director General (Courts).
Amended by:
[VI.1880.6](#);
[XV.1913.22](#);
[X.1975.3](#);
[XIV.1980.2](#).
Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.28](#).
Amended by:
[L.N. 34 of 2001](#).
Substituted by:
[XXXI.2002.27](#).
- (2) The Director General (Courts) shall have the functions, powers and duties as are vested in him by this Code or by any other applicable law, as well as by any regulations which may, from time to time, be made by the Minister responsible for justice under this

article.

(3) The duties of the Director General (Courts) shall be carried out by the Director General (Courts) personally or by such other persons or by court executive officers as the Minister responsible for justice may by regulation designate or, failing such regulation, by any person so delegated by the Director General (Courts); such regulation may also specify the duties that shall be carried out by each such person or officer.

Registries.
Repealed by:
XI.1858.3.
Added by:
VI.1880.7.
Amended by:
XXIX.1952.2;
L.N. 4 of 1963;
XV.1964.2;
XXXI.1966.2;
X.1975.4;
XI.1977.2.
Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.29;](#)
[XXXI.2002.28.](#)

58. (1) There shall be such registries of the Courts and other tribunals established by law, as the Minister responsible for justice may by regulations under this article establish.

(2) Such regulations shall assign to each court or tribunal the registry that is to serve it and more than one court or tribunal may in accordance with such registries be so served by the same registry.

(3) Any reference in any law to the registry of any particular court or tribunal shall be deemed to be a reference to the registry assigned to such court or tribunal by the Minister in regulations made under this article.

(4) Each registry shall be headed by a public officer designated by the Minister for the purpose and, failing such designation, by the Director General (Courts). The head of each registry is hereinafter referred to as "the registrar".

(5) Each registrar shall have the functions, powers and duties vested in him by this Code or by any other applicable law as well as by any regulation which may, from time to time, be made by the Minister responsible for justice.

(6) The duties of the registrar, including any duties during sittings of the courts, shall be carried out by the registrar personally or by such other persons or by court executive officers as the Minister responsible for justice may designate or, failing such designation, by any person so delegated by the registrar, and such designation may also specify the duties that shall be carried out by each such person or officer.

(7) Any provision in this Code or in any other law or regulation which makes reference to the registrar shall be construed as a reference to the registrar of such registry to which the provision refers or the registrar heading the registry assigned to serve that court and, failing any such reference, it shall be construed as a reference to the registrar responsible for the registry assigned to serve the Civil Court.

(8) Subject to the provisions of this Code and of any rules made under article 29, the registrar shall take orders from the judicial authorities in relation to any judicial proceedings and in relation to any judicial act, that is to say:

- (a) in the superior courts in matters concerning a particular court, he shall take orders from the judge or from the judges, if there are two or more judges, of that court; in other cases, he shall take orders from the

Chief Justice; and

- (b) in the inferior courts, he shall take orders from the magistrates of the particular court.

(9) The provisions of sub-article (8) shall, subject to the provisions of article 69, apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to court executive officers.

(10) The Director General (Courts), the registrar and any of the court executive officers so designated by the Minister responsible for justice shall, for the purposes of the [Commissioners for Oaths Ordinance](#), be *ex officio* Commissioners for Oaths.

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59. It shall not be lawful for the registrar or any other officer acting in his stead to discharge the duties of registrar in any of those cases in which a judge may be challenged.

Cases in which registrar is debarred from acting as such.
Added by:
VI.1880.7.
Amended by:
IX.1886.7;
VIII 1903.1.

60. The Director General (Courts) and each registrar, on entering upon the execution of their respective offices, shall take, before the Court of Appeal, the oath of allegiance referred to in article 10, and the oath of office in the following form:

Oath to be taken by Director General (Courts).
Amended by:
VI.1880.8;
IX.1886.8;
XXIX.1952.3;
XV.1964.3.
Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.30](#);
[XXXI.2002.29](#).

"I do swear that I will faithfully and with all honesty and exactness perform the duties of Director General / Registrar, to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability. So help me God."

61. (1) The registrar, unless otherwise provided in this Code, shall register the proceedings and the orders of the court, and the register kept by him shall constitute an authentic proof thereof.

Other duties of registrar.
Amended by:
V.1856.1;
VI.1880.9;
XV.1913.23.

(2) Where a verbal demand for any act or procedure whatsoever is made in cases in which such act or procedure may take place upon a verbal demand of any party, the registrar shall note down such demand, stating whether the same has been made by the party personally or by a legal procurator or by any other lawful representative; and such note shall constitute an authentic proof as to the demand itself and as to the person by whom it has been made.

62. The registrar shall certify the authenticity of every copy which may be required of any act or document existing in the registry.

Authentication of copies.

63. The registrar shall be responsible for any loss, mutilation or alteration of any act or document filed in the registry as well as for any delay in the course of any such act or document.

Liability of registrar.
Amended by:
VI.1880.10.

64. (1) Judicial costs shall be taxed and assessed by the registrar, and the assessment made by him may not be impugned after the expiration of one month. Such action shall be instituted by application which shall be heard summarily by the court. Such period, in regard to the person applying for the taxed bill of costs, shall commence to run from the day on which the taxed bill was

Taxing of judicial costs. Impugnment of assessment of costs.
Amended by:
IV.1862.6;
XXXI.1934.11;
[XXIV.1995.31](#).

issued and, in regard to the debtor duly served with such taxed bill by means of a judicial act, from the day of such service.

(2) The applicant shall cause a copy of the application to be served on any person having an interest therein, who shall have twenty days within which to file a reply.

(3) The written pleadings in respect of the application shall be deemed closed by the reply or failing such reply with the expiration of the time allowed for such reply. The parties shall be notified with the date for the hearing of the application.

Archives.
Amended by:
VI.1880.11.
Substituted by:
[XXXI.2002.65.](#)

65. (1) There shall be such archives of the Courts and other tribunals established by law, as the Minister responsible for justice may by regulations under this article establish.

(2) Such regulations shall assign to each court or tribunal the archives in which the records and acts of such court or tribunal shall be deposited, and the records of more than one Court or tribunal may, in accordance with such regulations, be deposited in any one particular archive.

(3) The Director General (Courts) shall be responsible for the administration of the archives and shall, subject to the provisions of this Code and of any other law, issue such directives as he may deem necessary for the proper storage of documents therein, access thereto, the making and authentication of copies and for all other matters relating to the archives.

(4) The said Minister may also from time to time make regulations governing the archives and their management.

Absence or other lawful impediment of Director General (Courts).
Amended by:
VI.1880.12;
VIII.1903.2;
XV.1913.24;
XV.1964.4;
L.N. 46 of 1965;
X.1975.5;
[XXIV.1995.32.](#)
Substituted by:
[XXXI.2002.31.](#)

66. The Minister responsible for justice shall designate persons to act for the Director General (Courts), the Registrar and any court executive officer in the case of absence or other lawful impediment of the Director General (Courts), the registrars, or any court executive officer, as the case may be.

Duties of court executive officers.
Amended by:
VI.1880.13;
XIX.1965.3.
Substituted by:
XXIII.1971.7.
Amended by:
XII.1978.4;
[VIII.1990.3;](#)
[XXIV.1995.33.](#)
Substituted by:
[XXXI.2002.33.](#)

67. (1) There shall be court executive officers who shall be entrusted with the service and the execution of any judicial acts, warrants and other orders given by the Courts, Judges and Magistrates and to perform such other duties as may be assigned to them by the Director General (Courts) and the registrars.

(2) The Minister responsible for justice may, by regulations made under this article, designate the officers who shall be court executive officers prescribing their respective duties, powers and responsibilities and may regulate any other matter which he may deem necessary for the better performance of their functions.

68. (1) Court executive officers designated for the purpose by the Minister responsible for justice are also charged with the maintenance of good order and decorum in the building of the courts.

Maintenance of good order in Courts.

Amended by:

VI.1880.13.

Substituted by:

[*XXIV.1995.34.*](#)

Amended by:

[*XXXI.2002.34.*](#)

(2) Without prejudice to the provisions of article 72, every such officer shall, within the precincts of the building of the courts and of any office, building or other premises occupied by, or under the charge of, the Director General (Courts), be empowered to exercise all such functions, powers and duties as are by law vested in Police officers.

(3) Subject to the provisions of article 990 and 992, where such officer detains or arrests any person for any offence committed within the precincts mentioned in the previous sub-article, he shall forthwith bring the offender before a magistrate and charge him with breach of good order and decorum in the buildings of the court and if the court, on summarily hearing the case, finds the offender guilty of breach of good order and decorum in the building of the court, shall condemn the offender to any of the punishments mentioned in article 990.

69. (1) Court executive officers shall execute their duties personally unless otherwise prescribed by regulations made by the Minister responsible for justice, by Rules of Court, or, in the absence of such regulations or rules, in accordance with the orders even verbal, of the judges or magistrates as provided in article 58.

Court executive officers to execute duties personally.

Amended by:

VI.1880.13;

XI.1913.25;

[*XXIV.1995.35.*](#)

Substituted by:

[*XXXI.2002.35.*](#)

(2) The provisions of article 59 shall apply to court executive officers or other persons acting in their behalf.

70. Saving the provisions of article 992, if any person knowingly avoids, obstructs or refuses service of any act or court order or execution of any warrant or order by any executive officer of the courts, he shall be guilty of contempt of court and shall be liable, on conviction, to the punishments mentioned in article 990.

Opposition to court executive officers in the execution of their duties.

Amended by:

VI.1880.13;

XIX.1965.4;

[*XXIV.1995.36;*](#)

[*XXXI.2002.36.*](#)

71. Where, before the execution of any warrant, it shall come to the knowledge of the executive officer that the person against whom the warrant has been issued is a person in favour of whom an exemption is granted by law, he shall, forthwith, through the registrar, or, in case of urgency, personally, report the fact to the court in order to receive such directions as may be requisite.

Executive officer to inform court of any warrant issued against an exempted person.

Amended by:

VI.1880.13.

72. Every officer charged with the execution of any order of the court shall, for the discharge of his duties, have the same powers as are by law vested in Police officers.

Powers of executive officers.

Amended by:

VI.1880.13.

73. In the case of opposition by the use of violence, it shall be lawful for an executive officer to demand the assistance of any member of the Police force.

Assistance of Police force.

Amended by:

VI.1880.13.

Title VI

OF ARCHIVISTS

Amended by:
VI.1880.74.

Archivist.
Amended by:
VI.1880.14,15.

Duties of archivist.
Amended by:
XI.1858.4;
VI.1880.14;
XV.1913.26.

Formation of list of records, etc.
Amended by:
VI.1880.14,16.

Responsibility of archivist.
Amended by:
VI.1880.14,17;
XV.1913.27.

Registrar of Superior Courts to be *ex officio* Archivist of the Malta Courts and Registrar of Gozo Court to be *ex officio* Archivist of Gozo Court.
Amended by:
VI.1880.14,17;
L.N. 4 of 1963;
L.N. 46 of 1965;
XXXI.1966.2;
XXIV.1995.37.

Amended by:
XXXI.2002.38.

Definitions in this Title.
Added by:
XVIII.2002.10.
Substituted by:
L.N. 248 of 2004.
Amended by:
XIX.2021.3.
Cap. 451.

74. *Repealed by [XXXI.2002.37.](#)*

75. *Repealed by [XXXI.2002.37.](#)*

76. *Repealed by [XXXI.2002.37.](#)*

77. *Repealed by [XXXI.2002.37.](#)*

78. *Repealed by [XXXI.2002.37.](#)*

Title V

OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION

78A. (1) For the purposes of this Title and of Title VIII of Book First of this Code, the expressions "Member State", "citizen of an agreement State", "competent authority" and "the Treaty" shall have the same meaning assigned to them in the [Mutual Recognition of Qualifications Act](#).

(2) For the purposes of this Title, unless the context otherwise requires:

"advocate" means a person authorised under the provisions of article 79;

"Committee" means the Committee for Advocates and Legal Procurators established by article 3 of the [Commission for the Administration of Justice Act](#);

Cap. 369.

"law firm" means an association or civil partnership, whether or not properly constituted, or any other legal structure of advocates in the exercise of the profession;

"Register" means the Register maintained by the Committee in terms of article 88D where information on individuals holding a warrant to practice as advocates or legal procurators and on law firms is recorded.

79. (1) No person may exercise the profession of advocate or provide legal services in Malta or otherwise hold himself out as providing any legal service in Malta without the authority of the President of Malta granted by warrant under Public Seal of Malta acting on the recommendation of the Committee and after such person is duly admitted to the Register in accordance with the provisions of this Code.

(2) Upon the grant of a warrant in terms of sub-article (1), the Committee shall register the advocate in the Register maintained by the Committee.

(3) Any person who acts in contravention of the provisions of sub-article (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall on conviction, be liable to a fine (*multa*) not exceeding twenty five thousand euro (€25,000) or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one (1) year, or to both such fine and imprisonment.

80. Any person on being so authorized shall, before entering upon the exercise of the profession, of advocate take before the Court of Appeal, in a public sitting of the same court, the oath of allegiance according to the form referred to in article 10, and the oath of office in the terms following:

I do swear, that I will faithfully and with all honesty and exactness perform the duties of advocate in the courts of justice of Malta, to the best of my knowledge and ability. So help me God.

81. (1) No person shall be entitled to obtain the warrant referred to in article 79, unless -

- (a) he is a fit and proper person as recommended by the Committee;
- (b) he is of good conduct and good morals, and is not or has not engaged in or is not or has not been associated with any activity or practice which in the view of the Committee is not compatible with the exercise of the legal profession or has not otherwise conducted himself in such a manner which casts doubt on his honesty and integrity;
- (c) he is a citizen of Malta or of a Member State or is otherwise permitted to work in Malta under any law;
- (d) he has obtained the academic degree in law in accordance with the provisions of the Statue of the University of Malta, or such other qualification as the Minister, after consultation with the Committee, may from time to time prescribe, or a comparable degree from such other competent authority in accordance with the principles of mutual recognition of qualifications, after having read law in Malta or in a Member State;
- (e) he has, after satisfying the requirement of paragraph (d), or, in the case of persons regularly following the academical course of law in the University of Malta, at any time after the commencement of the last academic

Administration of advocates and restrictions in respect of members of Parliament.
Substituted by: [XXVII.1977.2.](#)
Amended by: [XII.1978.5;](#)
[XXIV.1995.38.](#)
Substituted by: [VII.2007.10.](#)
Amended by: [XIX.2021.4.](#)

Oaths of allegiance and of office.
Amended by: [XXIV.1995.39;](#)
[XIX.2021.5.](#)

Qualifications for obtaining warrant.
Amended by: [IX.1886.9;](#)
[XV.1913.28;](#)
[II.1916.2,3;](#)
[XVI.1922.2;](#)
[XXVIII.1935.3;](#)
[LXII.1948.2;](#)
[XX.1968.2;](#)
[L.N. 148 of 1975;](#)
[XXIV.1995.40;](#)
[XVIII.2002.10;](#)
[L.N. 248 of 2004;](#)
[XXIV.2014.74;](#)
[XIX.2021.6.](#)

year of the said course, for a period of not less than one year regularly attended at the office of a practising advocate of the Bar of Malta and at the sittings of the superior courts;

- (f) he possesses a full knowledge of the Maltese language as being the language of the courts;
- (g) he has been duly examined and approved by two judges who shall issue, under their signature and seal, a certificate attesting that they have found him to possess the qualifications mentioned in paragraphs (b) to (e) and that he is competent to exercise the profession of advocate in the courts of Malta.

(2) The Committee shall from time to time and with the approval of the Minister, prepare and publish rules and guidelines setting out the requirements that a person shall need to satisfy from time to time to comply with the requirements of article 81(a), (b) and (c).

Regulations.
Added by:
[XVIII.2002.10.](#)
Cap. 451.

81A. The Minister responsible for justice may make regulations for bringing into effect the provisions of the [Mutual Recognition of Qualifications Act](#) and subsidiary legislation issued thereunder, in relation to the mutual recognition of qualifications of advocates.

Bargaining of fees prohibited.
Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.41.](#)

82. Save as may be provided in regulations made under article 1004, it shall not be lawful for any advocate to fix by agreement his fees in an amount higher or lower than that fixed in this Code, except when, for some particular purpose of the contending party, the action is restricted to an interest smaller than that on which the decision will have a bearing; in which case only it shall be lawful for the advocate to stipulate that his fees be reckoned on the basis of the whole interest involved, or fixed at a sum higher than that fixed in this Code in respect of the action as actually instituted.

Advocates not to enter into or make agreements or stipulations *quotae litis*.

83. Advocates shall not, either directly or indirectly, enter into or make any agreement or stipulation *quotae litis*.

Causes of disqualification.
Added by:
[IX.1886.10.](#)
Amended by:
[XV.1913.29;](#)
[XXXI.1934.12;](#)
[III.1939.2;](#)
[L.N. 46 of 1965;](#)
[LVIII.1974.68;](#)
[IX.1976.9;](#)
[VIII.1981.2;](#)
[XI.1994.12;](#)
[XXIV.1995.42;](#)
[XVIII.2002.10;](#)
[XXXI.2002.39;](#)
[L.N. 248 of 2004.](#)
Substituted by:
[XIX.2021.7.](#)
Cap. 9.

84. (1) A person may be disqualified perpetually or for a time to practice the profession of advocate on the recommendation of the Commission for the Administration of Justice, if that person:

- (a) is no longer a fit and proper person;

- (b) has seriously, repeatedly or systematically failed to satisfy his obligations under the [Prevention of Money Laundering Act](#) or the [Prevention of Money Laundering and Funding of Terrorism Regulations](#);
- (c) has been found guilty by a court of law of a crime affecting public trust or theft or of fraud or of knowingly receiving property obtained by theft or fraud or of any crime punishable by a term of imprisonment exceeding one (1) year with the exception of involuntary offences; and
- (d) is considered to suffer from an infirmity of mind that seriously affects the exercise of his profession.

Cap. 373.
S.L. 373. 01.

(2) The temporary or permanent withdrawal, by the competent authority in the Member State in which the advocate acquired the right to use the professional title, of the authorisation to practice the profession shall automatically lead to the advocate being temporarily or permanently prohibited from practicing in Malta.

(3) The disqualification referred to in sub-article (1) shall be declared by the President of Malta by means of a letter to the registrars of the Courts of Malta and Gozo and to the advocate so disqualified, unless the advocate is interdicted by means of a final judgment delivered by a court:

Provided that the Committee may advise the President of Malta to remove the disqualification as aforesaid.

84A. (1) The Chamber of Advocates shall be an independent professional body for advocates in Malta and shall be regulated and governed by its statute and this Code.

The Chamber of
Advocates.
Added by:
[XIX.2021.8.](#)

(2) The Chamber shall exercise functions in relation to the representation or promotion of the interests of the profession and of advocates and law firms. Such functions shall include:

- (a) safeguarding and protecting the dignity, honour and reputation of the profession of advocate;
- (b) the encouragement of an independent, strong, diverse and effective legal profession;
- (c) promoting and maintaining adherence to high professional principles and rules of ethical behaviour by advocates;
- (d) enhancing and promoting the level and standard of competence and skill within the profession amongst others through continued professional development and to make arrangements and requirements for continued professional development.

(3) Membership of the Chamber shall be open to all advocates and law firms that are eligible to be inscribed in the Register under this Code in accordance with the Statute of the Chamber applicable from time to time, against the payment of such membership and annual fees as the Chamber may from time to time determine. The Chamber may

levy other fees for the provision of other services to members.

(4) In the exercise of its function as a professional body, if the Chamber becomes aware of any misconduct on the part of an advocate or law firm and it appears to it that such misconduct can have serious and adverse repercussions on the overall dignity, honour and reputation of the profession as a whole, the Chamber shall be entitled to file a report to the Committee for disciplinary action to be taken against such regulated person.

Admission of legal
procurators.
Amended by:
L.N. 46 of 1965;
LVIII.1974.68;
Substituted by:
[XIX.2021.9.](#)

85. (1) No person may be admitted to practice as a legal procurator without the authority of the President of Malta granted by warrant under the Public Seal of Malta, acting on the recommendation of the Committee.

(2) Upon the grant of a warrant in terms of sub-article (1), the Committee shall register the legal procurator in the Register maintained by the Committee.

(3) Any person who acts in contravention of the provisions of sub-article (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine (*multa*) not exceeding twenty-five thousand euro (€25,000) or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one (1) year, or to both such fine and imprisonment.

Oaths of allegiance
and of office.
Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.43.](#)

86. Any person on being so admitted shall, before commencing to practise as legal procurator, take before the Court of Appeal, in a public sitting of the same court, the oath of allegiance according to the form referred to in article 10, and the oath of office in the terms following:

I do swear, that I will faithfully and with all honesty and exactness perform the duties of legal procurator in the courts of justice of Malta, to the best of my knowledge and ability. So help me God.

Qualifications for
obtaining warrant.
Amended by:
IX.1886.11;
XV.1913.30;
II.1954.2;
XX.1968.3;
XXIII.1971.8;
L.N. 148 of 1975;
[XXIV.1995.44;](#)
[XVIII.2002.10;](#)
L.N. 248 of 2004.
Amended by:
[XIX.2021.9.](#)

87. No person shall be entitled to obtain the warrant referred to in article 85 unless -

- (a) he is a fit and proper person as recommended by the Committee;
- (b) he is a citizen of Malta or of a Member State or is otherwise permitted to work in Malta under any law;
- (c) he has been approved by the examining board of the Faculty of Law, at a regular examination in the subjects of the course of studies to be followed by candidates for the profession of legal procurator, in accordance with the regulations of the University of Malta, or a comparable degree from such other competent authority in accordance with the principles of mutual recognition of qualifications, after having studied law in Malta or in a Member State;
- (d) he has, after passing the examination referred to in paragraph (c) or at any time after the commencement of the last academic year of the said course, for a

period of not less than one year, attended at the office of a practising advocate of the Bar of Malta and trained himself in the practice of the profession;

- (e) he has been duly examined and approved by two judges, who shall issue under their signature and seal a certificate attesting that they have found him to possess the qualifications mentioned in paragraphs (b) to (d) and that he is competent to practice as legal procurator in the courts of Malta.

87A. The Minister responsible for justice may make regulations for bringing into effect the provisions of the [Mutual Recognition of Qualifications Act](#) and subsidiary legislation issued thereunder, in relation to the mutual recognition of qualifications of legal procurators.

Regulations.
Added by:
[XVIII.2002.10.](#)
Cap. 451.

88. The provisions of articles 83 and 84 shall apply to legal procurators.

Applicability of
articles 83 and 84.
Amended by:
[XV.1913.31.](#)

88A. (1) A law firm shall be registered in the Register maintained by the Committee following an application in writing submitted to the Committee and no partnership or association of persons or other legal entity, howsoever formed and called, shall act or hold itself out as being a law firm and no person shall be entitled, recognised or authorised to act in the name and on behalf of a law firm unless and until it has been duly registered as aforesaid:

Law firms.
Added by:
[XIX.2021.11.](#)
Cap. 369.

Provided that law firms already in existence shall have to be registered within twelve (12) months from the coming into force of this provision, and following such date no person shall be entitled, recognised or authorised to act in the name and on behalf of an unregistered law firm.

(2) The application for registration shall include the following information and documentation:

- (a) name of the law firm;
- (b) name and surname, date of birth, place of residence and identification number of each member of that law firm;
- (c) the name of those advocates vested with the representation and management of the law firm; and
- (d) the address of the place from where the law firm shall be providing its services.

(3) Without prejudice to the provisions of the proviso to sub-article (1), any person, not being an advocate, who makes use of the designation "law firm" or any similar designation, whether written or otherwise, or of any other form of language or words that can be perceived as a law firm or which misleadingly imply the existence of a law firm providing legal services in Malta, when no such law firm is registered in the Register maintained by the Committee, shall be guilty of an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine (*multa*) not exceeding twelve thousand euro (€12,000) or to

imprisonment for a term not exceeding six (6) months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

Name of law firms.
Added by:
[XIX.2021.11.](#)

88B. (1) The name of a law firm:

- (a) shall contain terms such as "advocates", "legal", "law firm" or words of similar import that are intended to indicate the nature of the firm and the services it provides;
- (b) shall not contain uncouth language or words which are considered to be offensive or to have an adverse effect on the decorum and dignity of the legal profession;
- (c) shall not be misleading or calculated to mislead the general public and the persons requiring legal services as to the real nature of the firm and the services it provides;
- (d) may include:
 - (i) the name or names of one or more advocates being a partner or partners in the law firm, or any abbreviations thereof; or
 - (ii) the name of an advocate or any abbreviation thereof who has ceased to be a partner in the firm, where the existing partners have decided to retain the same name of the firm or the name of the former partner as part of the name of the law firm.

(2) No person or entity shall use a name or brand that is indicative of a law firm unless the law firm is registered in accordance with this Title.

(3) A law firm shall not be registered by the Committee unless the name of the law firm satisfies the requirements of this article and breaches of this provision by a law firm shall constitute misconduct.

Obligations of
advocates to apply
to law firms.
Added by:
[XIX.2021.11.](#)

88C. Notwithstanding any provision in any other law and any agreement to the contrary:

- (a) any act or service that may be done or provided by an advocate may be done or provided by any one or more of the partners in the name and on behalf of a law firm and any act or service done or provided in the name of the law firm shall be done or provided by one or more of the partners; and
- (b) any prohibition imposed by or under any law on advocates shall also apply to law firms.

Register of legal
professionals and
law firms.
Added by:
[XIX.2021.11.](#)

88D. (1) The Committee shall maintain and keep updated a Register containing the following information:

- (a) the names of persons who are in possession of a warrant to practice as advocates;
- (b) the names of persons who are in possession of a

warrant to practice as legal procurators;

- (c) the name of law firms set up in terms of this Title, including the names and identifying details of those advocates and other warranted professionals being members of such law firms.

(2) The Register shall be made available for public inspection without charge.

89. (1) The Minister responsible for justice shall nominate such panels as he may deem fit, each panel consisting of such number as he may deem fit of advocates, legal procurators and other experts, to perform the duties of curators, advocates or legal procurators *ex officio* and experts in the Courts of Malta and Gozo, and public auctioneers as occasion may require under this Code.

Appointment of official curators, etc.

Amended by:
XV.1913.32;
XXXI.1934.13;
L.N. 4 of 1963;
XXXI.1966.2;
XXXIII.1971.10;
XXIV.1995.45;
III.2002.158;
XII.2009.3.

(2) The advocates and legal procurators appointed under sub-article (1) shall also be bound to give their assistance to any person who, not being entitled to the benefit of legal aid, shall apply to the competent court for such assistance, and shall satisfy the court, in such manner and by such means as the court may prescribe, that *prima facie* he has reasonable grounds for taking or defending or being a party to proceedings and that he did not succeed in engaging the services of another advocate or legal procurator:

Provided that any advocate or legal procurator appointed by the court to give such assistance as aforesaid, shall not be bound to give his assistance, unless the applicant deposits with the registrar a sum which, in the opinion of the registrar, is sufficient to cover the fees of such advocate or legal procurator.

90. Deleted by: [III.2002.158](#).

Appointment of official curators, etc., for the Gozo court.

Amended by:
XXXI.1934.14;
L.N. 4 of 1963;
XXXI.1966.2;
VIII.1990.3.

91. A list of the members of the panels appointed as aforesaid shall be published in the Gazette.

Publication of lists.

Amended by:
VI.1880.18;
VIII.1990.3.
Substituted by:
XXIV.1995.46;
XXXI.2002.42.

92. The persons appointed under the provisions of this Title shall perform their duties in rotation.

Performance of duty in rotation.

93. The rotation shall be according to the order in which the names of the persons appointed are placed on the rota of the respective court by which the selection is to be made, unless there is some reasonable objection against the person whose turn it is on the rota, in which case the person immediately next on the rota shall be selected and the person objected to as aforesaid shall be entitled to the next turn in regard to which there shall be no objection.

Order of rotation.

Appointment of person outside the rota.

Amended by:
[XXXI.1934.15.](#)

Gratuitous legal aid by curators.

Amended by:
[XXIII.1971.11;](#)
[XXIV.1995.47.](#)

Misconduct or negligence of curators, etc.

Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.48.](#)

Illegal practices.

Added by:
[VIII.1981.3.](#)
Substituted by:
[XI.1994.12.](#)
Amended by:
[XXXI.2002.44.](#)

Appointment of judicial assistants.

Added by:
[XXIV.1995.49.](#)
Amended by:
[XXXI.2002.46.](#)

94. Where, owing to impediment or challenge of the persons on the rota, the required selection of an advocate, legal procurator or accountant cannot be made from among such persons, the court shall appoint another person, although not on the rota.

95. The curators selected under the preceding articles of this Title, in causes where either both parties or the party at whose request their selection was made have or has been admitted to sue or defend with the benefit of legal aid, or to be a party to proceedings or continue such proceedings with such benefit, shall give their services gratuitously, saving their right to such remuneration as is expressly allowed to them by this Code out of the amount or property recovered.

96. In case of misconduct, negligence or any reasonable objection to any curator selected from the rota to perform the duties of curator or advocate for legal aid, the court shall have the power to remove him from the case and to appoint another curator from the rota in his stead:

Provided that the court shall through the registrar communicate to the Minister responsible for justice, the relevant decree.

97. (1) It shall be an abuse in the exercise of his profession:

- (a) for any advocate or legal procurator to knowingly, directly or indirectly employ or accept the services of any tout; or
- (b) for any advocate to agree with a legal procurator or a notary public, or for a legal procurator to agree with any advocate or notary public, to give or to receive any share of the fees or other remuneration earned by any of them in respect of professional work; or
- (c) for any advocate or legal procurator to act in contravention of any law or Code of Ethics that may be in force and applicable to him,

and any judge or magistrate shall report to the Commission for the Administration of Justice any advocate or legal procurator whom he suspects to be guilty of such abuse.

(2) In this article, the expression "tout" means any person who undertakes in return for a fee, reward or remuneration, whether in cash or in kind or for any other consideration, to find clients for any advocate or legal procurator.

97A. (1) The President of Malta shall appoint judicial assistants to perform such functions as are by this Code or by any other law assigned to them.

(2) Judicial assistants shall be appointed from amongst persons who hold the warrant of advocate.

(3) The functions of judicial assistants shall include the following:

- (a) to assist in the judicial process and at the request of the

court to participate in the proceedings pending before a court, including any research or other work required therefor, and for the purpose of carrying out such duties and exercise such powers as they may be required or authorised to perform by such court;

- (b) to administer oaths;
- (c) to take the testimony of any person that is produced as witness in any proceedings;
- (d) to take any affidavit on any matter, including a matter connected with any proceedings taken or intended to be taken before any court or any court or tribunal of civil jurisdiction established by law;
- (e) to receive documents produced with any testimony, affidavit or declaration, including in particular a testimony, affidavit or declaration as is referred to in this Code;
- (f) to hold such sittings as may be directed by the court, to meet with the advocates and legal procurators of the parties for the purpose of planning the management of the lawsuit, and to issue deadlines for the submission of evidence, pleadings or other judicial acts by the parties.

(4) In the performance of their functions judicial assistants shall be assigned to a court and shall act under the direction and control of the court before which the case is pending and shall, in addition to any power lawfully assigned to them by such court, have the power to order the attendance of any person for the purpose of giving evidence or to make an affidavit or a declaration, or to produce documents, at such place and time as they may specify in the order.

97B. (1) A judicial assistant shall not enter upon the functions of his office before he has taken, before the Court of Appeal, the oath of office in the following terms:

Oath of office.
Added by:
[XXIV.1995.49.](#)
Amended by:
[IV.1996.2.](#)

I.....do swear that I will faithfully and with all honesty and to the best of my ability perform the duties of judicial assistant as prescribed by law.

(2) The provisions of Sub-Title II of Title II of Book Third shall apply to judicial assistants, except that the decision on any such matter shall be taken by the court before which the case is pending.

Challenge.

97C. Without prejudice to the provisions of sub-article (2) of article 97B, where in proceedings before a judicial assistant a question arises relating to or connected with the same proceedings, that question shall in the first place be decided by the judicial assistant who shall without delay and in any case not later than three days from the date of the said decision, inform the court of the decision, and the decision of the judicial assistant shall be binding unless the court shall by decree, decide otherwise.

Decisions by
judicial assistants.
Added by:
[XXIV.1995.49.](#)

BOOK SECOND

OF THE PROCEDURE IN THE COURTS OF JUSTICE OF
CIVIL JURISDICTION

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Amended by:
[XXXI.2002.47.](#)

Nullity of judicial
acts.

98. Any judicial act done in virtue or in pursuance of an act which is null is equally null.

Reiteration of an
act which is null.

99. Any act which is null may be replaced by another, provided the peremptory time within which the act is to be done has not elapsed.

Nullity of form not
to be pleaded by
person giving rise
thereto.

100. No person may plead a nullity of form, of which he or his agent has been the cause.

Running of legal or
judicial times.

101. Any legal or judicial time the running of which is dependent on an act requiring service or publication, shall commence to run from the day on which such act has been duly served or published.

Dies a quo.
Amended by:
[IX.1886.12.](#)

102. Where any legal or judicial time is to be reckoned from a stated day, such day shall not be considered as included in the time itself; and where it is to be reckoned by hours, the hour in which service is effected shall not be considered as included in the time.

Computation of
times.

103. In the reckoning of any time, the day is reckoned at twenty-four hours, and the month and the year are reckoned according to the calendar.

Time of twenty-
four hours.

104. Save as otherwise expressly provided, the time of twenty-four hours shall be deemed to expire on the following day at the hour established for the closing of the registry.

Legal or judicial
time to run against
both parties.

105. Any legal or judicial time shall run also against the party at whose request or for whose benefit such time is allowed.

Times, other than
peremptory, may
be extended.
Amended by:
[IX.1886.13;](#)
[XXIV.1995.50.](#)

106. Any legal or judicial time, not being peremptory, may be extended on good cause being shown, provided the request for such extension is made within the time the extension of which is sought.

Abridgement of
legal time in urgent
cases.
Amended by:
[VIII.1981.4;](#)
[XXIV.1995.51.](#)

107. It shall be lawful for the court, in cases of urgency, to abridge any legal time and to order that an act be carried into execution from one day to another or from one hour to another or forthwith.

Public holidays not
to suspend the
running of times.
Amended by:
[V.1904.7.](#)
Substituted by:
[VII.1974.2.](#)

108. The days referred to in the next following article shall not suspend the running of times; but if the last day of any legal or judicial time is any such day, the time shall be deemed to expire on the next following day, not being any such day.

109. (1) Court sittings may be held on such days and at such times as may be prescribed by the Minister responsible for justice by regulations made under this article and during such other time as the court may, in its discretion, fix.

When sittings are to be held, etc.

Amended by:
VII.1876.1;
V.1904.7;
XV.1913.33;
VII.1974.3;
XXII.1976.4.
Substituted by:
XIV.1980.3;
XXIV.1995.52;
XXXI.2002.48.

(2) The registries of the courts shall be open for the filing of judicial acts during such days and at such times as may, by regulations, be prescribed by the Minister responsible for justice under this article:

Provided that any of the aforesaid registries may by special order of the court or by order given in writing by the registrar, be opened for the filing of judicial acts on any day or at any time.

(3) The Director General (Courts) and the registrar shall abide by and fully execute any order of the court to open the court on any day and at any time as the court may specify in the order.

(4) A judicial act may be served or carried into execution on such days, at such times and in such manner as may be prescribed by the Minister responsible for justice by regulations made under this article:

Provided that by special order of the court or by order given in writing by the registrar in cases of urgency, it shall be lawful to serve or carry into execution any judicial act on any other day or at any other time.

(5) The Registrar shall not refuse to give an order under sub-article (2) or (4) unless he has referred the matter to the competent court for its decision.

110. Every court and every judge or magistrate shall have power to administer oaths.

Power to administer oaths.

Amended by:
XV.1913.34.

111. A witness professing the Roman Catholic faith shall be sworn according to the custom of those who belong to that faith; and a witness not professing that faith shall be sworn in the manner which he considers most binding on his conscience.

Form of oath in accordance with religious persuasion.
Substituted by:
XXXV.1974.6.

112. (1) Witnesses or other persons required to take the oath shall swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Oath of witnesses and referees.

(2) Referees shall swear faithfully and honestly to perform the duties assigned to them.

113. The court, before which an oath is to be taken, shall have power to warn the party about to take the oath, as to the obligation of the oath and the consequences of perjury.

Power of court to make warning as to obligation of oath.

114. The oath shall in all cases be taken personally by the party to be sworn.

Oath to be taken personally.

115. The acts of every court shall be accessible to all persons, and copies thereof shall be given out at the request of any person.

Judicial acts accessible to all persons.
 Copies.

Original acts not to be taken out.
Exception.
Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.53.](#)

Acts issued in the name of the Republic of Malta.
Amended by:
[XI.1977.2.](#)
Substituted by:
[XXXI.2002.49.](#)
Amended by:
[XXII.2005.11;](#)
[VII.2007.11.](#)

Signing of acts by judge or magistrate.
Amended by:
[XV.1913.35;](#)
[XXXI.2002.50.](#)

Any judge may give directions on *ex parte* applications.
Amended by:
[XV.1913.36.](#)

Number of copies to be filed.
Added by:
[XXXI.2002.51.](#)

Forensic year. Sessions.
Amended by:
[XI.1859.3;](#)
[XV.1913.37.](#)

Vacations in superior courts.
Amended by:
[XI.1859.3;](#)
[XV.1900.1;](#)
[II.1903.1;](#)
[VIII.1990.3;](#)
[XXIV.1995.54.](#)

No sittings to be held during recess. Exceptions.
Amended by:
[XI.1859.3;](#)
[VII.1880.8;](#)
[XV.1913.38;](#)
[VIII.1990.3.](#)

Issue of warrants during recess.
Amended by:
[II.1940.3;](#)
[XXXI.2002.53.](#)

116. No original act may be given out to any advocate, legal procurator, litigant or other person not employed in the courts, unless the court, for any purpose connected with the cause or for any other just reason, shall otherwise order.

117. *Every warrant of the superior courts shall be issued in the name of the Republic of Malta and shall be witnessed by a judge or by a judicial assistant so delegated for the purpose by a judge; any such delegation shall be published in the Gazette:

Provided that no such delegation shall be made in respect of a warrant of prohibitory injunction.

118. Without prejudice to the provisions of article 117, any act requiring the signature of a judge or magistrate shall be signed by the judge or magistrate of the respective court or, where the court consists of more than one judge or magistrate, by one of such judges or magistrates.

119. Notwithstanding the provisions of the last preceding article, any judge may give the requisite directions upon any *ex parte* application filed in any contentious matter in any of the superior courts, and may sign any warrant to be issued under the authority of any of the said courts.

119A. Any person shall, when filing in the registry of the court any act or document which requires service to another party, besides the original copy, file such number of copies as is equal to the number of persons who are to be served with the act or document.

120. *Revoked by Act [XXXI.2002.52.](#)*

121. *Revoked by Act [XXXI.2002.52.](#)*

122. *Revoked by Act [XXXI.2002.52.](#)*

123. Vacations as may be established by regulations under article 109 shall not be a bar to the issue or execution of any warrant, whether executive or precautionary.

*Vide article 11(2) of Act [VII of 2007](#) for commencement.

124. In this Code, the phrase "working days" does not include Saturdays.

Meaning of
"working days".
Added by:
VII.1974.4.

PART I
OF THE ORDINARY MODE OF PROCEDURE IN CONTENTIOUS
MATTERS

GENERAL PROVISION

125. (1) In the superior courts and in the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) in its superior jurisdiction, proceedings are ordinarily instituted by application, whether sworn or not, as provided by law.

Procedure in
superior courts and
inferior courts.
Amended by:
XIII.1964.17;
VIII.1990.3;
XXIV.1995.55;
XXII.2005.12;
I.2006.11.

(2) In the Court of Magistrates (Malta), and in the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) in its inferior jurisdiction, proceedings are instituted by application.

Title I
OF THE MODE OF PROCEDURE BY APPLICATION FOR APPEAL

Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.56](#).

126. Repealed by: [XXIV.1995.57](#).

Proceedings by
libel in first
instance.

127. Repealed by: [XXIV.1995.57](#).

Libel.

128. Repealed by: [XXIV.1995.57](#).

Contents of libel.
Amended by:
X.1856.1.

129. Repealed by: [XXIV.1995.57](#).

Documents to be
produced with
libel.

130. Repealed by: [XXIV.1995.57](#).

Mode of
production of
documents.
Amended by:
IX.1886.4

131. Repealed by: [XXIV.1995.57](#).

Security for
judicial costs.

132. Repealed by: [XXIV.1995.57](#).

Service of libel on
defendant.
Amended by:
XI.1913.39;
XIX.1965.5.

133. Repealed by: [XXIV.1995.57](#).

Time for answer to
libel in Civil Court.
Amended by:
IX.1886.15.

Time for answer to libel filed in Gozo court.

Amended by:
IX.1886.15;
XV.1913.40;
VIII.1990.3.

134. *Repealed by: [XXIV.1995.57.](#)*

Contents of answer.

Amended by:
X.1856.3;
IV.1868.2.

135. *Repealed by: [XXIV.1995.57.](#)*

Mode of admitting claim.

136. *Repealed by: [XXIV.1995.57.](#)*

Service of answer. Time for reply.

137. *Repealed by: [XXIV.1995.57.](#)*

Contents of reply.

Amended by:
X.1856.4;
IX.1886.16.

138. *Repealed by: [XXIV.1995.57.](#)*

Service of reply.

139. *Repealed by: [XXIV.1995.57.](#)*

Power of court in regard to pleadings containing unnecessary matter.

140. *Repealed by: [XXIV.1995.57.](#)*

Closing of written pleadings in first instance.

Amended by:
XXXI.1934.16.

141. *Repealed by: [XXIV.1995.57.](#)*

Ordinary procedure before appellate court.

Amended by:
IX.1886.17;
XV.1913.41;
XIII.1964.18;
XXIV.1995.58.

142. (1) Save as otherwise provided by this Code or by or under any other law, the mode of procedure before an appellate court is by application.

(2) The application shall contain the prayer that the judgment appealed from or any part thereof be reversed or varied.

Contents of application of appeal.

Amended by:
IX.1886.17;
XV.1913.42;
XXVII.1979.2.
Substituted by:
XXIV.1995.59.

143. (1) The application for the reversal of a judgment shall contain a reference to the claim and to the judgment appealed from together with detailed reasons on which the appeal is entered and a request that the said claim be allowed or dismissed.

(2) The application for the variation of a judgment shall contain a reference to the claim and to the judgment appealed from and shall distinctly state the heads of the judgment complained of together with detailed reasons for which the appeal is entered and, in conclusion, shall state, specifically, the manner in which it is desired that the judgment be varied under each head.

(3) The application for the reversal, annulment or variation of a decree shall contain a reference to the contents of the decree appealed from together with the detailed reasons for such reversal, annulment or variation.

(4) In the case mentioned in this article a request for reversal shall be deemed to include a request for annulment and variation of a judgment or decree, and a request for annulment shall be deemed to include a request for a reversal and variation of a judgment or

decree.

(5) The default of compliance with any of the requirements of sub-articles (1), (2) and (3) shall not make void the application; but the court shall, in any such case, make an order directing the appellant to file, within two days, a note containing such particulars as are required by law and which have not been duly stated in the application.

(6) The cost of the order and of the filing of the note shall be borne by the appellant.

(7) The provisions of sub-articles (5) and (6) shall, in the case referred to in article 240, apply to the answer.

144. (1) An appeal may be entered by any party against all the other parties or against any one of them. The appellant shall indicate in the application of appeal the parties against whom the appeal is directed. The application of appeal shall be served on all the parties but only the parties against whom the appeal is directed shall, within the time of thirty (30) days, file their respective answer containing the reasons why the appeal should be dismissed:

Provided that in causes where there are more than three plaintiffs or more than three defendants the application of appeal and any other notice, including the notice of trial relating to the appeal, may be served upon any two of the plaintiffs or upon any two of the defendants, as the case may be, and upon an advocate and a legal procurator who before the court at first instance had acted on behalf of the other plaintiffs or defendants:

Provided further that where there is no advocate or legal procurator as referred to in the first proviso or where any such advocate or legal procurator has informed the appellant of the cessation of the character in which the advocate or legal procurator has acted, the party requesting to effect service of the application of appeal may request the court before which the appeal is filed to authorise service to all parties, other than the two plaintiffs or the two defendants as the case may be, referred to in the preceding proviso, by publication in the Gazette and in one or more daily newspapers as the court may direct, without any further procedures or requirements.

(2) In the case of a cross appeal in terms of article 240, the party against whom the cross appeal is directed shall within the said time of thirty (30) days file a reply rebutting the allegations included in the cross appeal.

(3) When two (2) or more parties file an application of the appeal or the reply together, they shall, on filing the written pleading, state a single address for the execution of service of the notice about the security for costs related to the appeal and for the service of the notice that the case was left for sentencing.

145. No new documents may be produced together with the application, reply, or rejoinder without authorization from the court.

Service of application of Appeal. Time for answer.

Amended by:

IX.1886.17;

XV.1913.43;

XXVII.1979.3.

Substituted by:

XXIV.1995.60.

Amended by:

XVII.2012.3;

XXXII.2021.2.

Time for answer in case of cross appeal.

Address when there are multiple parties.

Production of documents.
Substituted by
XXXII.2021.3.

Closing of pleadings in appeal.

Amended by:
IV.1868.3;
IX.1886.17;
XXXI.1934.17;
XXIV.1995.62.

146. (1) The written pleadings in appeal shall be deemed to be closed by the answer to the application, or, in default, on the expiration of the time allowed for such answer.

(2) Where, according to the provisions of article 144(2), a reply is allowed, the written pleadings shall be deemed to be closed by the reply, or, in default, on the expiration of the time allowed for such reply.

(3) The default of any party in filing an answer or reply within the prescribed time limits shall not preclude such party from appearing before, or making submissions to, the court during the hearing of the appeal.

Power of court to order additional pleadings.

Amended by:
IX.1886.18;
XXXII.2021.4.

147. (1) The court may, after the close of written pleadings in line with article 146, whenever, under the circumstances, it shall deem it expedient so to do, make an order allowing any of the parties to file an additional written pleading with leave to the opposite party to file, if he so desires, another written pleading in reply, within such times as the court shall direct.

(2) The court may also by way of a decree demand the parties to answer any questions it might have or else demand the parties to clarify any issues that are deemed necessary for the court before handing down its judgment.

(3) If no time is fixed by the court, the party allowed to file such additional written pleading shall do so within ten days from the day of the order, and the opposite party shall file his answer within an equal time to be reckoned from the service of the former written pleading. Such times may be extended only once, on good ground being shown.

(4) Nothing in the provisions of this article shall preclude the court from requesting an oral hearing as provided in article 207(5).

Time for filing additional pleadings.

Time within which defendant may admit claim.

Amended by:
XI.1859.4;
IX.1886.19;
XXXI.1934.18.

148. *Repealed by: [XXIV.1995.63.](#)*

Time for filing written pleadings not to run during vacations.

Amended by:
IV.1862.7;
XXXI.1934.20.

149. *Repealed by: [XXIV.1995.63.](#)*

Cases in which production of documents is permitted outside prescribed time.

Amended by:
IX.1886.20;
XV.1913.44;
XXIV.1995.64;
XXXII.2021.5.

150. (1) The Court of Appeal shall only allow the production of new documents -

- (a) if, notwithstanding all due diligence, the document could not be obtained before the filing of the pleading with which it should have been produced, and the filing of such pleading could not, without prejudice, be delayed; or

- (b) if the court is satisfied of the necessity or expediency of having the document before it:

Provided that, in any such case, the court may, in adjudging the costs of the cause, take into account the tardy production of the document; or

- (c) if the opposite party, by a separate note, or by an annotation in the margin or at the foot of the note by which the document is produced, gives his consent thereto; or
- (d) if it is proved, by oath or otherwise, that the party producing the document, had not been aware of it, or could not, with the means provided by law, have produced it, in due time; or
- (e) if the document to be produced is a book or other paper in the original, copies whereof or extracts wherefrom, relating to the matters at issue, were produced in due time; or
- (f) before any referee, if bearing on the subject-matter of his reference.

(2) Any necessary demand concerning any collateral issue shall, however, be allowed at any stage of the cause, as occasion may require.

Demands on collateral issues.

151. The registrar shall note down in a book to be kept for the purpose, the causes the written pleadings whereof shall have been closed as provided in article 146, following the order of the date on which the written pleadings were closed.

Cause book.
Amended by:
[*IX.1886.21*](#);
[*XXIV.1995.65*](#).

152. (1) Following the closure of written pleadings, the registrar shall verify the payment of the security for costs related to the principal and incidental appeal, and shall, unless there is a court order stating otherwise, publish these causes in the list of causes set down for judgment.

List of causes set down for hearing. Parties to be served with notice of day of hearing.
Amended by:
[*XXXI.1980.2*](#);
[*XXIV.1995.66*](#);
[*IV.1996.3*](#);
[*XXII.2005.13*](#);
[*VII.2007.12*](#);
[*IV.2016.4*](#);
[*XXXII.2021.6*](#).

(2) The registrar shall ensure that parties are served with a notice of the day when the cause was left for judgment:

Provided that any one of the parties may, by a note filed in the registry, exempt the registrar from the duty of service of such notice.

(3) Service of this notice shall be effected in line with the procedure provided in sub-articles (1) and (4) of article 187 and if such is not possible, service shall be effected by the officer charged with service, by attaching the notice at the last address provided by the parties in the acts of the appeal.

(4) The said notice shall be in writing. If the appellant is not served with the said notice, the registrar, unless he has been exempted as stated in sub-article (1), shall, within ten days, inform in writing the advocate of such party that the notice has not been served, and the advocate shall sign a copy of the receipt of such communication:

Notice to be delivered in writing.

Provided that no action shall lie against the advocate for failure to inform any such party.

Power of court.

(5) It shall be lawful for the court, to proceed to judgment or, to order the hearing of a cause the written pleadings whereof have been closed, irrespective of its turn.

Default of written pleadings not to debar party from appearing at hearing of cause.
Amended by:
IV.1862.8;
XXXI.1934.21.
Substituted by:
XXXII.2021.7.

153. (1) The default of the filing of a reply to an appeal or cross-appeal shall not debar the party who was entitled to file such act by bringing an application before the court for the purpose of being awarded the right to submit written submissions and to produce evidence thereof provided he gives, in the opinion of the court, a good reason for such default within the time required by law.

(2) Such application may not be brought if more than ten (10) days have elapsed from the service of the notice of the day of when the cause was scheduled for judgment.

(3) Where a hearing of an appeal is to be held, the failure to file written pleadings shall not debar the party who was entitled to file such written pleadings to appear at the hearing of the cause and bring his evidence if he gives, in the opinion of the court, good reason for failure to file such.

Title II

OF THE MODE OF PROCEDURE BY SWORN APPLICATION

Substituted:
XXII.2005.14.

Proceedings by sworn application.
Substituted by:
XXVII.1979.4;
XIII.1985.2.
Amended by:
XXII.2005.15.

154. (1) The procedure by sworn application is considered to institute a cause, when the court issues or gives an order to a party to appear before it on the day and at the hour appointed, in order to show cause why the claim contained in the sworn application should not be allowed.

(2) In the appointment of such day allowance shall be made for the time required for the preliminary written procedures of the case to be closed, provided that in urgent cases the court may appoint a day for the trial of the case before the close of the preliminary written procedures.

Form of writ of summons.
Amended by:
IX 1886.22.
Substituted by:
XXVII.1979.5.

155. (*Repealed by Act [XXII.2005.16.](#)*).

156. (1) The sworn application shall be prepared by the plaintiff and shall contain -

- (a) a statement which gives in a clear and explicit manner the subject of the cause in separate numbered paragraphs, in order to emphasise his claim and also declare which facts he was personally aware of;
- (b) the cause of the claim;
- (c) the claim or claims, which shall be numbered; and
- (d) in every sworn application, the following notice shall be printed in clear and legible letters immediately under the Court heading:

“Whosoever is in receipt of this sworn application in his regard shall file a sworn reply within twenty (20) days from the date of service thereof, which is the date of receipt. Should no written sworn reply be filed in terms of the law within the prescribed time, the Court shall proceed to adjudicate the matter according to law.

It is for this reason in the interest of whosoever receives this sworn application to consult an advocate without delay that he may make his submissions during the hearing of the case.”.

Drawing up and contents of sworn application.

Amended by:
IX.1886.22;
XXXI.1934.22;
XXVIII.1935.4;
XXVII.1979.6;
XIII.1985.3;
XXIV.1995.67;
XXII.2005.17;
I.2006.12.

(2) Such documents as may be necessary in support of the claim shall be produced together with the sworn application.

Production of documents.

(3) The sworn application shall be confirmed on oath before the registrar or legal procurator appointed as Commissioner for Oaths under the [Commissioners for Oaths Ordinance](#).

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(4) The plaintiff shall together with the declaration also give the names of the witnesses he intends to produce in evidence stating in respect of each of them the facts and proof he intends to establish by their evidence.

(5) Where several actions are brought together as provided in article 161(3), (4) and (5), it shall at least be one of the plaintiffs who shall confirm on oath before the registrar or the legal procurator appointed as Commissioner for Oaths under the [Commissioners for Oaths Ordinance](#), and the provisions of sub-article (1)(a) shall apply.

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(6) The application shall be served on the defendant.

(7) The registrar shall not receive any application which does not satisfy the elements of sub-article (1) and the court shall not allow any witness to be produced unless his name shall have been given together with the application.

If the necessity of producing a witness arises at any time after the filing of the sworn application or if the opposite party gives his consent in the manner prescribed in article 150(1)(c), or if the court deems it in the interest of justice to hear a particular witness, the court may allow such witness to be heard.

(8) When the proof intended to be established by each witness is not stated or adequately stated in the declaration, the court shall on the first day appointed for the pretrial hearing order the plaintiff to indicate adequately the proof he intends to establish by each witness within a time to be fixed by the court.

Cumulative writ of summons.
Added by:
[XIII.1985.4.](#)

Service of sworn application.
Amended by:
[IX.1886.23;](#)
[XV.1913.45,46;](#)
[XXXI.1934.23, 24.](#)
Substituted by:
[XXVII.1979.7;](#)
[XXIV.1995.69;](#)
[XXXI.2002.55.](#)
Amended by:
[XXII.2005.18.](#)
Substituted by:
[XLV.2016.3.](#)

Sworn reply and note of admission, filing, etc.
Amended by:
[IX.1886.24;](#)
[XV.1913.47;](#)
[XXXI.1934.25;](#)
[XXVIII.1935.5.](#)
Substituted by:
[XXVII.1979.9.](#)
Amended by:
[XXXI.1980.3;](#)
[XV.1983.2;](#)
[XXIV.1995.70;](#)
[XXII.2005.19.](#)

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156A. *Repealed by:* [XXIV.1995.68.](#)

157. It shall be the responsibility of the plaintiff to cause a copy of the sworn application, any affidavit of the plaintiff and of the documents attached with the application to be served on the defendant, and such service shall be effected through the Registrar.

158. (1) The defendant shall file his sworn reply within twenty days from the date of service, unless he intends to admit the claim.

(2) Where the defendant intends to admit the claim wholly and unconditionally, he shall file a note to that effect.

(3) Otherwise, he shall file a sworn reply containing -

- (a) any such pleas as would be taken to be waived if not raised before the contestation of the suit;
- (b) a clear and correct statement of the pleas on the merits of the claim or claims without reference to authorities;
- (c) the defendant, or one of the defendants if there are more than one defendant, shall also confirm on oath in the sworn reply with numbered paragraphs, all the facts concerning the claim, denying, admitting or explaining the circumstances of fact set out in plaintiff's declaration, while stating which facts are within his own knowledge.

(4) The sworn reply shall be confirmed on oath before the registrar or legal procurator appointed as Commissioner for Oaths under the [Commissioners for Oaths Ordinance](#). The defendant shall also indicate the names of the witnesses he intends producing and to state with regard to each one of them what he intends proving by means of their evidence. There shall also be filed together with the sworn reply such documents as may be required to sustain the pleas.

(5) The registrar shall not receive any sworn reply which is not accompanied by the listed requirements in sub-article (3), and the court shall not allow any witness to be produced whose name shall not have been given in such declaration. If the necessity of producing a witness arises at any time after the filing of the declaration, or if the opposite party gives its consent in the manner

prescribed in article 150(1)(c), or if the court deems it in the interest of justice to hear a particular witness, the court may allow such a witness to be heard.

(6) When the proof intended to be established by each witness is not stated or adequately stated in the declaration, the court shall on the first day appointed for the pretrial hearing order the defendant to indicate adequately the proof he intends to establish by each witness within a time to be fixed by the court.

(7) Where the defendant is absent or is a minor or a person incapable according to law or a vacant inheritance, and is represented by an attorney or a curator, then, instead of the declaration referred to above, a declaration may be made to the effect that the facts of the case are unknown and that it has not been possible to obtain the necessary information to contest the claim.

(8) Simultaneously with the filing of the note admitting the claim or of the sworn reply, as the case may be, the defendant shall cause an identical copy thereof, certified by himself or his advocate, to be served through the registry on the plaintiff or his advocate.

(9) Non-compliance with the provisions of sub-article (7) may be taken into account by the court in the application of the provisions of article 223(3).

(10) If the defendant makes default in filing the sworn reply mentioned in this article, the court shall give judgment as if the defendant failed to appear to the summons, unless he shows to the satisfaction of the court a reasonable excuse for his default in filing the sworn reply within the prescribed time. The court shall, however, before giving judgement allow the defendant a short time which may not be extended within which to make submissions in writing to defend himself against the claims of the plaintiff. Such submissions shall be served on the plaintiff who shall be given a short time within which to reply.

(11) The sworn reply, after the conclusion of the evidence of the plaintiff and before the defendant produces his evidence, may be amended by means of a separate statement either withdrawing any of the pleas set up or adding new pleas, saving those pleas which may be set up at any stage of the proceedings.

(12) With the filing of the sworn reply or on the expiration of the terms laid down in sub-article (1), the preliminary written procedures shall be deemed to be closed, and articles 151 and 152 shall apply.

(13) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this article, where the court has appointed a day for the trial of the case before the time allowed for the filing of the sworn reply in accordance with this article, the defendant shall file the sworn reply not later than the time at which the case is first heard, and may also file them before the court at such hearing and serve a copy thereof on the plaintiff by delivering a copy to him or his advocate at that same hearing.

The sworn application and the reply not to contain comments or superfluous matter.
Amended by:
IV.1862.9;
VI.1880.20;
IX.1886.24;
[*XXII.2005.20.*](#)

159. (1) Except a reference to the law, the sworn application and the sworn reply, which are to be in a summary form, may not contain any comment nor any matter which is not necessary for a statement of the material facts as regards the sworn application, or for a rebuttal of those facts or for an indication of the pleas as regards the sworn reply.

(2) In the case of non-compliance, the court may order any superfluous matter to be struck out, or the written pleading to be removed from the record and replaced by another made in accordance with the provisions of this article.

Affidavits of witnesses.
Amended by:
XV.1913.48.
Substituted by:
[*XXIV.1995.71.*](#)
Amended by:
[*XXII.2005.21.*](#)

160. Any party intending to produce a witness in any proceedings before any court may, together with the sworn application or the sworn reply, as the case may require, file in the registry of such court an affidavit taken by such witness before a judicial assistant or any other person authorised by law to administer oaths, and a copy of such affidavit shall be served on the other party.

Title III

OF THE ORDINARY MODE OF PROCEDURE IN CONTENTIOUS MATTERS AS APPLIED TO THE RESPECTIVE COURTS

Mode of procedure in the Civil Court, First Hall, and in the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) in its superior jurisdiction.
Amended by:
XV.1913.49;
XIII.1964.19;
[*VIII.1990.3.*](#)
Substituted by:
[*XXIV.1995.72.*](#)
Amended by:
[*XXII.2005.22.*](#)

161. (1) In the Superior Courts and in the Courts of Magistrates in Malta and in Gozo, proceedings are ordinarily taken by application while those in the superior shall be sworn.

(2) Proceedings may also be taken by application in the cases prescribed by or under a law.

(3) Two or more plaintiffs may bring their actions by one sworn application or by one not sworn application as the case may be, if the actions are connected in respect of the subject matter thereof or if the decision of one of the actions might affect the decision of the other action or actions and the evidence in support of one action is, generally, the same to be produced in the other action or actions. The cause and subject matter of the actions shall be clearly and specifically stated in respect of each plaintiff.

(4) Nevertheless, any of the actions so brought together shall be tried separately at the request of a plaintiff with regard to his action; and the court may also order that any action be tried separately when it is not expedient that the actions of all the plaintiffs be tried together. Any such order may be made at any stage of the proceedings before final judgement.

(5) Where the several actions are brought together as provided in sub-article (3) they shall be taken cumulatively for determining the competence of the court. Such court shall remain competent in respect of any action separated in accordance with sub-article (4).

- 162.** *Repealed by:* [XXIV.1995.73](#).
 Proceedings by writ of summons.
Amended by:
[XI.1859.5](#);
[XV.1913.50](#).
- 163.** *Repealed by:* [XXIV.1995.74](#).
 Mode of procedure in Commercial Court and in Gozo court in its superior commercial jurisdiction.
Amended by:
[XI.1859.6](#);
[XV.1913.51](#);
[VIII.1990.3](#).
- 164.** (1) Saving the provisions of article 175, nullity shall ensue if proceedings which should have been instituted by sworn application or by application of appeal are instituted by any other judicial act.
 Nullity of proceedings.
Amended by:
[XI.1859.6](#).
Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.75](#).
Amended by:
[XXII.2003.23](#).
- (2) No nullity shall ensue if a cause which should have been instituted by application is instituted by sworn application:
 Provided that any additional costs incurred shall be borne by the plaintiff:
 Provided further that the provisions of this sub-article shall apply where in accordance with any law other than this Code proceedings are to be instituted by application.
- 165.** It shall be lawful for the court, on the case being closed, at the request of either of the parties, to grant leave for filing, within a time to be fixed by the court, a written pleading containing a summary of his submissions provided the opposite party shall not show that such leave would cause a delay to his prejudice.
 Leave to file written submissions.
Amended by:
[XI.1859.6](#);
[XXXI.1934.26](#).
- 166.** Where leave as provided in the last preceding article is granted to either of the parties, the opposite party shall be entitled to file in reply another written pleading within a time equal to that which shall have been fixed by the court as aforesaid, to be reckoned from the day of the service of the written pleading for the filing of which the court shall have granted leave.
 Written submissions in reply.
Amended by:
[XI.1859.6](#);
[XXXI.1934.27](#).
- 166A.** (1) In actions for the recovery of a debt certain, liquidated and due not consisting in the performance of an act, and where the amount of the debt does not exceed twenty-five thousand euro (€25,000), or such other sum as may be established from time to time by Order in the Gazette by the Minister, it shall be lawful for the creditor to proceed in accordance with the following sub-articles of this article:
 Special procedures in respect of certain unopposed claims etc.
Added by:
[IX.2004.4](#).
Amended by:
[XXII.2003.24](#);
[VII.2007.13](#);
[L.N. 407 of 2007](#);
[IV.2016.5](#).
- Provided that where the debt is not liquidated the creditor may proceed in accordance with this article if he limits his debt to an amount not exceeding twenty-five thousand euro (€25,000) and expressly renounces to any part of his claim that may upon liquidation exceed the said sum of twenty-five thousand euro (€25,000), or such other sum as may be established from time to time by Order in the Gazette by the Minister:
 Provided further that the creditor may only proceed according to this article if the debtor is present in Malta and is not a

minor or a person incapacitated according to law or if the debt is not due by a vacant inheritance. The appointment of curators under Title XI of Book Third of this Code shall not apply to proceedings under this article:

Cap. 104. Provided further that, without prejudice to the provisions of the [Motor Vehicle Insurance \(Third Party Risk\) Ordinance](#), when a debt to which this article applies is covered by an insurance policy the insured shall, without prejudice to that stipulated in the insurance policy, within fifteen days from service upon him of the judicial letter made in accordance with this article, give to the insurer notice in writing of the said judicial letter and of any particulars of the claim of which he is aware. In default, any executive title obtained in accordance with this article shall have no effect with regard to the insurer.

Cap. 79. (2) The creditor shall proceed by filing a judicial letter which shall be drawn up in the form established by legal notice by the Minister responsible for Justice and the content of which shall be confirmed on oath by the creditor, either before the registrar or legal procurator appointed as Commissioner for Oaths under the [Commissioners for Oaths Ordinance](#), to be served upon the debtor wherein shall be stated clearly, under pain of nullity, the cause of the claim, the reasons why the claim should be upheld, and a statement of facts in support of the claim:

Provided that sub-articles (3), (5) and (6) of article 187 of this Code may not be availed of to effect the service of the aforesaid judicial letter.

(3) The judicial letter shall also on pain of nullity contain an intimation to the debtor that if he does not reply within thirty days from service upon him of the said judicial letter by presenting a note in the record of the said judicial letter rebutting the claim and which note may be signed and presented in court by the debtor himself without the signature of an Advocate or of a Legal Procurator being required, such official letter shall, constitute an executive title:

Provided that:

- (a) the debtor may in such note admit the claim in part only and oppose it in other parts, and where the claim is opposed in part only it shall be deemed admitted to the extent that it has not been so opposed;
- (b) where the debtor shall have opposed a claim or part of a claim which is subsequently upheld, the costs relative to the claim or part thereof opposed and subsequently upheld shall be borne by him;
- (c) the costs of any claim or part thereof that is opposed and not subsequently upheld shall always be borne by the creditor;
- (d) where the debtor has duly opposed the claim, the special procedure contained in this article may not be used again against the debtor as regards the same claim contained in the judicial letter served on the

debtor; and

- (e) where the claim arises under the [Motor Vehicle Insurance \(Third Party Risk\) Ordinance](#) the said judicial letter shall under pain of nullity be also notified to the authorised insurance which shall have the same rights under this article as though it were the debtor as aforesaid. Cap. 104.

(4) Where the debtor does not oppose the claim, within thirty days from the notification thereof to the debtor, or where the debtor only opposes the claim in part within the aforesaid term, the judicial letter shall for the purposes of any law in respect of the claim so unopposed or the part therein so unopposed, constitute an executive title as if such judicial letter were included in article 253(a).

(5) Any executive title obtained according to the provisions of this article in the absence of any opposition on the part of the debtor shall be rescinded and declared null and void if upon a request by application in the Court of Magistrates (Malta) or in the Court of Magistrates (Gozo), as the case may be, to be filed by the debtor within twenty days from the first service upon him of any executive warrant or other judicial act based on the said title, the court is satisfied that:

- (i) the debtor was unaware of the said judicial letter because he was not duly notified; or
- (ii) the judicial letter did not contain the requirements laid down in sub-articles (1), (2) or (3):

Provided that the said application shall be appointed for hearing within two weeks.

(6) No opposition other than that specifically provided for in sub-article (5) shall stay the issue or execution of any executive act obtained thereunder or the paying out of the proceeds of any warrant or sale by auction carried out in pursuance thereof.

(7) Notwithstanding the other provisions of this article, where a judicial letter filed in terms of this article is not notified upon the debtor within six months from when the said letter is filed, the procedure provided for in this article shall no longer apply without prejudice to the right of the creditor to file another judicial letter in terms of this article with respect to the same claim.

166B. (1) A judicial letter issued in terms of article 166A shall not constitute an executive title unless it is registered according to the provisions of this article which shall apply to the registration of such judicial letters as executive titles.

Registration of
Executive Titles
obtained pursuant
to article 166A.
Added by:
[IX.2004.4.](#)

(2) The applicant for the registration of a judicial letter which qualifies as an executive title shall present to the Registrar of the Court a legal copy of the judicial letter, including evidence of service, and a copy of any response received thereto, if any.

(3) Upon receipt of the documents described in sub-article (2) the Registrar shall examine the documents presented and shall

verify whether the debtor has filed a note of reply within the stipulated time and if he is satisfied that the conditions for the registration of the judicial letter as an executive title subsist he shall proceed to register the documents presented in a register to be known as the Register of Judicial Letters as Executive Titles which shall be maintained by the Registrar for the purposes of article 166A.

Special summary proceedings.

Repealed by:
IX.1886.25.

Re-enacted by:
XV.1913.52.

Amended by:
XXXI.1934.28;
VIII.1990.3;
XXIV.1995.76;
IV.1996.16;
XXII.2005.25;
VII.2007.14;
XXXVII.2021.36.

167. (1) In actions within the jurisdiction of the superior courts or the Courts of Magistrates (Gozo) in its superior jurisdiction, where the demand is solely -

- (a) for the recovery of a debt, certain, liquidated and due, not consisting in the performance of an act; or
- (b) for the eviction of any person from any urban or rural tenement, with or without a claim for ground rent, rent or any other consideration due or by way of damages for any compensation, up to the date of the surrender of the tenement, or
- (c) for the eviction of an operator, lessee or other occupants, including any members of their staff from seagoing vessels or aircrafts,

it shall be lawful for the plaintiff to pray in the sworn application that the court gives judgment allowing his demand, without proceeding to trial:

Provided that the plaintiff shall, in his declaration made in terms of article 156(3) state that in his belief there is no defence to the action:

Provided further that the plaintiff may also file a sworn affidavit of any other person, containing facts relative to the claim, and confirming that such facts are within the knowledge of such a person.

(2) In the cases provided for in this article, the sworn application shall be in writing according to the prescribed form and shall contain an order to the defendant to appear before the court, on an appointed day and at a stated time.

(3) The provisions of article 156(1)(a), (b) and (c), (2) and (3) and of article 159 shall apply to the said sworn application.

Service on defendant.

Repealed by:
IX.1886.25.

Re-enacted by:
XV.1913.52.

Amended by:
XXIV.1995.77;
XXII.2005.26.

168. A copy of the declaration and any affidavit and of the note of the documents produced with the sworn application shall be served upon the defendant, together with the sworn application.

169. In the cases referred to in article 167, the sworn application shall be served on the defendant without delay; and he shall be ordered to appear not earlier than fifteen days and not later than thirty days from the date of service:

Provided that in the case of non-observance of the provisions of this article the court shall not stop proceedings by special summary proceedings but shall give such orders as it may consider appropriate so that the rights of the parties be not prejudiced.

169A. The sworn application, the declaration and any affidavit and note produced therewith, and any order referred to in articles 168 and 169 shall be served by means of any executive officer of the courts.

170. (1) If the defendant fails to appear to the sworn application, or if he appears and does not impugn the proceedings taken by the plaintiff, on the ground of irregularity or inapplicability, or, having unsuccessfully raised such plea, does not by his own sworn evidence, or otherwise, satisfy the court that he has a *prima facie* defence, in law or in fact, to the action on the merits, or otherwise disclose such facts or issues of law as may be deemed sufficient to entitle him to defend the action or to set up a counter-claim, the court shall forthwith give judgment, allowing the plaintiff's claim. The defendant may make his submissions to impugn the proceedings taken by plaintiff on the ground of irregularity or inapplicability by means of a note to be filed in the registry of the court or during the hearing.

(2) If the defendant successfully impugns the proceedings on the ground of irregularity, or inapplicability, or if he satisfies the court that he has a *prima facie* defence to the action, or discloses such facts or issues of law as may be deemed sufficient to entitle him to defend the action or to set up a counter-claim, he shall be given leave to defend the action and file a statement of defence within twenty days from the date of the order referred to in sub-article (4), in which case the defendant shall comply with the provisions of article 158 so far as applicable.

(3) Where leave to defend is given, the action shall be tried and determined, on the same acts, in the ordinary course as provided in this Code.

(4) The order giving leave to defend shall be made orally, a record thereof being kept in the proceedings.

Time for service of sworn application.

Repealed by:

IX.1886.25.

Added by:

XV.1913.52.

Substituted by:

XXIV.1995.78.

Amended by:

XXII.2005.27.

Mode of service.

Added by:

XIII.1985.5.

Substituted by:

XXIV.1995.79.

Amended by:

XXII.2005.28.

Trial in special summary proceedings.

Repealed by:

IX.1886.25.

Re-enacted by:

XV.1913.52.

Amended by:

XXXI.1934.29;

XXIV.1995.80;

L.N. 181 of 2006.

Mode of procedure
in inferior courts.

Amended by:
[XI.1859.7](#);
[VII.1880.8](#);
[XV.1913.53,54](#);
[XXIII.1971.12](#);
[XLIX.1981.6](#);
[VIII.1990.3](#).
Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.81](#).
Amended by:
[XXXI.2002.57](#);
[XXII.2005.29](#).

171. (1) In the Court of Magistrates (Malta) and in the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) in its inferior jurisdiction, proceedings shall be by application which shall be according to the prescribed form and take the form of a mere notice signed by the Registrar, containing the name and the surname of the plaintiff and of the defendant, the demand of the plaintiff, and the day and hour when the defendant is to appear, besides other particulars as may from time to time be prescribed.

(2) The cause shall be summarily heard in terms of article 215.

(3) Without prejudice to article 23, in the said courts, the judgment need not contain all the reasons thereof, but may merely list the main points upon which the court would have based its conclusions.

Mediation.

Added by:
[VIII.2017.7](#).

171A. On the day appointed for the first hearing, the Court shall examine *prima facie* whether, due to circumstances of the particular case, there are grounds to refer the issue to mediation, and the following provisions shall apply:

- (a) the Court shall give a decree to the effect, *in camera*, on the appointed day itself;
- (b) the provisions of article 18 of the Mediation Act shall apply when the Court decrees that an attempt should be made to resolve the dispute by means of mediation;
- (c) no appeal shall lie against Court decree, delivered in terms of paragraph (a); and
- (d) the provisions of this article shall not apply in instances when an obligation to resort to mediation arises under another law or in cases of judicial review under article 469A or in cases where the Civil Court acts in its constitutional jurisdiction.

Cap. 474.

Mode of procedure
in appeals from
judgments of
inferior courts.

Amended by:
[XI.1859.8](#);
[VII.1880.8](#);
[IX.1886.26](#);
[XV.1913.56](#);
[XXVII.1979.10](#);
[VIII.1990.3](#);
[XXIV.1995.82](#);
[XXII.2005.30](#).

172. (1) Where a reversal or variation of any judgment delivered by the Court of Magistrates (Malta) or by the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) in its inferior jurisdiction, is sought, proceedings shall in all cases be taken by application of appeal.

(2) The application of appeal as well as any other subsequent act may even be signed by the appellant or by the respondent only.

Orders *in camera*.

Amended by:
[VII.1880.8](#);
[IX.1886.27](#);
[XV.1913.57](#).
Substituted by:
[XXVII.1979.11](#).
Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.83](#);
[XXXI.2002.58](#);
[XVI.2004.33](#);
[VII.2007.15](#).

173. (1) The court may, in order to ensure full compliance with all matters of procedure, or to seek more detailed information, or to expedite or facilitate proceedings or to avoid the unnecessary appearance of parties or witnesses, give *in camera* all such orders and directives it may think fit, and it shall be sufficient that such orders or directives be communicated by the registrar even by letter to the advocates or legal procurators of the parties, which letter is to be handed personally to such advocate or legal procurator, and, by post, to the parties themselves. This provision shall apply to any stage of the proceedings before judgment is delivered. An appeal from such orders or directives, where admissible, may be entered

only after the definitive judgment and together with an appeal from such judgment, and such orders or directives may not be challenged before the definitive judgment is delivered.

(2) Without prejudice to the foregoing provisions of this article the court may, at any stage of the proceedings -

- (a) either on its own motion or on an application by any party to the proceedings, direct that the evidence of any person intended to be produced as a witness be taken before a judicial assistant at such place and time under such conditions as may be specified in the order;
- (b) on an application by any party to the proceedings, desiring to confirm a fact stated in the application, or in a note accompanying it, by the affidavit of a person named by the party, order the person so named to appear for that purpose before a judicial assistant at such place and time as may be specified in the order;
- (c) either on its own motion or on a note filed by any party to the proceedings, direct that proceedings be stayed for such period as it considers appropriate, and refer the parties to a mediator in accordance with the [Mediation Act](#).

Cap. 474.

(3) In the case of an order given under sub-article (2)(b), the judicial assistant shall ask the person named whether he confirms or denies each fact specified in the application or note and shall make a record of the replies given together with any other statement, if any, qualifying his reply, and cause such record to be confirmed on oath by the person aforesaid. The judicial assistant shall insert the affidavit in the records of the case and cause a copy thereof to be served on the parties.

(4) When an application as in referred to in sub-article (2)(b) is filed together with any written pleading referred to in article 160, the Court may direct that the service of such written pleading shall be suspended for such period, not exceeding three months, as the court may determine.

Title IV

PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO WRITTEN PLEADINGS AND OTHER ACTS OF PROCEDURE

174. (1) Every written pleading shall contain -

- (a) an indication of the court or section thereof in which the pleading is filed, and, in the case of the Court of Magistrates (Gozo), an indication of the jurisdiction of the court;
- (b) the name and surname of the party pleading and of the party against whom the pleading is directed, and the designation, if any, of the capacity in which the parties appear:

Contents of written pleadings.
Amended by:
XV.1913.58;
XXXI.1934.30;
XXIII.1971.13;
XXVII.1979.12;
VIII.1990.3.4;
XXIV.1995.84;
XXXI.2002.59;
XXII.2005.31;
L.N. 426 of 2012.

Provided that in any case as is referred to in article 181(1), it shall be sufficient to designate the office of the party pleading or of the party against whom the pleading is directed, as the case may be;

- (c) the description of the pleading; and
- (d) if the pleading refers to an action already brought before any of the superior courts, the number of that sworn application to which it refers.

(2) Every written pleading or other act requiring service, must be accompanied by:

- (a) a legally valid identification document number, if any, if the person is pleading in his personal capacity;
- (b) the company number if the person pleading is a partnership or company registered in accordance with the [Companies Act](#);
- (c) a proper and full indication of the place of residence or business of the party pleading and the professional address of his advocate and, or, legal procurator;
- (d) a proper and full indication of the place of residence or business and of the party against whom the pleading or act is directed;
- (e) any other particulars as may serve to identify the said parties as may be established by law or regulation.

Cap. 386.

Power of court to order or permit amendment of written pleadings.

Amended by:

XV.1913.59;

XIII.1964.20.

Substituted by:

XXIV.1995.85.

Amended by:

IV.2016.6.

175. (1) The court may, at any stage of the proceedings, at the request of any of the parties, until judgment is delivered after hearing where necessary the parties, order the substitution of any act or permit any written pleading to be amended, either by adding or striking out the name of any party and substituting another name therefor or by correcting any mistake in the name or in the character of the parties, or by correcting any other mistake or by causing other submission of fact or of law to be added even by separate note, provided that no such substitution or amendment shall affect the substance either of the action or of the defence on the merits of the case.

(2) Any court of appellate jurisdiction may also order or permit, at any time until judgment is delivered, the correction of any mistake in the application by which the appeal is entered or in the answer, including any mistake in the indication of the court which delivered the decision appealed from, in the name or character of the parties, or in the date of the judgment appealed from:

Provided that any court of appellate jurisdiction may also order corrections in the judgment of the court of first instance and other corrections that the court of appellate jurisdiction considers to be justified in the acts of the case at any stage of the appeal proceedings until the appeal is adjourned for judgment, at the request of any of the parties, and after granting the parties an opportunity to be heard:

Provided further that a court of appellate jurisdiction may also order corrections in a judgment which it has delivered upon an application filed by any of the parties within thirty days from the date of the judgment.

(3) Any judicial or administrative omission or mistake in a judicial act may until the court shall have delivered judgment and disposed of the case be remedied by a court of its own motion.

176. (1) Pleadings shall be printed, type-written or written in ink:

Provided that in every case they shall be drawn up in clear and easily legible characters, without blank spaces, interlinear words, abbreviations or erasures, and, except with the written authority of the registrar given before the filing of the act, without corrections, alterations or additions.

(2) Any quantity, sum or measure shall, at least where it first occurs in the pleading, be expressed in words.

(3) The copies of the pleadings, as would be required for the service thereof, shall be signed by the same persons as the original.

177. The words "with costs" shall in all cases be deemed to be included in any written pleading where costs may be asked for.

178. The written pleadings and the applications whether sworn or not shall be signed by the advocate and also by the legal procurator, if any.

179. Written pleadings shall be filed in the registry of the respective court during the time in which, according to the regulations, the registries are kept open.

180. (1) Subject to the provisions of article 181, written pleadings may be filed -

- (a) personally by the party pleading in his own name, or by the person pleading in a representative capacity as the parent of the children placed under his paternal authority, or as the tutor, curator, administrator of the community of acquests, executor, head of a department or other public administrator, or as attorney on behalf of any church, community, hospital, or other pious institution or as administrator of property under litigation, or as partner or representative of a commercial firm, or as any of the persons mentioned in article 181A(2) in the case of a body having a distinct legal personality, or as agent or representative of any other lawful association, or as attorney on behalf of persons absent from the Island, either of Malta or Gozo, in which the written pleading is filed;
- (b) by a legal procurator;

Mode of drawing up pleadings.
Amended by:
[XV.1913.60.](#)
Substituted by:
[XIX.1965.7.](#)
Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.86;](#)
[XXXI.2002.60.](#)

"With costs."

Signing of written pleadings.
Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.87;](#)
[XXII.2005.32.](#)

Where, when and how written pleadings are filed.
Amended by:
[VII.1856.1;](#)
[XV.1913.61;](#)
[VIII.1990.3;](#)
[XXXI.2002.62.](#)

Persons who may file written pleadings.
Amended by:
[IX.1886.28;](#)
[XV.1913.62;](#)
[XXIII.1971.14;](#)
[XLVI.1973.108;](#)
[XXIV.1995.88;](#)
[XXIII.2017.19.](#)

- (c) by any other partner of a commercial firm to which the written pleading refers;
- (d) by an ascendant, descendant, brother or sister, uncle or aunt, nephew or niece, any one of the parents of his spouse, any one of the spouses of his children, spouse, appointed as an attorney for the purpose, by the party pleading whose signature is duly attested in accordance with article 634(2);
- (e) by any joint party to the suit;
- (f) by an advocate, if the written pleading is to be filed in any of the inferior courts, or in the Court of Appeal in cases of appeal from judgments of the inferior courts.

(2) Nevertheless, no written pleading containing a waiver of the proceedings or an admission of the claim or the consent for the withdrawal of any deposit, may be filed by any person other than -

- (i) the persons mentioned in sub-article (1)(a) and (c), or
- (ii) an attorney specially authorized for the purpose, or
- (iii) the advocate, if any such written pleading is filed during the hearing of the cause.

Written pleadings
filed by a Minister
or a public officer.
Added by:
XXIII.1971.15.
Amended by:
XXIV.1995.89.

181. (1) When a written pleading is to be filed by the Prime Minister or other Minister, by a head of department or other public administrator, it shall be sufficient if there is designated in such pleading the office of the person filing it and it shall not be necessary to name the person for the time being holding such office.

(2) No formality shall be necessary in the records of a case or in any court proceedings upon any change in the person of the holder of any office designated as aforesaid or on the appointment of any person in an acting capacity in any such office or where such office is merged with another office.

(3) The provision of the last preceding sub-article shall apply also where there is named in any written pleading the person for the time being filling the office designated in such pleading, provided that such office is clearly designated.

(4) The provisions of sub-articles (1), (2) and (3) shall apply also in respect of the party against whom the pleading is to be directed where such party is the holder of an office referred to in the said sub-article (1).

Written pleadings
filed by or against
a body having a
distinct legal
personality.
Added by:
XXIV.1995.90.
Amended by:
XXII.2005.33.

181A.(1) Where a written pleading is filed by or against a body having a distinct legal personality, it shall be sufficient to state the name of such body.

(2) Any declaration or pleading to be sworn in terms of law shall, in the case of a body having a distinct legal personality, be sworn by the person or persons vested with the legal or judicial representation thereof or by any company secretary or by any other person authorised in writing by such body to file judicial acts on its

behalf or to make any such declaration, sworn reply or sworn pleading.

(3) When a written pleading is to be filed by or against a ship or other vessel, it shall be sufficient if there is designated the name of such ship or other vessel, as the case may be, and it shall not be necessary to mention the name of any person to represent such ship or other vessel:

Provided that the written pleadings mentioned in this sub-article shall be served in accordance with the provisions of article 187(7).

181B. (1) The judicial representation of the Government in judicial acts and actions shall vest in the head of the government department in whose charge the matter in dispute falls:

Judicial representation of Government.

Added by: [XXIV.1995.91.](#)

Amended by: [XXII.2005.34;](#)

[I.2009.50;](#)

[XXV.2019.12.](#)

Provided that, without prejudice to the provisions of this article:

- (a) actions for the collection of amounts due to Government may in all cases be instituted by the Accountant General;
- (b) actions involving questions relating to Government employment or to obligations to serve Government may in all cases be instituted by the Principal Permanent Secretary;
- (c) actions relating to contracts of supplies or of works with Government may in all cases be instituted by the Director of Contracts.

(2) The State Advocate shall represent Government in all judicial acts and actions which owing to the nature of the claim may not be directed against one or more heads of other government departments.

(3) Every application, whether sworn or not, or other judicial act filed against Government shall be served upon each head of a government department against whom it is directed and upon the State Advocate and every time limit for the filing of any reply to any such act by any head of a government department being a defendant or a respondent in judicial proceedings shall not commence to run before the act is served upon the head or heads of the government departments against whom it is directed and upon the State Advocate. The registrar shall not charge any fees for effecting the service on the State Advocate.

181C. (1) Saving the provisions of article 181D, a judicial act or a written pleading may be filed in the registry of the Civil Courts and Tribunals, Malta, for onward transmission by the registrar of that court to the registrar of the competent civil court or tribunal sitting in Gozo indicated in the judicial act or written pleading.

Transfer of judicial acts and written pleadings between Courts in Malta and Courts in Gozo.

Added by: [VII.2014.5.](#)

(2) It shall be sufficient for all purposes of law for a true copy of a judicial act or written pleading to be scanned in the registry of the Civil Courts and Tribunals, Malta, and e-mailed to the registrar of the competent civil court or tribunal in Gozo indicated in the judicial act or written pleading.

(3) The registrar receiving the scanned copy as aforesaid shall acknowledge its receipt by return e-mail to the registrar sending the scanned true copy of the judicial act or written pleading.

(4) The officer effecting service of the scanned copy of a judicial act or written pleading as aforesaid shall deliver to the registrar of the Civil Courts and Tribunals, Gozo, the certificate of service, duly confirmed on oath before the registrar himself who shall transmit it to the registrar of the competent civil court or tribunal in Malta indicated in the judicial act or written pleading and vice-versa. Such delivery may also be made by electronic mail and the registrar receiving the certificate of service as aforesaid shall acknowledge its receipt by return e-mail to the registrar sending the certificate of service.

(5) The provisions of sub-articles (1) to (4), both inclusive, shall *mutatis mutandis* apply when a judicial act or a written pleading is filed in the registry of the Civil Courts and Tribunals, Gozo, for onward transmission to the competent civil court or tribunal in Malta indicated in the judicial act or written pleading.

(6) The date of filing shall be the date when the judicial act or written pleading was first filed in the registry of the Civil Courts and Tribunals, Malta and not when the judicial act or written pleading was received by the registry of the Civil Courts and Tribunals, Gozo and vice-versa.

Transfer and
execution of
warrants and
orders between
courts in Malta and
courts in Gozo.
Added by:
[VII.2014.5.](#)

181D. (1) A request for the issue of a warrant or garnishee order by a civil court or tribunal in Gozo may be filed in the Registry of the Civil Courts and Tribunals, Malta.

(2) The registrar of the Civil Courts and Tribunals, Malta, shall transmit such a request to the registrar of the competent civil court or tribunal in Gozo indicated in the request.

(3) The registrar of the Civil Courts and Tribunals, Gozo shall forward such a request to the competent civil court or tribunal in Gozo indicated in the request to deal with it in terms of law.

(4) If the competent civil court or tribunal in Gozo decrees that such warrant or order is to be executed in Gozo or Comino, a copy thereof shall be transmitted by the registrar of the Civil Courts and Tribunals, Gozo indicated in the request to the registrar of the competent civil court or tribunal in Malta from where the request originated. A copy of the decree shall be served on the person requesting the issue of such warrant or order.

(5) The officer effecting execution shall deliver to the registrar of the competent civil court or tribunal in Gozo indicated in the request the certificate of service or execution, duly confirmed on oath before the registrar himself who shall transmit it to the registrar of the competent court or tribunal in Malta from where the request originated.

(6) The provisions of sub-articles (1) to (4), both inclusive, shall *mutatis mutandis* apply when a judicial act is filed in the registry of a competent civil court or tribunal in Gozo for onward transmission to the competent civil court or tribunal in Malta.

(7) The date of filing shall be the date when the warrant or a garnishee order was first filed in the registry of the Civil Courts and Tribunals, Malta and not when the warrant or garnishee order was received by the registry of the Civil Courts and Tribunals, Gozo and vice-versa.

182. (1) Where any of the persons mentioned in article 180(1)(b), (c), (d) and (e) has filed any written pleading in terms of that article, such person shall be bound to accept service of any other written pleading relating to the cause, unless the opposite party has been informed by an intimation through the court of the cessation of the character in which the said person had filed the pleading.

Persons filing written pleadings are bound to accept service of other written pleadings.
Amended by:
[*XXIII.1971.16.*](#)

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-article (1), the notice of trial must be served on the party himself.

Notice of trial to be served on party himself.

183. When a written pleading is filed, the registrar shall write thereon the date of filing, the name and character of the person filing the pleading, and the number of documents produced with the pleading. He shall also draw up the bail bond in respect of costs, whenever bail is required, as well as the bond of the parties where such parties have been admitted to the juratory caution. He shall note down in the margin the amount paid for fees and the name of the person paying them.

Duties of registrar in connection with the filing of written pleadings.
Amended by:
[*IX.1886.29;*](#)
[*XV.1913.62.*](#)

184. (1) If any difficulty shall arise in or about the filing of any written pleading, the registrar shall inform the party concerned, but he may not refuse to receive such pleading, except in the cases in which he is expressly enjoined or authorized so to do under the provisions of this Code. In the case of any such difficulty, he shall, as soon as possible, make a report thereof to the court, which shall give the necessary directions for his guidance. He shall, however, refuse to receive any written pleading which is in open violation of the provisions of articles 174, 176 and 178.

Difficulty about filing of written pleadings.
Amended by:
[*XL.1980.2;*](#)
[*XXIV.1995.92.*](#)

(2) In all cases, the registrar shall, upon a request to that effect, state in writing the reason for his refusal.

185. Saving the provisions of article 186(1), where an act is to be served on two or more persons even if they live together in the same address each of them shall be served with a copy of such act.

Service on all parties.
Substituted by:
[*XXIV.1995.93.*](#)

186. (1) Where two or more parties are pleading together, they shall, on filing the pleading, apart from giving their respective addresses, designate, by means of a note, a person, being one of the persons mentioned in article 180, as that on whom the answer and any other act of the opposite party may be served on behalf of all the parties pleading,

Designation of person to be served with written pleading.
Amended by:
[*XV.1913.63;*](#)
[*XXIV.1995.94;*](#)
[*XXXI.2002.64.*](#)

(2) If a pleading is directed against two or more persons, such persons may, on filing a joint answer, designate, by means of a note, a person, being one of the persons mentioned in article 180, as that on whom any act of the opposite party may be served on behalf of all of them.

(3) Where a person is so designated, any service relating to the act in respect of which such designation was made, shall be effected on such person:

Provided that any of such persons may by means of another note declare that he henceforth requires separate service at an address, being the address of his residence or place of business, to be indicated by him.

Mode of service.
Amended by:
VII.1856.2;
XV.1913.63;
XIX.1965.8;
XXVII.1979.13;
XXIV.1995.95;
XXII.2005.35;
II.2012.3;
IV.2016.7.

187. (1) Service shall be effected by the delivery of a copy of the pleading to the person on whom the pleading is to be served, wherever such person may be found. Service may also be effected by leaving such copy at the place of residence or business or place of work or postal address of such person with a member of his family or household or with a person in his service or with his attorney or person authorized to receive his mail. If service is not effected on a first attempt, the officer charged with the service shall make two other attempts to serve the copy of the pleading without further authorisations by the court and such attempts shall be made at different times of the day with the last attempt at service to be made after judicial hours. Each attempt of service is to be made after the payment of the appropriate fee due to the registry. The officer charged with the service shall file a separate certificate of service for each attempt made in the acts of the proceedings:

Provided that it shall not be lawful to leave such copy with any person under the age of fourteen years, or with any person who, at the time of the service, has a mental disorder or other condition, which renders him incapable of giving evidence of such service. A person shall be presumed to be able to give such evidence unless the contrary is proved; and no objection may be raised on the ground of irregularity of the service for any of those reasons, if it is shown that the copy has actually reached the person to be served therewith:

Provided further that where a person to whom a pleading is addressed refuses to receive it personally from an executive officer of the courts, the court may upon an application by the interested party and after hearing the executive officer of the courts and considering all the circumstances of the incident, declare by means of a decree that service shall have been effected on the day and time of the refusal and such decree shall be considered as a proof of service for all purposes of law.

(2) In the case of persons on board merchant ships, or members of the crew having no place of residence in Malta, service may be effected by delivering such copy to the master of the ship or any other person acting in that behalf.

(3) If it appears from the certificate of the officer charged with the service of a written pleading or any judicial act that, although it does not result that the person upon whom such a pleading or act is to be served, is abroad, access to his place of residence cannot be obtained, or his place of residence is not known, the court may direct service to be effected by the posting of a copy of the written pleading or act at the place, in the town or district in which official acts are usually posted up, and by publishing a summary of such

written pleading or act in the Gazette and in one or more daily newspapers as the court may direct and, where possible, when the residence is known, by posting up a copy of the pleading on the door leading to such residence. The court may also adopt such other measures as it may deem fit to bring the pleading or act to the notice of the person upon whom the same is to be served. In such cases, service shall be deemed to have been made on the third working day after the date of last publication or after the date of such posting, whichever is the later. In cases where service has been ordered with urgency, service shall be deemed to have been made at such time, after posting or publication as the court may determine, which time is to be stated in the publication or posting.

(4) In the case of a body having a distinct legal personality, service on such body shall be effected by leaving a copy of the pleading:

- (a) at its registered office, principal office, or place of business or postal address with any of the persons mentioned in article 181A(2) or with an employee of such body; or
- (b) with any of the persons mentioned in article 181A(2) in the manner provided for in sub-article (1).

(5) If it appears from the certificate of the officer charged with the service of a written pleading that service as provided in sub-article (4) has not been effected, the court may, if it appears that at least one of the persons mentioned in article 181A(2) is in Malta, direct service to be effected by the posting up of a copy of the written pleading at the place in the town or district in which official acts are usually posted up, where the body has its registered office, principal office, or place of business, and by publishing a summary of such written pleading in the Government Gazette and in one or more daily newspapers as the court may direct and, where possible, by posting up a copy of the pleading on the door of the registered office, principal office, or place of business. The court may also adopt such other measures as it may deem fit to bring the pleading to the notice of any of the persons mentioned in article 181A(2).

(6) Where it appears that all the persons mentioned in article 181A(2) are absent from Malta or there exist no such persons, the court shall appoint a curator in the interest of such body as provided for in article 929(d).

(7) In the case of an action against a ship or other vessel, service shall be effected by the delivery of a copy of the pleading to the master thereof or any other person acting in that behalf or, in the absence of such persons, on the agent of the ship or other vessel, as the case may be, or in the absence of such persons and agent, on curators appointed by the court in terms of article 929:

Provided that the court may also adopt such other measures as it may deem fit to bring the pleading to the notice of the person upon whom the same is to be served.

(8) Saving the provisions of article 193, service may also be effected by officers of the Post Office in such manner and under

such rules in conformity with postal regulations as the Minister responsible for justice may order by notice in the Gazette:

Cap. 319. Provided that, applications of appeal, and sworn applications made under the provisions of the [Constitution](#) of Malta and the [European Convention Act](#), shall be served by the executive officers of the courts.

Accessibility of electoral register in electronic format.
Added by:
[IV.2016.8.](#)

187A. (1) The Chief Electoral Commissioner shall make accessible online and free of charge the electoral register for general elections to the court registries from where the courts, court officers, advocates and legal procurators may access the data contained in such register for purposes related to the service of judicial acts.

(2) The Registrar of Companies shall make accessible, online and free of charge at the Court Registry, such data related to companies required for the purposes of service of judicial acts on such companies, which the courts, court officers, advocates and legal procurators may access.

Certificate of service.
Amended by:
[XV.1913.64.](#)
Substituted by:
[XIX.1965.9.](#)

188. (1) The officer charged with the service of an act shall, on the same day when he serves or unsuccessfully seeks to serve the act, or, at the latest, on the following day, draw up a certificate stating whether the service was effected or not. In the affirmative, the certificate shall state the name and surname of the person on whom service was effected and, if the act was not served directly on the person on whom service was to be effected, the name and the surname of the person to whom the copy was delivered and the place where the act was served; in the negative, the certificate shall state the reason why service was not effected.

(2) Any certificate referred to in sub-article (1) shall be drawn up in the manner prescribed by the registrar, who may also direct that a form or forms printed, impressed or otherwise prepared be used for the purpose.

(3) The registrar may also require that any such certificate be confirmed on oath by the officer entrusted with the service and any such oath shall be administered by the registrar.

Service of acts and execution of warrants and orders in Gozo and Comino.
Added by:
[XIX.1965.10.](#)
Amended by:
[VIII.1990.3.](#)

189. (1) If an act filed in, or a warrant or garnishee order issued by any court in the Island of Malta is to be served or, as the case may be, executed in the Island of Gozo or Comino, a copy thereof shall be transmitted by the registrar of the said court to the Registrar of the Court of Magistrates (Gozo).

(2) The officer effecting service or execution shall deliver to the Registrar of the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) the certificate of service or execution, duly confirmed on oath before the registrar himself who shall transmit it to the registrar of the court in which the act was filed or by which the warrant or order was issued.

190. (1) If an act filed in or a warrant or garnishee order issued by the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) is to be served or, as the case may be, executed in the Island of Malta, a copy thereof shall be transmitted by any officer of the said court to the registrar.

Service of acts and execution of warrants and orders in Malta.

Added by:
[XIX.1965.10.](#)

Amended by:
[VIII.1990.3.](#)

Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.96.](#)

(2) The officer effecting service or execution shall deliver to the registrar the certificate of service or execution, duly confirmed on oath before the registrar who shall transmit it to any officer of the Court of Magistrates (Gozo).

191. (1) Copies shall be printed, typewritten, made by other mechanical or electronic means or by any photographic process or written in ink:

Mode of preparing copies.

Substituted by:
[XIX.1965.11.](#)

Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.97.](#)

[XXXI.2002.69.](#)

Provided that in every case they shall be drawn up in clear and easily legible characters.

(2) Copies shall also be certified by the person presenting them or by an advocate or legal procurator to be true copies of the originals.

192. In case of non-compliance with the provisions contained in the last preceding article, the party shall be entitled to have another copy made in conformity with the said article at the expense of the person who prepared the irregular copy, provided that the request for such other copy be made to the registrar by the party concerned within two days after the delivery of the irregular copy; and in any such case, if a time is fixed, it shall not commence to run except on the delivery of the regular copy.

Penalty in case of irregular copies.

Reckoning of time.

193. The provisions contained in this Title shall apply to all the courts and to all other acts filed by the parties or issued by the court, in so far as such provisions may be applicable to such courts and to such other acts:

Provisions of this Title to apply to all courts and to all acts.

Amended by:
[XXVII.1979.15.](#)

Provided, however, that precautionary and executive warrants may only be served or executed by officers of the courts.

Title V

OF THE TRIAL OF CAUSES

193A.(1) Causes shall be assigned in accordance with rules of court or regulations made in accordance with article 29.

Assignment of causes.

Added by:
[XXXI.2002.70.](#)

(2) Such rules or regulations may also provide for the procedure to be followed in the pre-trial and trial stages of a cause which has been set down for hearing.

194. (1) The registrar shall cause a list of the causes which are to be tried at a particular sitting to be posted up at the side of the entrance of the court room where the causes are to be heard at least one hour before the case is to be heard, saving urgent cases referred to in article 154(2).

Posting up of cause list.

Amended by:
[XI.1859.9.](#)
[XXVII.1979.16.](#)
[XXIV.1995.98.](#)

(2) The list shall bear the date on which it is posted up as aforesaid and shall be signed by the registrar.

(3) The list shall be deemed to be posted up, according to the

regulations, on the date which it bears and at the time of the closing of the registry.

Trial of causes.
Amended by:
XXXI.1934.31;
XXXIII.1934.2;
XXVII.1979.17;
VIII.1981.5;
XXIV.1995.99.
Substituted by:
XXXI.2002.72.
Amended by:
IX.2004.5;
VII.2007.16;
IV.2016.9.

195. (1) A cause the written pleadings of which have been concluded shall be set down either for pre-trial hearings or for trial hearings as may be provided in regulations and shall be brought to a conclusion as expeditiously as possible:

Provided that in causes before the courts of inferior jurisdiction, the conclusion of the written pleadings shall take place when the party to be notified of the relative cause has been so notified in accordance with the provisions of this Code.

(2) (a) The Court shall -

- (i) at the first hearing of both at first instance as well as at the court of appeal stage, make a record stating the parties who have been served with the application, with the application on oath or with the application on appeal as the case may be and, if it is determined that there are any parties who have not been so served, give such orders as it may deem fit so that services may be effected or other acts prepared; and
- (ii) at the first hearing of both the pre-trial stage and the trial stage, plan in advance, after consulting with the advocates of the parties, all the sittings to be held as well as the projected date of judgement and shall also direct the parties on what evidence and submissions it expects to be made at each sitting:

Provided that the court shall, for grave reasons to be expressly stated in the records of the case or for reasons of urgency, call any other sittings and request any other evidence or submissions it deems fit.

(b) The Court may delegate its functions under paragraph (a) to a judicial assistant.

(3) Unless rules of court are made under article 29, all causes shall be appointed for hearing within two months and sittings shall be held on a bi-monthly basis.

(4) The date and time for the hearing shall be determined at least two months prior to the date fixed for the hearing, provided that the court may decide, either where it deems to be appropriate or after consultation with the advocates of the parties or in any other case where the cause is to be heard with urgency, to fix an earlier date, and where such date and time has been so fixed, no adjournment of the hearing shall be granted except for grave and exceptional reasons to be stated in the records of the case:

Provided that in causes which are to be heard with urgency the said period of two months shall not apply.

(5) (a) Where a cause has been pending before a particular court for three or more years, any party to the case

may, personally, and without the need of representation by any advocate, present an application, (which application shall, however, not form part of the acts of the case) to the Chief Justice requesting that, for the simple reason that the cause has taken so long, the presiding member of the court be changed and the case assigned to another member of the judiciary; the decision of the Chief Justice, which shall be taken *in camera*, shall be final and conclusive; and where such assignment takes place there shall be no need for any notification of such assignment.

- (b) Where a cause has been pending for judgment before a particular court for eighteen months or more, any party to the case may, personally, and without the need of representation by any advocate, present an application, (which application shall, however, not form part of the acts of the case) to the Chief Justice for this purpose, and the Chief Justice may, for the simple reason that the judgment has taken so long to be delivered, allow the request for the presiding member of the court to be changed and for the case for judgment to be assigned to another member of the judiciary; the decision of the Chief Justice, which shall be taken *in camera*, shall be final and conclusive; and where such assignment takes place there shall be no need for any notification of such assignment.
- (c) The Chief Justice shall draw up a yearly report on any causes transferred in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b), detailing the possible reasons for such delays, and shall send the report to the Commission for the Administration of Justice. The Commission shall take such action as it may deem appropriate in accordance with the provisions of the Commission for the Administration of Justice Act, and shall, within three months, publish such report.

Cap. 369.

(6) Nothing in this article contained shall preclude the court from deciding a cause on the day fixed for first hearing where the claim is not contested or the court is satisfied that the plaintiff has no claim or the defendant has no valid defence.

(7) Where, after the written pleadings of an appeal are deemed to be concluded, the Court of Appeal considers an appeal to be frivolous and vexatious, the Court of Appeal may dismiss the appeal in open court on the day fixed for the first hearing.

196. (1) The absence of any witness regularly subpoenaed, shall be good ground for an adjournment of the cause, provided his evidence be shown to be material.

(2) The court may in this case appoint a judicial assistant to hear the evidence of such witness on such a day and at such a time as the court shall determine. Such day and time shall be prior to the date to which the cause is adjourned.

Absence of witness
to be a good
ground for
adjournment.
Substituted by:
[*XXIV.1995.100.*](#)
Amended by:
[*XXXI.2002.73.*](#)

Order of trial.
Amended by:
XI.1859.10;
XXXI.1934.32;
L.N. 148 of 1975.

197. (1) Causes shall be tried in the order in which they stand on the list, unless the court for a good reason shall otherwise direct.

Government
causes.

(2) Nevertheless, the causes to which the Government of Malta is a party shall always be heard before any other cause unless the court shall deem it necessary, on grounds of urgency, to follow the order of the list or to try other causes.

Calling on of
causes.

198. Before the hearing of a cause commences, the proper officer shall, outside the entrance of the court room, announce the hearing, calling out aloud three times the names and surnames of the contending parties:

Provided that when there are several plaintiffs or defendants he shall call out the name and surname of the party first mentioned in the title of the record, and shall refer to the others by the general nomenclature of "others".

Default of
appearance of
contending parties
at trial.
Amended by:
IX.1886.30;
XXXI.1934.33;
II.1940.4;
XXIV.1995.101;
VIII.2007.28.

199. (1) If, after a cause is called on three times, the contending parties or their advocates or, in the causes before the inferior courts, the contending parties or their advocates or legal procurators, fail to appear, it shall be lawful for the court to order the cancellation of the cause from the list at the expense of the plaintiff.

Default of
appearance of
plaintiff.

(2) If only the defendant or his advocate or legal procurator, as the case may be, appears, he shall be entitled to demand that the plaintiff be non suited with costs.

Right of plaintiff to
have cause again
set down for trial.

(3) In either case, if the plaintiff desires that the cause be restored to the list to be heard and determined upon the same acts, he shall, by means of an application to be filed within three months, make a demand to that effect. Such demand shall be granted once only, and the court shall appoint a day for the trial of the cause at the expense of plaintiff, on condition that the plaintiff shall make payment, or deposit in the registry of the court before the day fixed for the trial, all the costs stipulated in the tariff, in the consequence of the non-appearance of plaintiff, or of his advocate or legal procurator, as the case may be.

(4) The provisions of this article shall not apply when a cause is awaiting the outcome of another cause.

Presence through
live video
conferencing link.
Added by:
LIII.2020.2.

199A. (1) In any cause, a court may on application of one of the parties or of its own motion, after hearing representations from the parties, direct that any party or witness in a location other than the court itself (hereinafter referred to as the "remote location") shall be treated as being present in the court for any part of the proceedings, including any proceedings which are incidental to the main proceedings, or for the entirety of the proceedings.

(2) A court shall not give an order under sub-article (1) unless:
(a) it is satisfied that facilities are available which enable

persons in the remote location to see and hear the court and to be seen and heard by it;

- (b) if it would be unfair to any of the parties to hold sittings by a live video conferencing link; or
- (c) if it would be contrary to the interests of justice to do so.

(3) If a court decides not to give an order under sub-article (1) to hold sittings by video conferencing link, it shall give its reasons for the refusal.

(4) The Rule Making Board established under article 29 may, by regulations, prescribe rules and codes of practice for the better administration of live video conferencing procedures.

200. (1) The plaintiff shall likewise be non suited with costs if, when the cause is called on, it is found that no security for the costs of the suit has been given as provided in this Code, unless, within a short time which the court may deem fit to allow, a sum in ready money, sufficient to secure the costs of the suit, be deposited with the registrar.

Non suit of plaintiff in default of security for costs.

(2) The sum so deposited shall not be subject to the claims of the creditors of the party making such deposit, so long as such sum is intended to meet the costs of the suit.

Security for costs not subject to claims of creditors.

201. If the defendant or his advocate, or, in the causes before the inferior courts, the defendant or his advocate or legal procurator, fails to appear, the cause may be determined according to law on the acts available after hearing such evidence as the court may consider necessary, notwithstanding his default of appearance.

Default of appearance of defendant.
Amended by:
[XXXI.1934.34;](#)
[XXIV.1995.102.](#)

202. *Repealed by [XXXI.2002.74.](#)*

Regulation of trial.
Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.103.](#)

203. *Repealed by [XXXI.2002.74.](#)*

Power of court to vary order of production of evidence.
Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.104.](#)

204.(1)(a) The parties, either personally or through their advocates or, in the inferior courts, either personally or through their advocates or legal procurators, shall have the right to make their submissions in writing or orally as the court may decide, by the plaintiff submitting his case and the defendant making his answer:

Party may plead personally or through advocate.
Amended by:
[XXXI.2002.75.](#)

Provided that the court may in appropriate circumstances allow a further reply by the plaintiff and a rejoinder by the defendant.

- (b) When the trial of the cause is closed, no further evidence shall be allowed, except for just cause and by leave of the court.

Distribution of oral pleading when more than one advocate appears for the same party.

(2) If more than one advocate appears for the same party, it shall be lawful, if such party be the plaintiff, for one advocate to state the case and for another to make the reply and, if such party be the defendant, for one advocate to make the answer and for another to make the rejoinder. The advocates may also distribute among themselves the several issues of the controversy and the evidence.

Power of court to rule out useless matter in oral pleading.

(3) Nevertheless, in all cases the court is empowered to rule out from the oral pleading all matter which, in its opinion, may be calculated to cause useless delay, or consists in repetition, or is irrelevant or extraneous to the cause.

Party assisted by advocate not to address court.

Amended by:
[*IX.1886.31;*](#)
[*XXIV.1995.105.*](#)

205. (1) The party assisted by an advocate may not, without leave of court, make any submission except through his advocate.

Power of court where party appears without advocate.

(2) The court may order the party who is not assisted by an advocate to engage one if, in the opinion of the court, such party is unable adequately to plead his case; and if such party fails to engage an advocate, the court shall appoint, for the purpose, one of the official curators to be selected according to the turn on the rota; if the party refuses to give the necessary information to the advocate so appointed, the court may dispose of the case after hearing such evidence as the court may consider necessary.

Close of trial.

206. *Repealed by* [*XXXI.2002.76.*](#)

Order of trial in appellate court.

Amended by:
[*IX.1886.32;*](#)
[*XXIV.1995.106;*](#)
[*XXXI.2002.77;*](#)
[*IV.2016.10.*](#)
Substituted by:
[*XXXII.2021.8.*](#)

207. (1) Save for the provisions of sub-articles (5) and (7), all proceedings before an appellate court shall be conducted in writing.

(2) Written pleadings shall be deemed closed as provided in the provisions of article 146.

(3) When a reply for an appeal raises issues about the nullity or validity of the appeal or mentions facts or points of law which were not raised by the appellant in the appeal application, the appellant may within thirty (30) days from being notified of the reply, by way of application, request the court to authorise him to file a rejoinder to address only those points which were raised for the first time in the reply to the appeal application. The court shall, if it considers it reasonable and expedient in the circumstances, grant leave to the appellant to file his rejoinder within a period, which shall not exceed thirty (30) days from when the appellant's lawyer is given written notice of the decree.

(4) Upon the closing of written pleadings and payment of security for costs related to the appeal, the court shall proceed to judgment on a date and time it sets for this scope.

(5) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-article (4), the court may set a sitting for hearing of the cause, if it deems fit to hear evidence or oral submissions from the parties.

(6) Security for costs related to appeals shall be produced and deposited as provided in article 249, and in case of default, the court may declare the appeal as abandoned.

(7) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-articles (1) to (6) all causes before the Constitutional Court and all causes before the Court of Appeal where no oral hearing took place at first instance, shall be appointed for an oral hearing.

(8) The oral hearing shall be conducted as follows:

- (a) when the appeal is entered by the plaintiff only, or by both parties, the order of hearing of the cause shall be the same as provided in article 204(1);
- (b) when the appeal is entered by the defendant only, he shall commence by briefly stating the grounds of complaint and praying that the judgment appealed from be reversed or varied, and the order of hearing of the cause shall then be as provided in article 204(1).

208. (1) No witness who was not produced in the court below may be produced on appeal, unless -

- (a) the opposite party gives his consent thereto; or
- (b) it is proved on oath or otherwise, that the party tendering the evidence of such witness had no knowledge thereof, or was unable, by the means provided by law, to produce such witness in the court below; or
- (c) the evidence of such witness was tendered and disallowed before the court below and the appellate court considers it admissible and relevant; or
- (d) the appellate court is satisfied of the necessity or expediency of taking the evidence of such witness:

Provided that in any such case, the court may, in adjudging the costs of the case, take into account the tardy production of such witness.

(2) If in the court of first instance the defendant had failed to file the sworn reply as mentioned in article 158 and to appear at the trial of the cause, he shall be precluded from producing witnesses before the appellate court, unless he shows to the satisfaction of such court a good reason for his default.

209. (If, the court sets an appeal for oral hearing, and after that the cause is called on three (3) times, neither one of the parties nor their advocates appear, or if only the respondent or his advocate appears, the court may declare the appeal abandoned:

Provided that on an application by the appellant, that shall be filed within eight (8) days from such day that the appeal is declared abandoned, the court shall order that the cause be again put on the list for hearing and determination, provided the appellant shall have

Production of witnesses before appellate court.

Amended by:
IX.1886.32;
XI.1913.65;
XXXI.1934.35;
XXII.2005.36.

Appeal to be declared abandoned in default of appearance of the parties.

Substituted by:
XXXII.2021.9.

deposited, within the said time, the amount of costs occasioned by his non-appearance.

Parties or advocates not to interrupt each other.

210. It shall not be lawful for the parties or their advocates to interrupt each other. Every person whose turn it is to speak shall address the court only.

Judgment to be given in the same or at earliest date.

211. When the hearing is concluded, the court, if it does not deliver judgment on the same day, shall reserve judgment for the earliest possible date to be fixed for the purpose.

Grounds of adjournment to be stated by court and noted down by registrar.

212. (1) If the court does not deliver judgment on the day fixed for the trial of the cause, the court shall give the reason according to law for adjourning the cause to another day.

Added by:
XXXI.1934.37.

(2) The registrar shall keep a *procès-verbal*, to be inserted in the record, of the grounds of each adjournment and of everything done in each sitting.

In inferior courts, the court may adjudge on a right although not falling precisely within original claim.

213. In first instance, in the Court of Magistrates (Malta) and in the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) in its inferior jurisdiction, where the claim as stated in the application has not been made to appear, but nevertheless, another right has been made to appear although such other right does not fall precisely within the terms of the claim as originally framed, the court may adjudge upon such other right so made to appear on the same application:

Amended by:
XV.1913.66;
VIII.1990.3;
XXII.2005.37.

Provided that the court shall, if a request is made to that effect, or if it shall deem it proper so to do, allow a short time to the defendant to prepare his defence against such other right:

Provided further that in no case shall the court award a sum beyond that originally claimed.

Appearance of parties in inferior courts.

214. In the courts mentioned in the last preceding article, the parties shall appear personally or through any of the persons mentioned in article 180 who can lawfully represent them, or through an advocate.

Inferior courts to proceed summarily.

215. The courts mentioned in article 213 shall proceed summarily and with the utmost despatch consistent with the due administration of justice, and shall comply with the provisions contained in this Title in so far as such provisions may be consistent with the manner of proceeding of the said courts as aforesaid.

Title VI

OF DECREES, JUDGMENTS AND APPEALS

Delivery of judgment.
Amended by:
XV.1913.66;
XXII.1992.8.

216. The judgment shall be delivered by the judge or magistrate before whom the cause has been tried; and when the court consists of more than one judge or magistrate, by one of such judges or magistrates; so however that it shall be lawful for the judge or magistrate presiding that court to deliver the judgment in the absence of the other members of the court provided that the

judgment is signed by at least two of the members of the court.

217. In a court consisting of more than one member, the decision of the majority shall form the judgment which shall be delivered as the judgment of the whole court.

Decision of majority to form judgment of court consisting of more than one member.
Amended by:
[*IX.1886.34;*](#)
[*IV.1905.3.*](#)

218. The court shall in the judgment premise the reasons on which the decision of the court is based, and shall include a reference to the proceedings, the claims of the plaintiff and the pleas of defendant:

Judgment to include reasons.
Amended by:
[*VI.1880.21;*](#)
[*XXIV.1995.108.*](#)
Substituted by:
[*VII.2007.18.*](#)

Provided that the Rule-Making Board appointed under article 29 may, by Rules of Court, derogate from the provisions of this article.

219. Every declaration intended by the court to be conclusive or binding shall be included in the operative part of the judgment.

Conclusive or binding declarations to be included in operative part of judgment.

219A.(1) In proceedings for the recovery of a debt, a judgement given upon admission of the claim or upon a claim that has not been disputed by the defendant shall, so far as possible considering the circumstances of the case, be delivered within ninety days of the lodging of the action before the Court.

Proceedings for the recovery of a debt.
Added by:
[*IV.2001.35.*](#)
Amended by:
[*XXII.2005.38.*](#)

(2) The period mentioned in sub-article (1) shall not include the period of time taken for service of the application upon the defendant.

220. When judgment is delivered, the registrar shall record the decision together with the reasons given by the court for such decision.

Recording of decision and reasons.

221. (1) Saving the provisions of article 173, interlocutory decrees shall be delivered and recorded in the manner provided in the preceding articles of this Title.

Delivery and recording of interlocutory decrees.
Amended by:
[*XI.1859.11;*](#)
[*XXVII.1979.18.*](#)

(2) The provisions of article 218 shall also apply to the said decrees, when they are subject to appeal according to the provisions of article 229.

222. Where the claim is for some specific performance, the judgment shall state a time, according to circumstances, within which the party cast shall perform the act, and shall also state the manner of execution in case of non-performance of the act.

Judgment upon claim for specific performance.

223. (1) Every definitive judgment shall award costs against the party cast.

Costs.
Amended by:
[*XIII.1964.21;*](#)
[*XXIV.1995.109;*](#)
[*XVI.2004.33;*](#)
[*VII.2007.19.*](#)

(2) In the case of an interlocutory decree, it shall be lawful for the court to reserve the issue as to costs for decision in the definitive judgment or to award costs against the party cast.

(3) In all cases, it shall be lawful for the court to order that the costs shall not be taxed as between party and party, when either party has been cast in some of the points at issue, or when the

matter at issue involves difficult points of law, or where there is any other good cause.

(4) In the case of any frivolous or vexatious appeal or re-trial, the Court of Appeal or the Constitutional Court may award double costs against the appellant in favour of the respondent.

(5) In the case where an *ex parte* expert witness is produced by any of the parties in a cause, the court shall in the definitive judgment establish a fair amount which can be claimed as costs for the said witness. In determining the said amount, the court shall take into account the seriousness of the claims, in the case of an expert witness not resident in Malta, whether local expertise was available and all the other circumstances of the case. The court shall also establish how the said costs are to be apportioned between the parties to the cause.

(6) Subject to article 173(2)(c), when a party without just cause refuses or fails to participate before or collaborate with a mediator, the Court may award double costs in the other party's favour due to such refusal or failure.

Award of costs *in solidum* or *pro rata*.
Amended by:
[IX.1886.35](#).

224. If two or more persons are condemned in costs, each person shall be deemed to be condemned *in solidum* or in proportion to his interest in the cause according to the decision on the merits.

Costs against tutors, etc.

225. Where any tutor, curator, heir under the benefit of inventory or other private or public administrator has in a cause acted to the prejudice of his administration, the court may, in the same judgment delivered in that cause, without the necessity of separate proceedings, condemn such tutor, curator, heir or administrator to pay personally and without any right to reimbursement costs as well as damages and interest according to law, saving any other penalties to which he may be liable according to circumstances.

Time for filing application of appeal.

Amended by:
[IX.1886.36](#);
[XV.1913.67](#);
[XII.1924.2](#);
[VIII.1990.3](#).
Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.110](#).
Amended by:
[XXXII.2021.10](#).

226. (1) An appeal is entered by means of an application to be filed in the registry of the Court of Appeal within thirty (30) days from the date of the judgment.

(2) Where an appeal is not entered from the whole judgment, there shall be stated in the application of appeal, the heads of the judgment against which an appeal is entered.

Judgments by appellate courts not subject to appeal.

Amended by:
[VII.1880.8](#);
[XXII.1976.4](#);
[VIII.1990.3](#).
Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.111](#).

227. Judgments delivered by the Court of Appeal are not appealable.

228. (1) No appeal shall lie from any judgment given upon admission of the claim, or accepted by the renunciation of the right of appeal or by acquiescence in the findings of the judgment.

Other judgments not subject to appeal.

Amended by:
[*XV.1913.68;*](#)
[*XXXI.1934.38;*](#)
[*XXIII.1971.17;*](#)
[*XIII.1983.5;*](#)
[*XII.1985.6;*](#)
[*VIII.1990.3;*](#)
[*XXIV.1995.112;*](#)
[*L.N. 407 of 2007.*](#)

(2) Nor shall an appeal lie from any judgment of the Court of Magistrates (Malta), or of the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) in its inferior jurisdiction as a court of first instance, where the amount of the claim, assessed or assessable as provided in articles 748 and 761, does not exceed four hundred and sixty-five euro and eighty-seven cents (465.87), and the matter at issue does not involve a point of law determined in the judgment or the determination of a claim for the eviction of any person from immovable property.

Appeal from inferior courts when admissible.

229. (1) An appeal from the decrees mentioned hereunder shall only lie after the definitive judgment and together with an appeal from such judgment, and such decrees may not be challenged before the definitive judgment is delivered:

Appeal from decrees.

Amended by:
[*XV.1913.69.*](#)
Substituted by:
[*XXIV.1995.113.*](#)
Amended by:
[*IV.1996.4;*](#)
[*IX.2004.6;*](#)
[*L.N. 407 of 2007;*](#)
[*XVII.2012.4.*](#)

- (a) a decree allowing a request for urgency;
- (b) any order or directive under the provisions of article 173;
- (c) a decree allowing or disallowing a request for the adjournment of a cause under article 195(3);
- (d) a decree allowing or disallowing an objection to the competency of a witness under article 567;
- (e) a decree allowing or disallowing a request to put questions to a witness under article 587;
- (f) a decree allowing or disallowing a request for the production of documents under article 637 except if the decree allows or disallows the production of a document which is an exempt document in terms of article 637(4);
- (g) the appointment of a referee under article 646;
- (h) a decree allowing or disallowing a request for the connection of actions under article 793(1);
- (i) a decree allowing or disallowing a request for suspending the delivery of a decree;
- (j) a decree allowing or disallowing the expunging of a document from the records of the case;
- (k) subject to the provisions of this article, a decree allowing or disallowing a request for the revocation or amendment of a decree;
- (l) a decree disallowing a request for special leave to appeal under sub-article (5);
- (m) a decree disallowing a request for stay of proceedings.

(2) A decision of the court in the cause listed hereunder shall be given by a decree to be read out in open court on a day duly notified to the parties, and an appeal from such decree may be entered before the definitive judgment subject to the procedure laid down in sub-article (4) and (5):

- (a) a decree refusing the appointment of additional referees under article 674;
- (b) a decree transferring an action for trial to another court under article 792,
- (c) a decree refusing the joinder of a third party under article 961;
- (d) a decree disallowing a request for urgency;
- (e) a decree ordering the stay of proceedings;
- (f) a decree that orders the production of a document which is an exempt document in terms of article 637(4).

(3) Save as otherwise specifically provided for in this Code an appeal from any other interlocutory decree not included in sub-articles (1) and (2) may be entered before the definitive judgment only by special leave of the court hearing the case, to be requested by an application to be filed within ten days from the date on which the decree is read out in open court. The court, after hearing the parties, may grant such leave of appeal if it deems it expedient and fair that the matter be brought before the Court of Appeal before the definitive judgment and the time limit for the filing of such an appeal shall commence to run from the date of the said decree.

(4) In the case of any decree under sub-articles (2) and (3), provided that any application for an appeal has not been filed, the aggrieved party may file an application within six days from the date on which the decree is read out in open court, requested the court which delivered the decree to reconsider its decision. The application is contain full and detailed reasons in support of the request and is to be served on the other party who shall have the right to file an answer thereto within six days from the date of service.

(5) The court shall decide, as expeditiously as possible by decree to be read out in open court, the application for special leave to appeal in terms of sub-article (3) or the application to reconsider its decision in terms of sub-article (4), expounding fully therein the reasons for the decision.

(6) The period for appeal from a decree before a definitive judgment shall be six days from the date on which the decree is read out in open court:

Provided that in the case contemplated in sub-articles (3) and (4) such term for appeal shall run from the day on which the decrees in terms of sub-article (5) are read out in open court.

(7) Subject to the provisions of this article, the provisions of this Code relating to appeals from judgments shall apply to appeals from decrees under this article.

(8) The security referred to in article 249 shall not be required in the cases referred to in sub-article (6).

(9) In the case of any frivolous or vexatious appeal, the Court of Appeal shall award double costs against the appellant in favour of the respondent, and may condemn appellant to pay respondent a sum not exceeding two thousand and three hundred and twenty-nine euro and thirty-seven cents (2,329.37) by way of penalty, saving any right for damages that may be competent to respondent.

(10) Where an interlocutory decree has been given *in camera*, it shall for the purposes of this article and for the purposes of the calculation of any time therein established be deemed to have been read out in open court on the date of the first sitting in the case immediately after the decree was given *in camera* by the court.

230. Interlocutory decrees shall not operate as a *res judicata* in regard to the court by which they are delivered, if a good cause to depart therefrom is shown to the satisfaction of the court.

Interlocutory decrees not to operate as *res judicata* for court delivering them.

231. (1) Where several issues in an action have been determined by separate judgments, appeal from any such judgments may only be entered after the final judgment and within the prescribed time, to be reckoned from the date of such final judgment; and in such an appeal express mention of the judgment or judgments appealed from shall be made:

Appeal in case of separate judgments on several issues in the same action.
Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.114.](#)
Amended by:
[XIII.2005.7.](#)

Provided that an appeal from such separate judgments may be entered before the final judgment only by leave of court to be read out in open court; such request for leave to appeal shall be made either orally immediately after the delivery of such judgment or by application within six days from such judgment and when such leave to appeal from such separate judgements is granted the time for the filing of the appeal in respect thereof shall commence to run from the day on which the said leave is read out in open court.

(2) In an action involving more than one plaintiff or more than one defendant a judgment disposing of the action in respect of any particular plaintiff or defendant may only be appealed from within the prescribed time to be reckoned from the date of such judgment.

232. It shall be lawful for the party in whose favour damages, interest, or fruits have been awarded, to proceed for the assessment thereof pending the appeal; but such party shall be liable for all expenses occasioned by such procedure in case the judgment appealed from is reversed.

Assessment of damages, etc., pending appeal. Liability for expenses in case of reversal of judgment.

233. (1) Where an appellate court reverses a judgment and allows the claim for damages or interest or for the recovery of fruits, it shall make such assessment without sending back the record to the court of first instance, unless the court for exceptional reasons considers it to be in the interest of justice to send back the cause to the court of first instance.

Power of appellate court to assess damages, interest or fruits.
Amended by:
[XV.1913.70.](#)
Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.115.](#)

(2) Likewise the appellate court shall, in the case of reversal of a judgment of non-suit of plaintiff or of a judgment given under the

provisions of article 170(1) or (2), either remit the records to the court of first instance or determine the merits, according to circumstances.

Decrees in regard to jurisdiction of court to be subject to appeal.

Amended by:
XV.1913.71;
XXIV.1995.116.

234. Subject to other particular provisions of this Code concerning pleas to the jurisdiction by reason of the subject-matter of the cause, any judgment given by any court in regard to its jurisdiction to take cognizance of any particular cause, is subject to appeal; and the court may stay the hearing of the cause until the determination of that point by the appellate court, provided none of the parties shows to the satisfaction of the court that the delay would be prejudicial to him.

No appeal *ab omissa decisione.*

Amended by:
IV.1865.2;
XXIV.1995.117.
XXII.2005.39.

235. Where a court of first instance omits to determine any of the claims brought forward, no appeal shall lie *ab omissa decisione*:

Parties may request first court to decide claim not determined by application within fifteen days,

Provided that it shall be lawful for each of the parties, within the time of fifteen days from the date of the judgment, by means of an application, to request the court of first instance to determine such claim; and upon such application, the parties being summoned anew, the court shall adjudge upon the claim; in such case, the time for entering appeal from the whole judgment, or from any part thereof, shall commence to run from the day of the last judgment:

or by sworn application at any time.

Provided further that it shall be lawful for each of the parties, at any time, to sue by sworn application before the court of first instance for a decision on the claim the determination of which had been so omitted.

Interested third parties may appeal.

236. An appeal may be entered not only by the contending parties but also by any person interested.

Judgment not to operate against third parties.

237. A judgment shall not operate to the prejudice of any person who neither personally nor through the person under whom he claims nor through his lawful agent was party to the cause determined by such judgment.

Persons who benefit from appeal.
Added by:
IX.1886.37.

238. (1) The reversal or variation of a judgment shall operate in favour of the party at whose instance such reversal or variation is obtained.

(2) Such reversal or variation shall also operate in favour of any person -

- (a) who has an interest essentially dependant upon that of the party at whose instance such reversal or variation is obtained;
- (b) who, in any controversy relating to an indivisible thing, was joint plaintiff or defendant with the party at whose instance such reversal or variation is obtained;
- (c) who in virtue of the judgment which is reversed or varied was condemned *in solidum* with the party at whose instance the reversal or variation is obtained:

Provided that the reversal or variation shall not operate in

favour of the person referred to in paragraphs (b) and (c) where such reversal or variation is obtained on grounds exclusively affecting the party seeking such reversal or variation.

239. (1) The judgments mentioned hereunder shall be operative with respect to third parties, only from the time when they are enrolled in the Public Registry, namely:

- (a) any judgment by which any act having the effect of transferring the ownership of immovable property or any other real right thereon, is dissolved, rescinded or revoked;
- (b) any judgment which directly adjudges the transfer of the ownership of immovable property or of any other real right thereon.

Certain judgments may only operate in respect of third parties if and from the time they are entered in the Public Registry.
Added by:
IX.1886.3.
Amended by:
XXIV.1995.118.

(2) Any interested party may obtain enrolment by delivering to the said registry a note of enrolment together with an authentic copy of the judgment as well as a certificate from the registrar that the judgment has become *res judicata*. The provisions of the [Public Registry Act](#) shall apply to the drawing up and filing of the said note.

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(3) In the case of any judgment referred to in sub-article (1)(a), when the judgment shall have become *res judicata*, the registrar shall, at the request and at the expense of the interested party, deliver a note of reference to such judgment to the notary before whom the act which has been dissolved, rescinded or revoked was received, or who is the keeper thereof.

240. (1) Any party may avail himself of an appeal entered from a judgment, including a partial judgment and from a head or heads of any judgment, or from an interlocutory decree and may enter a cross appeal not only in respect of the judgment, partial judgment, head or heads of a judgment, or interlocutory decree appealed from, but also in respect of any judgment or heads thereof or interlocutory decrees given in the same cause even if not appealed from by the appellant. Such cross appeal may be made even against or by any party not being one against whom an appeal is directed in terms of article 144(1):

Cross-appeal.
Amended by:
XI.1859.12;
IX.1886.38.
Substituted by:
XXIV.1995.119.

Provided that a party may not so avail himself of the appeal in respect of the particular judgment, if he has already appealed from such judgment or any head thereof.

(2) The party who intends to avail himself of such appeal shall make a declaration to that effect in the answer stating therein his demands and the grounds for his cross appeal.

241. The declaration referred to in the last preceding article shall continue to be operative even if the opposite party abandons his appeal.

Cross-appeal to hold good notwithstanding abandonment of appeal.

Notice as to
validity of laws.
Amended by:
IX.1886.39;
XV.1913.72;
VIII.1990.3.
Substituted by:
XXIV.1995.120.
Amended by:
XI.2006.3.
Cap. 319.

242. (1) When a court, by a judgment which has become *res judicata*, declares any instrument having the force of law or any provision thereof to run counter to any provision of the [Constitution](#) of Malta or to any human right or fundamental freedom set out in the First Schedule to the [European Convention Act](#), or to be *ultra vires*, the registrar shall send a copy of the said judgment to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall during the first sitting of the House following the receipt of such judgment inform the House of such receipt and lay a copy of the judgment on the table of the House.

(2) Where there has been a judgment as is mentioned in sub-article (1) the Prime Minister may, within the period of six months from the date that the judgment has become *res judicata* and to the extent necessary in his opinion to remove any inconsistency with the [Constitution](#) of Malta or with the relevant human right or fundamental freedom set out in the First Schedule to the [European Convention Act](#) as declared in the said judgment, make regulations deleting the relevant instrument or any provision thereof declared to run counter to the [Constitution](#) or the First Schedule to the [European Convention Act](#) as mentioned in sub-article (1).

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Abridgement of
time for appeal.
Added by:
IX.1886.39.
Amended by:
XV.1913.73;
XXIV.1995.121.

243. (1) The court of first instance may, in urgent cases, upon a demand, even verbal, by any of the parties, immediately after the delivery of the judgment, abridge the time for the filing by the appellant of the written pleading before the appellate court.

(2) If no such demand is made by the parties immediately after judgment is delivered, it shall be lawful for the parties to make such demand by an application upon which the court of first instance, after summarily hearing the parties, will give the requisite directions.

(3) The provisions of this article shall apply to the answer, and, if there is a reply, to such reply.

Lodging of record.
Added by:
IX.1886.39.
Amended by:
XV.1913.74;
LIII.1948.2.
Substituted by:
XXIV.1995.122.

244. (1) On appeal proceedings being taken, the record of the proceedings of the first court shall be lodged before the appellate court.

(2) The fee prescribed for the lodging of the record shall be paid concurrently with the fee for the filing of the application.

Mode of lodging
record.
Amended by:
VII.1880.8.
Substituted by:
LIII.1948.3;
XXIV.1995.123.

245. In regard to appeals from judgments or decrees of the Civil Court, First Hall, and from determinations by the Rent Regulation Board, the lodging of the record shall be effected as soon as possible by the production thereof before the Court of Appeal by the registrar.

Lodging of record
in appeals before
Gozo court as
appellate court.
Amended by:
VII.1880.8;
IX.1886.39.

246. *Repealed by: XXIV.1995.124.*

247. (1) In regard to appeals from judgments of the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) and from judgments of the Court of Magistrates (Malta), the lodging of the record shall be effected by the transmission thereof by any officer of the court concerned to the registrar in the Court of Appeal.

Lodging of record in appeals from inferior court to Court of Appeal.

Amended by:
[VII.1880.8.](#)

Substituted by:

[LIII.1948.4.](#)

Amended by:

[VIII.1990.3.](#)

Substituted by:

[XXIV.1995.125.](#)

(2) For the purposes of sub-article (1) -

- (a) the registrar shall, on the same day on which an appeal is entered, notify in writing the entering of such appeal to the officer of the court concerned;
- (b) when notification is made to any officer of the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) the registrar shall, in addition to the notification in writing, make notification by telefax or other electronic device or orally by telephone.

(3) In respect of appeals entered against a judgment of the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) the transmission of the record shall be deemed to have been effected by the delivery of the record addressed to the registrar, to the Post Office, in Victoria, Gozo.

248. *Repealed by:* [XXIV.1995.126.](#)

Fee on lodging of record, in appeal from Gozo court to Court of Appeal.

Substituted by:

[LIII.1948.5.](#)

249. Unless otherwise provided in any other law, in the case of a principal or incidental appeal from judgments or decrees given in a cause initiated by sworn application, security for costs of the appeal shall be produced and deposited in court within three (3) months from when the appellant receives the notice for payment. If the appellant is not served with the said notice, the registrar shall, within ten (10) days, inform in writing the advocate of such party that the notice has not been served, and the advocate shall sign a copy of the receipt of such communication:

Security for cost:

Amended by:

[IX.1886.41;](#)

[XV.1913.75.](#)

Substituted by:

[XXIV.1995.127.](#)

Amended by:

[XXII.2005.40;](#)

[VII.2007.20;](#)

[XXXII.2021.11.](#)

Provided that no action shall lie against the advocate for failure to inform any such party.

(2) Such security shall be in an amount determined by the registrar and is to be made either by a deposit of ready money or by a guarantee of a bank licensed in terms of the [Banking Act](#) in accordance with Schedule C to this Code.

Cap. 371.

(3) The deposit shall not be subject to the claims of the creditors of the party making such deposit, so long as it remains to meet the costs of the suit.

(4) The Government of Malta, public corporations, the Central Bank of Malta and banks licensed under the [Banking Act](#) are exempt from giving the said security.

Cap. 371.

(5) The Minister responsible for justice may by regulations exempt any other category of persons or bodies from providing the said security.

(6) The provisions of articles 893 to 905 where inconsistent with this article shall not apply to the security given under this

article.

Exemptions from security.

Amended by:
VII.1880.9;
IX.1886.42;
XV.1913.76;
XXIV.1995.128.

250. The security referred to in the last preceding article shall not be required in the cases referred to in articles 42 and 172, or in the case of an appeal from a judgment disallowing a demand for the benefit of the juratory caution, or in the case of any demand for admission to the benefit of juratory caution, or in the case of other collateral demands.

Times mentioned in article 226 to be peremptory.

Amended by:
IX.1886.44;
XV.1913.77;
XXIV.1995.129.

251. Subject to the provisions of article 143, the times prescribed in article 226 are peremptory.

Title VII

OF THE ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGMENTS AND OTHER EXECUTIVE TITLES

Sub-title I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Amended by:
IX.1886.45.

Added by:
XXXI.2002.84.

Mode of enforcement of executive title.

Added by:
IX.1886.46.
Substituted by:
XII.1985.7.

252. Saving any other provision of the law in respect of warrants *in factum*, execution by any of the means mentioned in article 273 may be issued only in virtue of an executive title.

Executive titles.

Added by:
IX.1886.46.
Amended by:
XV.1983.3;
II.1996.78;
XVIII.1999.33;
XXXI.2002.85;
IX.2004.7;
XVIII.2004.113;
IX.2010.31;
VI.2011.180;
III.2014.7;
IV.2016.11;
XVI.2016.34;
XXVIII.2019.36.

253. The following are executive titles:

- (a) judgments and decrees of the courts of justice of Malta;
- (b) contracts received before a notary public in Malta, or before any other public officer authorised to receive the same where the contract is in respect of a debt certain, liquidated and due, and not consisting in the performance of an act;
- (c) taxed bills of judicial fees and disbursements, issued in favour of the Registrar, any advocate, legal procurator, notary public, perit, judicial referee or witness, unless such taxed bills are impugned according to law;
- (d) awards of arbitrators registered with the Malta Arbitration Centre;
- (e) bills of exchange and promissory notes issued in terms of the [Commercial Code](#):

Provided that the court which is competent according to the value of the bill of exchange or promissory note may, by decree which shall not be subject to appeal, suspend the execution of such a bill of exchange or promissory note in whole or in part and with or without security, upon an application of the person opposing the execution of such bill of exchange or promissory note, to be filed within twenty days from the service of the judicial letter sent for the purpose of rendering the same bill of exchange or promissory note executable, on the grounds that the signature on the said bill of exchange or promissory note is not that of the said person or of his mandatory or where such person brings forward grave and valid reasons to oppose the said execution and in such case any person demanding the payment of the bill of exchange or promissory note shall file an action according to the provisions of the [Commercial Code](#).

Cap. 13.

The judicial letter referred to above in this proviso shall, under pain of nullity, notify the debtor of the right given to him by this proviso;

- (f) mediation agreements made enforceable by the parties thereto in accordance with the provisions of the [Mediation Act](#);
- (g) decisions of the Consumer Claims Tribunal;
- (h) decisions and awards of the Arbiter for Financial Services in accordance with the provisions of the [Arbiter for Financial Services Act](#).
- (i) Decisions of the Adjudicating Panel for Private Residential Leases.

Cap. 474.

Cap. 555.

254. *Repealed by:* [XII.1985.8](#).

Judgments ordering release from imprisonment for debt to be enforceable immediately.

255. The following may be enforced after the lapse of twenty-four hours from delivery:

- (a) any judgment on any collateral issue or any interlocutory decree, provided the time for enforcement is not stated in the judgment or decree itself;
- (b) any judgment rescinding a warrant of impediment of departure of any ship, or rescinding any warrant of seizure or any garnishee order relating to ships or merchandise;
- (c) any judgment ordering the supply of maintenance;
- (d) any award of an arbitrator in accordance with the [Arbitration Act](#).

Judgments enforceable after twenty-four hours.

Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.130](#);
[XXXI.2002.86](#).

Cap. 387.

All other judgments to be enforceable after two days from delivery.
Amended by:
[*IX.1886.47.*](#)

Other executive titles to be enforceable after two days from judicial intimation.

Power of court to abridge time for enforcement of judgments.

Procedure for enforcement of executive titles.
Amended by:
[*IX.1886.48.*](#)
Substituted by:
[*XXII.1963.2;*](#)
[*XXIV.1995.131;*](#)
[*VII.2007.21.*](#)
Amended by:
[*XII.2009.4;*](#)
[*IV.2016.12.*](#)

Procedure for enforcement of executive title where debtor is dead.
Amended by:
[*IX.1886.48;*](#)
[*XXIV.1995.132.*](#)

256. (1) Any other definitive judgment which does not contain any suspensive condition, and which condemns a debtor to pay a liquidated sum, or to deliver up or surrender a specific thing, or to perform or fulfil any specific act or obligation whatsoever, may be enforced after two days from the day of its delivery.

(2) The enforcement of any other executive title may only take place after the lapse of at least two days from the service of an intimation for payment made by means of a judicial act.

257. The court may, on grounds of urgency, order the enforcement of any judgment even before the expiration of the times referred to in the last two preceding articles. The order for such enforcement may be made in the judgment itself.

258. Where -

- (a) a period of fifteen years has expired since the day on which according to law an executive title mentioned in paragraphs (a), (c) and (d) of article 253, in respect of judgments and decrees of the Superior Courts could have been enforced; or
- (b) a period of ten years has expired since the day on which according to law an executive title mentioned in paragraphs (a), (c) and (d) of article 253, in respect of judgments and decrees of the Inferior Courts or of the Small Claims Tribunal could have been enforced; or
- (c) a period of five years has expired since the day on which according to law an executive title mentioned in paragraphs (b) and (e) of article 253, or in respect of proceedings taken under article 166A could have been enforced,

the enforcement may only be proceeded with upon a demand to be made by an application filed before the competent court. The applicant shall also confirm on oath the nature of the debt or claim sought to be enforced, and that the debt or part thereof is still due.

259. (1) The demand by application mentioned in the last preceding article shall in all cases be necessary where it is sought to enforce an executive title against the heirs of the debtor, even though the period referred to in the said article shall not have elapsed.

(2) If there be no known heir, or if the heir has not as yet declared his intention as to the acceptance of the inheritance, a curator shall be appointed to represent the inheritance, and execution proceedings shall be taken against such curator.

(3) The time allowed to deliberate upon the acceptance of the inheritance shall not operate as a stay of the execution proceedings.

(4) The heirs, successors or assignees of the creditor may, by application served on the debtor, his successors or assignees, request the court to enforce any executive title in the name of the creditor even though the period referred to in the previous article shall not have elapsed. Such request shall be allowed by the court if

it is satisfied that:

- (a) the applicants are the sole heirs, successors or assignees of the creditor;
- (b) the executive title is still valid for what is being claimed; and
- (c) the persons against whom enforcement is sought are the debtor, or his heirs, successors or assignees.

260. Saving the provisions of article 353, the enforcement of any of the executive titles referred to in article 253, may be carried out on the movable as well as on the immovable property of the debtor, as the creditor shall state.

Executive titles to be enforceable on movable and immovable property of debtor.
Amended by:
[IX.1886.50.](#)

261. Any creditor of the same person under more than one executive title within the jurisdiction of the same court, may enforce such executive titles jointly in respect of all the claims due.

Joint enforcement of executive titles.
Amended by:
[IX.1886.51.](#)

262. The receipt of any payment on account of the debt, or the fulfilment of or the release from any part of the claim, shall not operate as a waiver of execution in respect of that part of the debt or claim as yet unpaid or unfulfilled, unless the contrary be made to appear.

Payment or fulfilment in part of debt or claim not to operate as waiver of execution.
Amended by:
[IX.1886.52.](#)

263. (1) It shall be lawful for the creditor of a creditor, by sworn application, to enforce or prosecute the enforcement of the title which his debtor was entitled to enforce.

Enforcement by creditor of creditor.
Amended by:
[IX.1886.53;](#)
[XXII.2005.41.](#)

(2) The sworn application shall be served on the debtor against whom enforcement is sought and on his creditor.

264. (1) Save as otherwise provided in this Code, judgments are enforceable by the court by which they are delivered, even though the execution is to take place beyond the limits of the local jurisdiction of such court.

By which court executive titles are enforceable.
Amended by:
[IX.1886.54.](#)

(2) Any other executive title mentioned in article 253 is enforceable by the court competent to take cognizance of the subject-matter thereof.

265. In cases of appeals, the judgement shall be enforceable by the court of first instance independently of whether the Court of Appeal confirms, varies or reverses the judgement of the court of first instance.

Enforcement of judgment of appellate court.
Amended by:
[IX.1886.55;](#)
[XV.1913.78.](#)
Substituted by:
[XXXI.2002.88.](#)

266. (1) Except in the cases mentioned in article 267, a judgment which does not constitute a *res judicata* shall not be enforceable unless, on the demand of the interested party, such judgment has been declared by the court to be provisionally enforceable.

Provisional enforcement of judgments by order of the court.
Substituted by:
[XXII.1963.3.](#)

(2) Such demand shall be made by means of an application which shall be served on the opposite party who shall be entitled to

file an answer thereto within two working days.

(3) The court of first instance shall, after summarily hearing the parties, dispose of the application as soon as may be after the filing thereof:

Provided that -

- (a) if the application is filed before the delivery of the judgment, the court of first instance shall dispose of the application as soon as may be after such judgment is delivered; and
- (b) if, on appeal from the judgment of the court of first instance, the lodging of the record of the proceedings before the appellate court takes place prior to the disposal of the application by the court of the first instance, such application shall be dealt with and disposed of by the appellate court, and, in any such case, if the answer to the application has not been filed prior to such lodging, it shall be filed in the appellate court.

(4) Where the court of first instance has declared a judgment to be provisionally enforceable, the appellate court may, at any time before delivering judgment, on the application of the interested party, confirm, vary or revoke the decision.

(5) The provisions of sub-article (2) shall apply to any application filed under the last foregoing sub-article.

(6) Where a demand for a declaration under sub-article (1) is not made to the court of first instance, such demand may be made to the appellate court at any time prior to the delivery of the judgment on appeal.

(7) The court shall declare the judgment to be provisionally enforceable if it is satisfied that delay in the execution of the judgment is likely to cause greater prejudice to the party demanding a declaration under sub-article (1) than such execution would cause to the opposite party.

(8) The party against whom execution of a judgment declared provisionally enforceable under this article is sued out, shall, in case of reversal or variation of such judgment, be entitled to damages and interest.

(9) The court before which the record of the proceedings relating to a judgment declared provisionally enforceable under this article is for the time being lodged, may at any time order the party entitled to the execution of such judgment to give to the opposite party sufficient security for the payment of the damages and interest which may become due under sub-article (8).

(10) Where a judgment has been declared provisionally enforceable under this article, its execution shall be stayed if the interested party gives sufficient security for the execution of the judgment on its becoming *res judicata*, including, where the matter refers to the payment of moneys, security for the payment of

interest, and, where the matter refers to other things, security to make good any damage which may be caused thereto through his negligence or fault and to restore any fruits derived therefrom.

(11) If any question arises as to the sufficiency of the security tendered under sub-article (10), the court may give such directions as it may deem proper as to whether the execution of the judgment should be suspended until such question is decided by another judgment constituting a *res judicata*.

(12) In this article the expression "court of first instance" shall be construed as if it included a reference to the Rent Regulation Board.

267. The following shall be in all cases provisionally enforceable:

- (a) any judgment referred to in article 255(c);
- (b) any judgment providing redress against infringement of the individual's right to life or providing remedies against illegal arrest or forced labour; and
- (c) any interlocutory decree.

Provisional enforcement by operation of law.
Substituted by:
XXII.1963.4.
Amended by:
XXIV.1995.133.

268. The provisions of articles 255, 256 and 257 shall apply to any provisional enforcement.

Other articles applicable to provisional enforcement.
Substituted by:
XXII.1963.5.
Amended by:
XXIV.1995.134.

269. An appeal from a judgment authorizing the enforcement of another judgment, shall in no case operate as a stay of execution of such other judgment.

Appeal from judgment authorizing enforcement of other judgment, etc.
Amended by:
XXII.1963.7.

270. The Director of the Public Registry shall not receive any note of reference resulting from a judgment relating to any hypothecary registration unless an authentic copy of the judgment together with a certificate from the registrar that no appeal against such judgment has been entered and that the time for entering an appeal has elapsed or that the judgment is not subject to appeal, as the case may be, are delivered to the said registry with the aforementioned note:

Condition for registration in Public Registry of notes of reference deriving from a judgment.
Added by:
IX.1886.56.
Substituted by:
XXIV.1995.135.

Provided that the foregoing shall not apply where the Director of the Public Registry is party to the suit, in which case he shall take the necessary steps as aforesaid as soon as the judgment has become a *res judicata*.

271. It shall be lawful for a litigant to sue out execution of such heads of a judgment as are in his favour, notwithstanding an appeal from such heads as are against him.

Enforcement of part of judgment notwithstanding appeal from another part.

Power of the court in the execution of titles.

Substituted by:
[XXXI.2002.89.](#)

Executive acts.

Amended by:
[IX.1886.57, 58;](#)
[XII.1985.9.](#)

Substituted by:
[XIV.2006.4.](#)

Amended by:
[VII.2007.35;](#)
[VIII.2010.61;](#)
[XXXVII.2021.38.](#)

272. In the absence of an express provision of law to the contrary, the court may, in the course of the execution of an executive title, on the application of the court executive officer, or the parties, or any other interested person, without delaying such execution, adopt such measures as it may deem necessary in order to safeguard the rights of the parties.

273. The executive titles mentioned in article 253 may, according to circumstances, be enforced by any of the following executive acts:

- (a) warrant of seizure of movable property;
- (b) warrant of seizure of immovable property;
- (c) warrant of seizure of a commercial going concern;
- (d) judicial sale by auction of movable or of immovable property or of rights annexed to immovable property;
- (e) executive garnishee order;
- (f) warrant of ejection or eviction from immovable property;
- (g) warrant *in factum*;
- (h) warrant of arrest of sea vessels;
- (i) warrant of arrest of aircraft;
- (j) warrant *in procinctu*;
- (k) warrant of ejection or expulsion from seagoing vessels or aircraft.

Preparation and issue of executive warrants.

Amended by:
[XV.1913.79;](#)
[XXIX.1939.2;](#)
[L.N. 4 of 1963;](#)
[XXXI.1966.2;](#)
[XIV.1980.4;](#)
[XXIV.1995.136;](#)
[XXXI.2002.91;](#)
[XIV.2006.5.](#)

274. (1) Any of the warrants or the order mentioned in the last preceding article is issued by the court on the demand of the party suing out execution:

Provided that where in the opinion of the registrar the signature of the judge or magistrate empowered to issue a warrant of seizure of movable property or an executive garnishee order, cannot be obtained within a reasonable time and that delay may be prejudicial, the said warrant or order may be issued over the signature of the registrar personally after having first obtained verbal authorisation from the judge or magistrate to do so, the judge or magistrate shall append his own signature under that of the registrar at the earliest opportunity as proof that the said authority had been given or, if it is not possible for the registrar to obtain such authorisation, the registrar shall issue the said warrant or order over his signature subject to the ratification of such action by a judge or magistrate as soon as possible and no action shall be available to impugn the regularity of such warrant or order on the grounds that the warrant or order could have been issued over the signature of a judge or a magistrate, as the case may be.

(2) The demand for the issue of the warrant or order shall be made by application, and such application shall indicate the sum and, or the article due in virtue of the title, and also such remedies and, or provisions that are being demanded.

(3) Where the executive title be other than a judgment of the court to which the demand is made, a copy of such title and of the

act containing the intimation, where such intimation is required under article 256, shall be filed together with the demand.

(4) If by the same warrant or order it is sought to recover also judicial costs, the amount thereof shall be stated in the demand and the taxed bill of such costs shall be attached thereto.

275. (1) The court executing officer may, in connection with the execution of any warrant committed to him, after calling in two witnesses, exercise all such powers as are reasonably required of him to execute the warrant, which includes the breaking open of any outer or inner door as well as any box or other thing in which there might be effects liable to seizure, saving the exceptions laid down in this Code.

Powers of
executing officer.
Amended by:
XI.1859.14;
L.N. 148 of 1975.
Re-numbered and
amended by:
[*XIV.2006.6.*](#)

(2) In the case of any warrant for the seizure of any property of the Government of Malta, the court executing officer shall not execute such warrant before the lapse of four working days from the day on which he shall have communicated in writing the issue of such warrant to the officer charged with the custody or care of such property.

Previous notice in
case of warrants
for seizure of
Government
property.

(3) The Prime Minister may from time to time by regulations establish a list of property pertaining to the State which may not be the subject of an executive or a precautionary warrant.

276. No opposition to the execution of any warrant or garnishee order shall be considered until the execution has been effected.

No opposition to
the execution of
warrants.
Re-numbered by:
[*XIV.2006.7.*](#)

277. (1) Saving the exceptions laid down in this Code, no warrant or garnishee order may be executed other than during such time as may be prescribed by the Minister responsible for justice by regulations made under this article.

Time for execution
of warrants and
orders.
Amended by:
IX.1886.62;
XIX.1965.13;
[*XXIV.1995.138.*](#)
Re-numbered and
substituted by:
[*XIV.2006.8.*](#)

(2) Regulations made under this article may also provide for such cases in which the execution of a warrant or an order is allowed to take place other than during the prescribed time, the method of execution and the statements which have to be included in the certificate of service:

Provided that, for reasons of urgency to be confirmed on oath by the applicant, the court may allow the execution of any warrant or order other than during the prescribed time.

278. (1) The court executing officer shall deliver a copy of the warrant or order at the first available opportunity to the party against whom it is issued, or to his lawful representative.

Service of copy of
warrant on party
against whom it is
issued.
Amended by:
IX.1886.63;
XIX.1965.14;
[*XIV.2006.9.*](#)

(2) Unless the court shall otherwise direct, or unless otherwise prescribed by the Minister responsible for justice as prescribed in article 277(2), the court executive officer shall execute the warrant or order without delay, and, on the execution thereof, he shall return it to the registrar together with a certificate stating whether

Warrant to be
executed without
delay.

the warrant or order was executed: in the affirmative, the certificate shall also state the details of the execution, and in the negative, the reason why the execution was not effected.

Damage in case of nullity of warrant or its execution.

Amended by:
[XIV.2006.10.](#)

279. The nullity of any warrant or order or of the execution thereof shall entitle the party against whom the warrant or order is issued to an action for damages and interest against the person suing out execution if the nullity arises out of any act of such person, or against the court executing officer who executed the warrant or order if the nullity arises out of any act of the court executing officer.

Duty of notary to give notice to registrar of the publication of a deed ordered by a judgment.

Added by:
[XV.1913.80.](#)
Amended by:
[XI.1977.2;](#)
[XIII.1983.5;](#)
[XXIV.1995.139;](#)
[L.N. 407 of 407.](#)
Re-numbered by:
[XIV.2006.11.](#)

280. (1) Any notary before whom any deed under a judgment is received shall, within fifteen days, and on pain of a penalty not exceeding forty-six euro and fifty-nine cents (46.59), or such greater sum not being more than two hundred and thirty-two euro and ninety-four cents (232.94) as the Minister responsible for justice may from time to time by order in the Gazette establish, to be awarded by the court and enforceable as a civil debt give notice to the registrar of the publication of such deed.

(2) The registrar shall make an entry of such notice at the foot or in the margin of the judgment and shall, on request, deliver to the notary a certificate that the notice has been given.

How executive acts may be impugned.

Added by:
[XXIV.1995.140.](#)
Amended by:
[IV.1996.5.](#)
Re-numbered and substituted by:
[XIV.2006.12.](#)

281. (1) Without prejudice to any other right under this or any other law, the person against whom an executive act has been issued or any other person who has an interest may make an application, containing all desired submissions together with all documents sustaining such application, to the court issuing the executive act praying that the executive act be revoked, either totally or partially, for any reason valid at law.

(2) The application shall be served on the opponent who shall, within ten days, file a reply containing all submissions which such opposite party may wish to make together with all documents sustaining the reply which are within its ability to file:

Provided that the court may, in urgent cases, reduce the period referred to in this sub-article. In default of such opposition the court shall accede to the demand.

(3) The court shall decide on the application after hearing the parties and receiving such evidence as it may deem fit, if it so considers, within a period not later than one month from the filing of the said application.

Appeal from decree.

(4) An appeal from a decree delivered under sub-article (3) may be entered by application within six days from the date on which the decree is read out in open court. The Court of Appeal shall appoint such appeal for hearing within one month from the date when the decree is read out in open court, and the appeal shall be decided within three months from the date when it has been appointed for hearing.

(5) The security referred to in article 249 shall not be required in the cases referred to in the previous sub-article.

Sub-title I

OF THE WARRANT OF SEIZURE OF MOVABLE PROPERTY

282. The warrant for the seizure of movable property shall, besides the particulars stated in article 274, contain Court orders about:

Warrant of seizure on movable property.

Added by:

[*XIV.2006.14.*](#)

Amended by:

[*XII.2009.23.*](#)

- (a) (i) the appointment of the day, place and time for the judicial sale by auction and the subsequent seizure and removal thereupon of all such articles from the place which has been indicated by the creditor or from the person of the debtor; or
- (ii) the seizure from the place indicated by the creditor, including from the person of the debtor, of any such article which the debtor may possess or such article or articles as may be mentioned in the warrant; and also that after the execution of the warrant, the court executing officer shall be ordered to fix, together with the advocate or the legal procurator of the creditor, the day when the judicial sale by auction is to be held in consultation with the executing officer responsible therefor, and such executing officer shall also fix with the creditor the date, which shall at least be seven days prior to the date of the judicial sale by auction, when the removal of the articles which the executing creditor selects to have removed shall take place;
- (b) the execution of the warrant, if so required, after legal hours or on a Sunday or public holiday, and if after two attempts to execute the warrant the court executing officer fails to effect such execution, he shall be authorised to force open the place;
- (c) the transport of the property seized and to be removed to the storage places indicated by the consignee, and about the transfer of their possession from the debtor to the consignee;
- (d) the appointment of a consignee and the taxing and receipt of payment due to the consignee by the creditor for such period during which the articles seized and to be removed would be under the care of the consignee, so however that such payment may be divided in proportion to the periods established by the Registrar depending on the nature of the articles seized and to be removed. Such payment is made subject to the right of regress against the debtor when such right exists;
- (e) the appointment of experts to make a valuation of the property seized, if so required by law, either in special circumstances which the court may deem appropriate, or on the demand of any interested party or of the debtor;

Cap. 342.	<p>(f) the appointment of an auctioneer who shall receive a fee in terms of the Auctioneers Act, if so required by law;</p> <p>(g) an order for the judicial sale by auction of such articles as are seized and to be removed on the appointed day in terms of regulations to be made by the Minister responsible for justice, without further service of any notice to the debtor.</p>
<p>Description of property seized. <i>Added by:</i> XIV.2006.14. <i>Amended by:</i> XII.2009.23.</p>	<p>283.(1)(a)The court executing officer shall attach to the said warrant a detailed description of the property seized.</p> <p>(b) The creditor or the debtor or any interested party may demand the court executing officer to take any photograph or filmshot of the detained articles either by electronic or by any other means at the expense of the party making the demand.</p>
<p>Contents of certificate in case of unsuccessful execution.</p>	<p>(2) If the court executing officer finds no movable property, or finds only such property as is not liable to seizure, he shall make a certificate to that effect, stating therein the nature of the movable property, if any, not liable to seizure, and he shall attach such certificate to the warrant.</p>
<p>Payment of the amount due. <i>Added by:</i> XIV.2006.14. <i>Amended by:</i> XII.2009.23.</p>	<p>284. (1) When a warrant of seizure is being executed, it is only the full amount claimed by the creditor that may be paid by the debtor to the court executing officer.</p> <p>(2) The court executing officer shall describe in detail the property seized and -</p> <p>(a) where the property includes any merchandise, he shall cause such merchandise to be weighed, measured or gauged, as the case may be;</p> <p>(b) where money or securities for money, jewellery, or articles of precious metal are seized, he shall accurately state the amount or nominal value or weight thereof and he shall within the shortest time possible take the same to the registry and lodge them therein by means of a schedule;</p> <p>(c) where papers are seized, he shall seal them and deliver them to the Registrar, and such seals may not be removed except by the authority of the court.</p>
<p>Seizure of other movable property. <i>Added by:</i> XIV.2006.14. <i>Substituted by:</i> XII.2009.23. <i>Amended by:</i> V.2010.3.</p>	<p>285. (1) Seizure may be effected on any movable property including:</p> <p>(a) shares in commercial partnerships;</p> <p>(b) licences issued by any competent authority as may be established by regulations made by the Minister responsible for justice;</p> <p>(c) insurance policies;</p> <p>(d) credit securities and any intellectual or industrial property right:</p>

Provided that on such property the warrant shall have effect as from the date of the service on such authority or such person who would have issued such movable property. Any transfer made or burthen incumbent on such property after that date shall be *ipso jure* null as from the date of the service of the certificate of seizure to such person or authority issuing same:

Provided further that, in respect of any shares or securities registered at a central securities depository, as defined in terms of article 2 of the [Financial Markets Act](#), a warrant of seizure shall also be served on such central securities depository and shall take effect only if no transfer order or netting affecting the said shares or securities shall have been entered in a securities settlement system, authorized in terms of article 34 of the [Central Bank of Malta Act](#), prior to the service of the warrant to the depository.

Cap. 345.

Cap. 204.

(2) Where in any commercial partnership its statute attributes any right of preference with regard to the transfer of shares, the shareholders shall be informed of the date when such sale is due to take place and they may exercise the said right during that sale.

(3) When the judicial sale by auction of an insurance policy is due to take place, notice shall be given to the insurance company of the date of such sale.

286. (1) Such property as is removed from the possession of the debtor, in terms of article 282(1)(c) subject to the provisions of article 293, shall be transferred forthwith to be retained in the hands of the consignee in the presence of the court executing officer, and the consignee shall receive and hold such property in a storage place authorised by the Registrar until such time as that property is sold or the consignee is ordered to do otherwise.

Consignee.
Added by:
[XIV.2006.14](#).
Amended by:
[XII.2009.23](#).

(2) The consignee shall issue a receipt, to be signed by him, for such property as would have been seized and removed from the possession of the debtor and which he would have received:

Provided that the consignee may, with the written consent of the Registrar, retain such property in any place other than the official storage place in such circumstances where, due to the nature or the size of the articles seized, it would not be feasible to dispose otherwise.

287. A consignee may not be appointed under this Title when he is either:

- (a) the execution creditor;
- (b) the spouse of the debtor or of the creditor;
- (c) any one of the parents, the creditor, his daughter or son, or his brother or sister, his uncle or aunt, any one of the parents of his spouse or any one of the spouses of his children;
- (d) directly or indirectly employed with the creditor;
- (e) the person who claims to be the owner of the property seized.

Persons who may
not act as
consignees.
Added by:
[XIV.2006.14](#).
Amended by:
[XII.2009.23](#);
[XXIII.2017.20](#).

Attendance of the consignee.

Added by:
[XIV.2006.14.](#)
Amended by:
[XII.2009.23.](#)

Consignee to preserve property seized.

Added by:
[XIV.2006.14.](#)
Amended by:
[XII.2009.23.](#)

The consignee to act as a *bonus paterfamilias*.

Added by:
[XIV.2006.14.](#)
Amended by:
[XII.2009.23.](#)

Other creditors may not oppose execution.

Added by:
[XIV.2006.14.](#)
Amended by:
[XII.2009.23.](#)

No identification is to be made of property already seized.

Added by:
[XIV.2006.14.](#)
Amended by:
[XII.2009.23.](#)

The warrant may be executed on new articles other than those already seized.

288. At the time of execution of the warrant of seizure under article 282, the consignee shall attend together with the court executing officer to execute the warrant. The court executing officer may seize and remove property without informing the creditor.

289. (1) The consignee shall be responsible for the proper preservation of the property entrusted to him and he shall not use, nor shall he allow any person to use, such property unless otherwise ordered by the court:

Provided that the debtor may be allowed to use or retain in possession such articles of the property seized as the court may authorise if the court considers that such articles are normally required by an average household for decent living to maintain the human dignity of the debtor and his family.

(2) Where the property seized is of a perishable nature, the Registrar shall, without further authorisation, sell the goods seized and with the profit made from that sale, he shall proceed according to the provisions of article 284.

290. The consignee is bound to exercise for the safe keeping of the property seized, such care as is exercised by a *bonus paterfamilias*; if the consignee fails to present such property when called upon to do so, the court shall order him to appear before it to explain his failure to do so; the consignee shall be responsible for damages and interest and the court, after examining the circumstances of the case, may issue such orders as appear to be appropriate, including the personal arrest of the consignee for a period not exceeding three months, to compel him to present such property. The failure of the consignee to present such property when ordered by the court shall of itself constitute contempt of court in terms of the applicable provisions under this Code.

291. The creditors of any person, whose property has been seized, may not, for any cause whatsoever, make any opposition to the execution of the warrant or to the sale of the property:

Provided that it shall be lawful for such creditors to enforce their claim on the proceeds of the sale of the property seized.

292. (1) If, when executing a warrant of seizure, the court executing officer finds that another warrant has already taken place and that the articles have not been removed, he shall likewise execute the warrant again at the place indicated to him by the creditor. Identification of the property so seized shall no longer be permitted. The court executing officer shall, at the creditor's expense, inform the creditors that on their demand other warrants had been executed by means of the first warrant.

(2) When a consignee has already been appointed, and the articles have been removed, no other warrant may be executed on such articles.

293. (1) The property mentioned hereunder is not subject to seizure:

Property not subject to seizure.

Added by:

[XIV.2006.14.](#)

Amended by:

[XII.2009.23;](#)

[XXIII.2017.21.](#)

- (a) such clothes for daily wear, bedding and such utensils and furniture as are considered reasonably necessary for the decent living of the debtor and his family;
- (b) personal documents and books relating to the profession of the debtor, of the debtor's spouse or of the debtor's children;
- (c) the registers and minute-books of notaries public;
- (d) tools and implements necessary for the instruction in or the exercise of any science or of any art of the debtor, of the debtor's spouse or of the debtor's children;
- (e) animals and tools required for agriculture and any fruit either cut or not yet separated from the ground;
- (f) aircraft, exclusively appropriated to a state service, including the postal service, but excluding commercial service;
- (g) sea vessels wholly chartered in the service of the Government of Malta;
- (h) sacred vestments and vessels which are used in a consecrated church, or belonging to a priest, a religious order or any member thereof;
- (i) any property of any member of the Police Force or of the Armed Forces of Malta being arms, ammunition, equipment, instruments or clothing used by him in the discharge of his duties:

Provided that any such property as is mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (g) may be seized -

- (i) if the execution is demanded in respect of the price of such property;
- (ii) if the execution is demanded in respect of rent or ground-rent of the tenement in which such property is kept;
- (iii) if the executive title by virtue of which the warrant has been issued specifically condemns the debtor to effect the return of such property.

(2) The seizure may be effected of unseparated movable property belonging to both debtor and a third party, insofar as no sale of such property may take place except after their separation.

(articles 294 to 304 were deleted by [XIV.2006.13.](#)).

304A. The procedure for the sale of movable property shall follow the same procedure, *mutatis mutandis*, as that referred to in article 305.

Procedure for the sale of movable property.

Added by:

[XII.2009.5.](#)

Sub-title II

OF THE WARRANT OF SEIZURE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Form of demand
by application.

Amended by:

IX.1886.67;

XV.1913.82;

XI.1984.2;

VIII.1990.3;

XXIV.1995.145.

Revoked by:

XIV.2006.16.

Added by:

XIV.2006.15.

Re-numbered by:

VII.2007.30.

Amended by:

XV.2008.22.

305. (1) The demand for the seizure of immovable property is made by an application.

(2) The application shall contain a detailed description of the property of which the sale by auction is demanded, including the mode in which the property has been acquired and any burthen attached to the same land and a plan clearly indicating the site:

Provided that the provisions of this article apply to ships or other vessels exceeding ten metres in length and such articles shall also be described in detail, including any rights and encumbrances thereon; and an appraisal shall only be made if required by the creditor or by the debtor.

(3) In the event of a decree as provided in the proviso to sub-article (2), the procedure to be followed shall be that laid down in this Sub-title for the judicial sale by auction of immovable property.

Duties of the court.

Amended by:

IX.1886.68;

XV.1913.83;

XXXI.1934.40;

IX.2004.8.

Revoked by:

XIV.2006.16.

Added by:

XIV.2006.15.

Re-numbered by:

VII.2007.30.

Amended by:

XII.2009.6.

306. (1) In the court decree ordering the issue of a warrant of seizure of immovable property, the court shall:

- (a) order the Registrar to appoint experts in terms of article 89 as may be required and to fix a short and peremptory time within which such appraisments have to be filed and give any such order as may be necessary for the better execution of such appointment;
- (b) appoint a day, time and place for the judicial sale;
- (c) order the Registrar to inform the Director of the Public Registry and the Registrar of Lands or any competent authority which may be appointed according to regulations made by the Minister responsible for justice, about the issuing of the decree on the first working day thereafter;
- (d) order the Registrar of the Public Registry to register forthwith the decree in a book kept for the purpose at the Public Registry, which book shall be accessible to the public; and
- (e) appoint a public auctioneer who shall receive a fee in terms of regulations made by the Minister under this article.

(2) Such decree shall be served on the debtor.

307. (1) Within twenty days from the time notice of the court decree is served on the debtor, he may file a separate appraisalment and demand that a new appraisalment need not be effected, provided that such appraisalment be a sworn appraisalment.

(2) The sworn appraisalment filed by the debtor shall, within twenty days, be served on the creditor who shall then have twenty days to lodge an opposition to it.

(3) When a creditor lodges such opposition to the appraisalment filed by the debtor, the court shall, after hearing both parties, decide whether it shall appoint a new expert or not.

(4) An appraisalment of the property to be sold shall always be made before the sale takes place provided that if an appraisalment, made not earlier than twelve months before the judgement that is being executed, has been accepted by the court in its judgement, the court shall take cognizance of such appraisalment and it shall not appoint new experts to effect a new appraisalment.

308. (1) The expert shall always be appointed by the court *ex officio*, according to the panel established in article 89 and on a rota system, unless the parties shall have already filed a note submitting the name of an expert agreed on between them, or the appraisalment filed in terms of article 307 has been accepted.

(2) The expert shall draft a valuation of the property together with a detailed description thereof, including encumbrances and burthens, and file same under oath with the Registrar.

(3) The debtor shall under oath give such information relating to the property as may be required by the Registrar or by the experts, and the provisions relating to evidence shall apply to the debtor.

(4) The appraisalment may not be contested but the court may, by way of an application, order the correction of any mistake made in the description or appraisalment.

(5) The expert appointed under this Title shall be remunerated in terms of a tariff to be established according to regulations made by the Minister responsible for justice.

309. In any appraisalment of gold or silver articles, the expert shall state separately the intrinsic value thereof and the cost of manufacture, as well as the total.

Appraisalment by debtor.

Amended by:

[IV.1994.2;](#)

[XI.1984.3;](#)

[XXIV.1995.146.](#)

Revoked by:

[XIV.2006.16.](#)

Added by:

[XIV.2006.15.](#)

Re-numbered by:

[VII.2007.30.](#)

Amended by:

[XII.2009.7.](#)

Expert to be appointed by court, unless agreed on by parties.

Amended by:

[XXIV.1995.147.](#)

Revoked by:

[XIV.2006.16.](#)

Added by:

[XIV.2006.15.](#)

Re-numbered by:

[VII.2007.30.](#)

Appraisalment of gold or silver articles to show intrinsic value, etc.

Revoked by:

[XIV.2006.16.](#)

Added by:

[XIV.2006.15.](#)

Re-numbered by:

[VII.2007.30.](#)

Valuation of immovable property to contain description of property, etc.

Amended by:
[XXXI.1934.41](#);
[XXIV.1995.148](#).

Revoked by:
[XIV.2006.16](#).

Added by:
[XIV.2006.15](#).

Re-numbered by:
[VII.2007.30](#).

Amended by:
[IV.2016.13](#).

310. (1) In the valuation of immovable property, the experts shall include a description of the property stating the burdens, leases and other rights whether real or personal, if any, to which the property is subject, as well as the last transfer of such property according to the information obtained from the creditor or from the debtor and such description shall include the following:

- (a) an indication of the area and height of the property subject to judicial sale;
- (b) a plan or a sketch which shows the number of rooms constituting the property and their size;
- (c) a report as to whether the property is built in line with building permits and sanitary rules;
- (d) a copy of the deed of acquisition; and
- (e) a declaration as to whether the place is inhabited or occupied by third parties, and under which title it is so occupied:

Provided that if the occupier, when so requested by the expert to give the information referred to in paragraph (e), fails to do so, the expert shall include a declaration to that effect in his report:

Provided further that if the Court is satisfied that the occupier failed to give the information referred to in the first proviso without just cause, the Court may find the occupier to be in contempt of court and he shall be liable on conviction to a punishment consisting of a fine (multa) of not less than two hundred euro (€200) and not more than one thousand euro (€1,000)

Debtor may be compelled to give information required for the purposes of the valuation.

(2) It shall be lawful, at the written or verbal request of the expert or the creditor, to compel the debtor to confirm on oath, to be administered by the court or the registrar, the information given to or required by the expert.

Debtor to be called upon by letter from registrar.

(3) The debtor shall be called upon to give the above information by means of a letter from the registrar.

Applicability to debtor of provisions relating to witnesses.

(4) The provisions relating to witnesses shall apply to any debtor called upon as aforesaid.

Valuation or appraisal to be sworn by expert.

Amended by:
[X.1856.5](#);
[VI.1880.23](#);

[VIII.1990.3](#);
[XXIV.1995.149](#).

Revoked by:
[XIV.2006.16](#).

Added by:
[XIV.2006.15](#).

Re-numbered by:
[VII.2007.30](#).

311. (1) The report containing the valuation or appraisal shall be filed by the expert within the time allowed in the decree of the court according to circumstances, and be sworn by him in the presence of the Registrar.

(2) Where a sale by auction of immovable property or of rights annexed to immovable property situated in the Island of Gozo or of Comino, is ordered by any of the superior courts, it shall be lawful for such court to order the expert to swear his report at the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) in the presence of any of the officers mentioned in article 57(2)(a) to (c), and to deliver the said report, so sworn, to the said officer, to be by him transmitted to the superior court which made the aforesaid order.

(3) When a sale by auction of immovable property or of rights

annexed to immovable property situated in the Island of Malta, is ordered by the Court of Magistrates (Gozo), it shall be lawful for such court to order the expert to swear his report in the presence of the Registrar and to deliver the said report, so sworn, to the said Registrar, to be by him transmitted to the Court of Magistrates (Gozo).

(4) The fee payable to the expert shall be taxed by the Registrar, subject to appeal to the court. Such appeal shall be made by application by any interested party within one month from the service of the taxed fee. Such fee shall always be paid by the creditor, saving his right against the debtor for the reimbursement of such fee together with the other expenses of the sale:

Taxation and payment of expert's fee.

Provided that when an appeal is lodged, the creditor shall deposit the fee taxed by the Registrar and the proceedings for sale shall be further proceeded with and brought to a conclusion.

Sub-title III

OF THE WARRANT OF SEIZURE OF A COMMERCIAL GOING CONCERN

312. The movable or immovable property or the going concerns which are seized from the possession of the debtor, shall be sold by public auction according to the provisions of this Title.

Sale by auction of movable or immovable property and going concerns.

Amended by:

IX.1886.69;

[XXIV.1995.150.](#)

Revoked by:

[XIV.2006.16.](#)

Added by:

[XIV.2006.17.](#)

Re-numbered by:

[VII.2007.30.](#)

312A. Such auctions shall be held whenever the need arises, there being a sufficient amount of property to be sold.

Auctions to be held whenever the need arises.

Added by:

[XIV.2006.17.](#)

Re-numbered by:

[VII.2007.30.](#)

312B. (1) The provisions of this Subtitle shall apply both to movable and immovable property and to going concerns. The Registrar and the public auctioneer shall not in any way be impeded from selling movable property, immovable property or a going concern during the same auction.

Provisions apply both to movable and immovable property and to going concerns.

Added by:

[XIV.2006.17.](#)

Re-numbered and

amended by:

[VII.2007.30.](#)

(2) For the purposes of this Sub-title, the meaning of movable property shall be the same as that given in Sub-title I of this Title and the meaning of immovable property shall be the same as that given in Sub-title II of this Title, saving that in the case of a going concern the meaning is that given in article 312K but for the purposes of this Title a going concern shall be deemed to be immovable property.

Demand for seizure of a going concern.

Added by:
[XIV.2006.17.](#)
Re-numbered by:
[VII.2007.30.](#)

Decree upholding the demand for the issue of the warrant.

Added by:
[XIV.2006.17.](#)
Re-numbered by:
[VII.2007.30.](#)

312C. The demand for the seizure of a going concern shall be made by means of an application to be served on the debtor.

312D. In a decree upholding the demand for the issue of a warrant of seizure of a going concern, the court -

- (a) shall order the Registrar to appoint such experts according to article 89 who may be required to:
 - (i) enlist and evaluate all the assets of the going concern;
 - (ii) file a report whether or not, considering the debt of the going concern, such going concern should be sold or put under administration for a period of time during which it could pay back its debts; and
- (b) appoint a short and peremptory time for the filing of such appraisements and report and give such orders as may be necessary for the carrying out of these instructions:

Provided that where the enlisting and the appraisal of the whole complex would have already been made in the proceedings of a precautionary warrant of seizure of a going concern, the court shall adopt same and only appoint experts to file a report whether the going concern should be sold or put under administration.

Appointment of application for hearing.

Added by:
[XIV.2006.17.](#)
Re-numbered by:
[VII.2007.30.](#)

Appointment of date, place and time for the sale.

Added by:
[XIV.2006.17.](#)
Re-numbered by:
[VII.2007.30.](#)

Appointment of administrator.

Added by:
[XIV.2006.17.](#)
Re-numbered by:
[VII.2007.30.](#)

Applicability of articles 308 to 311.

Added by:
[XIV.2006.17.](#)
Re-numbered and amended by:
[VII.2007.30.](#)

312E. Following the confirmation on oath of the appraisements and reports, the court shall within one week appoint the application for hearing and, after hearing the parties, it shall decide whether the judicial sale by auction of the going concern is nevertheless to be proceeded with or an administrator is to be appointed to manage the going concern until the amount due is paid.

312F. Where the court decides about the holding of a sale, it shall appoint a date, place and time for the sale of the whole complex as a going concern.

312G. The court shall appoint an administrator to carry on with the administration of the going concern until it is sold:

Provided that where in the proceedings of a precautionary warrant an administrator would have already been appointed, he shall be confirmed as such.

312H. Articles 308 to 311 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to this warrant.

312I. (1) Where the court decides that the going concern shall continue to be administered until payment of the amount due is effected, it shall appoint an administrator and give such orders and make such provisions which it deems appropriate, taking into consideration the debt, nature and value of the going concern.

Where court decides that going concern shall continue to be administered.

Added by:

[*XIV.2006.17.*](#)

Re-numbered by:

[*VII.2007.30.*](#)

(2) The appointed administrator shall take control of the going concern and he shall have the right to sell and carry on trade in its day to day business, provided that with regard to any decision of an extraordinary nature he shall be bound to demand the court for its authorisation:

Provided that a commercial bank cannot be appointed as administrator.

312J. (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of article 312I, if during his appointment the administrator is of the opinion that the going concern is about to lose its market value, he may demand the court to authorise him to sell the going concern in whole or in part.

Demand for the sale of the going concern.

Added by:

[*XIV.2006.17.*](#)

Re-numbered and

amended by:

[*VII.2007.30.*](#)

(2) The appointed administrator under article 312I shall be entitled to such payment as the court, in its discretion, may deem fit that he should receive considering the value of the going concern and the work done in connection with the running of the business.

312K. For the purposes of this Title, the term "going concern" means any kind of commercial enterprise conducting a business activity and includes machinery, apparatus, goods, corporeal and incorporeal rights, movable property, immovable property, licences, copyright and good-will.

Definition of going concern.

Added by:

[*XIV.2006.17.*](#)

Re-numbered by:

[*VII.2007.30.*](#)

Sub-Title IV

OF JUDICIAL SALES BY AUCTION

Added by:

[*XIV.2006.18.*](#)

313. (1) The Registrar shall publish regularly in two newspapers, one being in Maltese and the other in the English language, lists of the judicial sales by auctions which are about to be held and he shall indicate clearly therein the property in such manner that the public is well informed in order to safeguard the parties' interests:

Form of advertisement of sale by auction.

Amended by:

[*XXIV.1995.151;*](#)

[*XIV.2006.19;*](#)

[*IV.2016.14.*](#)

Provided that the debtor, creditor or any other interested person may publish and inform, at their own expense, any particular sale in any newspaper of their choice or broadcast same over any other broadcasting medium.

(2) The advertisement of a judicial sale by auction shall include:

- (a) an indication of the court reference of the judicial sale by auction;
- (b) the names of the parties thereto and their identity card or other identity document numbers if available;

- (c) a clear indication of the property to be sold;
- (d) the value of each property, where a valuation has been carried out in terms of the law; and
- (e) the date, time and place of the judicial sale by auction.

Place and time of sale by auction.

Amended by:
XIII.1925.3;
XXXI.1934.42;
L.N. 4 of 1963;
XXXI.1966.2;
XXIV.1995.153.
Re-numbered and amended by:
XIV.2006.21.
Amended by:
XII.2009.8.

314. (1) Subject to the provisions of this article, the auction shall be held in public either -

- (a) in the building of the courts of justice; or
- (b) in any other building provided by the Minister responsible for justice for the purpose of such auctions and at such time as may be determined by the court:

Provided that the court shall have the power for just cause to order that an auction shall be held at any place and at any time, due notice of such place and time being given in the advertisement.

(2) In the case of sacred vestments and vessels, the auction shall not be held in public but the court shall give such directions as it may deem proper for their disposal in the manner most advantageous to the interested parties with due respect to the sacred nature of the object to be sold by auction.

(3) In the case of a judicial sale by auction of listed securities in regulated markets, the auction shall be held in accordance with the procedures prescribed in rules and bye-laws made under articles 4(2) and 28(2) of the [Financial Markets Act](#).

Cap. 345.

Valuation of property to be sold by auction.

Added by:
XIV.2006.22.
Amended by:
VII.2007.30.

315. (1) Immovable property or rights annexed to such property, or movable property consisting of gold or silver articles, pearls or precious stones or of other precious articles, and commercial going concerns, shall always be appraised before the sale thereof by auction.

(2) With regard to other movable property, an appraisal shall only be made if required by the creditor or by the debtor.

(3) An appraisal made in conformity with the provisions of articles 308, 311 and 312F and existing in the records of a sale by auction shall be accepted by the court to be the appraisal for the purpose of this article.

Appraisal of gold or silver articles to show intrinsic value.

Added by:
XIV.2006.22.

316. In any appraisal of gold or silver articles, of pearls or precious stones or of other precious articles the expert shall consider the intrinsic value thereof and the cost of manufacture, together with any distinctive characteristic of the said article and appraise the total value thereof.

Removal of movable property to place of sale.

317. The marshal shall cause the movable property to be removed to the place of sale where it shall be exposed to public view at least two hours before the auction begins.

318. Subject to the provisions of article 305, movable property may be sold by auction in gross, or in separate lots, or under separate items, as the court shall direct, regard being had to the circumstances of the case.

Sale by auction in gross, in lots, or under separate items.

Amended by:

[XL.1984.4;](#)

[XXIV.1995.154;](#)

[XIV.2006.24.](#)

319. (1) The auction shall be, save the exceptions mentioned in the preceding articles, conducted by a public auctioneer in the presence of the Registrar.

Opening of sale by auction.

Amended by:

[IX.1886.70;](#)

[XV.1913.84.](#)

Substituted by:

[XXIV.1995.155.](#)

Amended by:

[XIV.2006.25;](#)

[XV.2008.23;](#)

[XLV.2016.4.](#)

(1A) The auction shall commence at the time established by the Court and shall continue until the highest public bid is adjudicated.

(1B) The sale of different items to be sold by auction may be held during the same time, each one separately and in consecutive order.

(2) Bids are made orally. Each bid shall be announced at least three times, unless a higher bid is previously made. The highest bidder, within the time stated in the advertisement, shall be the purchaser.

(3) An offer shall no longer be valid immediately when a higher offer is accepted, even though such higher offer is later declared to be null.

(4) The public auctioneer or broker shall be entitled to a fee which is taxed by the Registrar in accordance with a tariff to be established by the Minister responsible for justice.

(5) No offer may be accepted if such offer is less than sixty per cent (60%) of the value at which the movable or immovable property or the going concern has been appraised:

Provided that if no offer is made which is at least equivalent to sixty per cent (60%) of the value at which the movable or immovable property or the going concern has been appraised, the creditor may request that the movable or immovable property or the going concern be placed again for public auction:

Provided that this sub-article shall not apply to ships and other vessels exceeding ten metres in length only.

(6) The public auctioneer shall have the right to demand that a person submitting an offer should be in possession of the necessary guarantees.

320. The auctioneer shall cause that no bid shall be accepted if it is either made *pro persona nominanda* or by any person who is notoriously incapable of fulfilling the obligations arising out of the adjudication.

Bids *pro persona nominanda* etc., not to be accepted.

Amended by:

[XL.1984.5;](#)

[XXIV.1995.156.](#)

Substituted by:

[XIV.2006.26.](#)

321. Repealed by: [XXIV.1995.157.](#)

Bids subject to the issue of edicts.

Binding force of bids.

Amended by:
XI.1859.17;
IX.1886.71;
XI.1977.2;
[XIII.1983.5;](#)
[XXIV.1995.158.](#)

322. *Repealed by: [XIV.2006.27.](#)*

Duration of auction.

Substituted by:
[XIV.2006.28.](#)

323. The Minister responsible for justice shall by regulations establish the duration of the auction.

Adjudication not to be made on day of sale in certain cases.

Amended by:
[IV.1984.3;](#)
[XXIV.1995.159.](#)

324. *Repealed by: [XIV.2006.29.](#)*

Appointment of another day for continuation of sale. Adjudication to be made on such other day.

Saving.
Amended by:
IX.1886.72.
Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.160.](#)

325. *Repealed by: [XIV.2006.29.](#)*

Suspension of auction or adjudication.
Amended by:
XV.1913.85;
[IV.1984.4;](#)
[XXIV.1995.161;](#)
[XIV.2006.30.](#)

326. (1) The auction or adjudication shall in all cases be suspended upon the demand of the debtor with the consent of the creditor, or upon the demand of the creditor with the consent of the debtor, and in such cases, as well as in the case where the suspension is caused by any other lawful impediment, a fresh advertisement shall be issued for the continuation of the auction on another day which shall be appointed by the Registrar within two weeks.

(2) If the suspension of the auction is demanded by the debtor or a third party, without the consent of the creditor, the demand shall not be entertained, unless contemporaneously with the demand a deposit is made with the registrar of a sum which in his opinion is sufficient to cover the expense occasioned by the suspension.

(3) Nor shall any demand for the suspension of an auction be entertained if such demand is made, without the consent of the creditor, less than seven days before the day appointed for the auction, unless the person making the demand shall declare on oath before the registrar, that the reason for the suspension has arisen within that time, or that he was not aware of such reason before that time.

(4) Any interested person may by application request the court to revoke *contrario imperio* its decree authorising the suspension of the auction or of the adjudication, and the court shall summarily hear the parties before delivering its decree. Any such decree may not be challenged in any court.

(5) The court shall hear the parties about the demand for suspension, and it shall not give its decree relating to such

application prior to a deposit having been made of all the expenses with regard to the judicial sale by auction.

327. *Repealed by: [XIV.2006.31](#).*

New bids within fifteen days of adjudication.

Amended by:

[IX.1886.73](#);

[IV.1984.5](#);

[XXIV.1995.162](#);

[IV.1996.7](#).

328. The purchaser shall pay the price into court within seven days from the date of the final adjudication, in the case of sale of immovable property or of rights annexed to such property, or of ships, or of aircraft, or of commercial going concerns; and, within twenty-four hours of the adjudication, in the case of other movable property.

Payment into court of purchase money.

Amended by:

[XXIV.1995.163](#);

[XV.2006.32](#).

[LII.2016.29](#).

329. (1) In default of such payment into court, the purchaser shall, upon the demand by application of the party at whose suit or against whom the execution was granted, be liable to personal arrest.

Defaulting purchaser liable to personal arrest.

Amended by:

[XXII.2005.42](#).

(2) Moreover, in such case, the property adjudicated may, upon a demand by means of an application made by the party at whose suit or against whom the execution was granted, be again put up for auction at the expense of the purchaser; in which case, if the bids be lower, such purchaser shall be responsible for the difference; and if the bids be higher, the difference shall go in favour of the debtor, saving any right thereon of the execution creditor.

Fresh sale by auction at the expense and risk of defaulting purchaser.

(3) The decree made on the said application shall be served on the purchaser.

Decree to be served on purchaser.

330. The purchase money of movable property sold by auction may be deposited by the purchaser with the registrar, who shall within twenty-four hours lodge it into court by means of a lodgement schedule.

Lodging of purchase money of movable property.

331. (1) The delivery of immovable property or of rights annexed to such property, or of commercial going concerns, takes place *ipso jure* on the final adjudication and upon the payment of the price into court or the approval of the set-off.

Delivery of immovable or movable property to purchaser.

Amended by:

[IX.1886.74](#);

[XXIV.1995.164](#);

[XIV.2006.34](#).

(2) The delivery of movable property takes place upon the handing over of the thing and the deposit of the price or the approval of the set-off.

(3) In the case of ships or other vessels or aircraft, the court may make such orders, as it may deem fit, to ensure that the property adjudicated be delivered to the purchaser forthwith, upon the purchaser giving such security as the court may determine to safeguard the claims of the parties. Such orders may also be made in other cases in which the court considers that delay in the delivery of the property can cause serious prejudice to the purchaser. An order made under this sub-article shall not be challenged in any way and shall be implemented forthwith.

No payment into court is necessary on adjudication upon a bid *animo compensandi*.
Amended by:
[II.1940.5.](#)
[XIV.2006.35.](#)

Animo compensandi bid.
Substituted by:
[XIV.2006.36.](#)
Amended by:
[XII.2009.9.](#)

Conditional leave to bid *animo compensandi*.
Substituted by:
[XIV.2006.37.](#)

Opposition to bids *animo compensandi*.
Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.165.](#)
Substituted by:
[XIV.2006.38.](#)

Conditional leave to several creditors to bid *animo compensandi*.

Demand for approval of set-off. Payment into court of surplus of price, if any.
Amended by:
[XIV.2006.40.](#)

Payment into court of costs incurred by execution creditor.

Recovery of costs by execution creditor.

332. Saving the provisions of article 337(1) and (2), the purchaser is not bound to pay the money into court if he shall have made his bid *animo compensandi*.

333. (1) Any person to whom a liquidated debt is owing under any judgement or executive title or deed or other obligatory writing may bid *animo compensandi*.

(2) Any person who is intent on bidding *animo compensandi* shall register his name by means of a note before the commencement of the sale by auction by making a sworn declaration before the Registrar about the reason why he wishes to bid *animo compensandi*.

(3) Any person bidding *animo compensandi* may be served notice by any person having an interest in the judicial sale by auction at least two weeks before the date of the sale and whosoever is not served such notice or is not served notice within such time may exercise the right under article 356.

334. Any bid *animo compensandi* is made on condition that the bidder shall bind himself to pay the price into court in case it shall be so adjudged by the court.

335. Any opposition to an application to bid *animo compensandi* may only be made after the sale. No opposition may be made before or during the sale.

336. *Repealed by:* [XIV.2006.39.](#)

337. (1) A purchaser *animo compensandi* shall, within the times stated in article 328, demand by means of an application accompanied by a lodgment schedule, the approval of the proposed set-off, and he shall pay into court the surplus of the price where such price exceeds the amount of the debt and costs, producing the necessary vouchers.

(2) If the purchaser be a person other than the execution creditor, he shall likewise pay into court the amount of the costs incurred by such execution creditor in respect of the judicial recognition of his claim and in respect of the auction proceedings.

(3) The execution creditor shall recover the costs of the auction proceedings unconditionally, and shall recover the legal fees and the costs of the judicial recognition of his claim, upon entering into a bond with sufficient surety to restore the amount thereof to the purchaser in the event of eviction of the immovable property adjudicated.

338. (1) The aforementioned demand shall be published in the Government Gazette and served on the debtor and all known creditors, including such persons who shall have sued out any warrant of seizure or garnishee order or impediment of departure, and such persons as are mentioned in the warrant of seizure which preceded the judicial sale by auction.

Application for approval of set-off. Service of application.
Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.166;](#)
[XIV.2006.41.](#)

(2) Any person who may have an interest and the persons so served shall be allowed the time of twenty days to file an answer stating in detail the reasons for their opposition and the amounts in contestation; and where such opposition is based on a claim against the proceeds of sale an alleged cause of preference, they are to state the amount of such claim and the basis for the preference. Such persons shall with the answer file all relevant evidence to substantiate their opposition.

Time for answer.

(3) It shall be lawful for the court, in approving the set-off, to require the purchaser to give sufficient security to pay into court the price together with interest, in case it shall be so adjudged.

Condition which may be imposed by court on approval of set-off.

(4) When the court upholds the demand, any person who may have an interest to enter suit may within twenty days file an appeal by application, which appeal shall be appointed and decided within three months from the date of the decree.

(5) When the Court of Appeal revokes a decision to grant a bid *animo compensandi*, it shall remit the judicial proceedings to the first court.

339. When there are more than one creditor filing a demand for payment from the proceeds in such manner that a competition of creditors would have to take place, it shall be the same court to commence such proceedings in terms of articles 416 *et sequitur*.

Competition of creditors.
Substituted by:
[XIV.2006.42.](#)

340. (1) If the set-off be not approved, the provisions of article 329(2) and (3) shall apply:

Effect of approval or disallowance of set-off.
Amended by:
[IX.1886.75;](#)
[XXIV.1995.167;](#)
[XIV.2006.43.](#)

Provided that whosoever makes made a bid *animo compensandi* under the condition specified in article 334 shall, within seven days from the date on which he is served with the court order rejecting his application for the set-off, pay the price in the registry of the court in which case the provisions of this article shall not apply. In the event that such party fails to pay the price within such time limit, article 329 shall apply:

Provided further that in the event that the property adjudicated is transferred and delivered to the purchaser in terms of article 331(3) the provisions of this article shall not apply and the provisions of article 338(6) shall apply to the security ordered to be provided by the court.

(2) If the set-off be approved unconditionally, the purchaser shall be entitled to the formal transfer and delivery of the movable property adjudicated or, in the event that the property had already been delivered under article 331(3), the purchaser shall be entitled to the release of any security made by him.

Execution creditor, etc., may demand fresh executions in case of deficiency of proceeds.

Restoration of balance of deposit to debtor.

Substituted by:
[XIV.2006.44.](#)

Discontinuance of sale by auction and restoration of unsold property to debtor.

Substituted by:
[XIV.2006.45.](#)

Withdrawal of amount of claim and taxed costs by execution creditor.

Sale of perishable articles.

Substituted by:
[XIV.2006.46.](#)
Amended by:
[XII.2009.10.](#)

Right of other creditor to continue auction.

Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.168.](#)

Procès-verbal of sale by auction.

Procedure in auctions of merchandise or other property.
Amended by:
[XV.1913.86;](#)
[VIII.1990.3;](#)
[XXIV.1995.169.](#)

341. If the proceeds of the sale by auction be not sufficient to meet the claims of the execution creditor and of the persons suing out a garnishee order, as well as the costs, fresh executions may be allowed upon the demand of any of them.

342. If after payment of the claims of the creditors and of the costs, there still remains a balance, the court shall, upon the demand of the debtor, order such balance to be restored to him.

343. If it appears during the sale that a sufficient sum to meet the debts and the costs of the auction has been obtained, the Registrar shall order the auction to be immediately discontinued. Upon a verbal demand by the debtor, the court shall order that the unsold property is to be restored to the debtor.

344. The amount of the debt due to the execution creditor together with his taxed costs shall, upon his demand, be paid to him out of the proceeds lodged into court, provided there be no lawful impediment.

345. In the case of seizure of perishable merchandise or other articles which are in a state of progressive deterioration or of articles which are about to go out of fashion or become technologically obsolete, it shall be lawful for the court, upon the demand of any person having an interest or of the official consignee, to order such merchandise or other articles to be sold in such manner as the court shall deem proper, including the sale to be effected forthwith by the Registrar or by the consignee.

346. (1) Any other creditor may by a note to be served on the execution creditor and the debtor join in the auction proceedings as an addition execution creditor and such additional execution creditor shall have the same rights and obligations as the original execution creditor.

(2) Any execution creditor can continue the auction proceedings independently of the withdrawal by, or the death of any other execution creditor.

347. (1) The registrar shall draw up a *procès-verbal*, specifically stating therein the day and hour of the auction, the nature of the property put up for auction, the name, surname and place of abode of the highest bidder and of the next highest bidder, and other incidental particulars.

(2) Such *procès-verbal* shall be drawn up by the marshal, if the sale by auction does not take place in the building in which the court sits.

348. *Repealed by:* [XIV.2006.47.](#)

349. It shall not be lawful for any judge, magistrate, registrar, court executing officer or licensed auctioneer or broker to bid, either directly or indirectly, in an auction in which he is concerned by reason of his office. Nevertheless, if any of them desires to bid, another person shall be surrogated by the competent authority in his stead.

Persons who may not bid in auctions.
Amended by:
[*XV.1913.87;*](#)
[*XXIV.1995.170;*](#)
[*XIV.2006.48.*](#)

350. The debtor shall, upon an order of the registrar or court executing officer, be expelled from the place where the auction is held, if he attempts to hinder the proceedings or to dissuade bidders.

Expulsion of debtor from place of sale if he hinders proceedings.
Amended by:
[*XIV.2006.49.*](#)

351. (1) If the creditor leaves the auction suspended for more than one year, all the acts thereof shall become void.

Consequences of suspension of sale for over one year.
Amended by:
[*IX.1886.76.*](#)

(2) In all cases, the effects of the decree by which a sale by auction of immovable property or of rights annexed to such property is ordered, shall cease in regard to third parties on the expiration of one year from the date of the registration required under article 306, unless such registration shall have been renewed within that time, on the demand of the execution creditor.

352. (1) Any disposal of immovable property or of rights annexed to such property made by the debtor within a year to be reckoned from the date of the original or renewed registration of the judgment or decree by which the sale by auction of such property or rights was ordered, shall be null in regard to the person at whose suit the judgment or decree was obtained, in which case the court shall on a demand made by application proceed, after hearing the parties, to declare such transfer as null and void and to adopt such measures as it may deem necessary.

Disposal of immovable property, etc., by debtor within a year from registration of order of sale to be null.
Amended by:
[*IX.1886.77;*](#)
[*XV.1913.88;*](#)
[*XXIV.1995.171;*](#)
[*XIV.2006.50.*](#)

(2) In regard to such person, any lease or other disposal of the enjoyment of such property or rights and any diminution or restrictions of the enjoyment of such property or rights made by the debtor within the said year without the authority of the court by which the judgment or decree was delivered shall also be null.

Lease of property likewise void.

(3) If, pending the auction proceedings, the debtor remains in possession of such property, he may be compelled to lodge into court the fruits actually collected or which might have been collected.

Lodging of fruits collected by debtor.

353. (1) If the debtor offers for auction movable property sufficient to meet the claim of the creditor without any obstacle or difficulty, the auction of the immovable property or of a commercial going concern shall be suspended.

Substitution of movable for immovable property put up for sale.
Amended by:
[*IV.1862.10;*](#)
[*XIV.2006.51.*](#)

(2) The auction of the immovable property or commercial going concern stated by the creditor shall likewise be suspended, if the debtor offers other immovable property sufficient to meet the claim of the creditor without any obstacle or difficulty.

Substitution of other immovable property for the immovable property put up for sale.

Execution of a judgement of the Court of Magistrates (Malta) on immovable property.

Amended by:
[XV.1913.89](#);

[II.1940.6](#);

[XXII.1976.4](#);

[XIII.1983.5](#);

[XII.1985.11](#);

[VIII.1990.3](#);

[XXIV.1995.172](#).

Substituted by:
[XXXI.2002.135](#);

[XIV.2006.52](#).

Amended by:

[IV.2016.15](#).

Jus redimendi.

Amended by:

[IX.1886.78](#);

[IV.1961.12](#);

[IV.1984.6](#).

Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.173](#).

Amended by:

[XIV.2006.53](#).

Cap. 16.

Right of creditor to re-sell immovable property to be exercised within two years.

Amended by:

[IX.1886.79](#);

[IV.1984.7](#).

Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.174](#).

Amended by:

[XIV.2006.54](#).

Cap. 16.

354. (1) When the judgement the execution of which is sought is a judgement given by the Court of Magistrates (Malta), its execution, insofar as it has to be executed on immovable property or rights attached to immovable property, is to be effected by the Civil Court, First Hall.

(2) The same rule applies when a demand is made for the execution of two or more judgements, whose total joint amount, not taking into account any expenses, exceeds the sum of fifteen thousand euro (€15,000).

355. (1) The debtor shall have the right to repurchase his immovable property and of a commercial going concern sold by auction provided such right is exercised within four months from the date of registration of the act of adjudication in the Public Registry.

(2) The right of repurchase shall be exercised by the filing of a schedule of redemption, and a concurrent deposit as is provided *mutatis mutandis*, in Sub-title VI of Title VI of Part II of Book Second of the [Civil Code](#).

356. (1) The time period contemplated in article 2086 of the [Civil Code](#), in respect of property adjudicated in a judicial sale, shall be of two years to commence to run from the date of enrolment of the act of adjudication in the Public Registry.

(2) The said period of two years shall be reduced to four months from the date of service by a judicial act of a copy of the act of adjudication, or of a copy of the note of enrolment of the act of adjudication in the Public Registry, and this in respect only of any hypothecary or privileged creditor on whom such service is made.

(3) Where the judicial sale is of a commercial going concern that includes immovable property, the said period of two years shall be reduced to four months to commence to run from the date of enrolment of the act of adjudication in the Public Registry.

(4) Any action by the hypothecary or privileged creditor against the third party in possession of an immovable acquired by virtue of a judicial sale shall be barred if the protest mentioned in article 2072(1) of the [Civil Code](#), (calling upon the debtor to discharge the debt and the third party in possession either to discharge the debt or to surrender the property), is not filed within the period of two years or four months mentioned in the preceding sub-articles of this article, or if the creditor fails to demand judicially the sale of the immovable within six months from the filing of the protest mentioned in article 2072(1) of the [Civil Code](#). Such action shall also be barred if the third party in possession surrenders the property and the creditor fails to start proceedings for the judicial sale within six months from the service of a copy of

the note of such surrender.

(5) Notwithstanding the provisions of article 2072(2) of the [Civil Code](#), the demand for the judicial sale of the immovable can be made at any time after the expiration of sixty days from the date of filing of the protest.

(6) The creditors whose action has been barred in terms of the provisions of this article shall not have any right against the third party in possession who had acquired the immovable as a result of the new judicial sale under the said provisions; provided that such creditors shall retain their ranking prior to sale.

(7) If before an adjudication or after an adjudication, the bidder or purchaser, as the case may be, finds that the immovable property is subject to any burdens, leases or other rights whether real or personal, which have not been included in the valuation in terms of article 310, the bidder or purchaser, as the case may be, shall have the right in the former case to demand either to withdraw his bid or to have his bid reduced, and in the latter case the purchaser shall have the right to demand the rescission of the sale.

(7A) When such action is exercised and the sale is effected, the third party which has acquired possession of the immovable thing in whose favour the property would have been originally adjudicated, who shall not also be the same person in whose favour during the second sale the property has been adjudicated, shall be paid from the proceeds of the second sale the sum of money which he would have defrayed together with all expenses made before any other creditor:

Provided that where the third party which has acquired possession of the immovable thing during the second sale at a higher price is also the same person in whose favour the property had been originally adjudicated, such third party shall be required to deposit in court only the difference in price, and not the full price.

(8) Such demand for the rescission of the sale is to be made not later than six months from the date of the adjudication by means of an application to be served on the execution creditor and the debtor.

(9) The court shall allow the demand of the bidder or of the purchaser; as the case may be, if it is satisfied that the omission in the said valuation or in the said list was relevant so as to affect the bid made by the purchaser.

357. The adjudication of immovable property as of itself constitutes an executive title and if either the debtor against whom execution is being sought or a third party occupying the premises without title fails to vacate the premises so adjudicated, the purchaser shall be entitled, within one year from the adjudication, to seek the issue of a warrant of eviction on the basis of the said title of adjudication.

Eviction after
adjudication.
Added by:
[XIV.2006.55.](#)
Amended by:
[IV.2016.16.](#)

Action to annul or rescind a judicial sale by auction.

Added by:
[IV.2016.17.](#)

357A. No action to annul or rescind a judicial sale by auction of an immovable property shall be filed or acceded to unless such action is filed before the lapse of one year from the date when the adjudication of the immovable property has been registered in the Public Registry.

Added by:
[XIV.2006.57.](#)
Amended by:
[XV.2008.25;](#)
[VIII.2010.61.](#)

Sub-title V

OF COURT APPROVED SALES FOR SHIPS, VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT

Private sale of a ship, vessel or aircraft.

Added by:
[XIV.2006.57.](#)
Amended by:
[XV.2008.25;](#)
[VIII.2010.61.](#)

358. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Code, the Court may, on the application of any creditor with an executive title, approve a private sale of a ship or vessel or aircraft, in favour of an identified buyer and in consideration of a determined price.

Appraisements by independent and reputable valuers.

Added by:
[XIV.2006.57.](#)
Amended by:
[XV.2008.25;](#)
[VIII.2010.61.](#)

359. The applicant shall together with the application submit appraisements by two independent and reputable valuers confirming the value of the ship or vessel or aircraft; it shall also be incumbent on the applicant to adduce to the Court evidence that such private sale is in the interest of all known creditors and that the price offered by the proposed buyer is reasonable in the circumstances of the case.

Persons called upon to make submissions.

Added by:
[XIV.2006.57.](#)

360. No order shall be made by the Court before the application has been served on such persons as the Court, in the circumstances and upon information given by the applicant, deems it appropriate to call upon to make their submissions.

Hearing.

Added by:
[XIV.2006.57.](#)

361. The Court shall appoint the application for hearing within ten days of its filing.

Where Court accedes to application.

Added by:
[XIV.2006.57.](#)
Amended by:
[XV.2008.25;](#)
[VIII.2010.61.](#)

362. If the Court accedes to the application and approves a private sale in accordance with the provisions of this Subtitle, the Court shall in its decree of approval nominate a person who shall thereupon be entitled to transfer the ship or vessel or aircraft in accordance with the terms and conditions approved by the Court, and as if he were the registered owner thereof.

Deposit of price in Court.

Added by:
[XIV.2006.57.](#)

363. The person so appointed by the Court shall deposit the price in Court within seven days from the date of the completion of the sale.

Title which is free from all privileges and encumbrances.

Added by:
[XIV.2006.57.](#)
Amended by:
[XV.2008.25;](#)
[VIII.2010.61.](#)

364. The sale of the ship or vessel or aircraft in accordance with the provisions of this Sub-title gives the purchaser a title which is free from all privileges and encumbrances, and after the sale all claims or demands against the ship or vessel or aircraft may be enforced only against the proceeds of the sale.

(the original articles 357 to 374, both inclusive, were repealed by Act [XII of 1985](#))

Sub-title VI

Amended by:
[XIV.2006.58.](#)

OF THE EXECUTIVE GARNISHEE ORDER

375. Where a creditor under a judgment or any other executive title, in order to obtain the payment of a debt owing to him, desires to attach in the hands of a third party moneys or movable property due or belonging to his debtor, he may do so by means of a garnishee order.

Executive
garnishee order.
Amended by:
[II.1940.9.](#)

376. (1) The creditor shall, in the application for the issue of a garnishee order, correctly state the name and surname of the debtor, giving other particulars concerning the debtor as may be ordered by the Minister responsible for justice for the purpose of the identification of the debtor by the garnishee.

Contents of
garnishee order.
Added by:
[XII.1924.3.](#)
Substituted by:
[XIV.2006.59.](#)
Amended by:
[XI.2008.17;](#)
[L.N. 426 of 2012.](#)

(2) The order shall:

- (a) state the name and surname of the debtor and other particulars included in the application for the purpose of identification of the debtor, including, where possible, a legally valid identification document number or the company registration number;
- (b) state the amount or thing due;
- (c) state the title under which the creditor sues out execution;
- (d) enjoin the garnishee not to pay or deliver up to the debtor, or any other person, such moneys or things as may be in his hands but which belong to the debtor, under penalty of payment of damages and interest; and
- (e) enjoin the garnishee to lodge, at the debtor's expense within nineteen days from the date of service of the warrant, through the Registrar any moneys or things belonging to the debtor, as attached by the order.

(3) The lack of any of these particulars in the garnishee order shall render the said order to be *ipso jure* null.

377. (1) A garnishee order is executed by the delivery of a copy thereof, by the court executing officer, to the garnishee or by such electronic means as may be prescribed by the Minister responsible for justice.

Mode of executing
garnishee order.
Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.175;](#)
[XIV.2006.60.](#)

(2) A copy of the order shall also be served on the debtor in the same way as is provided under article 187, or if he is absent from Malta, on his lawful representative.

Declaration by
garnishee.
Time for such
declaration.

Amended by:
[XI.1859.21](#);
[XV.1913.91](#);
[XXXI.1934.44](#);
[XXIV.1995.176](#).
Substituted by:
[XIV.2006.61](#).
Amended by:
[XII.2009.11](#).

378. A garnishee who, although being in possession of moneys or other articles, belonging to the debtor, or which are due to the debtor, which may have been attached by means of the order, and who does not effect the deposit referred to in article 376 within such time as may be laid down in the order, shall be responsible for ensuing damages and interest in favour of the creditor and the court may, upon application being made for that purpose by the creditor, issue such orders as may be required, including his personal arrest for a period not exceeding three months, in order to force him to lodge such property:

Provided that where the garnishee is a Bank, that Bank shall declare what fixed deposits or other bank books are in its possession, the property of the debtor, without having to deposit them; however the person responsible for the Bank's management shall always remain responsible in accordance with the provisions of this article.

Garnishee may be
enjoined to
deposit.

Amended by:
[XV.1913.92](#);
[XXIV.1995.177](#).
Substituted by:
[XIV.2006.62](#).

379. (1) In the case of attachment of moneys, the garnishee may before lodging such moneys in court retain the costs in respect of such lodgement and, in the case of attachment of other movable property, the garnishee shall have a privileged claim over the property so lodged in respect of such costs.

(2) In all cases, the execution creditor and the debtor shall be notified of any such lodgement into court.

Form of injunction.
Amended by:
[XV.1913.93](#).

380. Deleted by [XIV.2006.63](#).

Property not
subject to
attachment.
Amended by:
[XI.1859.22](#);
[XII.1924.4](#);
[XIII.1925.4](#);
[XX.1929.2](#);
[XXXVI.1938.2](#);
[II.1940.10](#);
[XXI.1969.17](#);
[XXVII.1970.186](#);
[XI.1973.377](#);
[L.N. 148 of 1975](#);
[XXI.1993.87](#);
[XXIV.1995.178](#);
[XXII.2005.43](#);
[XIV.2006.64](#);
[XXVIII.2020.2](#);
[XLII.2021.2](#).
Cap. 318.

381. (1) It shall not be lawful to issue a garnishee order upon -

- (a) any salary, or wages (including bonus, allowances, overtime and other emoluments);
- (b) any benefit, pension, allowance or assistance mentioned in the [Social Security Act](#) or a private pension or any other pension, benefit or allowance issued by the Government or other foreign government:

Provided that in the case of private pensions and pensions issued by foreign governments the amount which is not subject to attachment shall not exceed the amount established for the highest pension issued by the Government;
- (c) any charitable grant or donation made by the Government;
- (d) any bequest expressly made for the purpose of maintenance, if the debtor has no other means of subsistence and the debt itself is not due in respect of maintenance;
- (e) any sum due for maintenance whether awarded officio judicis, or by public deed if the debt itself is not due in respect of maintenance;
- (f) moneys which have been made available to the debtor

by deed of loan for the building, construction and maintenance of houses intended as a main dwelling place for the debtor;

- (g) overdraft banking facilities excluding credit cards by means of which commercial going concerns run by the debtor are being operated;
- (h) bank guarantees and letters of credit;
- (i) benefits or subsidies issued by the Housing Authority;
- (j) bank accounts which are used solely and exclusively to receive therein deposits in accordance with paragraphs (b), (c) and (i). Banks which are indicated as garnishees in a garnishee order shall ensure that these accounts are not affected by the same garnishee order:

Provided that banks are obliged to open, and maintain, bank accounts for the above-mentioned purposes.

(2) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this article, in causes for maintenance, the court may, either in the judgment or in a subsequent decree upon an application to that effect by the creditor suing for maintenance, where such creditor is the spouse, or a minor or an incapacitated child, or an ascendant of the debtor, order that a specified portion of the salary, allowance or bequest mentioned in sub-article (1)(a), (b) and (d) or of the salary of any person, be paid directly to the creditor; the service of any such order on the person by whom the said salary, allowance or bequest is payable shall have the same effect as a garnishee order; and the person so served shall pay directly to the creditor the portion of the salary, allowance or bequest specified in the order.

Exceptions.

(3) The provisions of article 149, 150 and 151 of the Malta Armed Forces Act shall apply in respect of the pay of an officer or man of the regular force of Malta.

Cap. 220.

(4) Notwithstanding any provision in this Code or any other law, when the debtor is an employer, the order shall not attach upon any salary, wage (including bonus, allowances, overtime and other emoluments) of the employees of the debtor:

Provided that, the garnishee be formally notified in this regard.

382. (1) In the case of any salary or wage mentioned in article 381(1)(a), when the same exceed six hundred and ninety-eight euro and eighty one cents (698.81) per month or such amount as may from time to time be established by order made by the Minister responsible for justice, the issue of a garnishee order shall be applicable on that part in excess of the amount afore-stated:

Salary or wages not subject to attachment.

Added by: [XXI.1969.17.](#)

Amended by: [XIII.1983.5;](#)
[XXI.1993.87.](#)

Substituted by: [XXIV.1995.179.](#)

Amended by: [XIV.2006.65;](#)
[L.N. 407 of 2007;](#)
[III.2008.7;](#)

[LXII.2021.3.](#)
Cap. 318.

Provided that if the debtor, upon an application shows to the satisfaction of the court that he needs such excess or part thereof for his maintenance or for the maintenance of his family, the court shall revoke the garnishee order with respect to the excess or such part thereof, whereupon the said order shall be deemed to be and to have been without effect to the extent to which it had

been revoked:

Provided further that this article shall not apply to the pay of an officer or man of the regular force of Malta.

(2) The court may, at any time, vary the order given under sub-article (1), on a demand by application of the creditor or the debtor, if there be any change in the material circumstances of the debtor.

Garnishee order
may not be
extended.
Substituted by:
[*XXIV.1995.180;*](#)
[*XIV.2006.66.*](#)

383. A garnishee order may not be extended and shall remain in force up to such time as it is revoked by a decree issued by the court.

Sub-title V

Amended by:
[*IX.1886.83.*](#)

OF THE WARRANT OF EJECTMENT OR EXPULSION FROM
IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Mode of execution
of warrant of
ejectment or
expulsion from
immovable
property.
Amended by:
[*XXIV.1995.181;*](#)
[*XIV.2006.68.*](#)

384. In the execution of any warrant of ejectment or expulsion of tenants or other occupants of immovable property, the court executing officer shall enjoin the tenants or occupants to quit the tenement within a period of not less than four and not more than eight days; at the expiration of such period, the court executing officer shall cause the tenant or occupant to quit the tenement which shall be cleared of all things belonging to such tenant or occupant.

Added by:
[*XXXVII.2021.39*](#)

Sub-Title V bis
OF THE WARRANT OF EJECTMENT OR EXPULSION FROM
SEAGOING VESSELS OR AIRCRAFT

Warrant of
ejectment or
expulsion from
seagoing vessels or
aircraft.
Added by:
[*XXXVII.2021.39.*](#)

384A. (1) In the execution of any warrant of ejectment or expulsion, on the demand of a lessor or a mortgagee, of the operator, lessee or other occupants, including any members of their staff from seagoing vessels or aircraft, the court executing officer shall enjoin the operator, lessee or other occupants, including any members of their staff to quit the vessel or aircraft indicated in the warrant in favour of the lessor or a mortgagee or his duly authorised representative within a period of not less than four (4) and not more than eight (8) days. If the operator, lessee or other occupants, including any members of their staff do not quit the vessel or aircraft indicated in the warrant at the expiration of such period, the court executing officer shall ensure that the operator, lessee or other occupants, including any members of their staff are removed from the vessel or aircraft concerned, which shall also be cleared of all things belonging to such persons.

(2) The vessel or aircraft indicated in the warrant shall be detained in Malta for the purposes of the execution of a warrant of ejectment or expulsion and insofar as the detention of the vessel or aircraft is concerned, the provisions of article 388C for vessels and

article 388E for aircraft shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*.

Sub-title VIII

Amended by:
[XIV.2006.69.](#)

OF THE WARRANT *IN FACTUM*

385. (1) In the execution of a warrant *in factum*, the court executing officer shall proceed in such manner as ordered in the warrant.

Warrant in factum.
Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.182.](#)
Substituted by:
[XXXI.2002.146;](#)
[XIV.2006.70.](#)

(2) The warrant *in factum* shall contain the order that the party against whom the warrant is issued is to be conveyed to prison, in order to be therein kept at his own expense, until the performance of the act ordered by a judgment or until such time as the court may deem necessary to ensure such performance.

(3) The warrant may not be issued other than by an explicit order of the court to be issued on a demand made by application by the creditor.

(4) The court shall only issue the warrant if it is satisfied that the creditor does not have any other means of execution available.

386. A warrant *in factum*, if so required for the enforcement of any judgment and where an express order to that effect is made by the court, may be executed in any place, other than a church, and against any person, other than the ascendants of the person suing out the warrant or any minister of religion while in the exercise of his ministry.

Where and against whom warrant in factum may be executed.

387. (1) No warrant *in factum* shall be executed unless the person demanding the issue of the warrant shall have first delivered to the court executing officer a sum, to be fixed by the court, to be given, through the gaoler, to the person against whom the warrant has been issued in respect of his maintenance for four days, including the day of apprehension; and the gaoler shall not take the person apprehended in custody until such deposit is made.

Maintenance at the expense of person demanding issue of warrant.
Substituted by:
[XII.1985.13.](#)
Amended by:
[XIV.2006.71.](#)

(2) A like sum shall be deposited in the hands of the gaoler every four days in advance and not later than twelve noon of the last day of each weekly period. Such sum shall be immediately delivered to the person apprehended.

(3) The court executing officer and the gaoler respectively shall give a receipt for the said deposit.

388. (1) The execution of any warrant *in factum* shall not affect the right of action for damages and interest consequent upon the non-performance of the act ordered by the judgment.

Execution of warrant in factum not to bar action for damages.
Amended by:
[IX.1886.85;](#)
[XXIII.2017.22.](#)

Warrant *in factum* inadmissible for enforcing cohabitation of husband and wife.

(2) Saving other provisions of the law as to damages and interest or for other purposes, no warrant *in factum* may be demanded for the purpose of compelling any one of the spouses to live with the other spouse.

Added by:
[XIV.2006.74.](#)
Amended by:
[XV.2008.26.](#)

Sub-title X

OF THE EXECUTIVE WARRANT OF ARREST OF SEA VESSELS

Application for the issue of a warrant.

388C. An executive warrant of arrest of sea vessels is effected by application in terms of articles 858 and 860.

Added by:
[XIV.2006.74.](#)
Amended by:
[VII.2007.30;](#)
[XV.2008.26;](#)
[XII.2009.12.](#)

Court to decide about the sale or to fix time-limit for payment.

388D. (1) The court shall, when a demand is made for the issue of an executive warrant of arrest, establish whether it shall order the sale of the said article or fix a time-limit within which the debtor is to pay the amount due or order the said article to be returned to the owner or lessor or mortgagee.

Added by:
[XIV.2006.74.](#)
Amended by:
[XV.2008.26;](#)
[XXXVII.2021.40.](#)

(2) When the court orders such sale, it shall proceed according to the procedures laid down in the provisions relating to judicial sale by auction.

(3) When the court fixes a time limit within which the debtor is to pay, it shall order the executive warrant to be definitely in force until payment of the amount due is effected.

(4) When the said time limit passes without any effect the court shall, on a demand to be made by the interested party, order the sale to take place according to the provisions of sub-article (2).

(5) When a demand is made for the execution of an order pursuant to article 1526 of the Civil Code for the issue of an executive warrant of arrest of the ship for the purposes of repossession thereof, the court shall expeditiously order the operator, lessee or other occupants, including any members of their staff to return the seagoing vessels in favour of the owner or lessor or mortgagee as the case may be and, if necessary, issue such orders as are stated in article 384A.

Added by:
[VII.2010.61.](#)

Sub-title XI

OF THE EXECUTIVE WARRANT OF ARREST OF AIRCRAFT

Application for the issue of warrant.

388E. An executive warrant of arrest of aircraft is effected by application in terms of articles 865D and 865F.

Added by:
[VII.2010.61.](#)

388F. (1) The court shall, when a demand is made for the issue of an executive warrant of arrest, establish whether it shall order the sale of the said aircraft or fix a time-limit within which the debtor is to pay the amount due or remedy the default which in any case shall not be a term exceeding thirty calendar days from the date of the application or order the said article to be returned to the owner or lessor or mortgagee.

Court to decide about the sale or to fix time-limit for payment.

Added by:
[VIII.2010.61;](#)
[XXXVII.2021.41.](#)

(2) When the court orders such sale, it shall proceed according to the procedures laid down in the provisions relating to judicial sale by auction.

(3) When the court fixes a time limit within which the debtor is to pay, it shall order the executive warrant to be definitely in force until payment of the amount due, or the performance of the obligation is effected.

(4) When the said time limit passes without any effect the court shall, on a demand to be made by the interested party, order the sale to take place according to the provisions of sub-article (2).

(5) When a demand is made for the execution of an order pursuant to article 1526 of the Civil Code for the issue of an executive warrant of arrest of the aircraft for the purposes of repossession thereof, the court shall expeditiously order the operator, lessee or other occupants, including any members of their staff to return the aircraft in favour of the owner or lessor or mortgagee as the case maybe and, if necessary, issue such orders as are stated in article 384A.

Cap. 16.

Sub-title XII

OF THE WARRANT IN PROCINCTU

Added by:
[XIV.2006.75.](#)
Amended by:
[VIII.2010.61.](#)

388G. (1) Subject to the other provisions contained in Title VII of this Code, the court may on demand of the party, issue such orders to the Registrar as it may deem necessary for the orders contained in the judgement to be executed:

Court may issue other orders.

Added by:
[XIV.2006.76.](#)
Amended by:
[VIII.2010.61.](#)

Provided that this warrant shall not be issued except after an application has been made to this effect by the creditor and after the court is satisfied that the creditor does not have any other means of execution.

(2) There shall be clearly indicated in the application the reason for the necessity of such orders and a decree shall be given thereon after that the debtor has been served notice thereof, to which he may file a reply within four days.

Sub-title VII

*Added by:
IX.1886.86.*

OF THE RENDERING OF ACCOUNTS AND LIQUIDATION OF
FRUITS

Account to be
supported by
documents.
*Added by:
IX.1886.86.*

389. (1) Any person who is bound to render an account, shall, together with such account, produce all the documents in support thereof.

(2) If any of the documents is a public deed, a reference thereto shall be sufficient.

Contents of
account.
*Added by:
IX.1886.86.*

390. (1) The account shall contain -

- (a) a clear statement of the matter of which an account is rendered;
- (b) the items of receipt;
- (c) the items of expenditure;
- (d) the balance still due and the things to be recovered.

(2) The account shall end with a summary.

Payment of
balance not to
imply approval of
account.
*Added by:
IX.1886.86.*

391. (1) If the receipts exceed the expenditure, the court, on the application of the interested party, shall order the payment of the balance:

Provided that this shall not be taken to be an approval of the account.

Order not subject
to appeal.

(2) No appeal shall lie from the order given on any such application and such order may be enforced after the lapse of two days from the service thereof, in the same manner and with the same means as judgments may be enforced.

Objection to
account.
*Added by:
IX.1886.86.
Amended by:
[XXII.2005.44.](#)*

392. If the party to whom an account is rendered desires to impugn such account, he shall lodge his objection thereto specifying the items to which objection is taken, by sworn application against the opposite party:

Provided that in the case of a rendering of accounts under the [Condominium Act](#), such action shall be taken at the Malta Arbitration Centre.

Cap. 398.

Certain items may
be allowed
although
unsupported by
vouchers.
*Added by:
IX.1886.86.*

393. (1) Such items as cannot be or are not usually supported by vouchers may be allowed if they appear to be true and reasonable:

Provided that the party rendering the account may be compelled, where it is deemed necessary, to confirm the truth thereof on oath.

Reimbursement of
expenses for
making out
account.

(2) On the demand of the party producing the account, the court may, according to circumstances, allow him such expense as it was necessary for him to incur for making out and rendering the account.

394. (1) If the party bound to render an account fails to produce such account within the prescribed time, it shall be lawful for the court to allow the party suing for the account to fix, even by oath, the amount due.

Failure to render account within prescribed time.

Added by:
IX.1886.86.
Amended by:
XXI.1934.45.

(2) If the party to whom an account is rendered makes no objection thereto as provided in article 392, it shall be lawful for the court, on the demand of the opposite party, to approve the account.

Approval of account in default of objection.

395. The provisions of the preceding articles of this sub-title shall, so far as applicable, apply in cases of liquidation of fruits.

Liquidation of fruits.
Added by:
IX.1886.86.

Title VIII

OF CERTAIN SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS

Sub-title I

OF RECONVENTION

396. In any action, it shall be lawful for the defendant to set up a counter-claim against the plaintiff, provided the claim of the defendant be connected with the claim of the plaintiff as stated hereunder:

Reconvention.
Amended by:
XXXI.1980.4.

- (a) if the claim of the defendant arises from the same fact or from the same contract or title giving rise to the claim of the plaintiff; or
- (b) if the object of the claim of the defendant is to set-off the debt claimed by the plaintiff, or to bar in any other manner the action of the plaintiff, or to preclude its effects.

Grounds for reconvention.

397. The effect of reconvention as regards procedure, is that the original and the counter-claim are dealt with in one single record and both claims are disposed of in the same action.

Effects of reconvention.

398. (1) The defendant who desires to set up a counter-claim shall set up his claim in the written reply to the application, whether sworn or not.

Form of reconvention.
Substituted by:
XXXI.1980.5.
Amended by:
XXIV.1995.183;
XXII.2005.45.

(2) The counter-claim shall be set up after the defence to the original claim made out as required by law; and the defendant shall, with respect to the counter-claim, observe, as far as practicable, the rules established by this Code or by any other law for the written pleading by which the proceedings were first instituted.

(3) Where proceedings are by sworn application, the setting up of a counter-claim in a sworn reply shall be equivalent to the filing of a sworn application with respect to that claim, and shall be served on the plaintiff, who shall proceed as if he were the defendant with respect thereto; and in any such case, the closing of the preliminary written procedures and the application of articles

151 and 152 shall take place with the filing of that sworn reply by the plaintiff or the expiration of the term for its filing.

Security for costs.
Amended by:
XXXI.1934.46.
Substituted by:
XXXI.1980.6.

399. *Repealed by: [XXIV.1995.184.](#)*

Capacity of parties
in reconvention.

400. The defendant may not set up a counter-claim in a capacity other than that in which he has been sued, nor may he, in setting up the counter-claim, sue the plaintiff in a capacity other than that in which the plaintiff has claimed.

Discontinuance of
action by plaintiff
not to bar
prosecution of
counterclaim.

401. If, in any case in which the defendant sets up a counterclaim, the action of the plaintiff is in any manner discontinued, the defendant may nevertheless insist on his counter-claim lawfully set up being proceeded with.

Connection of
actions.

402. Where the defendant in an action brings another action in respect of a claim connected with that of the plaintiff as provided in article 396, it shall be lawful for the court to order the two actions to be heard simultaneously.

Sub-title II

OF JACTITATION SUITS

Jactitation.
Amended by:
XII.1913.94;
XXII.2005.46.

403. Where any claim is vaunted in any judicial act, or otherwise in writing, the party wishing to be liberated from such jactitation may, within a year of such jactitation, demand, by sworn application, that a time be fixed within which the jactitator shall bring the claim for trial, and that in default thereof, the jactitator be precluded from ever proceeding on that claim.

Time for bringing
claim for trial.
Amended by:
XI.1859.23;
XV.1913.94;
XXIII.1971.21.

404. (1) The time mentioned in the last preceding article shall not exceed three months.

Suspension of
time.

(2) Such time shall be suspended during the pendency of an application to sue with the benefit of legal aid, provided the application is filed by the jactitator within the first four days of the said time.

When jactitation
suit is
inadmissible.

405. The court shall not allow the demand referred to in article 403 if the jactitation is in respect of an uncertain right, contingent upon any event or condition, or of a right with regard to which no action can, for the time being, be taken.

Jactitator to
proceed before
court to the
jurisdiction of
which the party
aggrieved is
subject.

406. Any jactitator to whom a time has been fixed within which to bring his claim for trial, shall institute proceedings before the court to the jurisdiction of which the party aggrieved by the jactitation is subject.

407. Where the jactitator, on appearing before the court, declares, by means of a note, that he has no claim against the plaintiff or his property, as the case may be, according to the demand in the sworn application, the court shall not dispose of the merits, but shall only adjudge on the costs, where necessary; and in such case the said declaration of the jactitator shall have the same effect as an injunction of perpetual silence and it shall no longer be lawful for the jactitator to proceed on the claim to which the demand refers.

Where jactitator declares before court that he has no claim against party aggrieved.
Amended by:
[XXII.2005.47.](#)

408. Where the fact of the jactitation is proved and no declaration as provided in the last preceding article is made, the court shall allow the jactitator a time in accordance with the provisions of article 404, and shall reserve giving judgment as to the issue of perpetual silence in one of the first sittings to be held after the expiration of the time allowed as aforesaid.

Fixing of time to jactitator.
Amended by:
[XV.1913.94.](#)

409. If in the course of the said time the jactitator shall ask for an extension thereof, the judgment on the issue of perpetual silence reserved as provided in the last preceding article, shall be adjourned until the demand for the extension be dealt with, or until the enlarged time shall elapse.

Extension of time.

410. If the jactitator shall fail to bring his claim for trial within the time fixed, the court shall dispose of the second demand contained in the original sworn application enjoining perpetual silence upon the jactitator in respect of such claim.

Injunction of perpetual silence.
Amended by:
[XXII.2005.48.](#)

411. The perpetual silence enjoined as provided in the last preceding article shall be deemed to be restricted to the jactitation to which reference was made in the sworn application.

Perpetual silence to apply only to jactitation referred to in a sworn application.
Amended by:
[XXII.2005.49.](#)

412. If the jactitator shows that he has, within the time fixed, brought his claim for trial, the court shall abstain from disposing of the second demand contained in the original sworn application, and shall leave the question of costs to be determined in the action instituted by the jactitator.

Where jactitator brings his claim for trial.
Amended by:
[XXII.2005.50.](#)

413. Where in the action instituted by the jactitator the court shall give judgment of non-suit against the jactitator, the time allowed under article 408, shall commence to run anew from the day on which the judgment of non-suit shall have become a *res judicata* but may not be enlarged.

Effects of non-suit in action by jactitator.
Amended by:
[XV.1913.94.](#)

414. If, within the time renewed as provided in the last preceding article, the jactitator fails to institute fresh proceedings, the plaintiff in the jactitation suit may demand, by sworn application before the court which fixed the original time, that perpetual silence be enjoined on the jactitator in regard to the claim which he had brought for trial.

Effects of default by jactitator to take fresh proceedings.
Amended by:
[XXII.2005.51.](#)

Jactitation suit
inadmissible
against absent
persons, etc.

Added by:
XV.1913.94.

Amended by:
XXIV.1995.185.

415. A jactitation suit may not be instituted against any absent person nor may any such suit be instituted or prosecuted against any minor or other person who is under any disability to sue or to be sued:

Provided that the provisions of this article shall not apply in relation to any person who within three months immediately preceding the institution of the jactitation suit shall have, either personally or through a mandatory, filed a judicial act vaunting his claim.

Sub-title III

OF COMPETING CLAIMS

Competition of
creditors on
moneys deposited
in court.

Amended by:

VII.1892.1;

XV.1913.95;

VIII.1990.3.

Publication of
notice. Time for
creditors to put in
claims.

416. (1) If, in the superior courts or in the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) in its superior jurisdiction, there shall be deposited money in respect of which more than two parties allege claims of preference or priority or any other interest whatsoever, the court, upon the application of any of such claimants, shall, through the registrar, cause a notice to be published in one or more periodical newspapers, including in any case the Government Gazette, stating that the said money is standing in court, that there are claims upon such money, and calling upon all parties interested therein, to put in their respective claims within the time of one month, on the expiration of which it shall not be lawful for any party failing to put in a claim within that time, to delay or otherwise hinder the decision on the competition proceedings between the parties putting in a claim.

Notice to state day
appointed for trial.

(2) The said notice shall state the day on which, after the expiration of the said time of one month, all the parties interested who shall have put in a claim shall appear in court for the trial of the claims.

Power of court to
abridge time, in
commercial
matters.

(3) In commercial matters, the time above referred to may be abridged to any such shorter period as the court may deem adequate.

Service of notice.

(4) The said notice shall be served on the persons making the deposit, the debtor, the execution creditors as well as on any other creditor at whose suit any garnishee order may have been issued.

Jus avocandi.

417. The judgment given on the claims put in by the competing creditors within the prescribed time shall not operate so as to bar the exercise of any right on the part of any person who failed to put in his claim; and it shall be lawful for such person subsequently to recover, wholly or in part, from any ranked creditor the money received by him, if the claim of such person shall, on separate proceedings, prove to be prior, or equal to, that of the ranked creditor: but if it shall be proved that such person having a prior or an equal claim could have put in such claim within the prescribed time, his default may be taken into account in adjudging the costs.

- 418.** Any person desiring to compete on the money deposited in court shall, within the prescribed time, file an application containing his demand to be ranked on the fund. The first competitor shall together with his application file a copy of the lodgment schedule.
- 419.** (1) The application shall be served on the debtor and on the person making the deposit, but no answer to such application shall be allowed.
- (2) The trial of the claims shall not take place before four days from the expiration of the time referred to in article 416.
- 420.** (1) Upon the expiration of the time referred to in article 416, the written pleadings shall be deemed to be closed both by the filing of the respective application of each claimant.
- (2) At the trial, the court shall hear each competing claimant both in support of his claim and the alleged priority or preference thereof, as well as in opposition to the claims of the other competitors, and on any other matter which may be necessary for a full statement of the claims. The debtor, the person making the deposit and any other interested person appearing at the trial shall also be heard.
- 421.** Where the court, for a further and better statement of the claims, in view of the intricacy of the issues involved, shall deem an additional written pleading to be necessary, the court may order such additional written pleading and make any other special order which it may consider expedient.
- 422.** During the compilation of the competition proceedings, no money forming the subject-matter of such proceedings may be paid out without the consent of all the parties interested, unless the court, with a view to avoiding the accruing of interest to the prejudice of all the parties, or for any other good reason, shall deem it proper to satisfy the claim of any one of the competitors the priority or preference of which has not been contested.
- 423.** Saving the provisions of articles 424, 425 and 427, if the competition refers to money deposited in court subject to the condition that it may not be withdrawn without a surety, such money or any part thereof shall not be paid out under any title or for any reason whatsoever without such surety.
- 424.** Where the payment out is demanded by a government department, or any administration thereof, or by any pious institution or foundation, or any other body corporate, which can offer sufficient security on immovable property, the hypothecation of such immovable property made by a person lawfully authorised for the purpose, may be allowed in lieu of the surety referred to in the last preceding article.
- 425.** The following persons are exempt from giving surety notwithstanding that such surety be required by the person making the deposit:
- Competing claimants to proceed by application.
Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.186.](#)
- Service of application.
Amended by:
[XI.1859.24;](#)
[VII.1892.2;](#)
[XXIV.1995.187.](#)
- Time for trial.
- Closing of written pleadings.
Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.188.](#)
- Trial.
- Additional pleadings.
- No money to be paid out without consent of parties interested or without order of court.
- Withdrawal of deposit subject to condition of surety.
- Hypothecary security in lieu of surety.
- Exemption from surety.

- (a) the dominus, where the claim is for payment of the ground-rent of the tenement on the proceeds of the sale of which there are competing claims;
- (b) any seaman of any ship, where the claim is for payment of wages due for the last voyage, provided the money deposited in court is derived from the sale of such ship, or from the sale of the cargo of the said last voyage, or from the recovery of the ship or cargo, or from the freight earned in the said voyage.

Duration of obligation of surety.

426. The obligation of the surety referred to in article 423 shall remain in force -

- (a) if the money deposited in court is derived from the sale of immovable property, until such time as the right of action to which the immovable property may be subject is exercisable;
- (b) if the money deposited in court is derived from the sale of any ship, for a period of one year;
- (c) if the money deposited in court is derived from any other source, until such time as the person making the deposit may be liable to any molestation against which he is entitled to be secured.

When condition requiring a surety is not operative.

427. The condition of the production of a surety referred to in article 423, shall not be operative -

- (a) if the money deposited in court represents the price of movable property, with the exception of ships; or
- (b) in any other case, if the court is satisfied that the depositor cannot be subjected to molestation.

Competing claims on primogenitures, etc.
Filing of the application.
Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.189.](#)

428. (1) In case of competing claims respecting any primogeniture, majorat, entail, succession or benefice, any person claiming to have a right thereto, and desiring to establish such right, shall file an application setting out his claim causing such application to be served on any person whom he believes to have a competing claim.

Production of documents.

(2) The documents in support of the claim shall be produced together with the application.

Answer and respective statement.
Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.190.](#)

429. It shall be lawful for each of the parties on whom any such application shall have been served to file an answer containing the plea which he desires to raise in opposition to the other competing claims and a statement of his own claim.

Service of answer and respective libel.

430. The written pleading referred to in the last preceding article shall be served on all the parties who shall have put in a claim as well as on any other person whom the party filing such pleading deems it to be in his interest to notify judicially of such pleading.

431. (1) In the cases referred to in article 428, the pleadings shall be deemed to be closed -

- (a) on the filing of the answers and respective applications of the contending parties; or
- (b) on the expiration of the time prescribed in sub-article (2), if the parties or any of the parties served with the application shall fail to file the answer and respective application within such time.

(2) The party served with an application shall file an answer or a respective application within fifteen days from the date of service.

Closing of pleadings.
Amended by:
[XXXI.1934.47.](#)
Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.191.](#)

432. There shall be no reply to the answer and respective application but it shall be lawful for the parties served with an answer and respective application to file a note in support of their own claim and in opposition to the claim of the other parties not later than the day appointed for the trial of the claims.

Parties served with answer and respective application may file a note.
Amended by:
[XV.1913.96;](#)
[XXXI.1934.48;](#)
[XXIV.1995.192.](#)

433. Any other party claiming to have a right to the primogeniture, majorat, entail, succession, or benefice under litigation, may file his application at any time before the closing of the pleadings, causing it to be served on all parties who had put in a claim, in which case the provisions of the last four preceding articles shall apply.

Other claimants may file application.
Amended by:
[XXXI.1934.49;](#)
[XXIV.1995.193.](#)

434. Should a further and better statement of the claims prove to be necessary, it shall be lawful for the court to order all or any of the competing parties to file an additional written pleading in regard to such issues of law or fact as in the opinion of the court may require further elucidation.

Additional written pleadings.

435. Non-appearance, except in the case of a person served with a judicial notice, shall not debar any claimant who has not entered an appearance from exercising, by separate proceedings, any right of action to which he may be entitled against the successful party.

Person not expressly notified not to be debarred from claiming his rights by separate proceedings.

Sub-title IV

OF UNCERTAIN OR UNKNOWN HEIRS

436. If a person dies without leaving any known heir present in Malta, the State Advocate shall take possession of the inheritance to safeguard the interests of any person who may be entitled thereto.

State Advocate to take possession of inheritance where no known heirs are present in Malta.
Amended by:
[L.N. 46 of 1965.](#)
[LVIII.1974.68;](#)
[XXV.2019.13.](#)

Warrant of description.

Amended by:
XL.1913.97;
L.N. 46 of 1965;
LVIII.1974.68;
VIII.1990.3;
XXIV.1995.194;
XXV.2019.14.

Interested parties may apply for leave to be present at description.

Seizure of movable property.

Sale by auction of perishable property, etc.
Amended by:
XXXI.1934.50;
L.N. 46 of 1965;
LVIII.1974.68;
XXV.2019.15.

State Advocate to be lawful representative of inheritance.
Amended by:
L.N. 46 of 1965;
LVIII.1974.68;
XXV.2019.16.

Estate not to be disposed of without order of court.

Duties of State Advocate where inheritance is of considerable value.
Amended by:
L.N. 46 of 1965;
LVIII.1974.68;
VIII.1990.3;
XXIV.1995.195;
XXV.2019.17.

Placing of person in possession of estate.
Security.

Persons exempted from giving security.
Amended by:
XLVI.1973.108.

437. The Civil Court, First Hall, or the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) in its superior jurisdiction, as the case may be, shall, on the demand of the State Advocate, by an application, issue a warrant directing the marshal to make a description of the hereditary estate.

438. Any person claiming to have an interest in the estate, either in his own name or on behalf of any other person, may, upon an application, obtain leave from the court to be present at the description.

439. In virtue of the said warrant all movable property belonging to the deceased shall be seized.

440. (1) The State Advocate may, by an application, demand that such property as he may think perishable or liable to deterioration, be sold by auction.

(2) The same rule shall also apply where the hereditary estate is of very small value.

441. The State Advocate shall be the lawful representative of the inheritance whether as plaintiff or defendant.

442. It shall not be lawful to dispose of the hereditary estate or any part thereof without an order of the court.

443. (1) The State Advocate vested with the possession of the hereditary estate shall, by means of a notice in the Gazette and in a daily newspaper, call upon all parties who may have a claim on such estate, to bring forward their claim before the competent court within a period of one year.

(2) It shall not be lawful for the court to put any person in possession of the inheritance before the expiration of the said time, unless such person shall give a bond with a sufficient surety to restore such inheritance to any other person having a better claim who may appear within the said time.

444. (1) The following persons are exempted from giving the security referred to in the last preceding article:

- (a) the heir institute;
- (b) the legitimate children of the deceased;
- (c) the parent or the brother or sister of the deceased, provided such parent, brother or sister shall state on oath before the respective court, that it is to his knowledge that the deceased had no legitimate

children.

(2) In such cases it shall be lawful for the court to allow the heir institute or the child, parent, brother or sister of the deceased to take possession of the entire inheritance, under an obligation on his or her part to surrender such portion as may be due to any other heir institute, child, parent, brother or sister of the deceased.

Power of court.

445. (1) Where the hereditary estate is of very small value, it shall be lawful for the court, in the absence of any opposition on the part of the State Advocate, to order, even on an application, that such estate be delivered to any creditor claiming it in full or partial payment of a debt owing to him.

Delivery of estate to creditor.
Amended by:
XI.1859.25;
L.N. 46 of 1965;
LVIII.1974.68;
XXV.2019.18.

(2) In any such case, the court may allow the creditor to verify his account on oath if, in the circumstances of the case, it is difficult to produce other evidence and the court is satisfied that such verification on oath is sufficient.

Verification of account on oath.

446. In the case referred to in the last preceding article, the delivery of the estate to a creditor in full or partial payment of a debt owing to him, may also be made, without any order of the court and without any application on the part of the creditor, upon a note to that effect filed by the State Advocate, where the debt is proved by documentary evidence.

Summary procedure for delivery of estate to creditor where claim is proved by documentary evidence.
Amended by:
XI.1859.25;
L.N. 46 of 1965;
LVIII.1974.68;
XXV.2019.19.

447. The State Advocate may, at the expiration of one year from the day on which he was vested with the possession of the hereditary estate, obtain an order from the court for the entire property of the deceased to be sold by auction, in which case the proceeds of the sale, after deducting therefrom the expenses incurred, shall be deposited in court for the benefit of the inheritance.

Sale by auction of estate and deposit of proceeds in court.
Amended by:
L.N. 46 of 1965;
LVIII.1974.68;
XXV.2019.20.

Sub-title V

OF DISENTAIL

448. Saving the provisions of Title I of Part II of Book Second of this Code, the demand for a disentail, in the cases permitted by law, is made by an application to the competent court of contentious jurisdiction.

Procedure for disentail.

449. The application shall state the nature of the entail to which the immovable property is subject, as well as the object for which the disentail is demanded.

Contents of application.

450. The application shall be accompanied by documents in support of its contents and by security for costs.

Production of documents and security for costs.

Issue of banns for appointment of curators.	451. Where any such application is made, the court shall, upon a separate demand by the applicant, or upon the demand which shall have been made for the purpose in the application itself, issue banns for the appointment of a curator or curators.
Publication of notice in newspapers announcing application for disentail.	452. The registrar shall simultaneously with the issue of banns cause a notice to be published in one or more periodical newspapers, including in any case the Government Gazette, announcing that an application for the disentail has been filed, and calling upon any interested party who may desire to enter an opposition to such application to file, within one month or within such shorter time as the court in some particular case sees fit to prescribe, an answer containing the grounds of his objection to the said application.
Service of application.	453. Moreover, the application shall be expressly served on the curator or curators appointed as aforesaid and on the parties next entitled to succeed to the entail, being present in Malta and known to the applicant.
Answer by curators, etc.	454. After the application has been duly served, the curator or curators and the other parties on whom the application has been expressly served as well as any other person claiming to be interested in the matter, shall be entitled to file an answer.
No written reply allowed.	455. No written reply to such answer shall be allowed.
Closing of written pleadings.	456. The written pleadings shall be deemed to be closed on the expiration of the time referred to in article 452, although no answer shall have been filed.
Appointment of day for hearing of application.	457. The court shall not appoint a day for the hearing of the application before the time fixed in the notice referred to in article 452 has expired.
Effect of judgment ordering the disentail.	458. The judgment ordering the disentail shall, as soon as it becomes a <i>res judicata</i> , have the effect of freeing the immovable property from any entail to which the same may have been subject.
Power of court to order cessation of effects of disentail.	459. (1) It shall be lawful for the court, at any time before the alienation of such property, upon the demand of any person interested, to order the cessation of the effects of the disentail if, owing to supervening circumstances, the object for which the disentail was granted shall have ceased to exist. (2) In the absence of any such order or of a demand for such order, the alienation may not be impugned on the ground that it was made after the object for which the disentail was granted had ceased to exist.

Sub-title VI

Substituted by:
L.N. 148 of 1975.

OF CAUSES OF THE GOVERNMENT

460. (1) Subject to the provisions of sub-article (2), no judicial act commencing any proceedings may be filed, and no proceedings may be taken or instituted, and no warrant may be demanded, against the Government, or against any authority established by the [Constitution](#), other than the Electoral Commission, or against any person holding a public office in his official capacity, except after the expiration of ten days from the service against the Government or such authority or person as aforesaid, of a judicial letter or of a protest in which the right claimed or the demand sought is clearly stated.

Proceedings
against the
Government.
Added by:
[VIII.1981.6.](#)
Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.196;](#)
[XXXI.2002.149.](#)

- (2) The provisions of sub-article (1) shall not apply -
- (a) to actions for redress under article 46 of the [Constitution](#); or
 - (b) to warrants of prohibitory injunction; or
 - (c) to actions for the correction of acts of civil status; or
 - (d) to actions to be heard with urgency;
 - (e) to referrals of disputes to arbitration,

and where in accordance with the provisions of any law a particular procedure including a time-limit or other term is to be observed, the provisions of sub-article (1) shall not apply and the procedure aforesaid, including any time-limit or other term, shall apply and be observed in lieu thereof.

(3) Causes against the Government in respect of which there is in force a warrant of prohibitory injunction shall be heard by the court with urgency in preference to other causes.

461. For the recovery of any fine (*multa*) recoverable by civil process, the Attorney General shall proceed in the Civil Court, First Hall, or in the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) in its superior jurisdiction, as the case may be, by application.

Proceedings for
recovery of fine
(*multa*) by civil
process.
Amended by:
[XV.1913.97;](#)
[L.N. 46 of 1965;](#)
[LVIII.1974.68;](#)
[VIII.1990.3;](#)
[XXIV.1995.197;](#)
[XXII.2005.52.](#)

462. In the case of seizure of goods subject to forfeiture by civil process according to law, the Attorney General shall likewise proceed in the Civil Court, First Hall, or in the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) in its superior jurisdiction by application demanding that the goods in question be declared forfeited.

Proceedings for
forfeiture of goods
by civil process.
Amended by:
[XV.1913.97;](#)
[L.N. 46 of 1965;](#)
[LVIII.1974.68;](#)
[VIII.1990.3;](#)
[XXIV.1995.198;](#)
[XXII.2005.53.](#)

463. The application referred to in the last preceding article shall be directed against the person in whose possession the goods shall have been found.

Person against
whom application
is to be directed.
Amended by:
[XXII.2005.54.](#)

When application is to be directed against official curators.

Amended by:
XXXI.1934.51;
XXII.2005.55.

Curators to represent unknown owner.

Posting up of copy of application.

Any interested person may appear at the trial to contest action.

Proceedings for debts due to Government.

Amended by:
XV.1913.98.
Substituted by:
XXIV.1995.199.
Amended by:
XXII.2005.56;
XVII.2012.5.

464. (1) Where the goods were not in the possession of any person, the application shall be directed against the advocate and the legal procurator next in turn as curators on the rota.

(2) Such curators shall represent the unknown owner of the goods.

(3) A copy of such application shall be posted up at the entrance of the building in which the court sits, at least two days before the day appointed for the hearing.

465. It shall be lawful for any person interested, although not summoned, to appear at the trial of the action, and enter his objections against the demand referred to in article 462.

466. (1) Where the head of a government department or the person vested with the legal representation of a body corporate established by law or with the legal representation of any company or other body which has been authorised by or under any law to collect any amounts due to a government department or to a body corporate established by law, desires to sue for the recovery of a debt due to a government department or to any administration thereof or to a body corporate established by law, for any services, supplies, penalties, rent, ground rent, other burdens on property, compensation for occupation and or for any licence or other fee or tax due, he may make a declaration on oath before the registrar, a judge or a magistrate wherein he is to state the nature of the debt and the name of the debtor and confirm that it is due:

Provided that the provisions of this article shall also apply in respect of amounts due for the supply of water and electricity and for the rental of the relative meters but they shall not apply where prior to the service required under sub-article (2) the person from whom the amount is claimed shall have notified the claimant either by means of a judicial act or by registered post that he is disputing the metering, calculation or the charge in respect of such supply or rental.

(2) The declaration referred to in sub-article (1) shall be served upon the debtor by means of a judicial act and it shall have the same effect as a final judgment of the competent court unless the debtor shall, within a period of twenty days from service upon him of the said declaration oppose the claim by filing an application demanding that the court declare the claim unfounded.

(3) The application filed in terms of sub-article (2) shall be served upon the head of department, who shall be entitled to file a reply within a period of twenty days. The court shall appoint the application for hearing on a date after the lapse of that period.

(4) In the cases of an urgent nature the court may, upon an application of the creditor or the debtor, shorten any time limits provided for in this article by means of a decree to be served upon the other party.

467. (1) Any executive title obtained according to the provisions of the last preceding article in the absence of any opposition on the part of the debtor shall be rescinded if upon a request by application to be filed by the debtor within twenty days from the first service upon him of any executive warrant based on the said title or of any other judicial act wherein reference is made to the said title, the court is satisfied that the debtor was unaware of the service of the declaration referred to in sub-article (1) of the last preceding article during the period during which he could oppose the same and that the claim contained in the said declaration is unfounded on the merits.

Opposition to proceedings under article 466.

Amended by:
[XV.1913.99.100;](#)
[VIII.1990.3.](#)

Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.200.](#)
Amended by:
[XXII.2005.57.](#)

(2) No opposition other than that specifically provided for in this article and in the last preceding article shall stay the issue or execution of any executive act obtained thereunder or the paying out of the proceeds of any warrant or sale by auction carried out in pursuance thereof.

468. *Repealed by* [XVII.2017.84.](#)

Summary proceedings for eviction from certain land.

Repealed by:
[XXIV.1995.200.](#)
Added by:
[XXVI.2015.2.](#)
Cap. 228.

Repealed by:
[XVII.2017.84.](#)

468A. *Repealed by* [XVII.2017.84.](#)

Procedure subsequent to a request made under article 468.

Added by:
[XXVI.2015.3.](#)
Repealed by:
[XVII.2017.84.](#)

468B. The Minister may make regulations and prescribe schemes which promote mediation and out of court settlement schemes which involve the Government, thereby also promoting principles in line with Commission Recommendations 2001/310/EC.

Regulations.

Added by:
[VIII.2017.7.](#)

469. Any taxed fees due to the law officers of the Government of Malta shall be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

Government costs.

Amended by:
[XVI.1922.3;](#)
[XXXI.1966.2;](#)
[L.N. 148 of 1975.](#)

Sub-Title VII

JUDICIAL REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Added by:
[XXIV.1995.201.](#)

469A. (1) Saving as is otherwise provided by law, the courts of justice of civil jurisdiction may enquire into the validity of any administrative act or declare such act null, invalid or without effect only in the following cases:

Judicial review of administrative action.

Added by:
[XXIV.1995.201.](#)
Amended by:
[IV.1996.8;](#)
[XXI of 2020.](#)

- (a) where the administrative act is in violation of the [Constitution](#);
- (b) when the administrative act is *ultra vires* on any of the following grounds:

- (i) when such act emanates from a public authority that is not authorised to perform it; or
- (ii) when a public authority has failed to observe the principles of natural justice or mandatory procedural requirements in performing the administrative act or in its prior deliberations thereon; or
- (iii) when the administrative act constitutes an abuse of the public authority's power in that it is done for improper purposes or on the basis of irrelevant considerations; or
- (iv) when the administrative act is otherwise contrary to law.

(2) In this article -

"administrative act" includes the issuing by a public authority of any order, licence, permit, warrant, decision, or a refusal to any demand of a claimant, but does not include any measure intended for internal organization or administration within the said authority:

Provided that, saving those cases where the law prescribes a period within which a public authority is required to make a decision, the absence of a decision of a public authority following a claimant's written demand served upon it, shall, after two months from such service, constitute a refusal for the purposes of this definition;

"public authority" means the Government of Malta, including its Ministries and departments, local authorities and any body corporate established by law and includes Boards which are empowered in terms of law to issue warrants for the exercise of any trade or profession.

(3) An action to impugn an administrative act under sub-article (1)(b) shall be filed within a period of six months from the date when the interested person becomes aware or could have become aware of such an administrative act, whichever is the earlier.

(4) The provisions of this article shall not apply where the mode of contestation or of obtaining redress, with respect to any particular administrative act before a court or tribunal is provided for in any other law.

(5) In any action brought under this article, it shall be lawful for the plaintiff to include in the demands a request for the payment of damages based on the alleged responsibility of the public authority in tort or quasi tort, arising out of the administrative act. The said damages shall not be awarded by the court where notwithstanding the annulment of the administrative act the public authority has not acted in bad faith or unreasonably or where the thing requested by the plaintiff could have lawfully and reasonably been refused under any other power.

(6) For the purposes of this article, and of any other provision of this and any other law, service with the government is a special relationship regulated by the legal provisions specifically

applicable to it and the terms and conditions from time to time established by the Government, and no law or provision thereof relating to conditions of employment or to contracts of service or of employment applies, or ever heretofore applied, to service with the government except to the extent that such law provides otherwise.

469B. (1) Where the Attorney General takes a decision:

- (a) not to prosecute in accordance with the powers conferred upon him by any law; or
- (b) not to allow the inspection or the issuing of copies of a *procès-verbal* or of any depositions or documents filed therewith in terms of the proviso to article 518 of the [Criminal Code](#),

Judicial review of a decision of the Attorney General.
Added by:
[XLI.2020.6.](#)

Cap. 9.

the courts of justice of civil jurisdiction, giving due account to the constitutional independence of the Attorney General, may enquire into the validity of the said decision and declare such decision null, invalid or without effect and consequently send back the matter to the Attorney General for review in accordance with the judgment of the court only in the case of a finding that the decision is not properly directed on legal considerations or is unreasonable in that it is not open to a reasonable prosecutor.

(2) An action for judicial review of a decision of the Attorney General as provided in paragraph (a) of sub-article (1) may be filed only by the injured party and an action in terms of paragraph (b) of sub-article (1) shall be filed by the claimant within two months from when the injured party or the claimant becomes aware or could have become aware of the decision, whichever is the earlier:

Provided that where the law provides for a procedure whereby the Attorney General may be requested to conduct an internal review of the decision, the said period of two months shall commence to run as from the date when the injured party is informed of the results of the said review:

Provided further that for the purposes of this article, the Auditor General, the Commissioner for Standards in Public Life, the Permanent Commission Against Corruption and the Ombudsman shall be entitled to make any claim and to exercise any action which according to this article pertains to the injured party when they shall have reported any corrupt practice as defined in the [Permanent Commission Against Corruption Act](#) to the Attorney General.

Cap. 326.

(3) Judicial review cannot be made where an agreement has been reached with the competent authorities of another country that the courts of that country shall exercise jurisdiction over the crime.

PART II

Amended by:
[IX.2004.11.](#)

OF THE MODE OF PROCEDURE BEFORE THE
COURT OF VOLUNTARY JURISDICTION

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Procedure in
matters of
voluntary
jurisdiction.
Amended by:
[XL.1983.4;](#)
[XXI.1993.87.](#)
Substituted by:
[XXXI.2002.150.](#)

470. (1) Saving the provisions of article 489 of this Code and of article 37 of the [Civil Code](#), any demand for any authorization or leave to enter into or make any contract or disposition in respect of which the law requires a previous authorization or leave, or for any other order or direction in civil matters of voluntary jurisdiction, shall be made to a section of the Civil Court as may be prescribed by regulations.

(2) Such application shall be signed by the applicant himself or by an advocate, notary, or legal procurator.

Powers of judge.
Amended by:
[IV.1868.5.](#)

471. Upon any such application the judge shall obtain the necessary information, and for such purpose he shall order the production of documents, examine, on oath or otherwise, the applicant himself or any other person, and also, if he deems it material to ascertain the value of the property forming the subject-matter of the application, appoint one or more experts.

Court may, in
certain cases, order
the production of
an opinion in
writing of an
advocate.

472. If the matter refers to any waiver, compromise or security, or to an authorization to begin a suit, it shall be lawful for the court to order the applicant to produce a reasoned opinion in writing of one or more practising advocates.

Judge may
examine any
person on subject-
matter of
application.
Amended by:
[IV.1868.6.](#)

473. It shall be lawful for the court to order any person to appear on a given day, at a stated time, to be examined on the subject-matter of the application.

Collection of
information.
Amended by:
[IV.1868.6.](#)

474. It shall also be lawful for the court to appoint one or more persons to collect the necessary information on the subject-matter of the application.

Any person may
spontaneously
appear to give
information.
Amended by:
[IV.1868.6.](#)

475. It shall be lawful for any person spontaneously to appear to give to the court the said information.

Act to be within
terms of decree.

476. Any act done in pursuance of an authorization granted by the court shall be within the terms of the decree; and if after a decree is given, it shall be found necessary to add any new stipulation, or agreement, or any other matter requiring authorization, another application shall be made for the necessary authorization.

Act to be valid
only as far as
authorized.

477. An act done in pursuance of a decree of the said court shall not be valid as regards such parts thereof as require judicial authorization, except in so far as such parts have been authorized.

478. (1) Where at the execution of any act, the presence of the judge of the said court is required by law, he shall attend personally:

Presence of judge at execution of acts
Amended by:
X.1856.6;
XV.1913.101;
L.N. 148 of 1975;
XXXI.2002.151.

Provided that the presentation or withdrawal of a secret will may be effected in the presence of any other judge, notwithstanding that such judge may not be the judge assigned to the said court.

(2) The presence of the judge at the execution of an act shall not cure any defect arising from any departure from the express terms of the decree of authorisation, nor shall it validate such part of the act as requires authorization if such authorization has not been granted by a decree of the court.

will not validate defects.

(3) It shall be lawful for the judge to depute a judicial assistant to be present at the execution of the act. It shall also be lawful for the judge to depute a judicial assistant to receive the information referred to in article 471, or any sworn declaration mentioned in this Part, if the person to be examined or heard, or the deponent, is prevented by illness from attending in court or in such other place as may have been appointed by the judge.

Judge may depute judicial assistant.

479. Decrees are issued in the name of the court, and shall be signed by the judge and countersigned by the registrar.

Decrees.

480. *Repealed by: [XXXI.2002.152.](#)*

Hearing of application for provisional maintenance etc.
Added by:
[XV.1983.5.](#)
Amended by:
[XXI.1993.87.](#)

481. *Repealed by: [XXIV.1995.202.](#)*

Mode of service.
Added by:
[XV.1983.5.](#)
Substituted by:
[XIII.1985.7.](#)

481A. *Repealed by: [XXXI.2002.152.](#)*

Review of maintenance decree.
Added by:
[XIII.1985.7.](#)

482. (1) The court may, and in the case of adoption proceedings shall, proceed with closed doors in examining and determining applications.

Examination of applications with closed doors.
Substituted by:
[XXI.1962.20.](#)

(2) In the case of adoption proceedings, every application, decree and record connected therewith shall be secret and shall not be accessible to any person except by authorisation of the court.

483. If it shall appear from the contents of the application, or from the examination, or from the information obtained, that any third party is interested in the matter, the court shall order the application to be served on such interested party to whom a reasonable time shall be allowed to file an answer.

Service of application on interested third parties.

484. If the party so served shall fail to file an answer within the prescribed time, the court shall dispose of the matter according to law.

Default of answer by third party.

Opposition to demand.

Amended by:
[XV.1983.6.](#)

485. If any person enters an opposition to the demand, the court shall examine the grounds of opposition, and shall either grant the order applied for, or refer the parties to the court of contentious jurisdiction, as it shall deem proper:

Provided that the court shall not refer the parties to the court of contentious jurisdiction where, in the case of a demand made in accordance with the proviso to article 470(1), the court shall have upheld the opposition to the said demand.

Custody of applications and decrees.

Amended by:
[XV.1913.102;](#)
[XXXI.2002.153.](#)

486. (1) Every application and every decree shall be kept in the Registry.

Decree authorizing deed to state name of notary.

(2) A decree authorizing the execution of any deed shall state the name of the notary before and by whom such deed is to be received and published.

Copies to be countersigned by judge.

(3) Any copy of a decree to be inserted in any notarial act shall be countersigned by the judge.

Indexes of applications and decrees.

(4) Regular indexes shall be kept of all applications and decrees.

Cognizance of matters of voluntary jurisdiction not to be ground for challenge or abstention of judge.

487. The judge who shall have granted or refused the leave or authorization applied for, or who shall have otherwise taken cognizance of any matter of voluntary jurisdiction, may not on such ground be challenged or precluded from taking cognizance of any cause in any of the courts of contentious jurisdiction in which any issue relating to such matter may afterwards arise.

Grounds for impugning acts executed by leave or with authorization of court.

488. (1) In regard to any act executed by leave or with the authorization of the court, it shall not be lawful to adduce evidence to prove that the consent was given by error, or extorted by violence or fraud, or that the act was in any manner whatsoever injurious or prejudicial.

(2) Nevertheless any such act may be invalidated, if it is proved that the leave or authority of the court was granted in consequence of any misstatement or concealment of facts.

Applicability of provisions of this Part to court of Gozo as court of voluntary jurisdiction.

Amended by:
[X.1856.7;](#)
[VIII.1990.3.](#)
Substituted by:
[XXXI.2002.154.](#)

489. The provisions of this Part of this Code relating to the Voluntary Jurisdiction section of the Civil Court, and to the judge thereof shall also apply to the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) as a court of voluntary jurisdiction, constituted under the provisions of article 54, and to the magistrate sitting in such court.

Title I
OF DISENTAIL BY DECREE OF COURT OF
VOLUNTARY JURISDICTION

*Added under the
Statute Law
Revision
Ordinance 1936,
incorporating ss. 1
to 8 of Ord. II of
1868.*

490. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Code relating to disentail, any person in possession of property subject to entail may, upon an application to that effect, obtain a disentail, in regard to all or any part of such property, by a decree of the court of voluntary jurisdiction, provided -

Disentail where
fruits do not
exceed ninety-
three euro and
seventeen cents
(93.17) *per*
annum.

- (a) the entail be dividual; and
- (b) the fruits of all the property possessed by the applicant under the entail to which the application refers, do not, after deducting all burdens, exceed the sum of ninety-three euro and seventeen cents (93.17) *per annum*; and
- (c) the consent of all the parties next entitled to succeed to the entail be obtained:

*Added by:
II.1868.1.
Amended by:
[XIII.1983.5](#);
[L.N. 407 of 2007](#).*

Provided that if at the time of the application there be only one person next entitled to succeed, then, besides the consent of such person, it shall also be necessary to obtain the consent of any other person who, in the event of the predecease of the former, would be the person or one of the persons next entitled to succeed.

491. Where any of the persons whose consent is required as provided in the last preceding article, is a minor or is insane or interdicted, it shall, nevertheless, be lawful for the court to order the disentail if it is satisfied of the necessity or utility of such disentail in the interest also of such person.

Where person
whose consent is
required is a minor,
etc.
*Added by:
II.1868.2.*

492. Where the fruits of all the property possessed by the applicant under the entail to which the application refers, do not, after deducting all burdens, exceed the sum of thirty-four euro and ninety-four cents (34.94) *per annum*, the court may order the disentail independently of the consent of any of the persons entitled to succeed.

Where fruits of all
the property under
entail do not
exceed thirty-four
euro and ninety-
four cents (34.94)
per annum.
*Added by:
II.1868.3.
Amended by:
[XIII.1983.5](#);
[L.N. 407 of 2007](#).*

493. Where the fruits of any tenement possessed by the applicant under the entail, whether dividual or individual, to which the application refers, do not, after deducting all burdens, exceed the sum of nine euro and thirty-two cents (9.32) *per annum*, the court may likewise order the disentail independently of the consent of any of the persons entitled to succeed.

Where fruits of
tenement do not
exceed nine euro
and thirty-two
cents (9.32) *per*
annum.
*Added by:
II.1868.3.
Amended by:
VI.1895.19;
[XIII.1983.5](#);
[L.N. 407 of 2007](#).*

494. (1) A decree ordering a disentail shall free the property from any other anterior dividual entail to which the property may be subject although no mention of such other entail shall have been made in the application.

Anterior dividual
entail.
*Added by:
II.1868.4.*

Anterior individual entail.

(2) Such decree shall also free the property from any other anterior individual entail, if forty years shall have elapsed from the day of the death of the entailer, where the entail mentioned in the application was constituted by a will, or from the date of the deed where such entail was constituted by a deed *inter vivos*.

Substitution.
Added by:
II.1868.5.
Amended by:
XIII.1983.5;
L.N. 407 of 2007.

495. (1) The provisions of the foregoing articles shall also apply where the demand contained in the application is for the substitution of some immovable property for other property, whether movable or immovable, subject to a dividual entail.

(2) In such case, the substitution may be authorized by a decree of the said court, even though the fruits of the property in regard to which the disentail is demanded, exceed the sum of ninety-three euro and seventeen cents (93.17) *per annum*.

Letting out of property subject to entail.
Added by:
II.1868.6.

496. It shall also be lawful for the said court to grant to any person in possession of property of any value whatsoever, subject to any dividual or individual entail, authorization to give such property on lease for any period exceeding eight years, in the case of rural property, or four years, in the case of urban property, if it is shown to the satisfaction of the court that such lease would be for the benefit of the persons entitled to succeed:

Provided that the court may not grant any such authorization for a period exceeding twelve years, in the case of rural property, or eight years, in the case of urban property.

Letting out of property subject to entail on emphyteusis.
Added by:
II.1868.7.
Amended by:
VI.1895.18.

497. (1) It shall also be lawful for the said court to grant to any person in possession of property of any value whatsoever, subject to any dividual or individual entail, authorization to give such property on emphyteusis for a definite period or in perpetuity, provided the persons whose consent would, according to the provisions of article 490, be necessary for a disentail, give their consent thereto.

(2) The provisions of article 491 shall also apply in the case referred to in this article.

Where person refuses consent.
Added by:
II.1868.8.

498. Where any person whose consent is required under the provisions of the foregoing articles fails, without just cause, to give such consent and thereby causes recourse to be had to the court of contentious jurisdiction for the disentail or other authorization, such court shall, in granting to the applicant that which, in the event of such consent, he could have obtained from the court of voluntary jurisdiction, condemn such person in the costs of the action.

Title II

OF THE DISENCUMBERMENT OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
BY THE PROCEDURE OF EDICTS

- 499.** The liberation of any immovable property from any entail, hypothec, easement or other burden whatsoever, may be obtained by means of edicts issued by the Court of voluntary jurisdiction. Issue of edicts.
Amended by:
[IX.2004.II.](#)
- 500.** (1) The demand for the issue of edicts shall be made by an application. Application.
Amended by:
X.1856.8;
IX.1886.87.
- (2) The application shall state the mode in which the property has been acquired as well as every transmission of the possession thereof which may have taken place within the last preceding ten years. Contents of application.
- (3) The applicant shall, together with the application, or subsequently thereto, file a list of his hypothecary debts, showing distinctly the sums due by him, the name of the creditors and their respective titles, as well as the burdens and any other encumbrances to which the immovable is subject; and such list shall be by him verified on oath before the registrar. List of hypothecary debts.
- (4) The applicant shall also produce a certificate from the office of the Public Registry, showing the liabilities, if any, registered against him as well as against such others as were vested with the possession of the property during the last preceding ten years. Certificate of Public Registry.
- (5) In default of the production of such certificate, it shall not be lawful to order the issue of edicts. Default of production of certificate.
- (6) If the applicant declares that the property is not subject to any debt or other burden, he shall confirm such declaration on oath. Where applicant declares that property is not subject to debts.
- (7) Where the application is made by an attorney or other representative of a person not residing in Malta, or incapable of taking an oath, the oath prescribed under this article shall be taken by such attorney or representative, who will declare that it is not to his knowledge whether the property in question is subject to any debt or other burden, or whether the property is subject to any other debt or burden besides those mentioned in the said list. Where application is made by attorney or representative.
- 501.** (1) The court shall issue two edicts with an interval of at least fifteen days between the first and the second edict. Court to issue two edicts with interval of fifteen days.
Amended by:
X.1856.9;
[XXIV.1995.203.](#)
- (2) A copy of each edict shall be posted up at the entrance of the building in which the court sits. Posting up of copy of edict.
- (3) Such edicts shall call upon any person interested to appear and put in his claim by a protest within two months from the expiration of the time of fifteen days from the date of issue of the second edict; provided that any curator appointed by the court according to the provisions of article 504(1) may by application Interested parties to claim by protest.
Time.

request the court to extend the said time. The court may, after considering the circumstances of the case, grant such other time as it may deem fit.

Contents of edicts.

(4) The edicts shall contain a warning to the effect that at the expiration of the said time of two months, the property shall become free from any entail, hypothec, easement or other burden as regards any person who fails to appear, unless such person has been mentioned in the list referred to in the last preceding article.

Notice by registrar.
Contents of notice.
Amended by:
X.1856.9;
IV.1868.7.

502. (1) The registrar shall, within fifteen days from the issue of the second edict, cause a notice, signed by him, containing the demand for the issue of edicts together with an intimation in terms of sub-articles (3) and (4) of the last preceding article, to be published in the Government Gazette, and posted up in the place in which Government Notices or other official acts are ordinarily posted up in the city, suburb or district in which the applicant resides, as well as in the city, suburb or district in which the property is situate.

Where notice is to contain names of creditors.

(2) Where, in regard to any liability shown on the certificate of the Public Registry, the applicant, if he appears in his own name, shall swear that such liability does not concern him and that he is not aware whether such liability concerns any of the persons vested with the possession of the property within the last preceding ten years, or, if he appears as attorney or representative of another person as provided in article 500(7), shall swear that it is not to his knowledge whether such liability affects the property, then in any such case, the said notice shall contain the names, as stated in the certificate, of the creditors in whose favour such liability is registered and shall contain an express warning to such creditors that, should they fail to appear and put in a claim, by a protest, within the time prescribed in sub-article (3) of the last preceding article, such liability shall be deemed to be non-existent in so far as the property referred to in the notice is concerned.

Posting up of notice.
Amended by:
IV.1868.8.

503. (1) If the applicant does not reside in Malta, the said notice shall be posted up in the place in Malta wherein it is proved to the satisfaction of the court that he has resided within the last ten years; and failing such proof, the said notice shall be posted up only in the place within the limits of which the property is situate.

(2) Nevertheless it shall in all cases be lawful for the court to order that the said notice be also posted up in any other place.

Appointment of curators.

504. (1) The court shall appoint curators to represent any interested parties who are absent or minors or pupils having no tutor or curator or other lawful representative.

Duties of curators.

(2) It shall be the duty of the curators so appointed to make due inquiry as to the rights of the parties whom they represent, as well as to ascertain in the best possible manner whether the property is subject to any entail.

Written report by curators.

505. The curators so appointed shall make a written report to the court, stating therein the inquiries made by them for the

purposes mentioned in the last preceding article; and if it shall come to their knowledge that the parties whom they represent have any claim whatever on the property, they shall bring forward such claim by entering the requisite protest.

506. The application, the certificate of the Public Registry, the list as verified on oath, the two edicts together with the certificate of the marshal with regard to their publication, the notice inserted in the Government Gazette, the documents, the protests of the interested parties who have entered an appearance and the report as well as the claims put in by the curators appointed as aforesaid, shall be compiled in a single record in chronological order and kept in their original.

Compilation of record.

507. On the expiration of the time mentioned in article 501(3), the court shall examine the record, and if it is satisfied that the provisions contained in articles 499 to 506 inclusive have been complied with, shall give a decree declaring that the edicts have been purified, that it is proved that all the formalities prescribed by this Code have been complied with, and that the immovable property is free from any entail, hypothec, easement or other burden, which might be claimed by any person, or body corporate, although privileged, including the Government, except such as are available to the creditors or other interested parties who put in a claim, or whose claim appears from the certificate of the Public Registry, or from the list filed by the applicant, or from the protest of the curators.

Decree of court.

508. (1) Any hypothec remaining in force as provided in the last preceding article shall subsist only for a period of one year to be reckoned from the day on which the debtor, who has disposed of the property, shall have, by protest or judicial letter, called upon the creditor to exercise his rights.

Time for which hypothecs remaining in force as provided in article 507 shall subsist.
Amended by:
XI.1859.26.

(2) If at the time of any such intimation, the rights of the creditor cannot as yet be exercised, the said period shall be suspended until such time as such rights can be exercised.

Suspension of time.

(3) The said period shall also be suspended, where the time for payment has been agreed upon in favour of the creditor.

509. Where the demand for the issue of edicts is made in consequence of a bid made in a judicial sale by auction subject to the condition of the issue of edicts, the purchaser shall, together with the application, file a copy of the act of adjudication; and in such case the list mentioned in article 500 shall be made by the purchaser himself, unless he states on oath before the court that he is not acquainted with the circumstances required to be mentioned in the list.

Issue of edicts in pursuance of condition attached to bid in judicial auction.

510. The curators appointed by the court under the provisions of article 504, shall use all due diligence to ascertain the history of the title to the property, and shall make an express mention thereof in their report. If the history of the title to the property is established by the curators, the court shall cause another edict to be published in the manner prescribed in article 501.

Curators to investigate history of title to property.
Amended by:
X.1856.9.

Extension of original time of two months.

Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.204.](#)

511. If the publication of the history of the title to the property as provided in the last preceding article, takes place during the second of the two months prescribed in the edicts, or during the extension of the period granted in terms of article 501(3), such time of two months or such extension of the period shall be extended by another month.

Title III

OF THE APPOINTMENT OF TUTORS, CURATORS AND OTHER ADMINISTRATORS

Application for the appointment of tutors, curators, etc.

Amended by:
[XLVI.1973.108;](#)
[IX.2004.11.](#)

512. Any person may apply to the Court of voluntary jurisdiction, for the appointment of a tutor or curator to a minor, or for the appointment of a curator to a vacant inheritance or to an absent person, or of any other administrator, according to law.

Appointment of experts for examination of accounts,

513. Upon the application of tutors, curators or other administrators for the examination and approval of their accounts and for their discharge, it shall be lawful for the court to appoint advocates and accountants from the rota, who shall file a report upon which the court shall give the requisite decree.

for fixing maintenance allowances.

514. Where it shall be necessary to fix a maintenance allowance, it shall be lawful for the court to appoint a practising advocate or a head of a family, in order to report thereon, and on any such report, the court shall give the requisite decree.

Power of court to exempt tutors, etc. from continuing to act,

Amended by:
[XLVI.1973.108.](#)

515. It shall be lawful for the court, on good cause being shown, to exempt any tutor, curator, or other administrator, appointed by the court, from continuing to act as tutor, curator, or administrator.

or to suspend such tutors, etc.

Amended by:
[XLVI.1973.108.](#)

516. It shall likewise be lawful for the court, of its own motion or upon the demand of any person, to suspend from the exercise of his office, any tutor, curator or other administrator appointed by the court, pending an action for his removal, or for any other just cause, and to appoint another tutor, curator or administrator to act in his stead.

Duration of suspension.

517. The suspension shall continue until it is revoked by the court which issued the relative order, or until, upon proceedings taken by the tutor, curator, or administrator so suspended, against the party who demanded the suspension, it is revoked by the competent court of contentious jurisdiction.

Substitution of executors, administrators, etc.

Amended by:
[IX.2004.11.](#)

518. Applications for the substitution of any executor, administrator, procurator, or counsellor, for that appointed under a will or other instrument, where the latter refuses to accept office, or dies, or otherwise becomes unable to perform the duties of his office, shall likewise be made to the Court of voluntary jurisdiction, unless according to law such substitution is to be made by any other authority or person.

519. (1) Where no positive refusal or incapacity to perform the duties referred to in the last preceding article is made to appear, the court shall order the application for the substitution to be served on the party in lieu of whom the substitution is demanded, who shall be allowed the time of four days within which to file an answer; and the default of an answer within the said time shall be deemed to be an admission of the demand contained in the application.

Service of
application for
substitution.

Answer.

(2) Where there are reasons to believe that the incapacity arises from insanity or any other cause which prevents such answer, the court shall take such steps as it may deem just and expedient in order to ascertain the facts.

Power of court.

Title III A OF GUARDIANSHIP

Added by:
[XXIV.2012.5.](#)

519A. (1) There shall be a Guardianship Board (hereinafter in this Title referred to as the 'Board') which shall be appointed by the President of Malta acting on the advice of the Prime Minister given after consultation with the Social Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives.

Guardianship
Board.
Added by:
[XXIV.2012.5.](#)

(2) The Guardianship Board shall be composed of three members as follows:

- (a) a Judge or Magistrate or a person who has acted as a Judge or Magistrate who shall also be the President of the Board;
- (b) one member appointed after consultation with the National Commission Persons with Disability after this has consulted organizations working in the field of persons with disability;
- (c) one member appointed after consultation with the relevant authority responsible for safeguarding the rights of persons with mental disorder after this has consulted organizations working in the field of persons with mental disorder:

Provided that persons who satisfy the requirements of paragraphs (a), (b) or (c) above may be appointed as substitute members to act on the Board in cases where any of the persons appointed under the respective paragraph cannot hear a specific application.

(3) The President and the other members of the Board shall hold office for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment for further terms of office:

Provided that if a member of the Board is appointed at any time after the other members, the term of office of such member shall end on the same date as that of the other members.

(4) A person shall not be qualified to hold office as member of the Board if that person:-

- (a) is a Minister, a Parliamentary Secretary or a member of the House of Representatives or a Mayor or a Councillor in a Local Council; or
 - (b) is legally incapacitated or interdicted; or
 - (c) is subject to guardianship; or
 - (d) has been declared bankrupt; or
 - (e) has been convicted of a crime affecting public trust or of theft or fraud, or of knowingly receiving property obtained by theft or fraud, or of a crime affecting the good order of families.
- (5) The office of a member of the Board shall become vacant:-
- (a) at the expiration of the term of office; or
 - (b) if any circumstances arise that, if that person were not a member of the Board, would cause that person not to qualify for appointment; or
 - (c) on the resignation of that member.

(6) The appointment of any person as a member of the Board and the termination of office or resignation of any such person shall be notified in the Gazette:

Provided that the failure to publish any such appointment, termination or resignation as the case may be, shall not prejudice the validity of such appointment, termination or resignation.

Cap. 16.

(7) The Board shall perform such functions as are assigned to it in this Title and in Sub-title IA of Title VI of Book First of the [Civil Code](#) and in any regulations as the Minister responsible for Social Policy, in conjunction with the Minister responsible for Justice and the Minister responsible for Health may from time to time make.

(8) Where in the course of the exercise of its functions the Board becomes aware of any fact which raises a reasonable suspicion of a breach of professional conduct it shall refer such fact to the appropriate authorities.

(9) Where in the course of the exercise of its functions the Board becomes aware of any fact which raises a reasonable suspicion of the commission of a criminal offence it shall report such fact to the appropriate authorities.

(10) In the exercise of its functions the Board shall not be subject to the direction or control of any other person or authority.

(11) The Minister shall appoint a public officer to act as Registrar to the Board.

(12) Unless the Board otherwise determines the Board shall proceed with closed doors.

Procedures.
Added by:
[XXIV.2012.5.](#)

519B. (1) The Board, in the exercise of its functions, shall act within a reasonable time and shall observe the rules of natural justice. Every case shall be heard not later than thirty days commencing on the day it is filed before the Board.

(2) Without prejudice to what is stated in sub-article (1), the Board shall regulate its own procedure:

Provided that all members of the Board shall be present at the Board's sittings.

(3) Evidence before the Board may be given orally or in writing or partly orally and partly in writing or by any other suitable means of communication.

(4) The President of the Board may administer an oath, or take an affirmation.

(5) The Board may of its own motion, or on the application of any party to the proceedings before it, direct the Registrar of the Board to serve through an executive officer of the Courts or of the Board upon any person a summons to appear before it to give evidence and or to produce the documents specified in the summons.

(6) It shall also be lawful for the Board, by means of a warrant of escort, to compel such witnesses to attend for the purpose of giving evidence. The Board may request that its officers be assisted by the executive officers of the Courts or by Police in the execution of a warrant of escort.

(7) If any person duly summoned fails to appear when called, such person shall be guilty of an offence and shall upon conviction by the competent court of criminal jurisdiction be liable to a punishment of a fine (*multa*) of two hundred and fifty euro (€250) or to imprisonment for a period of three months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

(8) The provisions of this Code relating to contempt of court shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to the Board.

(9) Where the Board is of the opinion in a particular case that there are circumstances which justify it in doing so, the Board may make such orders as to the payment of costs in respect of proceedings before it as the Board sees fit.

(10) When in any proceedings the Board makes an order or a decision such order or decision shall include reasons and shall be served on any person as may be specified by the Board.

519C. (1) The Board may appoint any person with appropriate expertise to assist it in the course of any proceedings before it.

Appointment of experts and request for information.

Added by:
[XXIV.2012.5.](#)

(2) The Board may, in the course of any proceedings, require any government department, agency or entity, local council, guardian, other entity or other person, to report to the Board on any matter relating to the said proceedings and it may also order that such report be submitted to the Board within a period of time as may be specified.

519D. (1) A demand for the appointment of a guardian shall be made by application to the Guardianship Board in accordance with article 188A of the [Civil Code](#).

Application for the appointment of a guardian.

Added by:
[XXIV.2012.5.](#)
Cap. 16.

(2) The application shall contain a statement of the facts on

which the demand is founded and an indication of the witnesses, if any to such facts.

(3) Any documents in support of the demand shall be filed together with the application.

Examination of persons in respect of whom guardianship is demanded and appointment of temporary guardian.
Added by:
[XXIV.2012.5.](#)

519E. (1) The Guardianship Board shall cause the person in respect of whom guardianship is demanded to appear before it, to question such person and, or to cause him to be examined by one or more independent experts; and the Board may, in all cases, subject to such conditions as it considers appropriate, appoint a temporary guardian to act as a guardian to such person whilst proceedings before it are pending:

Provided that the appointment of a temporary guardian shall not in any case exceed the duration of twenty-six weeks during which period the Board shall determine whether a Guardianship Order should be made.

(2) For the purpose of conducting the examination referred to in sub-article (1), the Board shall, where exceptional circumstances so require, hold sittings or inspections *in faciem loci* at such places as it may determine.

(3) Where the Board considers that the interests of justice so require, it shall appoint an advocate for legal aid to assist the person in respect of whom an application for guardianship has been made.

Appointment of guardian.
Added by:
[XXIV.2012.5.](#)

519F. (1) If the Guardianship Board finds that there is just cause for the appointment of a guardian it shall proceed to make such appointment and the person so appointed as guardian shall exercise all the functions, obligations and duties provided in respect of guardians under Sub-title IA of Title VI of Book First of the [Civil Code](#) and under this Title.

Cap. 16.

(2) In determining whether or not a person is in need of a guardian, the Board must consider whether the needs of the person in respect of whom the application is made could be met by other means less restrictive of the person's freedom of will and action.

(3) Where the Board makes an order appointing a guardian in respect of a person, the order must be as least restrictive of that person's freedom of decision and action as possible in the circumstances.

(4) Where the Board makes an order appointing a guardian it shall also order that a hearing for the review of the order shall be held within a specified period, not being longer than two years, as may be stipulated in the order:

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Provided that the Board may at any time of its own motion or on the application of any person mentioned in article 188A(3) of the [Civil Code](#) hold a hearing to review the Guardianship Order.

(5) The Board shall through its Registrar notify the Registrar of the Court of Voluntary Jurisdiction of all Guardianship Orders approved or revoked.

(6) The Registrar of the Board shall keep an updated register of all Guardianship Orders approved or revoked and of the terms thereof.

(7) No information taken from the register mentioned in sub-article (6) may be given by the Registrar, unless the Board would not have ascertained itself of the legitimate interest of the person requesting the said information.

519G. (1) The Board may appoint as a guardian any person who has attained the age of 18 years, is ordinarily resident in Malta and consents to act as such if the Board is satisfied that such person:

Persons eligible as guardians.
Added by:
[XXIV.2012.5.](#)

- (a) is in a position to be able to perform all the functions, obligations and duties provided in respect of guardians under Sub-title IA of Title VI of Book First of the [Civil Code](#) and under this Title; and
- (b) will act in the best interests of the person subject to guardianship; and
- (c) is not in a position where his interests conflict or may conflict with the interests of the person subject to guardianship, in that, such interest shall be communicated to the Board as soon as it is known or is suspected that it exists; and
- (d) is not a Minister, a Parliamentary Secretary or a member of the House of Representatives or Mayor or Councillor in a Local Council; and
- (e) is not legally incapacitated or interdicted; and
- (f) is not subject to guardianship; and
- (g) has not been declared bankrupt; and
- (h) has not been convicted of a crime affecting public trust or of theft or fraud or misappropriation, or of knowingly receiving property obtained by theft or fraud, or of a crime affecting the good order of families:

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Provided that the Board may appoint joint guardians of the person subject to guardianship each of whom shall perform such functions, obligations and duties as the Board may determine.

(2) In determining whether a person is suitable to act as the guardian of a person subject to guardianship, the Board shall take into account the wishes of the person in relation to whom an application for guardianship has been filed, the desirability of preserving existing family and social relationships and the compatibility of the person proposed as guardian with the person subject to guardianship.

(3) A guardian is not entitled to receive any fee, remuneration or other reward for acting as such unless the Board otherwise specifies in the order appointing the guardian.

(4) Where it appears to the Board that a proposed guardian, even if temporary, or a person appointed to act as a guardian does not fulfil the requirements of sub-article (1) for appointment as

guardian, it may appoint any other person suitable to act as guardian.

(5) The Board may also order the substitution of a guardian at any time during the term of a Guardianship Order for good and sufficient cause.

Appointment of
guardians.
Added by:
[XIX.2015.2.](#)

519GA. (1) The Minister responsible for Persons with Disability shall nominate a pool of guardians as he may deem fit, consisting of advocates, legal procurators, social workers and other experts, to perform the duties of guardians.

(2) A list of the members of the pool appointed as aforesaid shall be published in the Gazette.

(3) The persons appointed under the provisions of this article shall perform their duties in rotation unless the Guardianship Board deems fit to appoint a particular guardian to suit the needs of a particular guardianship application.

(4) The rotation shall be according to the order in which the names of the persons appointed are placed on the rota unless there is some reasonable objection against the person whose turn it is on the rota, in which case the person immediately next on the rota shall be selected and the person objected to as aforesaid shall be entitled to the next turn in regard to which there shall be no objection.

(5) The provisions of articles 519F, 519G, 519H, 519I and 519J relating to functions, duties and responsibilities of guardians shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to the pool of guardians.

(6) In case of misconduct, negligence or any reasonable objection to any guardian selected from the rota to perform the duties of guardian, the Board shall have the power to remove him from the case and to appoint another guardian from the rota in his stead.

When Guardian-
ship
Order includes
administration of
property.
Added by:
[XXIV.2012.5.](#)

519H. (1) A guardian who is authorised in a Guardianship Order to administer monies or other property of a person subject to guardianship shall within two months of his appointment submit to the Board a list of assets and liabilities, that result, of the person subject to guardianship as at the date of issue of the Guardianship Order.

(2) A guardian who receives monies or other property due to the person subject to guardianship shall keep a separate account and record of such monies or other property.

(3) A guardian shall notify and seek the prior approval of the Board in respect of any transfer of or imposition of a burden upon property belonging to a person subject to guardianship:

Provided that any transfer of or imposition of a burden on any property belonging to the person subject to guardianship made in contravention of the provisions of this sub-article shall be null and void:

Provided further that nothing in this sub-article shall be construed as limiting the powers of the guardian to provide for the ordinary personal needs of the person subject to guardianship.

(4) A guardian shall also submit to the Board, an income and expenditure account confirmed on oath in respect of the guardianship:

- (a) every year; and
- (b) upon revocation or other termination of the guardianship; or
- (c) upon the termination of a temporary Guardianship Order.

(5) Within thirteen weeks from the death of the person subject to guardianship, the guardian shall provide the Board with a detailed report of his administration of the assets of the person subject to guardianship including, income, expenditure and administration of property and, where relevant, funeral and burial expenses.

(6) Any person interested as a creditor, beneficiary, family member, or otherwise in any monies or other property administered by a guardian may apply to the Board to intervene and give its advice or any order appropriate in the circumstances regarding any matter arising out of the administration of the said monies or property by the guardian and the Board, after having heard the guardian, may make such order in relation to such application as the circumstances of the case may require.

519I. (1) A guardian may request the advice of the Board regarding any matter relating to the Guardianship Order or the exercise of any of the functions, obligations and duties of the guardian under the Guardianship Order.

Guardian may seek advice.
Added by:
[XXIV.2012.5.](#)

(2) The Board shall order that notice of a request under sub-article (1) be served on any person that it directs.

(3) The Board may -

- (a) approve or disapprove of any act proposed to be done by the guardian;
- (b) give such advice as it considers appropriate;
- (c) make any order or decision as it considers necessary or amend or revoke the Guardianship Order.

(4) No legal proceedings shall be instituted against a guardian on account of an act or thing done or omitted by the guardian under any order or decision or on the advice of the Board made or given under this article unless in representing the facts to the Board the guardian shall have acted fraudulently, or shall have wilfully concealed or misrepresented facts.

519J. (1) Any person mentioned in article 188A(3) of the [Civil Code](#) may, by application, request the Board to revoke a Guardianship Order and the Board, after due consideration, may revoke guardianship in respect of any person if the Board determines that:

Revocation of Guardianship.
Added by:
[XXIV.2012.5.](#)
Cap. 16.

- (a) the cause which gave rise to the guardianship has ceased to exist; or

(b) there is good and sufficient cause to revoke such guardianship.

(2) When a person subject to guardianship dies the guardian shall report the death to the Board within a period that shall not exceed a maximum of one week from the demise of the person who was under his guardianship.

Special powers of
the Board.
Added by:
[XXIV.2012.5.](#)

519K. (1) If the Board receives information that a person with disability or other condition is suffering serious damage to his physical, emotional or mental health or well-being as a consequence of ill-treatment, abuse or neglect, the Board may appoint a person or more than one person to visit the person with disability or mental disorder for the purpose of investigating the case and preparing a report to the Board on the situation of the said person with disability or mental disorder. Such a report is to be made to the Board within four days or any other time limit as may be stipulated in the order:

Provided that the Board, if and when it deems it appropriate, may demand that such information be confirmed on oath.

(2) Where any person appointed by the Board in terms of sub-article (1) to investigate the case informs the Board that he was unable to carry out this function due to obstruction by any person, the Board may request the assistance of the police and such police assistance shall be provided for the purpose of the execution of the said function.

(3) On receipt of the report, the Board may, after granting any person concerned a right to be heard, request any appropriate authority to take such measures as the said authority may deem necessary for the purpose of addressing any ill-treatment, abuse or neglect or the consequences thereof.

(4) For the purpose of providing such assistance as may be required in terms of sub-article (2) the police shall have the power to enter any premises and to use such force as is reasonably necessary to enable the person or persons appointed by the Board to visit the person with disability or mental disorder in accordance with the provisions of sub-article (1).

(5) No matter or thing done by any member of the Board, the Registrar or any other person acting under the direction of the Board in good faith in the exercise or purported exercise of any power or duty conferred or imposed upon the Board or upon any member of the Board, the Registrar or any said other person by or under this Title or under in Sub-title IA of Title VI of Book First of the [Civil Code](#), shall make any member of the Board, the Registrar, or any said other person personally subject to any action, liability, claim or demand.

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Appeal from
decisions of the
Board.
Added by:
[XXIV.2012.5.](#)

519L. (1) Any person who feels aggrieved by a decision of the Board may by application appeal therefrom to the Court of Voluntary Jurisdiction.

(2) An appeal under sub-article (1) shall be filed not later than twenty days from the date of the decision of the Board.

(3) An appeal filed under this article shall not stay the execution of the decision taken by the Board unless the Court of Voluntary Jurisdiction, upon an application of the appellant, decides otherwise.

519M. (1) Any person mentioned in article 189(3) of the [Civil Code](#) or in article 521 of this Code may request the Court of Voluntary Jurisdiction to convert an interdiction or an incapacitation into a Guardianship Order and the said Court may consult the Guardianship Board.

Persons subject to interdiction or incapacitation.
Added by:
[XXIV.2012.5.](#)
Cap. 16.

(2) Where the Court considers that there are sufficient grounds for the conversion referred to in sub-article (1) to be made, it shall issue a Guardianship Order and notify the Guardianship Board of this fact.

519N. The Minister responsible for Justice, in conjunction with the Minister responsible for Social Policy and the Minister responsible for Health may make regulations for the better implementation of the provisions of this Sub-title and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing such regulations may:

Power to make regulations.
Added by:
[XXIV.2012.5.](#)

- (a) prescribe matters in relation to the practice and procedures of the Board;
 - (b) establish the procedure for entry and removal of registrations of Guardianship Orders and access, including electronic access, to such registrations and prescribe the format of the register to be kept by the Registrar under this Title;
 - (c) prescribe forms to be used for the purposes of this Title;
 - (d) establish offences against regulations made under this Title and establish a range of fines which shall not exceed a maximum of a fine (*multa*) of three thousand euro (€3000) for any contravention of any provision of regulations made under this Title, or for non-compliance with any provision thereof or with any requirement imposed under such provision;
 - (e) prescribe the fees to be paid in respect of the administration of monies or other property which are the subject of Guardianship Orders;
 - (f) prescribe the fees due to the registry, as well as other fees including fees to be paid to the experts nominated by the Board under this Title.
-

Amended by:
IX.1886.88.

Title IV

OF INTERDICTION AND INCAPACITATION

Application for
interdiction or
incapacitation.

Amended by:
IX.1886.89;
[IX.2004.11;](#)
[II.2012.6.](#)

Contents of
application.

Documents.

Cap. 525.

Persons who may
demand
interdiction or
incapacitation.

Amended by:
IX.1886.89;
L.N. 46 of 1965;
LVIII.1974.68;
[II.2012.7;](#)
[XXIII.2017.23;](#)
[XXV.2019.21.](#)

Examination of
person whose
interdiction is
demanded.
Appointment of
temporary curator.
Amended by:
IX.1886.89.

520. (1) A demand for the interdiction or incapacitation of persons who have a mental disorder or other condition, which renders them incapable of managing their own affairs, or who are insane or prodigal, is made by an application to the Court of voluntary jurisdiction.

(2) The application shall contain a statement of the facts on which the demand is founded and an indication of the witnesses, if any, to such facts.

(3) Any documents in support of the demand, shall be filed together with the application.

(4) For the purposes of this Title, and for the purposes of the provisions of articles 187, 747, 781 and 929:

(a) "other condition", where used in the context of a condition that renders a person incapable of managing his own affairs, means a long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment which in interaction with various barriers may hinder one's full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others; and

(b) "mental disorder" shall have the meaning assigned to it in the [Mental Health Act](#):

Provided that any reference in such definitions to "disability of mind" or "arrested or incomplete development of mind" shall not be construed to mean a mental disorder for the purposes of this Title and of such provisions.

521. Interdiction or incapacitation may be demanded -

- (a) by any one of the spouses against the other spouse;
- (b) by any person against another related to him by consanguinity;
- (c) by any person who is related by affinity to the person whose interdiction or incapacitation is demanded and who may be called upon to supply maintenance to such person;
- (d) in case of a mental disorder or other condition, which renders a person incapable of managing his own affairs, by the State Advocate; unless the demand shall have been made by any other person.

522. It shall be lawful for the court to cause the person whose interdiction or incapacitation is demanded to appear before it, to question such person and cause him to be examined by one or more experts; and the court may, in all cases, appoint a temporary curator to take charge of his person and property.

523. (1) If the court finds that there is just cause for the interdiction, it shall appoint a curator to administer the property of the person interdicted.

Appointment of curator.
Amended by:
IX.1886.89;
II.2012.8.

A curator shall be appointed for a period not exceeding three years. Such appointment can be renewed, where the court considers it so appropriate, after evaluating the reports submitted by the curator in accordance with sub-article (4).

(2) The provisions relating to the tutorship of minors shall, in so far as applicable, apply to the curatorship of persons interdicted.

Applicability of provisions relating to tutorship.

(3) The court may also, on the demand of the curator, either at the time of his appointment, or subsequently, allow him a remuneration, regard being had to the nature of the services and to the property of the person interdicted.

Remuneration to curator.

(4) (a) During the term of his appointment, the curator shall submit a yearly sworn report to the court declaring the circumstances relating to his curatorship and the general state of the person interdicted or incapacitated, and shall also comply with the other duties of curators as may be provided in accordance with the requirements of any other law.

(b) The court, after taking cognizance of the report, shall hear the curator and any other person it may deem fit to ensure the well-being of the person interdicted or incapacitated and the fulfilment of the rights and duties of the curator.

524. (1) If no sufficient cause for the interdiction is made to appear, it shall be lawful for the court by a decree to order, if the circumstances of the case so require, that the person whose interdiction is demanded be incapacitated from suing or being sued, from effecting any compromise, borrowing any money, receiving any capital, giving a discharge, transferring or hypothecating his property, or performing any act other than an act of mere administration, without the aid of a curator to be appointed in the same decree.

Incapacitation.
Amended by:
IX.1886.89.

(2) It shall also be lawful for the court, if it deems it necessary, to incapacitate any person from performing all or any of the acts of mere administration, entrusting the performance thereof to a curator in such manner as the court may deem fit to direct.

525. (1) Interdiction or incapacitation shall take effect from the day of the relative decree; and any act performed by the person interdicted or incapacitated, subsequently to such decree, or even subsequently to the appointment of the temporary curator, shall be null.

Interdiction or incapacitation to date from decree. Nullity of acts performed after decree.
Amended by:
IX.1886.89.

(2) Any act performed previously to the interdiction or incapacitation may be annulled, if the cause of interdiction or incapacitation existed at the time of the performance of the act.

Invalidation of acts performed previously to the decree.

Revocation of interdiction or incapacitation.

Amended by:
IX.1886.89.

Notice containing terms of inhibition to be published in Gazette.

Amended by:
IX.1886.89;
XV.1913.103;
XVI.1922.4;
XV.1983.7;
XXIV.1995.205;
XII.2009.13;
L.N. 426 of 2012.
Substituted by:
IV.2016.18.
Amended by:
XXIII.2017.24.

Electronic register.

Cap. 525.

526. Interdiction or incapacitation shall be revoked, when the cause of the interdiction or incapacitation shall cease to exist.

527. (1) The court shall, in the decree of interdiction or incapacitation, direct that a notice thereof, specifying the terms of the inhibition, be published in the Gazette:

Provided that the court shall order that the decree be transmitted to the Archivist of Notarial Acts who shall enter a note of such interdiction or incapacitation in a book to be kept for the purpose.

(2) The registrar shall keep an official online Register of Interdicted and Incapacitated Persons. Such register shall be continuously kept updated by the registrar. The register shall be held in electronic version and shall be accessible to the Commissioner for the Promotion of Rights of Persons with Mental Disorders and to advocates, notaries and legal procurators and to such other persons who the Minister may by regulations designate.

(3) The register shall be divided into three parts. The first part shall contain a list of interdicted persons, the second part shall contain a list of incapacitated persons and the third part shall contain a list of persons in respect of whom a certificate of lack of mental capacity has been issued in accordance with the [Mental Health Act](#). Each part of the register shall be held in alphabetical order.

(4) The registrar shall enter in the register the name, the surname, the parents' name, and surname at birth and after marriage of the parents, the place of birth, place of residence and a reference to a legally valid identification document number of the person interdicted or incapacitated and the date and summary of the decree of interdiction or incapacitation:

Provided that from the register there shall be excluded cases:

- (a) where more than eighty years have elapsed since the date of the decree;
- (b) where the person would have reached the age of one hundred and ten years;
- (c) where the decree has been revoked in terms of article 526; and
- (d) where the person interdicted or incapacitated has died.

(5) The register shall be accessible to the public under the supervision of an officer from the court from the premises of the Court of voluntary jurisdiction.

(6) Until an electronic register in accordance with this article is established, such register may be kept in hard copy by the Registrar of the Court of voluntary jurisdiction who shall allow access to the

said register during the times when the registry is open.

Title V

OF THE PRESENTATION AND PUBLICATION OF SECRET WILLS

528. The registrar shall, in the presence of the judge, receive any secret will presented to him by any testator or notary, and shall give a receipt therefor to such testator or notary.

Amended by:
V.1864.1.

Presentation of
secret wills.
Receipt.

Amended by:
V.1864.1;
VI.1880.24.

529. The registrar shall, either on the paper on which the will is written, or on the paper used as an envelope for same, note down the following particulars:

Particulars to be
noted down by
registrar on
presentation of
will.

Amended by:
V.1864.1;
XXIII.2017.25;
LXI.2020.2.
Cap. 16.

- (a) the date of the presentation of the will;
- (b) the personal details of the testator, as listed in article 2042 (a) and (b) of the [Civil Code](#);
- (c) by whom the will is presented, that is to say, whether by the testator himself, or by a notary, and, in the latter case, the name and surname of the notary;
- (d) if the will is presented by the testator himself, his declaration that the paper so presented contains his will;
- (e) the circumstance of the presence of the judge at the presentation of the will.

530. (1) The note of such particulars shall be signed by the registrar, and countersigned by the testator or notary who shall have presented the will, and by the judge; and the registrar shall, within twenty-four hours, register such particulars in a book to be kept by him for the purpose.

Note of particulars
to be signed by
registrar, etc. and
registered in a
book.

Amended by:
V.1864.1;
XV.1913.104.

(2) If the testator declares that he is unable to write, a mention of such declaration shall take the place of his signature.

Where testator is
unable to write.

(3) A copy of the said book shall be kept by the judge who shall, at least once every quarter, compare the registered particulars with the wills which, according to such book, must be in the custody of the registrar.

Judge to check
registered
particulars with
wills.

531. (1) The judge shall not allow the registrar to receive from any notary any secret will, unless it is endorsed with the act of the delivery made by the testator to the notary.

Wills to be
endorsed with act
of delivery.

Amended by:
V.1864.1.

(2) Nor shall the judge allow the receipt of any will endorsed as aforesaid, unless such endorsement contains the declaration required by law to the effect that the paper delivered to the notary contains the will of the person from whom the notary has received such paper.

532. (1) A secret will may not be withdrawn before the time comes for its opening, except by the testator himself or by an attorney specially authorized for the purpose.

Withdrawal of
will.

Amended by:
V.1864.1.

Act of withdrawal.	(2) The testator or attorney withdrawing the will shall sign in the presence of the judge, in the margin or at the foot of the entry in the book referred to in article 530(1) recording the receipt of such will, a declaration that he has withdrawn the will; and such declaration shall also be countersigned by the judge.
Appointment of time for opening and publication of will. <i>Amended by:</i> V.1864.1; XV.1913.105. <i>Substituted by:</i> XXIV.1995.206. <i>Amended by:</i> XI.1999.2; XXII.2005.58.	<p>533. (1) Where a will is to be opened, the court shall by a decree, upon the application of any party interested, appoint the day, time and place for the opening and publication of the will, and order that all interested parties be summoned: those known, by application, and those unknown, by means of banns to be posted up at the entrance of the building in which the court sits and published in the Government Gazette and in a daily newspaper.</p> <p>(2) The opening and publication of the will shall not take place before the expiration of four days from the date of service of the said application, or of four days from the date of the posting up of the banns and their publication whichever is the later.</p>
Opening of will. <i>Amended by:</i> V.1864.1; XXIV.1995.207.	<p>534. (1) The will shall be opened by the registrar in the presence of the judge, at the time and place appointed by the decree of the court, after the signatures affixed by the judge and the registrar at the foot of the note of the particulars mentioned in article 530, shall have been verified.</p>
Publication of will.	<p>(2) After the will is opened, it shall be published in the presence of the judge and the registrar, by the notary who had presented it or, if such notary is dead or absent, or is prevented from attending on account of sickness or for any other reason, or if the will had been presented by the testator himself, by a notary to be selected by the party who made the application for the opening of the will.</p>
Delivery of will to notary. <i>Amended by:</i> V.1864.1; XV.1913.106; XXIII.1971.22.	<p>535. (1) When the will is published as provided in the last preceding article, it shall be delivered to the notary by whom the publication of the will shall have been made.</p>
Receipt.	<p>(2) The notary shall, in the presence of the judge, sign a receipt in the book referred to in article 530; and such receipt shall be countersigned by the judge.</p> <p>(3) Any will delivered in terms of sub-article (1) shall not be deemed to be cancelled from the book referred to in article 530; for the purpose of any document certifying the existence or non-existence of secret wills, and there shall be indicated in any such document, in respect of any such will, the name of the notary who published it and the date of its publication.</p>
Opening of wills older than one hundred and fifty years. <i>Added by:</i> XI.1999.3.	<p>535A.(1) Where any secret wills have been received by the Registrar in accordance with the provisions of this Title which have not been withdrawn by the testators, or opened and published, and one hundred and fifty years have elapsed since the date of the presentation of the wills, the registrar shall prepare and publish a list of the said wills in the Gazette.</p> <p>(2) After the publication of the list mentioned in sub-article (1)</p>

in the Gazette, the court shall establish a day and time in which the wills mentioned in the list shall be opened in public without the necessity of their being read. The court shall then order that the said wills be transmitted to the archivist of Notarial Acts who shall register these wills in a book to be kept by him and the other provisions of this Title regarding the opening and publication of secret wills shall not apply. The court shall draw up a *procès-verbal* of the opening of the said wills, which shall only state the date and place of their opening, and whether the document so published contains a will or not. A copy of such *procès-verbal*, together with those wills shall be transmitted to the archivist of Notarial Acts, and from that date such wills shall be open to inspection and to the issue of copies thereof.

Title VI

OF THE DECLARATION OF THE OPENING OF A SUCCESSION

536. In the absence of opposition, the declaration of the opening of a succession may be made by the Court of voluntary jurisdiction, upon an application, in favour of any person in whose name a claim thereto is made.

Declaration of the opening of succession.
Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.208.](#)
Amended by:
[IX.2004.11.](#)

537. (1) Upon the filing of the application, the court shall issue banns which shall be published in the Gazette and in at least one daily newspaper and be posted up at the entrance of the building in which the court sits, calling upon all parties interested to enter their opposition by a note, within a time of not less than eight days nor exceeding one month, to be fixed by the judge.

Issue and posting up of banns. Time for opposition.
Amended by:
[IV.1868.9;](#)
[XXIV.1995.209.](#)

(2) Such time shall commence to run from the day on which the banns are posted up, or last published in either the Gazette or the periodical newspaper, whichever is the latest.

Commencement of time.

(3) The registrar shall cause a notice signed by him, containing a summary of the contents of the banns, to be published in the Government Gazette, and affixed in the place in which Government Notices or other official acts are ordinarily affixed in the city, suburb or district in which the deceased resided at the time of his death.

Publication and posting up of notice.

(4) If at the time of his death the deceased did not reside in Malta, the said notice shall be affixed in the place in which Government Notices or other official acts are ordinarily affixed in the city, suburb or district, in Malta, wherein it is proved to the satisfaction of the court that he has resided within the last ten years preceding his death; and, failing such proof, the said notice shall be affixed in the place where Government Notices and other official acts are ordinarily affixed in Valletta.

(5) Nevertheless it shall in all cases be lawful for the court to order that the said notice be also affixed in any other place.

Decree of court.
Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.210.](#)

538. At the expiration of the said time, the court, in the absence of opposition, shall examine the claim of the applicant; and if the claim appears to be justified, the court shall allow the demand and shall declare the succession opened in his favour and may, at the request of the applicant, also establish in its decree, the identity of any other person called to the inheritance and his relative share therein.

Conservatory
measures.

539. Pending the application and until the expiration of the said time, it shall be lawful for the court to make any special order with a view to preserving such hereditary rights or property as might suffer prejudice or deterioration.

Declaration of
opening of
succession not to
bar action by other
person before court
of contentious
jurisdiction.

540. The declaration of the opening of a succession in favour of any person in virtue of a decree of the Court of voluntary jurisdiction, shall not operate so as to bar any other person entitled thereto from claiming the inheritance or any portion thereof before the competent court of contentious jurisdiction.

Amended by:
[IX.2004.11.](#)

Title VII

OF THE INVENTORY

Acceptance of
inheritance with
benefit of
inventory to be
made by a note.
Amended by:
[V.1864.2;](#)
[IX.2004.11.](#)

541. The declaration by any person that he accepts an inheritance, whether testamentary or *ab intestato*, with the benefit of inventory, or that he will not accept the inheritance before the making up of an inventory, shall be made by a note to be filed in the Court of voluntary jurisdiction.

Oath by person
filing the note.
Amended by:
[V.1864.2.](#)

542. (1) Upon the filing of such note, the person desiring to make up the inventory shall swear, before the registrar, that he will faithfully describe the estate.

(2) The registrar shall at the foot of the note make a mention of the oath so taken.

Contents of
inventory.
Amended by:
[V.1864.2.](#)

543. (1) The inventory shall contain a description of all the estate, specifying in detail all wearing apparel and household goods, gold and silver articles, jewellery, money and other movable property, the debts due to the deceased, all rights of action and all immovable property as well as all debts or other liabilities of the estate.

(2) The inventory shall also state the value of the movable property, according to a valuation made by experts, unless the court, if it be satisfied that the absence of such valuation will not be prejudicial to the parties interested, shall, in lieu of such valuation, allow a mere statement of the value to be made by the person making the inventory.

Appointment of
time for
publication of
inventory.
Amended by:
[V.1864.2.](#)

544. Upon the application of the person making the inventory, the court shall, by a decree, fix the place, day and time for the publication of the inventory by a notary to be nominated by the applicant.

545. The court shall, in the said decree, direct that all parties interested be summoned to be present, if they so desire, at the publication of the inventory.

Summoning of interested parties,
Amended by:
[V.1864.2.](#)

546. (1) The parties interested shall be summoned: those known, by application, and those unknown or uncertain, by means of banns to be posted up at the entrance of the building in which the court sits. The registrar shall also publish a notice in the Gazette and in a daily newspaper inviting all those parties interested to be present at the publication of the inventory.

by application, by banns.
Amended by:
[IV.1862.11;](#)
[V.1864.2;](#)
[XXIV.1995.211;](#)
[XXII.2003.59.](#)

(2) The application as well as the banns shall state the time and place of the publication of the inventory, and the name of the notary by whom the publication is to be made.

547. (1) The publication of inventory shall take place on the date and at the place and time established by the court.

Publication of inventory.
Amended by:
[V.1864.2;](#)
[XXIV.1995.212.](#)

(2) The inventory, after its publication, may be impugned by any person interested, even though such person may have been present at such publication.

Interested persons may impugn inventory.

548. The default of compliance with the provisions of the preceding articles of this Title, with intent to cause prejudice to any party interested, shall deprive the heir of the benefit of inventory.

Forfeiture of benefit.
Amended by:
[V.1864.2.](#)

549. The provisions of articles 542 to 547 inclusive shall apply to every inventory which, according to law, is to be made under the authority of the Court of voluntary jurisdiction.

Applicability of ss. 542 to 547 to all inventories under the authority of the Court of voluntary jurisdiction.
Amended by:
[V.1864.2;](#)
[XV.1913.108;](#)
[IX.2004.11.](#)

Title VIII

OF THE EXECUTION OF ACTS IN PURSUANCE OF DECREES OF THE COURT OF VOLUNTARY JURISDICTION

Amended by:
[IX.2004.11.](#)

550. (1) Emancipation is effected by virtue of the decree by which it is granted.

Emancipation.
Amended by:
[IX.1886.90;](#)
[XXIV.1995.213.](#)

(2) Nevertheless, if the court in the decree orders that such emancipation be effected by means of a notarial deed, the decree shall not become operative until such deed is executed.

551. Any agreement the validity of which is dependent upon the authorization or leave granted by the court, shall in all cases, under pain of nullity, be effected by means of a notarial deed:

Agreements requiring authorization of court to be effected by notarial deed. Exception.
Amended by:
[IX.1886.90.](#)

Provided that this article shall not apply to any obligation entered in the acts of this court.

Validity of certain obligations authorized by the Court of voluntary jurisdiction to depend on registration in Public Registry.
Amended by:
XLVI.1973.108;
[IX.2004.11.](#)

Period of validity of decrees of authorization.
Amended by:
X.1856.10;
[XY.1983.8.](#)

Duty of registrar to cause registration of hypothecs.
Amended by:
XI.1859.27;
VI.1880.25.

Duties of notaries.
Added by:
XY.1913.109.

552. The decree of the court shall not make valid any obligation assumed by any minor in any contract in which other parties have expressly bound themselves to indemnify such minor, unless such contract be registered in the Public Registry within one month from the date of the decree or from the day stated in the decree.

553. Any decree granting authorization or leave to enter into any agreement or to make any waiver shall cease to be operative, if the deed relating to the said agreement or waiver is not executed within six months from the date of the decree or from the day stated in the decree.

554. The registrar shall cause every obligation with hypothecation of property entered in the acts of the court to be registered in the Public Registry, within four days from the date of such obligation, unless within such time the registration shall have been made by any other person.

555. The provisions of article 283 shall apply in the case of notarial deeds executed in pursuance of decrees of this court.

Title IX

OF THE TAXATION OF CERTAIN FEES

Taxing of extra-judicial fees.
Amended by:
VI.1880.26;
XXXI.1934.52;
[XXIV.1995.214.](#)

556. (1) Upon the demand of any party interested, the registrar shall tax the fees due to advocates, notaries public or legal procurators, for extra-judicial services performed by them, saving the right of appeal by application, within one month, to the court of contentious jurisdiction praying that the taxation be amended.

(2) The demand for the taxation of fees shall be made by means of a note showing the services in respect of which the taxation is demanded.

(3) If the taxation is demanded by the creditor he shall verify on oath, before the registrar, the contents of the note.

(4) The said time shall commence to run, in regard to the person demanding the taxation, from the day on which the taxation is made, and in regard to the debtor, from the day on which the taxed bill is served on him.

(5) The expiration of the said time shall not operate so as to bar the debtor from impugning the existence of the claim or from proving its extinguishment in any manner admissible according to law.

Taxing of fees in respect of proceedings under authority of superior courts.
Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.215.](#)

557. The provisions of the last preceding article shall not dispense the registrar from taxing the fees due to advocates, notaries or legal procurators, where such fees, although not relating to causes brought before the courts, refer to proceedings under the authority of the courts.

BOOK THIRD

OF CERTAIN MATTERS RELATING TO JUDICIAL PROCEDURE

Title I

OF EVIDENCE

558. All evidence must be relevant to the matter in issue between the parties.

Relevance of evidence.

559. In all cases the court shall require the best evidence that the party may be able to produce.

Best evidence to be produced.

560. (1) The court shall disallow any evidence which it considers to be irrelevant or superfluous, or which it does not consider to be the best which the party can produce.

Rejection of irrelevant evidence.

Amended by:
I.1880.1;
LXII.1948.3;
XXIV.1995.216.

(2) Where evidence tendered by any party is disallowed, it shall be lawful for such party to demand that the ruling of the court in regard to the disallowing of such evidence be made by a decree; but, where only a question to a witness has been disallowed, the party may demand only that a record thereof be made in the proceedings, in the manner which the court shall, according to circumstances, direct.

Decree on rejection of evidence.
Entry in record of disallowance of question to witness.

(3) Where in any cause or matter it is not possible, in consequence of damage to or loss of any court or other document, for any party to such cause or matter to comply with any requirement of this Code relating to the formal production of documents or otherwise, the court may either dispense with such requirement or give such other directions as the circumstances of the case require:

Provided that in proceedings before the courts of civil jurisdiction, the parties to the cause shall be bound to assist the registrar in compiling a copy of the court records or other documents which have been damaged or lost and, within such time as the court may establish, they shall provide the registrar with such information and documentation in their possession which will assist the registrar in compiling the court records or other documents damaged or lost in as full a manner as possible.

561. It shall be lawful for the court to require the party tendering evidence to state the object of the evidence.

Power of court to require object of evidence.

562. Saving any other provision of the law, the burden of proving a fact shall, in all cases, rest on the party alleging it.

Onus of proof on person alleging.

Sub-title I

OF WITNESSES

Competency of witnesses.

Amended by:

VII.1880.14.

563. All persons of sound mind, unless there are objections against their competency, shall be admissible as witnesses.

Admissibility of *ex parte* expert opinion and certain expressions of non-expert opinion.

Added by:

[*XXIV.1995.217.*](#)

563A. (1) Where a person is called as a witness, his opinion on any relevant matter on which he is qualified to give expert evidence shall be admissible in evidence only if, in the opinion of the court, he is suitably qualified in the relevant matter.

(2) Where a person is called as a witness, a statement of opinion by him on any relevant matter on which he is not qualified to give expert evidence, if made as a way of conveying relevant facts personally perceived by him, is admissible as evidence of what he perceived.

(3) The opinion given by any person according to the provisions of this article shall be without prejudice to the provisions of article 681 and to the court's power to appoint a referee according to the provisions of article 646.

Evidence of foreign law.

Added by:

[*XXIV.1995.217.*](#)

563B. (1) A person who is suitably qualified on account of his knowledge or experience, is competent to give expert evidence as to the law of any other foreign state, irrespective of whether he has acted or is entitled to act as an advocate, or in any judicial or legal capacity in that state.

(2) The provisions of article 563A(3) shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to the provisions of this article.

Age not to constitute ground of inadmissibility.

564. Whatever may be the age of a witness whom it is intended to produce, he is admissible as such, provided he understands that it is wrong to give false testimony.

Admissibility of parties to give evidence.

Amended by:

XV.1913.110.

565. (1) Any of the parties to a suit, whatever his interest therein, shall be competent to give evidence, either at his own request, or at the request of any of the other parties to the suit, or if called by the court *ex officio*.

(2) The provisions of this Code respecting witnesses shall apply to such party.

Admissibility of spouses, civil union partners and cohabitants of party to a suit as witness.

Added by:

XV.1913.111.

Amended by:

[*XXIV.1995.218;*](#)

[*XV.2017.51.*](#)

566. (1) The spouse, civil union partner or cohabitant of a party to a suit shall be competent and compellable to give evidence in such suit at the request of any of the parties thereto:

Provided -

- (a) that the spouse, civil union partner or cohabitant may not be compelled to disclose any communication made to him by his spouse, civil union partner or cohabitant during the marriage, civil union, or cohabitation, and vice versa;
- (b) that the spouse, civil union partner or cohabitant may

not be compelled to answer any question tending to incriminate his spouse, civil union partner or cohabitant.

(2) The provisions of this Code respecting witnesses shall also apply in the case of the spouse, civil union partner or cohabitant.

567. No objection to the competency of any witness shall be admitted on the ground that he is interested in the issue in regard to which his evidence is required or in the event of the suit, saving any objection touching his credibility.

Interest in suit not to be a bar to admissibility of witness.

Amended by:
XV.1913.112.

568. (1) Witnesses shall be summoned to appear by means of a subpoena to be issued on the application of the party interested.

Summoning of witnesses.

Amended by:
IX.1886.91.

(2) No adjournment of a cause shall be granted for the purpose of enabling the parties to summon witnesses, or on the ground of the non-attendance of any witnesses summoned, unless -

When adjournment may be granted for production of witness.

- (a) the necessity for the production of the witness arises during the hearing of the cause; or
- (b) the application for the summoning of the witness has been made in time to allow an interval sufficient for the service of the subpoena on the witness and for the lapse of the term before the expiration of which the witness, according to the provisions of article 572, is not bound to attend; or
- (c) by a note, the opposite party gives his consent, in the manner provided in article 150(1)(c).

569. (1) The subpoena shall contain an order to appear at a stated place and time, for the purpose of giving evidence, whether before the court, arbitrators, or before referees, or before one or more officers authorized by law to examine witnesses.

Subpoena *ad testificandum*.

Amended by:
XV.1913.113;
[XV.1983.9.](#)

(2) The writ of subpoena shall be in the prescribed form. The party applying for a subpoena shall fill in the particulars to be contained in the writ as provided in sub-article (1) and in article 570, and shall file the writ simultaneously with the application for the issue thereof.

Form and contents of writ.

570. The writ may require the witness to produce any book, document, or other thing, which belongs to the contending parties or to any of them, or which is under the charge or custody of such witness, or which, according to law, he is bound to produce.

Subpoena *duces tecum*.

571. In the Court of Magistrates (Malta), and in the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) in its inferior jurisdiction, the demand for the issue of a subpoena may be made orally.

Demand for issue of subpoena in inferior courts.

Amended by:
XV.1913.114;
[VIII.1990.3.](#)

Time for attendance of witness.

Amended by:
XV.1913.115;
XLIX.1981.6;
VIII.1990.3.
Substituted by:
XXIV.1995.219.

572. A witness is bound to appear in court on the date and time prescribed in the subpoena provided that he is served with the said subpoena four days before such date, which period is to run from the date of service of the subpoena:

Provided further that it shall be lawful for the court, in urgent cases, to order any witness to appear from day to day, or from hour to hour, or even only within such interval of time as may be necessary for him to appear in court.

Oath as to relevancy of evidence of witness outside the jurisdiction.

573. No witness residing in Malta is bound to attend to give evidence in Gozo, or vice versa, unless the advocate of the party applying for such evidence, or the party himself if he has no advocate, shall swear that in his opinion the evidence is material, and unless, simultaneously with the issue of the subpoena, he deposits with the registrar such allowance as may be due to the witness according to law.

Deposit of allowance.

Another person to give evidence instead of the person subpoenaed.
Amended by:
XXIV.1995.220.

573A. Any officer or employee of a government department or any officer or other employee of any body having a distinct legal personality may be authorised by the person subpoenaed to give evidence in his stead on any matter about which he is more knowledgeable and relating to the said department or body and on which the said person subpoenaed was required to give evidence:

Provided that the person subpoenaed shall give such evidence personally if it is so stated in the subpoena.

Persons present in court may be called to give evidence.

574. Any person being present in the court may, upon the oral demand of either of the contending parties, be called upon forthwith to give evidence, as if he had been summoned to attend by means of a subpoena.

Penalty for non-attendance of witness duly summoned.

575. If any witness duly summoned fails to appear when called on, he shall be guilty of contempt of court and shall forthwith be punished accordingly; and it shall also be lawful for the court, by means of a warrant of escort or arrest, to compel such witness to attend for the purpose of giving evidence.

Power of court to remit punishment.

576. In the case referred to in the last preceding article, it shall be lawful for the court, on good cause being shown to its satisfaction, to remit the punishment.

Witnesses to be examined *viva voce*.
Amended by:
IX.1886.92;
XV.1913.116.

577. (1) Save as otherwise provided in this Code, the witnesses shall be examined in open court at the trial of the action and *viva voce*.

Witnesses may not be assisted or advised.

(2) Witnesses may not be assisted or advised by any person.

Oath.

(3) Witnesses shall be sworn previously to their examination, and the oath shall, unless the law provides otherwise, be administered to them by the registrar.

Leading or suggestive questions.

578. Leading or suggestive questions may not, without special permission of the court, be put on an examination-in-chief.

- 579.** The opposite party has the right to cross-examine a witness; and in such cross-examination leading or suggestive questions are allowed. Cross-examination.
- 580.** (1) In cross-examination, a witness may only be questioned on the facts deposed in his examination, or on matters calculated to impeach his credit. Questions in cross-examination.
- (2) When the party cross-examining desires to prove by the same witness any circumstance not connected with the facts deposed in the examination, he must, unless the court, for just cause, shall direct otherwise, produce such witness in due time and examine him as his own witness; and in such case, it shall be lawful for the court, upon the oral demand of such party, to order the witness not to leave the court in order that he may be again called and questioned; and such order shall have the effect of the subpoena mentioned in article 568(1).
- 581.** When both the examination and cross-examination are concluded, no further questions may be put by either of the parties; but it shall be lawful for the court, or for the party with the permission of the court, to ask such questions as arise out of the answers given in the course of the examination or cross-examination. Questions arising out of answers given by witness.
- 582.** It shall be lawful for the court, at any stage of the examination or cross-examination, to put to the witness such questions as it may deem necessary or expedient. Questions by court.
- 583.** A witness may refresh his memory by referring to any writing made by himself or by another person under his direction at the time when the fact occurred or immediately thereafter, or at any other time when the fact was fresh in his memory and he knew that the same was correctly stated in the writing; but in such case, the writing must be produced and may be seen by the opposite party. Witness may refresh his memory.
- 584.** A party producing a witness shall not be allowed to impeach the credit of the witness by evidence of bad character, but he may contradict him by other evidence, and may also show that he has made at other times statements inconsistent with his present testimony. Party producing witness may not impeach his credit by evidence of bad character.
- 585.** A witness may be impeached by the party against whom he is called by contradictory evidence, or by evidence that his general reputation for truth is bad. How opposite party may impeach witness.
- 586.** (1) Before impeaching the credit of a witness by evidence that he has made at other times statements inconsistent with his present testimony, the alleged statements together with the circumstances of time, place and persons present must be related to him and he must be asked whether he has made such statements and he must be allowed to explain them. Former statement to be related to witness in case of impeachment of his credit by evidence of former statement.
- (2) If the statements be in writing, they must be shown to the witness before any question concerning such statements is put to him.

Witness bound to answer questions allowed by court.

587. The witness shall answer any question which the court may allow to be put to him; and the court can compel him to do so by committing him to detention until he shall have sworn and answered.

Privileged communications.
Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.221](#);
[XVII.2003.20](#);
[X.2004.20](#).

588. (1) No advocate or legal procurator without the consent of the client, and no clergyman without the consent of the person making the confession, may be questioned on such circumstances as may have been stated by the client to the advocate or legal procurator in professional confidence in reference to the cause, or as may have come to the knowledge of the clergyman under the seal of confession or *loco confessionis*.

(2) Unless by order of the court, no accountant, medical practitioner or social worker, psychologist or marriage counsellor may be questioned on such circumstances as may have been stated by the client to the said person in professional confidence or as may have come to his knowledge in his professional capacity.

Privilege to extend to interpreter.

(3) This privilege extends to the interpreter who may have been employed in connection with such confidential communications.

Incriminating questions.

589. A witness cannot be compelled to answer any question the answer to which may subject him to a criminal prosecution.

Discretionary power of court as to degrading questions, etc.
Amended by:
[XI.1859.28](#);
[II.1940.11](#);
[XXIV.1995.222](#);
[XVI.2008.44](#).

590. (1) It shall be in the discretion of the court to determine, in each particular case, when a witness is not bound to answer a particular question on the ground that the answer to such question might tend to expose his own degradation, or when a witness will not be compelled to give evidence as to facts the disclosure of which will be prejudicial to the public interest.

Privilege as to facts known *ratione officii*.

(2) No witness may be compelled to disclose any information derived from or relating to any document to which article 637(3) applies.

Person present at trial may not be produced as witness.
Discretionary power of court.

591. In general, no person who has been present during the trial of a cause may be produced as a witness in the same cause; nevertheless it shall be in the discretion of the court, for just cause, to dispense with this rule in particular cases.

Witnesses to be examined separately.
Confronting witnesses.
Amended by:
[XI.1858.5](#);
[XV.1913.117](#).

592. (1) Each witness shall be examined separately. It shall, however, be lawful for the court to allow two or more witnesses to be confronted with each other; and in any such case, each of the witnesses may be questioned in the presence of the other witnesses.

Examination of referees.

(2) Referees shall be examined in the presence of each other, unless the court deems it expedient, in any particular case, to examine each referee separately.

Deaf and dumb witnesses, etc.

593. (1) If a witness is deaf and dumb but able to write, the questions shall be put to him in writing; and in such case the questions and the answers shall be publicly read out by the registrar, and afterwards kept in the record of the cause.

(2) If the witness is deaf and dumb and unable to write, it shall be lawful for the court to appoint as interpreter some person able to understand him.

(3) If the witness is dumb but not deaf, or vice versa, the court shall cause his examination to be conducted in such manner as may appear to it most conducive to ascertain the true testimony of the witness.

594. (1) The substance of the answers given by the witnesses shall be taken down. Every answer which may have a material bearing on the merits of the case shall be taken down word for word:

Provided that in the inferior courts, it shall be sufficient that notes of the evidence of the witnesses be taken down in brief.

Notes of the evidence.
Amended by:
Order-in-Council,
1899, s. 12;
XV.1913.118;
XVI.1929.7;
XI.1932.3;
XXXI.1934.53;
XXXII.1965.8;
XIX.1965.15;
XI.1980.3.

(2) The notes of the evidence so taken down shall be read over to the witness, and, after being signed by the registrar, shall be filed in original in the record of the cause.

Reading over of evidence to witness.

(3) The fact of the reading over of the notes of the evidence to the witness shall be recorded at the foot thereof before they are signed as aforesaid.

Fact of reading of evidence to be recorded.

(4) The notes of the evidence shall be clearly and legibly typewritten or written in ink. Any alteration, correction or addition required to be made before or after the reading over of such notes to the witness, shall be made by means of a postil in the margin or at the foot of the notes, to be countersigned by the registrar, and any cancellation shall be made in such manner as to leave the words cancelled distinctly legible.

Alterations, corrections or additions.

(5) The inclusion of the notes of the evidence in the record shall not operate so as to bar any witness heard before the court below from being recalled before the appellate court either by the parties or upon an order of the court *ex officio*.

Inclusion of notes of evidence in record not to bar recalling of witness before appellate court.

595. (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of the last preceding article, the court may, at the request of both parties, or, having regard to the circumstances of the case, *ex officio*, order that the answers given by the witnesses, or the substance thereof, be taken down in shorthand by means of stenographers appointed for the purpose or be recorded by electromagnetic means. Shorthand notes shall be taken down in indelible ink and signed on each page by the stenographers and shall, together with the transcript, be inserted in original in the record. The electromagnetic recording shall be transcribed under the direction of the registrar and the transcript shall be inserted in the record. In either case, the transcript may be handwritten or typewritten and shall be read over to the witness, during or after the sitting, by the registrar who shall make a note of such reading at the foot of the transcript.

Employment of stenographers.
Added by:
XXXI.1934.54.
Amended by:
XII.1978.6.

(2) Should the witness desire to correct or add anything in or to the deposition as transcribed, the registrar shall make a note of such

addition or correction, and in any such case it shall be lawful for either of the parties to reproduce the witness before the court in order that he may confirm the addition or correction.

(3) The witness may be called upon to appear before the registrar by means of a letter signed by him, and the provisions of this Code enforcing the attendance of witnesses shall apply to any such witness so called upon.

(4) The party producing the witnesses shall deposit with the registrar an amount sufficient to secure the stenographers' or recording fees.

Employment of
interpreter.

Amended by:
XV.1913.119;
XXXI.1934.55;
L.N. 46 of 1965;
XXIV.1995.223.

596. (1) If the court does not understand the language in which the evidence is given, it shall appoint a qualified interpreter at the provisional expense of the party producing the witness.

Oath by interpreter.

(2) The official interpreter shall, on entering upon the duties of his office, swear before the court that he will faithfully report the words of the witnesses.

Oath by interpreter
appointed by court.

(3) The interpreter appointed by the court shall take the said oath previously to the examination of the witness.

Registrar to
administer oath.

(4) The oath shall be administered to the interpreter by the registrar.

Objection to
interpreter.

(5) Any interpreter may be objected to on good cause shown.

Examination or
cross-examination
not to be
interrupted.

597. The examination or cross-examination of any witness shall not be interrupted, without leave of the court.

Hearsay evidence.

Amended by:
XV.1913.120.

598. (1) As a rule, the court shall not consider any testimony respecting facts the knowledge of which the witness states to have obtained from the relation or information of third persons who can be produced to give evidence of such facts.

(2) The court may, either *ex officio* or upon the objection of any party, rule out or disallow any question tending to elicit any such testimony.

(3) Nevertheless the court may require the witness to mention the person from whom he obtained knowledge of the facts to which any such question refers.

When hearsay
evidence is
admissible.

Amended by:
XV.1913.121.

599. The court may, according to circumstances, allow and take into consideration any testimony on the relation of third persons, where such relation has of itself a material bearing on the subject-matter in issue or forms part thereof; or where such third persons cannot be produced to give evidence and the facts are such as cannot otherwise be fully proved, especially in cases relating to births, marriages, deaths, absence, easements, boundaries, possession, usage, public historical facts, reputation or character, words or deeds of persons who are dead or absent and who had no interest to say or write a falsehood, and to other facts of general or

public interest or of public notoriety.

600. It shall be lawful to produce any declaration made in writing in any place before a magistrate or other person, whether *in articulo mortis* or at any other time, in the presence or in the absence of the parties, with or without oath, provided it is shown that such declaration was made deliberately and in such circumstances as lead to the belief that there was no intention to depart from the truth, and that the party who made such declaration would have been a competent witness if he could be called to give his evidence at the trial.

Dying
declarations, etc.
Amended by:
V.1913.122.

601. (1) Where it appears to the court that a witness has become guilty of false testimony, it shall order that he be forthwith arrested, and shall cause a copy of the acts to be transmitted, without delay, through the registrar, to the Court of Magistrates in order that proceedings may be taken according to law.

Arrest of false
witness.
Amended by:
VIII.1990.3.

(2) In any such case, it shall be lawful for the court, upon the oral demand of either of the parties, to stay the proceedings in the action in which the witness has deposed, until the criminal proceedings against the witness shall have terminated, provided this may be done without prejudice to the other party, and provided the testimony impeached as false be such as to be likely to bear substantially on the merits of the cause.

Stay of
proceedings.

602. (1) If the witness or interpreter, at any time before the hearing of the cause is concluded, wishes to make any addition or correction, the court shall allow such addition or correction and shall give weight thereto according to circumstances.

Addition or
correction by
witness or
interpreter.
Amended by:
XXXI.1934.57.

(2) Any such addition or correction shall be noted down and certified in accordance with the provisions of articles 594 and 595.

603. In order to prove the identity of any person or object it shall not be necessary that the witness should point out such person from among other persons, or pick out such object from among other similar objects, unless the court should think it expedient to adopt such course.

Identification of
persons or objects.

604. No witness may leave the court until he is dismissed by the court.

Witness not to
leave court.

605. It shall be lawful for the court, either of its own motion or upon the demand of the parties, to prevent any witness who has been examined from holding any communication whatever with any other witness who is about to be examined.

Communication
between witnesses.

606. (1) Where any person whose evidence is required in a cause which is pending, is about to leave Malta, or is so infirm or advanced in years that he might die or become unable to give his evidence before the time when such cause will come up for trial, or is unable to attend the trial, it shall be lawful for the court, saving the cases referred to in article 611, to commit the examination of such person to a judicial assistant; and in any such case, the questions put to the witness, together with his answers thereto, shall be taken down in writing, and the deposition shall be signed or marked by the witness himself.

Examination of
witness about to
leave Malta, etc.
Amended by:
X.1856.11;
IV.1868.10;
IX.1886.93;
XV.1913.123;
VIII.1990.3;
XXIV.1995.224;
XXXI.2002.155.

Form of demand for examination.

(2) The demand for the examination of any person as provided in sub-article (1), if made before the day appointed for the trial or the continuation of the trial of the cause, shall be by an application and the applicant shall swear that he has reason to believe that the witness is about to leave Malta or is unable to appear before the court, as the case may be; during the hearing such demand may be made orally.

Examination of witness outside jurisdiction of court.

(3) Where the cause is pending before any of the superior courts, or before the Court of Magistrates (Malta), and the person to be examined under the provisions of this article is in the Island of Gozo or of Comino, it shall be lawful for the court to commit the examination of such person to a judicial assistant; and where the cause is pending before the Court of Magistrates (Gozo), and the person to be examined as aforesaid is in the Island of Malta, it shall be lawful for the court to commit the examination of such person to a judicial assistant.

Judicial assistant to administer oath.

(4) In the cases referred to in this article, the oath may be administered by the judicial assistant.

(5) The party by whom the evidence is required shall, before the order of the court is carried out, deposit with the registrar a sufficient sum to cover any expense which may be incurred for the execution of the order; and in default of such deposit, it shall be lawful for the court to decide the cause without such evidence.

Judicial assistant to take down objections to competency or credit of witnesses.

607. The judicial assistant shall record any objection raised by the contending parties against the competency or credibility of any witness.

Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.225.](#)
Substituted by:
[XXXI.2002.156.](#)

Examination of witness under article 606 may be ordered at any stage of the proceedings.

608. An examination under the provisions of article 606 may be ordered at any stage of the proceedings.

Signing and sealing of deposition.
Substituted by:
[XXXI.2002.157.](#)

609. Any deposition taken in the manner provided in articles 606 and 607 shall also be signed by the judicial assistant, and shall then be sealed by the Registrar, and filed in the record of the proceedings.

Deposition may be taken independently of reasons mentioned in article 606.
Added by:
[XV.1913.124.](#)
Amended by:
[XXVII.1979.19;](#)
[XXIV.1995.226;](#)
[XXXI.2002.158.](#)

610. (1) The provisions of article 606 shall, independently of the reasons mentioned in that article, apply also in any case in which, in an action before the Civil Court, First Hall, a demand to that effect is made, by means of a note, by all parties to the action, and also in the case where the court so orders.

(2) In any such case, the provisions of the last part of article 606(1) shall not apply; but the answers given by the witnesses shall be taken down in the manner provided in article 594(1), and the deposition shall be signed or marked by the witness and countersigned by the judicial assistant who shall transmit it to the registrar.

(3) If any question shall arise before a judicial assistant as to the competency or relevancy of a witness, or as to the admissibility or relevancy of any question put to a witness, the judicial assistant shall decide the question and record his decision, saving the right of the party aggrieved, in the case of rejection of the witness or question, to apply to the court.

Witnesses or questions objected to.

(4) All other provisions of this Code relating to the examination of witnesses before the court shall apply to any examination under this article, in so far as they are applicable.

(5) Nothing in this article contained shall prevent the court from ordering, either of its own motion or upon the demand of any of the parties, where necessary, that a witness examined under the provisions of this article be recalled and re-examined before it.

Re-examination of witness in court.

611. (1) Where the evidence of any person as provided in article 606 is required before the Court of Magistrates (Malta), or before the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) in its inferior jurisdiction, the witness shall be examined by the magistrate himself, but in the latter case the magistrate shall reduce the evidence to writing and shall cause it to be signed or marked by the witness.

Examination of witness about to leave Malta, etc., whose evidence is required before inferior courts.
Amended by:
X.1856.12;
XV.1913.125,126
XXIX.1939.3;
L.N. 4 of 1963;
L.N. 46 of 1965;
XXXI.1966.2;
LVIII.1974.68;
VIII.1990.3;
XXIV.1995.227;
XXV.2019.22.

(2) Whenever the Magistrate of the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) is temporarily absent from Gozo with the permission of the Minister responsible for justice, or is, through a lawful impediment, precluded from performing his duties, the registrar of the said court may be authorized by the State Advocate to take the evidence of any person as provided in article 606 and to administer the necessary oath.

(3) Nevertheless, the provisions of article 606(3) shall be applicable to any of the courts mentioned in sub-article (1) where the person to be examined is not in the Island or Islands where the court, before which the evidence is required, sits.

612. (1) The provisions of article 606 shall also apply in the case where, for the reasons set out in that article, there are sufficient grounds to believe that a witness whose production has been disallowed in the court of first instance will not be able to attend before the appellate court.

Applicability of article 606 in cases of witnesses disallowed by court of first instance.

(2) In any such case, the examination of the witness shall be ordered by the court before which the cause is pending, but the deposition shall be kept closed and sealed until the appellate court shall have declared the witness to be competent.

613. Where it is made to appear to the satisfaction of any of the superior courts, or of the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) in its superior jurisdiction, that the evidence of any person who is absent from Malta is indispensable for the determination of any cause pending before any of such courts, it shall be lawful for the court to make an order declaring the examination of such witness to be necessary and the court may stay the proceedings after having complied with the provisions of article 158 and adjourn the cause to a time within which such evidence is to be obtained.

Evidence of person residing abroad.
Amended by:
XI.1977.2;
VIII.1990.3;
XXIV.1995.228.
Stay of proceedings.

Form of application for letters of request.
Amended by:
[*XV.1913.127;*](#)
[*XXIV.1995.229.*](#)
Production of interrogatories.

Translation of interrogatories.

Translation to be verified on oath.

Oath by person applying for letters of request.

Opposite party may appoint a representative.
Amended by:
[*XXIV.1995.230.*](#)

Interrogatories to be accessible to opposite party.
Substituted by:
[*XXIV.1995.231.*](#)

Drawing up of letter of request.

Transmission of letter of request and documents to Minister responsible for justice.
Amended by:
[*L.N. 4 of 1963;*](#)
[*XXIV.1995.232;*](#)
[*XXXI.2007.27.*](#)

614. (1) The demand for any such examination shall be by application if made at any time before the hearing of the cause, or oral if made during the hearing; and in either case, the party demanding the examination shall produce the interrogatories reduced into writing, and state the name and address of the person who is to represent him during the examination.

(2) The court shall not receive such interrogatories if they are not accompanied by a translation in the language of the place where the witness is to be examined, unless it is made to appear to the satisfaction of the court that it is impracticable to prepare such translation; in which case, a note of such fact shall be entered in the record of the cause and mention thereof shall be made in the letters of request referred to in article 618.

(3) Any such translation shall be signed, and its correctness verified on oath before the registrar, by the translator.

615. The party demanding the examination shall affirm upon oath that he knows, or, that he possesses information which he has sufficient reason to believe to be true, that the proposed witness is in the place stated by him and that such witness is in a position to certify the truth of the facts stated in the interrogatories.

616. If the demand referred to in article 614 is allowed, the opposite party shall have the right to appoint a person to represent him at the time of the examination, the name and address of such person being stated to the court within the time fixed in the decree.

617. A copy of the interrogatories reduced into writing shall be served on the opposite party or on his advocate.

618. On the expiration of the time referred to in article 616, the registrar, upon a decree to be made by the court for the purpose, shall draw up a letter of request addressed to one of the judges or magistrates of the place in which the request is to be executed, or to any other person or persons as stated in the decree, requesting such judge, magistrate or other person or persons to examine on oath the witness; a copy of the decree and of the interrogatories shall be annexed to the letter of request which shall contain the name and description of the persons appointed by the parties as their agents.

619. The letter of request referred to in the last preceding article, together with the accompanying documents, shall be transmitted by the registrar to the Minister responsible for justice, who shall forward it to the proper authorities with a request that it may be executed:

Provided that the court may dispense with the requirement of this article where any treaty, convention, agreement or understanding, between Malta and another country or which applies to both such countries or to which both such countries are a party, provides for direct transmission of letters of request between judicial authorities.

620. It shall be the duty of the party demanding the examination to solicit the authority or person requested to take the examination, to carry out such examination in accordance with the terms of the letter of request.

Duty of person demanding examination.

621. Before the authority or person requested to take the examination, the questions shall be put according to the interrogatories transmitted with the letter of request, and, in cross-examination, there shall be put such other questions as the agent of the opposite party may require; the examiner may also put any other questions which, as a result of the answers given, he may deem or the agent of the party demanding the examination may show to be necessary or expedient.

Method of examination by interrogatories. Powers of examiner.

622. (1) The agents of the contending parties duly informed by the authority or person requested to take the examination shall attend on the day and at the place appointed for the examination; and it shall be the duty of the agent of the party producing the evidence to bring with him the witness to be examined; the examination shall be reduced into writing, signed or marked by the witness and signed by the examiner.

Notice of time and place of examination to be given to representatives of parties. Examination to be reduced into writing.
Amended by:
L.N. 4 of 1963;
[XXIV.1995.233.](#)

(2) The provisions of sub-article (1) shall be duly stated in the letter of request, which shall also contain a request to the effect that the said authority or person will transmit the examination, when completed, to the Minister responsible for justice, who shall cause it to be forwarded to the court.

Provisions of this article to be stated in letter of request.

622A. (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of articles 613 to 622, where the evidence of a witness residing outside Malta is required, and such person has made an affidavit about facts within his knowledge before an authority or other person who is by the law of the country where the witness resides empowered to administer oaths, or before a consular officer of Malta serving in the country where the witness resides, such affidavit duly authenticated may be produced in evidence before a court in Malta; and the provisions of articles 623, 624 and 625 shall apply to such affidavits.

Evidence by affidavit of witness residing abroad.
Added by:
[XXIV.1995.234.](#)

(2) The affidavit so obtained shall be served on the opposite party or parties, and any party to the proceedings desiring to cross-examine such a witness shall apply to the court for the examination of such witness by letters of request not later than twenty days from the service of the affidavit; and the provisions of this Code relative to letters of request shall apply with such modifications and adaptations as may be necessary.

(3) If no application is made as aforesaid no cross-examination of the witness shall be allowed unless the court for a good reason otherwise directs; and the affidavit shall be taken into consideration notwithstanding the absence of cross-examination.

(4) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this article, if the parties agree, and the court deems it proper so to act, the court may make such other provisions concerning the conduct of the cross-examination as may be appropriate according to circumstances.

Audio-recording or
video-recording of
evidence.

Added by:
[XXI.2002.159.](#)
Amended by:
[VIII.2017.7.](#)

622B. (1) Without prejudice to the provisions of article 622A, the court may, if it deems it proper so to act, allow for the audio-recording or for the video-recording of any evidence required from a witness as aforesaid, in accordance with such codes of practice as the Minister responsible for justice may, by regulations, prescribe.

(2) The Court may also allow for the testimony of any witness even if present in Malta to be given by video conference or by teleconference from such place as the court may order and subject to such conditions and directions as the court may deem necessary:

Provided that the Minister responsible for justice may, by regulations, provide for any procedures, formalities, modalities or restrictions which are to apply to the taking of evidence in Malta in respect of proceedings in Malta by video conference or by teleconference and where the Minister makes such regulations the said regulations shall apply and any conditions or directions given by the Court under this sub-article shall not conflict with such regulations.

Resumption of
trial.

Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.235.](#)

623. When the court shall have received the examination, or if the authority or person requested to take the examination shall have reported that it was not possible to take the same, either because the witness was not produced, or for any other cause, or if, in the opinion of the court, having regard to the distance of the place and to all other circumstances, sufficient time has elapsed without the examination having been received, it shall be lawful for the court, of its own motion or upon the application of the party interested, to order that the cause be set down for hearing, tried and determined.

Production of
evidence taken
upon letters of
request.

Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.236.](#)

624. (1) The examination taken in accordance with the provisions of articles 613 to 620 inclusive, may be produced as evidence not only in the court of first instance and in the appellate court, but also in the appellate court only, whenever the examination, although ordered by a decree of the court of first instance, shall have been received after the cause has passed to the appellate court.

(2) If the cause in which the examination was ordered has terminated and has subsequently been re-instituted in terms of law, the examination may also be produced both before the court of first instance and before the appellate court.

Reading of
depositions in
court.

Amended by:
[XXII.1976.4.](#)

625. (1) The depositions of witnesses taken in the manner provided in articles 606, and 613 to 624, shall be read at the trial of the cause, if at the time of such trial, the witnesses who had been so examined be dead, or unable to attend, or kept out of the way by means of the procurement of the opposite party, or absent from Malta.

(2) Such depositions, although taken during the pendency of the cause before the court of first instance, may be made use of also before the appellate court, provided the impediment referred to in this article continues to exist.

626. (1) It shall be lawful for the court, in making an order of reference, to empower the referee to examine witnesses and to administer oaths.

Examination of witnesses by referee.

Amended by:
IX.1886.95;
XXXI.1934.58.

(2) Any witness examined by the referee may, by leave of court, be again produced before the court, and it shall also be lawful for the court of its own motion to order the production of any such witness.

Production before court of witnesses heard by referee.

Sub-title II

OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

627. The following documents shall be admissible in evidence without the necessity of any proof of their authenticity other than that which appears on the face of them, and shall, until the contrary is proved, be evidence of their contents:

Documents requiring no proof of authenticity other than that which they bear on the face of them.

Amended by:
L.N. 4 of 1963;
XI.1973.377;
XXII.1976.4;
XXIV.1995.237;
XXIV.1995.357.

- (a) the acts of the Government of Malta, signed by the Minister or by the head of the department from which they emanate, or in his absence, by the deputy, assistant, or other officer next in rank, authorized to sign such acts;
- (b) the registers of any department of the Government of Malta;
- (c) all public acts signed by the competent authorities, and contained in the Government Gazette;
- (d) the acts of the Government of Malta printed under the authority of the Government and duly published;
- (e) the acts and registers of the courts of justice and of the ecclesiastical courts, in Malta;
- (f) the certificates issued from the Public Registry Office and the Land Registry;
- (g) the sea-protest made under the authority of the Civil Court, First Hall;
- (h) the documents mentioned in article 68, in article 95(3), in article 227 and, in so far as it applies article 227, in article 274 of the [Merchant Shipping Act](#), as provided in the said provisions.

Cap. 234.

628. The acts of any foreign Government, or of any department of a foreign Government, or of foreign courts of justice, or of any foreign establishment, authenticated by the diplomatic or consular representative of the Government of Malta in the country from which they emanate, or by a person serving in a diplomatic, consular or other foreign service of any country which by arrangement with the Government of Malta has undertaken to represent this Government's interests in that country, or by any other competent authority in the country from which they emanate,

Acts of foreign Governments, etc.
Amended by:
XXII.1976.4.

shall also be admissible as evidence in the same manner as the documents mentioned in the last preceding article.

Acts requiring
proof of
authenticity.
Amended by:
XI.1973.377.

629. The following documents are admissible and shall, until the contrary is proved, be evidence of their contents, provided their authenticity be proved:

- (a) the acts and registers of any establishment, or public body, authorized or recognized by law or by the Government;
- (b) the parochial acts and registers relative to births, marriages and deaths, and the dispositions made according to law in the presence of a parish priest;
- (c) the acts and registers of notaries public in Malta;
- (d) the books of traders kept according to law, only with regard to any agreement or other transaction of a commercial nature;
- (e) the books of public brokers kept according to law, with regard to anything which may have taken place between contracting parties in commercial matters;
- (f) the documents mentioned in article 134(3), in article 176(2) and in article 190(6) of the [Merchant Shipping Act](#), as provided in the said provisions.

Cap. 234.

Acts and registers
of foreign notaries.

630. The acts and registers of notaries public of other countries, authenticated in the manner provided in article 628, shall be admissible and shall be evidence of their contents, in the same manner as the acts mentioned in article 627.

Traders' books,
etc., to constitute
evidence against
traders, etc.

631. The books of traders and ships' books shall constitute evidence against the traders themselves or the masters or owners of the ships, notwithstanding that such books are not kept according to law.

Declarations
against interest,
etc.

632. (1) Any declaration made by a party against his interest, or any other writing containing any admission, agreement, or obligation is admissible as evidence.

Material objects.

(2) Any writing, whether printed or not, and any inscription, seal, banner, instrument or tool of any art or trade, tally or score, map, sign or mark, which may furnish information, explanation or ground of inference in respect of the facts of the suit, are admissible as evidence.

Defective public
act which may be
admissible in
evidence as private
writing.

633. Any act which, by reason of the incompetence or incapacity of the officer by whom it was drawn up, compiled, or published, or which, owing to the absence of some formality prescribed by law, has not the force of a public act, shall be admissible as evidence as a private writing between the parties, if the parties have signed or marked the same, or if it is proved that such act has been drawn up or signed by some other person acting on their instructions.

634. (1) A person against whom any paper apparently signed by him is produced, is bound to declare positively whether the writing or signature is his own or not, and in default of such declaration, such writing or signature shall, until the contrary is proved, be deemed to be his own.

Rules of evidence as to signatures or marks.

Amended by:
IX.1886.96;
XV.1913.128;
XII.1924.5;
II.1947.2;
XV.1983.10;
XXI.1993.87;
XXIV.1995.238.

(2) Any signature or mark attested by an advocate, a notary or a legal procurator shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to be genuine if in the attestation it is declared by the advocate or notary or legal procurator that such signature or mark was subscribed or set in his presence and, where the person cannot sign his name, in the presence of two witnesses whose signature appears on the act, and that he has personally ascertained the identity of the persons setting such signature or mark.

(3) For the purposes of article 1233(1)(g) of the [Civil Code](#), any signature or mark attested by a parish priest in the manner provided in sub-article (2) shall also, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to be genuine.

Cap. 16.

635. Where it shall be necessary to ascertain the handwriting of any person by whom a document has been written or signed, such proof may be made -

Modes of proving handwriting.

- (a) by the person who wrote or signed the document acknowledging his own handwriting;
- (b) by means of witnesses who actually saw the person write or sign the document;
- (c) by means of witnesses who, although they have not seen the person write or sign the document, are acquainted with his handwriting;
- (d) by the comparison of handwritings, or by other circumstances or presumptions;
- (e) by means of experts in handwriting, in cases of writings difficult to verify.

636. (1) Authentic copies of the documents mentioned in articles 627, 628 and in article 629(a), (b), (c) and (e) are admissible as evidence.

Copies.

(2) Copies shall be deemed to be authentic, when they are made in the form prescribed by law by the officer by whom the original was received or is preserved, or by the person lawfully authorized for the purpose.

Authenticity thereof.

(3) Authentic copies shall be evidence to the same extent as the originals.

Probatory force.

Sub-title III

OF THE DEMAND FOR THE PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS

*Actio ad
exhibendum.
Amended by:
XI.1859.29,30;
VI.1880.27;
XV.1913.129;
II.1940.12;
XXIV.1995.239;
XVI.2008.44.*

637. (1) It shall be lawful to demand the production of documents which are in the possession of other persons -

- (a) if such documents are the property of the party demanding the production thereof;
- (b) if such documents belong in common to the party demanding their production and to the party against whom the demand is made;
- (c) if the party demanding the production of the documents, although he is not the owner or a co-owner thereof, shows that he has an interest that such documents be produced by the other party to the suit;
- (d) if the person possessing the documents, not being a party to the suit, does not declare on oath that, independently of any favour for either side, he has special reasons not to produce the documents;
- (e) if the documents are public acts, or acts intended to constitute evidence in the interest of the public in general.

(2) It shall be lawful for the court to order the production only of such part of books or other documents as relate to the matter in issue.

Privileged
documents.

(3) It shall not be lawful to demand the production of any document which is held by a public authority and -

- (a) which is an exempt document under articles 29, 30 or 36(1) or sub-articles (4) or (5) of article 32 of the [Freedom of Information Act](#); or
- (b) the disclosure of which is prohibited by any other law.

Cap. 496.

(4) Where a demand is made for the production in court of a document held by a public authority, and the public authority is of the view that sub-article (3)(a) applies to that document, the public authority shall reply to the demand as if that demand were a request for disclosure of the document under the [Freedom of Information Act](#); and the provisions of Parts II and IV and of articles 39, 40 and 43 of the Freedom of Information Act shall apply accordingly.

Cap. 496.

(5) Saving the provisions of article 518 of the [Criminal Code](#) it shall not be lawful to demand the production of any *procès-verbal*, record of inquiry, or other document relating to criminal matters, unless such *procès-verbal*, record of inquiry, or document be deposited in the registry.

Cap. 9.

(6) In this article "public authority" shall have the meaning assigned to it by the [Freedom of Information Act](#).

Cap. 496.

Documents kept by
administrator
presumed to
belong to person
whose estate he
administers.

638. (1) Any person whose affairs are administered by another person, shall be deemed to be the owner of the books or other documents kept by the administrator in the discharge of his functions.

- (2) Documents relating to any succession, partition, or partnership, or to the affairs of any bankrupt debtor, shall be deemed to be common property. Documents relating to successions, etc. to be deemed common property.
- (3) It shall rest with the court to decide as to the interest of the party demanding the production, regard being had to the nature of the case and to the nature of the document the production of which is demanded. Court to decide as to interest of party demanding production of documents.
- 639.** The demand for the production of documents shall state the nature of the documents, and all the particulars which may be known to the party making the demand. Contents of demand for production of documents.
- 640.** Where the demand for the production of documents is made by one contending party against another, it shall be made in the same manner as the demand for a reference to the oath of the opposite party; and where such demand is made against third parties, it shall be made by application or in the subpoena to give evidence as witness. Form of demand for production of documents.
Amended by: XXIV.1995.240.
- 641.** In all cases, the party demanding the production of the document must prove that the document is in the possession of the person from whom the production is demanded. Proof of possession of documents.
- 642.** The production of documents may be demanded at any stage of the cause, so long as evidence may still be adduced. Time in which demand for production of documents may be made.
- 643.** It shall be lawful for the court to consider the contents of a document to be as averred by the party demanding its production, if the opposite party, notwithstanding the order of the court, refuses to produce such document. Indirect proof arising from default of production.

Sub-title IV

OF REFEREES

- 644.** The proof by means of a referee or referees is ordered on the demand of the parties or one of them, or by the court of its own motion. Order of reference.
Amended by: XXIV.1995.241.
- 645.** (1) The court shall not appoint a referee solely for the purpose of examining witnesses on oath and taking down their depositions in writing and establishing the relevant facts. Contents of order.
Amended by: XII.1985.14.
Substituted by: XXIV.1995.242.
- (2) In the decree appointing the referee, the court shall -
- (a) state the object of the reference;
 - (b) fix the day and time when the referee is to conduct an inspection *in faciem loci* where necessary;
 - (c) give directions for the guidance of the referee in the execution of his task.
- (3) The court may at any time, at the request of the registrar or

on its own motion, order the referee to return the records of the cause that are in his possession, to the registrar there to remain for such time as shall be specified in that order. In case of non-compliance with the court's order, the referee shall without prejudice to any other proceedings which may be instituted against him be guilty of contempt of court.

(4) The court may order the referee to attend for the hearing of the trial and to put to the witnesses any questions he may deem necessary or relevant to enable him to complete his report.

(5) Where affidavits have been filed in the registry of the court, the referee shall be served with a copy of such affidavits before the hearing.

Appointment of referee.

Amended by:
XXXI.1934.59.
Substituted by:
XXIV.1995.243.
Amended by:
XVII.2003.20;
X.2004.20.

646. (1) Where the parties agree on the submission of a name of a referee, the court shall appoint the referee agreed upon by the parties.

(2) Where the parties fail to agree, the court shall appoint a referee of its own choice.

(3) No social worker or psychologist who has already provided services to a party to a suit including as an *ex parte* expert witness according to the provisions of article 563A may be appointed as a referee.

No person may have more than two references at the same time.

Added by:
IV.1934.2.
Amended by:
XV.1940.2;
XXIV.1995.244.

647. (1) No person may be appointed as a referee in any cause or matter if such person has already two references upon neither of which he has yet filed his final report; and any appointment made in violation of this provision shall be null and void:

Exceptions.

Provided that the provisions of this article shall not apply -

- (a) in any cause or matter which requires special technical knowledge if the number of persons possessing such special technical knowledge is very limited; or
- (b) where the necessity arises of referring to the same referee the consideration of further questions raised in the same cause or matter;
- (c) to the appointment of additional referees in accordance with the provisions of this Code.

In the case provided under paragraph (a), the court shall in the order of reference state the reasons for appointing the person mentioned in the order.

Book of references.

(2) The registrar shall keep a record of any order of reference made by the court stating the date of the order and the date on which the referee shall have filed his report.

Challenge of referees.

648. A referee may be challenged by any of the parties on good cause being shown to the court.

Good cause for challenge.

649. *Repealed by:* [XXIV.1995.246.](#)

- 650.** Repealed by: [XXIV.1995.246.](#) Time for making peremptory challenge.
- 651.** Repealed by: [XXIV.1995.246.](#) Power of court.
- 652.** Repealed by: [XXIV.1995.246.](#) Challenge of referee named by court.
Amended by: [IV.1862.12.](#)
- 653.** A referee may be challenged for good cause at any time until he has filed his report, provided the party making the challenge declares upon oath that he was not aware of such cause at the time of the appointment, and that he never appeared before the referee, nor performed any act before him, from the time when he became aware of such cause. Time for challenging referee for good cause.
Amended by: [XXIV.1995.247.](#)
- 654.** Challenges for any cause existing and known at the time of the appointment of the referee shall be made orally during the hearing; and challenges for any cause supervening after the appointment, or which, although existing previously to the appointment, was unknown, shall be made by an application demanding the appointment of another referee in his stead. Mode of making challenges for cause.
- 655.** (1) Upon any such application, the court shall make an order suspending the proceedings before the referee and shall appoint a day for the hearing of the grounds of the objection. Hearing of grounds of objection.
Amended by: [XV.1913.130;](#)
[XXIV.1995.248.](#)
- (2) The decree of the court allowing or disallowing the objection shall not be subject to appeal. Decree not subject to appeal.
- (3) Where the court allows the objection, it shall in the same decree appoint another referee. Appointment of another referee.
- 656.** The decree making the order of reference shall be served by order of the court on the referee. Service of order of reference on referee.
Amended by: [XV.1913.130.](#)
Substituted by: [XXIV.1995.249.](#)
- 657.** (1) Any referee who declines the appointment shall give notice in writing of his refusal to the registrar, within two days from the service of the decree. Declination of appointment.
Amended by: [XV.1913.130.](#)
- (2) Failing such notice, the referee shall be deemed to have accepted the appointment. Tacit acceptance.
- (3) The registrar, upon recording the refusal, shall forthwith by letter call upon the parties to appear on a date to be fixed by the court in order that another referee may be appointed in case the refusal is accepted by the court. Duties of registrar.
- 658.** If the referee appointed by the court is a person duly authorized by the Government to act as an expert, or to exercise any trade or profession, and such referee shall, without reasonable excuse, refuse to accept the appointment, it shall be lawful for the court which made the appointment to interdict him from acting as referee in any of the superior or inferior courts for a period not Penalty for certain persons refusing without reasonable excuse to act as referees.
Amended by: [XV.1913.130.](#)

exceeding six months.

Penalty for default of referee to carry out reference.
Amended by:
XV.1913.130.

659. Any referee who, after having accepted the appointment, shall, without reasonable excuse, fail to attend on the day and at the time fixed for the carrying out of the reference, may be condemned in costs and damages.

Submissions by parties to referees.
Amended by:
XV.1913.130.

660. The parties or their advocates or legal procurators, as the case may be, may, in the course of the proceedings before the referee, make such submissions as they may consider to be in their interest, and a mention thereof shall be made by the referee in his report.

Sittings of referees.
Amended by:
XV.1913.130.

661. If for the carrying out of the reference one sitting is not sufficient, the referee may hold other sittings on such days and at such time as he may fix.

Extension of time to carry out reference.
Amended by:
XV.1913.130;
XXIV.1995.250.

662. If the referee is for any just cause unable to carry out the reference within the appointed time, he may, before the expiration of that time, apply for an extension provided that the court may for good and sufficient grounds, to be recorded, grant a further extension or extensions.

Penalty for delaying or refusing to file report without reasonable excuse.
Amended by:
XV.1913.130.

663. If any referee shall, without reasonable excuse, delay the report or refuse to file the report within the prescribed time, original or enlarged, his appointment shall *ipso facto* lapse and the court shall *ex officio* appoint another referee in his stead; in which case he shall not be entitled to any fee or reimbursement and shall be liable for costs and damages.

Summoning of witnesses before referees. Penalty for non-attendance of witnesses.
Amended by:
XV.1913.130.

664. (1) The court shall issue writs of subpoena to witnesses to appear before the referee, and if any such witness fails to attend, the court shall, upon a report in writing by the referee, proceed in the manner provided in article 575.

(2) The provisions of article 569(2) shall apply to such writs.

Contents of report.
Amended by:
XV.1913.130;
XIX.1965.16;
XXIV.1995.251.

665. (1) The report of the referee shall state the inquiries made and his findings together with the grounds of such findings.

Annexes to report.

(2) The documents produced by the parties and the depositions of the witnesses shall be annexed to the report.

When plans and models may be annexed to report.

(3) The report shall not be supplemented by plans or models, unless the court so directs or the parties give their consent thereto.

Signing of report by referee.

(4) The report shall be signed by the referee or referees as the case may be unless otherwise provided by the court.

Report to be legibly written.

(5) The report shall be clearly and legibly typewritten or written in ink.

Taxation of fee due to referees.
Amended by:
XV.1913.130;
XXIV.1995.252.

666. (1) Before the day appointed for the publication of the report, or on the same day, but before the cause is called, the referee shall present his report unsealed to the registrar for the taxation of his fees in accordance with the Tariffs in Schedule A annexed to this Code.

(2) Except where otherwise provided, the referee shall not be required to publish his report until the fee taxed by the registrar has been paid to him or deposited with the registrar, and the registrar shall not disclose to any person any part of the report, until the fee has been paid or deposited as aforesaid, under penalty of paying to the referee the fees due to him.

Report not accessible until fees are paid.

(3) Upon the payment or deposit as aforesaid, the registrar shall insert the report in the record of the cause and such report shall thereupon be accessible in the same manner as other parts of the record.

Insertion of report in record.

667. (1) Any referee or party may appeal from a taxation made under the last preceding article to the court by which the referee was appointed, whatever the amount taxed or claimed, within eight days from the day mentioned in article 672 or, where the attendance of the referee has been dispensed with as provided in that article, from the day on which the referee or the contending parties shall have been notified of the taxation by letter of the registrar.

Appeal by referee or party from taxation of fee.
Time for appeal.
Amended by:
[XV.1913.130](#);
[XXI.1934.60](#);
[XXIV.1995.253](#).

(2) Pending the decision of the cause in which the order of reference was made, such appeal may be entered by means of a note.

Form of appeal.

(3) After the decision, such appeal shall be by application and shall be heard by the court summarily.

(4) If the appeal appears *prima facie* justified, the court shall, after hearing the parties, direct the registrar to make a fresh taxation.

Directions of court.

668. (1) The decree ordering the reference shall state the party by whom the fee of the referee shall provisionally be paid or deposited.

By whom fee of referee is to be provisionally paid.
Amended by:
[IV.1862.13](#);
[XV.1913.130](#);
[XXIV.1995.254](#).

(2) When the reference is required by the plaintiff to prove some fact upon which he relies for his claim, the fee of the referees shall provisionally be paid or deposited by the plaintiff.

(3) In all other cases, it shall be in the discretion of the court to determine whether, and if so, in what proportion, each of the parties shall provisionally bear a part of such fee, regard being had to the respective interest of the parties to the action.

669. The court may in the decree appointing the referee or at any time before the referee presents his report to the registrar, order the party by whom the fee is to be provisionally paid, to deposit with the registrar, within such time as the court shall direct, a sum which, in the opinion of the court, approximately corresponds to the fee which will be due to the referee.

Court may order deposit of fee due to referee.
Amended by:
[IV.1862.13](#);
[XV.1913.130](#);
Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.255](#).

670. The court may decide the cause without the reference or independently of the evidence produced before the referee -

When court may decide cause without the reference.
Amended by:
[IV.1862.13](#);
[XV.1913.130](#);
Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.256](#).

- (a) where the reference was not carried out within the original or extended time, for some cause attributable to the party in whose interest the order of reference was made; or

- (b) where the fee taxed in favour of the referee as provided in article 666 has not been paid or deposited; or
- (c) where the deposit mentioned in the last preceding article has not been made.

Referee to divide fee in cases where parties are admitted to sue or to defend with the benefit of legal aid.

Amended by:
[XV.1913.130](#);
[XXIII.1971.23](#);
[XXIV.1995.257](#).

671. (1) Where one of the parties to an action has been admitted to sue or to defend with the benefit of legal aid, the referee shall be entitled to such part of the fee as may have been paid by the party not appearing with such benefit:

Provided that the referee shall be entitled to claim the other part of the fee if the party not appearing with the benefit of legal aid is condemned in costs.

(2) Where both parties appear with the benefit of legal aid, the referee, if he belongs to the class of persons mentioned in article 658, shall publish his report, although he may not have been paid the fee; and in the case of other referees, the fee will be paid by Government.

Publication of report.

Amended by:
[IV.1862.14](#);
[XV.1913.130](#);
[XXIV.1995.258](#).

672. (1) On the day appointed for the publication of the report, the referee shall attend before the court for the object of publicly reading it out and confirming it on oath, unless his attendance is dispensed with by the court.

Oath.

(2) The oath shall be administered to the referees by the registrar.

Time for examination of report.

Amended by:
[XV.1913.130](#);
[XXIV.1995.259](#).

673. The court shall allow the parties time to consider the report and to make their submissions thereon.

Additional referees.

Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.260](#).

674. (1) It shall be lawful for the court, on the demand of any of the parties, to proceed to the appointment of additional referees who shall make their report on reaching a majority decision on the subject of the reference.

(2) Where the findings have been arrived at by a majority of votes, the report shall include a mention of the fact that there has been a dissenting member, what constituted the dissent as well as the grounds thereof.

(3) Subject to the provisions of this article, the provisions of this Sub-title shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to additional referees.

Average of amounts assessed by referees.

675. Where the subject-matter of the reference is a valuation or an assessment, it shall be lawful for the court, in either of the cases referred to in the last preceding article, on the demand of any of the parties, to appoint two additional referees; and upon their report, to fix an average of the amounts found in all the disagreeing reports.

When additional referee cannot be appointed.

676. *Repealed by:* [XXIV.1995.261](#).

677. (1) The demand for the appointment of additional referees shall be made by means of a note to be filed within ten days.

Time for making demand for additional referees.
Amended by:
XXXI.1934.61.
Substituted by:
XXIV.1995.262.

(2) Such time shall commence to run from the date of the publication of the report. If the referees have been dispensed from attending before the court according to the provisions of article 672(1), such time shall commence to run from the date of the receipt by the party or his legal procurator of a notice signed by the registrar, stating that the report has been published.

678. (1) The additional referees, whatever their number, shall be appointed by the court, unless the parties agree as to the referees to be appointed.

Appointment of additional referees.

(2) The additional referees may be challenged for good cause.

Challenges for good cause.

679. Where authority has been granted to the referees to receive documents or to examine witnesses, no further documents or witnesses on the subject-matter of the reference shall be admissible before the court, except in the cases as provided in article 150(1)(a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) and in article 208(1)(a), (b) and (d).

Inadmissibility of fresh documents or witnesses after the filing of the report.
Amended by:
XV.1913.130.

680. (1) The referees may be examined and cross-examined on their report in the same manner as witnesses.

Examination of referees.
Amended by:
XV.1913.130;
XXXI.1934.62.

(2) The provisions of articles 594 and 595 shall apply to the answers given by the referees.

681. The court is not bound to adopt the report of the referees against its own conviction.

Court not bound to adopt report.
Added by:
XV.1913.130.

682. In an appellate court, no reference may be ordered, except in the following cases:

When reference is permitted before appellate court.
Added by:
XV.1913.130.

- (a) where there was no reference made in the court below and no express renunciation of such reference was made;
- (b) where the subject-matter of the reference is, wholly or in part, different from that of the reference made in the court below, or in respect of which there was a renunciation;
- (c) where the directions given to the referee by the court below were, in the opinion of the appellate court, defective or insufficient;
- (d) where the appellate court is of opinion that the report is not so complete as to enable it to decide the cause:

Provided that nothing in this article shall operate so as to bar the appellate court from requiring further elucidations from the referees appointed by the court below.

*Sub-title V*OF INSPECTION *IN FACIEM LOCI*

Inspection *in
faciem loci*.

683. It shall be lawful for the court, on the demand of the parties or of its own motion, to order an inspection of the place, whenever it may deem it expedient for the disposal of the cause.

Contents of decree.

684. The court shall, in the decree ordering an inspection of the place, appoint the day and time for the inspection, and may also order one referee or three referees to attend.

Service of decree
on referees.
Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.263.](#)

685. The decree shall be communicated to the parties and to the referee or referees in the manner provided in and for the purposes of article 656.

Deputing judicial
assistant for
inspections outside
jurisdiction of
court.
Amended by:
[XXXI.2002.160.](#)

686. Where an inspection outside the jurisdiction of the court is necessary, the court may in the decree delegate a judicial assistant to hold the inspection and to perform all acts relative thereto.

Presence of one
member of court to
be sufficient.

687. *Repealed by:* [XXIV.1995.264.](#)

Court to repair to
place at the
appointed time.

688. (1) On the day and at the time appointed, the court shall repair to the place of inspection.

Attendance of
parties.

(2) The contending parties may, and, if their attendance is required shall, be present at such inspection.

Parties may be
represented by
advocates, etc.

(3) In all cases, the parties may be represented or assisted by their advocates or legal procurators.

Record of
inspection.

689. A record of the inspection shall be kept by the registrar in the form of a *procès-verbal*.

Directions to
referees.

690. The court shall, whenever it may deem it necessary, order the referee or referees to draw up plans and to state the measurements, the distance, and any other thing which the court may consider conducive to the object of the inquiry.

Examination of
witnesses.

691. It shall be lawful for the court either to examine the witnesses at the place of inspection, or to reserve examining them during the hearing in court.

Costs of
inspection.

692. As regards the payment or deposit of the expenses of the inspection, the provisions respecting proof by referees shall apply.

*Sub-title VI*OF THE PROOF BY ADMISSION OR BY REFERENCE TO THE OATH
OF THE OTHER PARTY

- 693.** Any admission of a fact whether written or verbal, made in or out of court, may be received in evidence against the party who made it. Admission made in or out of court.
- 694.** (1) An extrajudicial admission is no evidence except against the party who made it. Probatory force of admissions made out of court.
Amended by:
[IV.1862.15.](#)
- (2) An admission made upon a reference to the oath of one of the parties may be received in evidence of a fact even against the other parties to the suit. Admission made upon reference to oath of party.
- (3) In all cases, only such part of an admission as the court may deem worthy of credit shall constitute evidence. Part of admission worthy of credit to constitute evidence.
- 695.** (1) Any declaration or statement made, whether *viva voce* or in writing, by any advocate or legal procurator, can be withdrawn by a note at any stage of the suit, even in the appellate court, before judgment is given, provided it shall not be proved that the advocate or legal procurator made the declaration or statement with the special authority of the party. Declarations, etc., made by advocate, etc., can be withdrawn at any time before judgment.
- (2) The presentation of an act in court by the party personally, shall not of itself, without other circumstances, be evidence that the declaration or statement of fact was made by the advocate or legal procurator with the special authority of the party. Mere presentation of act by party not to constitute proof of authority by party to advocate, etc.
- 696.** (1) In the superior courts and in the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) in its superior jurisdiction, a plaintiff who intends to furnish evidence by a reference to the oath of the defendant shall give him notice thereof in the written pleading commencing proceedings. Reference to oath of defendant.
Amended by:
[XV.1913.131;](#)
[XXXI.1934.63;](#)
[VIII.1990.3;](#)
[XXIV.1995.265.](#)
- (2) Where the plaintiff omits to give the defendant such notice as provided in sub-article (1), he shall, at least two days before the day appointed for the hearing of the cause, present a note in the registry in order that the defendant may be informed, by letter of the registrar, that reference to his oath is required.
- (3) The letter shall be drawn up by the plaintiff and shall be filed simultaneously with the note.
- 697.** The provisions of sub-article (1) of the last preceding article shall apply in the case where the defendant requires reference to the oath of the plaintiff. Reference to oath of plaintiff.
Amended by:
[XV.1913.132;](#)
[XXIV.1995.266.](#)
- 698.** (1) If the party, to whose oath reference is required, fails to appear on the day appointed for the trial, the party referring shall, upon the issues being settled, make a declaration to the effect that he intends making such reference and shall present questions and statements which shall be formulated in an affirmative manner as to require an affirmative answer which shall be sealed by the registrar. Non-appearance of party to whose oath reference is required.
Amended by:
[XV.1913.133,134;](#)
[XXXI.1934.64;](#)
[XXIV.1995.267.](#)
- (2) If the party to whose oath reference is made fails to appear on the day to which the court shall adjourn the trial of the cause,

without good cause being shown for his non-appearance, the questions shall be deemed to be admitted and accepted.

In the superior courts, questions to be in writing.

Amended by:
[VIII.1990.3;](#)
[XXIV.1995.268.](#)

Approval of questions by court.

699. (1) In all courts of civil jurisdiction, the questions shall be made in writing.

(2) The questions shall, during the hearing of the cause, be presented to the court for approval.

Written questions to be clear, etc.

Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.269.](#)

Exclusion of superfluous questions.

700. (1) The questions shall be clear, concise and numbered, and signed by the advocate or legal procurator, as the case may be, or by the party referring.

(2) In all cases, questions which are superfluous or which the court may deem it fit to reject, may be cancelled or rejected.

Affirmative or interrogative form of questions.

701. *Repealed by:* [XXIV.1995.270.](#)

Demand for reference to oath in inferior courts.

Amended by:
[XV.1913.135;](#)
[XXIII.1971.24;](#)
[XIII.1983.5;](#)
[XII.1985.15;](#)
[VIII.1990.3;](#)
[XXIV.1995.271;](#)
[L.N. 407 of 2007.](#)

702. (1) In the Court of Magistrates (Malta) and in the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) in its inferior jurisdiction, the demand by the plaintiff for the reference to the oath of the defendant shall be made in the notice referred to in article 171.

(2) If the reference is required by the defendant, the demand shall be made orally, either before or during the hearing of the cause; and in the former case notice of such demand shall be given to the plaintiff.

Non-appearance of party to whose oath reference is required.

(3) If the party to whose oath reference is required fails to appear on the day appointed for the trial -

(a) the questions as taken down by the court shall be deemed to be admitted, unless good cause is shown for his non-appearance, in any case other than cases for ejectment or eviction from immovable property, in which the claim before the court does not exceed the amount of five hundred and eighty-two euro and thirty-four cents (582.34);

(b) the court shall adjourn the trial to a date not later than fifteen days from the date of the sitting, unless the party making the reference renounces thereto, in any case for ejectment or eviction from immovable property or in any case in which the claim before the court exceeds the amount of five hundred and eighty-two euro and thirty-four cents (582.34), and the questions as taken down by the court shall be deemed to be admitted if the party to whose oath reference is required, without good cause being shown for his non-appearance, fails again to appear on the day to which the court has adjourned the case as aforesaid.

Replies to questions.

703. The party to whose oath reference is made shall answer in terms of the questions.

704. (1) The provisions of article 2(e) of the [Judicial Proceedings \(Use of English Language\) Act](#), shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to the answers to the questions in all courts.

Taking of answers to questions.
Amended by:
[XXXI.1934.65](#);
[II.1940.13](#).
Substituted by:
[XXXII.1965.8](#).
Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.272](#).
Cap. 189.

(2) Such answers shall be certified by the registrar and shall form part of the record.

705. (1) It shall be lawful for the court to put or allow the party referring to put to the other party to whose oath reference is made any query which, although not included in the interrogatories, is connected with the subject-matter of the questions, or tends to elicit true and precise answers on the matter of the questions.

Further queries.

(2) The answers to any such queries shall also be taken down and certified by the registrar, and shall be inserted in the record.

706. (1) Where the party to whose oath reference is required is lawfully prevented from appearing in court, it shall be lawful for the court, on the demand of the other party, to order that the answers to the questions be taken, on the day and at the time to be stated in the order, at the place of abode of the party to whose oath reference is required, by a judicial assistant; and such order shall be served on the person or persons to whose oath reference is required. The party seeking the reference shall pay for such service, saving any right of reimbursement thereof in terms of the eventual decision of the court.

Deputing judicial assistant to take answers upon a reference to oath.
Amended by:
[XV.1913.136](#);
[XXIV.1995.273](#);
[XXXI.2002.161](#).

(2) It shall be lawful for the opposite party and for the advocates or legal procurators to attend.

Attendance of parties, etc.

(3) The answers shall be taken down and signed at the end thereof by the judicial assistant.

Answers to be taken down and signed by judicial assistant.

(4) The provisions of article 606(4) and (5) shall apply in the case provided for in this article.

Applicability of article 606(4) and (5).

707. (1) Where, in the same cause, reference is required to the oath of other parties in respect of whom there is not the impediment stated in the last preceding article, it shall be lawful for the court to order that the depositions of such other parties under the reference be taken, one after the other, on the same day, by a judicial assistant at the place of abode of the party in respect of whom there exists the impediment, immediately after the deposition of such party under the reference, and in the same manner as provided in that article; and such order shall be served on the person or persons to whose oath reference is required. The party seeking the reference shall pay for such service, saving any right of reimbursement thereof in terms of the eventual decision of the court.

Reference to oath of other parties not under impediment.
Amended by:
[XV.1913.137](#);
[XXIV.1995.274](#);
[XXXI.2002.162](#).

(2) In any case under this article, the oath may likewise be administered by a judicial assistant.

Before inferior courts reference to be taken by sitting magistrate.

Amended by:
X.1856.13;
VIII.1990.3;
XXIV.1995.275.

Applicability of article 606(3), (4) and (5) where party to whose oath reference is required, is outside jurisdiction.

Added by:
IX.1886.97.
Amended by:
XV.1913.138.

Power to forbid presence of one party during deposition of another.

Reference to oath of party absent not allowed.

Deputing judicial assistant to take deposition upon reference of party who might die before day of trial.

Amended by:
VIII.1990.3;
XXIV.1995.277;
XXXI.2002.163.

Evidence by reference admissible at any stage of proceedings.

Evidence by reference may not be refused, even if no other evidence is available.

708. In the cases referred to in the last two preceding articles, if the cause is pending before the Court of Magistrates (Malta), or before the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) in its inferior jurisdiction, the reference shall be taken by the magistrate before whom the cause is pending.

709. In the cases referred to in articles 706 and 707, if the cause is pending in Malta and the party to whose oath reference is required is in the Island of Gozo or Comino, or if the cause is pending in Gozo and the party to whose oath reference is required is in the Island of Malta, the provisions of article 606(3), (4) and (5) shall apply with regard to the person by whom the deposition under the reference is to be taken and the oath administered, as well as with regard to the person by whom the expenses are to be prepaid.

710. *Repealed by: [XXIV.1995.276.](#)*

711. It shall not be lawful to make reference to the oath of any party who is absent from Malta.

712. (1) Where any party to a cause pending in any of the superior courts, or in the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) in its superior jurisdiction, desires to make a reference to the oath of the other party and has reasons to fear that at the time of the hearing of the cause, such party might be dead or unable, through absence from the country, or sickness, to attend, it shall be lawful for the party requiring the reference to demand, by means of an application, that a judicial assistant be deputed to take down the deposition on the reference in the manner laid down in articles 706 and 707, provided he presents, simultaneously with the application, the questions, and the court considers such questions to be admissible; and if the court accedes to the party's request as aforesaid, the order of the court shall be served on the person or persons to whose oath reference is required. The party seeking the reference shall pay for such service, saving any right of reimbursement thereof in terms of the eventual decision of the court.

(2) Where the impediment anticipated be that of absence, the court shall appoint the place where the deposition on the reference is to be taken.

713. Reference to the oath of the other party shall be competent in all cases, whether before or after the production of other evidence, both before the first court and before the appellate court.

714. It shall not be lawful to refuse evidence by reference to the oath of the other party, even though no other evidence is available in support of the claim or defence in respect of which the reference is required.

715. (1) A reference to oath may be made in regard to the whole matter in issue, or to any part thereof, as well as in regard to any particular fact connected with the cause. Subject-matter of reference.

(2) Before the appellate court a reference to oath may be made in regard to facts not included in the questions presented before the court below; and it shall also be lawful for the appellate court upon a demand to that effect to order an explanation in regard to answers given before the court below.

716. (1) The party to whose oath reference is made may defer back the questions or any part thereof to the party referring. Power to defer back questions.

(2) The provisions of this article shall not apply unless the matter relates to a *factum proprium* of the party referring.

For the purposes of this article, any act whatsoever in which the party referring participated or of which he has personal knowledge shall be deemed to be a *factum proprium* of such party, whether he appears in the proceedings in his own name or in the name of others.

717. (1) Where the party to whose oath a reference is made, refuses to answer the questions or, in the cases provided under the last preceding article, fails to defer them back to the oath of his adversary, the questions shall be deemed to be proved in favour of the party referring. Refusal of party to whom reference is made to answer or defer back questions.

(2) Where, in the cases allowed by law, the questions have been deferred back to the party referring and such party refuses to answer them, the questions shall be deemed to be proved against him. Refusal of party referring to answer questions deferred back to him.

718. The party referring or deferring may not retract the questions, if the adversary declares that he is prepared to answer. Retracting of questions.

719. The party to whose oath a reference is made shall, if present at the hearing of the cause, forthwith declare whether he proposes to answer the questions, or to defer them back to the adversary. Party present in court to declare whether he intends answering or deferring back questions.

720. Where the evidence produced is not of itself sufficient to establish the proof required, and the court is of opinion that such evidence, if supplemented by the oath of the party, would establish to its satisfaction the proof required, it shall be lawful for the court to require a suppletory oath. Suppletory oath.

721. The suppletory oath may be administered either during the hearing of the cause, or after the judgment if expressly ordered by such judgment. Oath may be administered before or after judgment.

722. The judgment ordering the suppletory oath shall fix the time within which such oath is to be taken. Judgment to fix time within which suppletory oath is to be taken.

723. (1) Where a party who has proved his case generally is, through the negligence or fraud of the opposite party, unable to prove the amount, or the quantity, in whole or in part, due to him, Oath *in litem*.

he shall be admitted, if the court deems it proper, to the oath *in litem*.

(2) The party may also be admitted to such oath, independently of any negligence or fraud of the opposite party, provided there are sufficient inferences in support of the alleged amount or quantity.

Party admitted to oath *in litem* to produce list of sums, etc., due.

724. The party applying to be admitted to the oath *in litem*, shall produce a list showing distinctly the sums or things due to him, and the amount or quantity in regard to which the oath is to be taken, together with a declaration to the effect that he is prepared to verify on oath the contents of such list, both as regards the existence as well as the amount or quantity of the sums or things stated therein.

Power of court.

725. The amount or quantity shown on the list shall be accepted by the court in so far as, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, it shall deem it just:

Provided that it shall be lawful for the court to require further elucidations and for such purpose to appoint one or more experts.

Applicability of article 606(3), (4) and (5).

726. The provisions of article 606(3), (4) and (5) may also be applied in the case of any of the oaths referred to in articles 720 and 723, if the party whose oath is required is residing outside the jurisdiction of the superior or inferior court by which the oath is ordained.

Oaths to be administered by registrar.
Amended by:
X.1856.14;
XV.1913.140;
[XXIV.1995.278](#).

727. Saving the provisions of articles 706, 707 and 708 and of the last preceding article, the oaths referred to in the foregoing articles of this sub-title shall be administered by the registrar.

Title II OF PLEAS

Sub-title I OF PLEAS GENERALLY

Pleas to be raised in sworn answer.
Amended by:
XIII.1964.22.
Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.279](#).
Amended by:
[XXII.2005.60](#);
L.N. [181 of 2006](#).

728. (1) Subject to the provisions of article 731 in actions instituted by sworn application, all pleas whether dilatory or touching the merits shall be raised in the sworn answer, as the case may be. Those pleas touching the merits shall be raised without prejudice to the dilatory pleas.

(2) No other pleas can be set up at a later stage; provided that the court may on an application by the defendant or respondent allow the setting up of additional pleas, if it is satisfied that there were valid reasons for not including them in the note of pleas or in the answer.

729. If the court deems it expedient, before proceeding further, to deal with the dilatory plea, the court may hear the merits so far as the same may affect the decision on the preliminary issue.

Power of court to hear merits of case in order to dispose of preliminary plea.

730. Any plea to the jurisdiction of the court or to the capacity of the parties, and any plea of compromise, arbitration, *res judicata*, prescription, or nullity of acts, shall be determined under a separate head, either before, or together with the decision on the merits.

Certain pleas to be determined under separate heads.
Amended by:
[IX.1886.98.](#)

731. The provisions of article 728 shall not apply to such pleas as by an express provision of this Code may be raised at any stage of the proceedings, or to pleas the reason for which arises during the trial.

Pleas which may be raised at any stage of proceedings.
Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.280.](#)

732. (1) Saving always the provisions of this Code respecting the production of evidence, peremptory pleas may be raised even before the appellate court although they may not have been raised before the court of first instance.

Peremptory pleas.
Amended by:
[IX.1886.99.](#)

(2) Nevertheless, the plea of desertion of a cause shall be deemed to have been waived, if not raised before any other peremptory plea.

732A. Saving the provisions of any other law, in those instances where the law allows the court to raise *ex officio* a plea in a judgment without raising such plea prior to the action being put off for judgment, without allowing the parties to take cognizance of such plea before judgment is delivered, and without the parties being allowed to produce such evidence or plead in relation to the plea, the court shall not raise such a plea in its judgment but shall raise such a plea in open court or by decree *in camera* and the parties shall be allowed to produce evidence and make oral submissions thereupon before judgment on the plea raised by the court is delivered.

Ex officio pleas raised by the court.
Added by:
[IV.2016.19.](#)

Sub-title II

OF THE CHALLENGE OF JUDGES AND MAGISTRATES AND OF SURROGATION

733. The judges may not be challenged, nor may they abstain from sitting in any cause brought before the court in which they are appointed to sit, except for any of the reasons hereinafter mentioned.

Challenge or abstention of judge.
Amended by:
[L.N.148 of 1975.](#)

734. (1) A judge may be challenged or abstain from sitting in a cause -

- (a) if he is related by consanguinity or affinity in a direct line to any of the parties;
- (b) if he is related by consanguinity in the degree of brother, uncle or nephew, grand-uncle or grandnephew or cousin, to any of the parties, or if he is related by affinity in the degree of brother, uncle, or nephew, to any of the parties;
- (c) if he is the tutor, curator, or presumptive heir of any of the parties; if he is or has been the agent of any of the

Grounds for challenge or abstention of judge.
Amended by:
[XLVI.1973.108;](#)
[XXIV.1995.281;](#)
[IX.2004.11;](#)
[VII.2007.22.](#)

parties to the suit; if he is the administrator of any establishment or partnership involved in the suit, or if any of the parties is his presumptive heir;

- (d) (i) if he had given advice, pleaded or written on the cause or on any other matter connected therewith or dependant thereon;
- (ii) if he had previously taken cognizance of the cause as a judge or as an arbitrator:

Provided that this shall not apply to any decision delivered by the judge which did not definitely dispose of the merits in issue or to any judgment of non-suit of the plaintiff;
- (iii) if he has made any disbursement in respect of the cause;
- (iv) if he has given evidence or if any of the parties proposes to call him as a witness;
- (e) if he, or his spouse, is directly or indirectly interested in the event of the suit;
- (f) if the advocate or legal procurator pleading before a judge is the son or daughter, spouse or ascendant of the said judge;
- (g) if the advocate or legal procurator pleading before a judge is the brother or sister of the said judge;
- (h) if the judge or his spouse has a case pending against any of the parties to the suit of happens to be his creditor or debtor in such manner as may reasonably give rise to suspicion of a direct or indirect interest that may influence the outcome of the case.

(2) A judge may be challenged or abstain from sitting in a cause when he has previously taken cognizance of and expressed himself on the same merits of that cause when sitting as a judge in the Court of voluntary jurisdiction.

Abstention by judge. Written or oral declaration thereanent.

735. (1) Any judge being aware of the existence in his respect of any of the grounds of challenge mentioned in the last preceding article, shall make a declaration to that effect previously to the trial of the cause, either verbally in open court, in which case a record of such declaration shall be entered in the proceedings of the cause, or in writing, in which case it shall be lodged in the registry before the day appointed for the trial of the cause, notice thereof being given to the parties.

Judge may hear and determine cause, if parties give their consent thereto.

(2) Nevertheless, it shall be lawful for the judge to hear and determine the cause if the parties shall expressly give their consent thereto, unless, in the particular circumstances of the case, he shall deem it proper to abstain from sitting notwithstanding such consent.

736. The existence of any of the grounds of challenge mentioned in article 734 shall not preclude the judge from signing, where necessary, any application, whether sworn or not, or warrant.

Judge to sign applications or warrants despite being otherwise precluded from dealing with cause.

Amended by:
[XXII.2005.61.](#)

737. Any objection to a judge shall be raised by the parties in open court, and the reasons thereof shall be alleged and, where necessary, proved.

Objection to judge to be made in open court.

738. (1) Where the court consists only of one judge and such judge is objected to, he himself shall decide on the alleged ground of challenge, and no appeal shall lie against his decision, and he shall either abstain from sitting and rule that a surrogation of another judge is required, or else proceed with the trial, as the case may be.

Decision on grounds of challenge or abstention.

(2) Where the court consists of more than one judge, all the judges, including the one objected to, shall decide on the ground of challenge, and where there is any reason to doubt as to whether an alleged ground of abstention is a good ground or otherwise, all the judges, including the judge alleging such ground, shall decide on such ground.

739. The challenge of a judge shall not be admissible where the party raising the objection, if the plaintiff, has already submitted his claim at the trial, or, if the defendant, has already set up his pleas in defence, unless the ground of challenge shall have arisen subsequently, or unless the party raising the objection, or his advocate, shall declare upon oath that he was not aware of such ground, or that it did not occur to him at the time.

When objection to judge is not admissible.

740. The provisions of this sub-title shall be applicable to magistrates of the inferior courts.

Application of provisions to magistrates.
Amended by:
[IV.1905.2;](#)
[XV.1913.141;](#)
[XXIV.1995.282.](#)

Sub-title III

OF PLEAS TO THE JURISDICTION

741. It shall be lawful to plead to the jurisdiction of the court -

- (a) when the action is not one within the jurisdiction of the courts of Malta;
- (b) when the action, although one within the jurisdiction of the courts of Malta, is brought before a court different from that by which such action is cognizable:

Plea to the jurisdiction. Grounds of plea.

Amended by:
[IV.2016.20;](#)
[XXXII.2018.13.](#)

Provided that if the court considers that the plea is justified, the court shall by a decree *in camera*, which shall not be subject to appeal, order that the acts of the proceedings be transferred to the court, board or other tribunal by which it considers that such action is cognizable:

Provided further that if the court, board or other tribunal to which the acts of the proceedings are transferred considers that it is not vested with jurisdiction to take cognizance of the action transferred to it, the court, board or other tribunal shall within ten days from the receipt of the acts of the proceedings or from the first hearing of the action before it transmits the acts of the proceedings to the court of appellate jurisdiction entitled to take cognizance of appeals from judgments of the court, board or other tribunal which court shall within thirty days and by a decree *in camera* determine by which court, board or other tribunal such action is cognizable;

- (c) when the privilege of being sued in a particular court is granted to the defendant.
- (d) Any reference to a "court" in the first sentence and in paragraph (b) of this article shall be deemed to include a reference to a Board or Tribunal established by law, so however that when a cause is commenced before a Board or Tribunal it may also be transferred for hearing before a court in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (b) of this article. When a cause is transferred to be heard in front of the Court, Board or Tribunal in accordance with paragraph (b) the said Court, Board or Tribunal may give all orders and make provisions as necessary, subject to such conditions and time limits as appear to them to be appropriate, so that the hearing of the cause will proceed in accordance with the formal and procedural requirements, including those relating to the payment of fees, applicable before that Court, Board or Tribunal.

Persons subject to jurisdiction of civil courts of Malta.

Amended by:

XXII.1976.4;

VIII.1981.7.

Substituted by:

XXIV.1995.283.

Amended by:

III.2004.41.

742. (1) Save as otherwise expressly provided by law, the civil courts of Malta shall have jurisdiction to try and determine all actions, without any distinction or privilege, concerning the persons hereinafter mentioned:

- (a) citizens of Malta, provided they have not fixed their domicile elsewhere;
- (b) any person as long as he is either domiciled or resident or present in Malta;
- (c) any person, in matters relating to property situate or existing in Malta;
- (d) any person who has contracted any obligation in Malta, but only in regard to actions touching such obligation and provided such person is present in Malta;
- (e) any person who, having contracted an obligation in some other country, has nevertheless agreed to carry out such obligation in Malta, or who has contracted any obligation which must necessarily be carried into effect in Malta, provided in either case such person is

present in Malta;

- (f) any person, in regard to any obligation contracted in favour of a citizen or resident of Malta or of a body having a distinct legal personality or association of persons incorporated or operating in Malta, if the judgment can be enforced in Malta;
- (g) any person who expressly or tacitly, voluntarily submits or has agreed to submit to the jurisdiction of the court.

(2) The jurisdiction of the courts of civil jurisdiction is not excluded by the fact that a foreign court is seized with the same cause or with a cause connected with it. Where a foreign court has a concurrent jurisdiction, the courts may in their discretion, declare defendant to be non-suited or stay proceedings on the ground that if an action were to continue in Malta it would be vexatious, oppressive or unjust to the defendant.

(3) The jurisdiction of the courts of civil jurisdiction is not excluded by the fact that there exists among the parties any arbitration agreement, whether the arbitration proceedings have commenced or not, in which case the court, saving the provisions of any law governing arbitration, shall stay proceedings without prejudice to the provisions of sub-article (4) and to the right of the court to give any order of direction.

(4) On the demand by any person being a party to an arbitration agreement, the courts may issue any precautionary act, in which case, if such party has not yet brought forward his claim before an arbitrator, the time limits prescribed in this Code for bringing the action in respect of the claim shall be twenty days from the date of issue of the precautionary act.

(5) A precautionary act issued in terms of the preceding sub-article shall be rescinded:

- (a) if the party against whom it is issued makes such deposit or gives such security sufficient to secure the rights or claims stated in the act; or
- (b) if the applicant fails to bring forward his claim, whether before the arbitrator or before the court, within the said time limit of twenty days; or
- (c) on the expiration of the duration, original or extended, of the particular act in terms of this Code; or
- (d) for just cause on the application of the debtor as the court may deem proper in the circumstances.

(6) Where provision is made under any other law, or, in any regulation of the European Union making provision different from that contained in this article, the provisions of this article shall not apply with regard to the matters covered by such other provision and shall only apply to matters to which such other provision does not apply.

Immunity of the
President of Malta.
Added by:
[XXIV.1995.284.](#)

Jurisdiction *in rem*
against ships or
vessels.
Added by:
[XIV.2006.78.](#)

742A. No civil proceedings whatsoever shall be taken against the President of Malta in respect of acts done in the exercise of the functions of his office.

742B. Save as otherwise expressly provided by law, the civil courts of Malta shall have jurisdiction *in rem* against ships or vessels in the following maritime claims:

- (a) any claim to the possession, ownership or title to or of a ship or to the ownership of any share therein;
- (b) any question arising between the co-owners of a ship as to the ownership, possession, employment or earnings of that ship;
- (c) any claim in respect of a mortgage, hypothec or charge on a ship or on any share therein;
- (d) any claim arising out of the contract for the sale of the ship;
- (e) any claim for damage received by a ship;
- (f) any claim for damage done or caused by a ship, either in collision or otherwise;
- (g) any claim for loss of life or personal injury caused, whether on land or on water, by any ship or occurring in connection with the operation of any ship or sustained in consequence of any defect in a ship or in her apparel or equipment or in consequence of the wrongful act, neglect or default of -
 - (i) the owners, charterers or persons in possession or control of a ship; or
 - (ii) the master or crew of a ship, or any other person for whose wrongful acts, neglects or defaults the owners, charterers or persons in possession or control of a ship are responsible,being an act, neglect or default in the navigation or management of the ship, in the loading, carriage or discharge of goods in, in or from the ship, or in the embarkation, carriage or disembarkation of persons on, in or from the ship;
- (h) any claim for loss of or damage to goods, including baggage, carried in a ship;
- (i) any claim arising out of any agreement relating to the carriage of goods in a ship or to the use or hire of a ship, whether by charter party or otherwise;
- (j) any claim in the nature of salvage operations or any salvage agreement including, if applicable, special compensation relating to salvage operations in respect of a ship which by itself or its cargo threatened damage to the environment;
- (k) any claim for -
 - (i) damage or threat of damage caused by the ship to the environment, coastline or related

- interests;
- (ii) measures taken to prevent, minimize or remove such damage; and for compensation for such damage;
- (iii) costs of reasonable measures of reinstatement to the environment actually undertaken or to be undertaken;
- (iv) loss incurred or likely to be incurred by third parties in connection with such damage; and
- (v) for damage, costs or loss of a similar nature to those listed in sub-paragraphs (i) to (iv);
- (l) any claims regarding costs or expenses relating to the raising, removal, recovery, destruction or the rendering harmless of a ship which is sunk, wrecked, stranded or abandoned, including anything that is or has been on board such ship, and costs or expenses relating to the preservation of an abandoned ship and maintenance of her crew;
- (m) any claim in the nature of towage in respect of a ship;
- (n) any claim in the nature of pilotage in respect of a ship;
- (o) any claim in respect of goods, materials, provisions, bunkers, supplies and necessities supplied or services rendered to a ship for her operation, management, preservation or maintenance;
- (p) any claim in respect of the construction, reconstruction, repair, conversion or equipping of a ship;
- (q) any claim in respect of port, dock or harbour dues and charges;
- (r) any claim by the master, officers, or member of the crew, or complement of a ship, for wages and other sums due to them in respect of their employment on the ship including costs of repatriation, and social security contributions payable on their behalf;
- (s) any claim by a master, shipper, charterer or agent in respect of disbursements made by them on account of a ship or her owners;
- (t) any claim for commissions, brokerages, or agency fees payable in respect of the ship, by or on behalf of the ship owner or demise charterer;
- (u) any claim arising out of an act which is or is claimed to be a general average act;
- (v) any claim arising out of bottomry;
- (w) any claim for the forfeiture or condemnation of a ship or of goods which are being or have been carried or have been attempted to be carried in a ship or for the restoration of a ship or any such goods after seizure;
- (x) any claim for insurance premia, including mutual insurance calls, in respect of the ship payable by or on

behalf of the ship owner or demise charterer;

- (y) any claim for fees and other charges due to the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen arising under the provisions of the [Merchant Shipping Act](#), and any claim for tonnage dues.

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Action *in rem* in cases mentioned in article 742B(a) to (c).

Added by:
[XIV.2006](#). 78.

Action *in rem* in cases mentioned in article 742B(d) to (y).

Added by:
[XIV.2006](#). 78.
Cap. 234.

742C. In the cases mentioned in article 742B(a) to (c), an action *in rem* may be brought before the civil courts of Malta against the ship in connection with which the claim or question arises.

742D. Save for those claims which attract a special privilege in accordance with article 50 of the [Merchant Shipping Act](#), and which, in terms of article 37D(3) of the said Act, survive the voluntary sale of a vessel by up to one year, in the cases mentioned in article 742B(d) to (y), an action *in rem* may be brought before the civil courts of Malta against -

- (a) that ship or vessel, where the person who would be liable on the claim for an action *in personam* ("the relevant person") was, when the cause of action arose, an owner or charterer of, or in possession or in control of, the ship or vessel, if at the time when the action is brought the relevant person is either an owner or beneficial owner of that ship or the bareboat charterer of it;
- (b) any other vessel of which, at the time when the action is brought, the relevant person is the owner or beneficial owner as respects all shares in it.

Jurisdiction *in rem* against aircraft.

Added by:
[VIII.2010](#). 61.
Amended by:
[LII.2016](#). 30.

742E. (1) Save as otherwise provided by law, the civil courts of Malta shall have jurisdiction *in rem* against aircraft in the following claims:

- (a) any claim to the ownership, or title to or of an aircraft, or to the ownership of any share therein;
- (b) any claim for possession of the aircraft;
- (c) any claim in respect of a mortgage or international interest registered in terms of the [Aircraft Registration Act](#);
- (d) any claim giving rise to a special privilege in terms of article 42(1) of the [Aircraft Registration Act](#);
- (e) any claim based on a registered non-consensual right or interest registered in the International Registry in terms of the First Schedule and article 42(2) of the [Aircraft Registration Act](#) for which the owner of the aircraft would be liable *in personam*;
- (f) any claim in the nature of salvage in respect of an aircraft;
- (g) any claim in the nature of towage in respect of an aircraft;
- (h) any claim in the nature of pilotage in respect of an

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aircraft.

(2) The reference in sub-article (1)(f) to claims in the nature of salvage includes a reference to such claims for services rendered in saving life from an aircraft or in preserving cargo, apparel or wreck as, under article 14 of the [Civil Aviation Act](#), are authorized to be made in connection with an aircraft.

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(3) For the purposes of sub-article (1)(g) and (h), "towage" and "pilotage" mean towage and pilotage while the aircraft is waterborne.

742F. (1) An action *in rem* may be brought against the relevant aircraft before the civil courts of Malta on a claim mentioned in article 742E when:

Action *in rem*.
Added by:
[VIII.2010.61](#).
Amended by:
[LII.2016.31](#).

- (a) the claim arises in connection with that aircraft;
- (b) the person who would be liable on the claim for an action *in personam* ("the relevant person") was, when the cause of action arose, the owner or lessee of, or in possession or in control of, the aircraft, if at the time when the action is brought the relevant person is either an owner or beneficial owner of that aircraft or the lessee of that aircraft under a dry lease agreement; and
- (c) the relevant threshold for the issue of a warrant of arrest of aircraft as provided in article 865E is satisfied.

(2) Notwithstanding the previous sub-article, in the case of a claim in terms of article 742E(1)(e), (g) and (h) in respect of an aircraft, an action *in rem* may be brought before the civil courts of Malta against the aircraft only if, at the time when the action is brought, it is beneficially owned by the person who would be liable on the claim in an action *in personam*.

742G. Save as otherwise provided by law, the civil courts of Malta shall have jurisdiction *in rem* over aircraft engines in the following claims:

Jurisdiction *in rem*
against aircraft
engines.
Added by:
[LII.2016.31](#).

- (a) any claim to the ownership, or title to or of an aircraft engine, or to the ownership of any share therein;
- (b) any claim for possession of the aircraft engine;
- (c) any claim in respect of an international interest in an engine which international interest is registered or recognised in terms of the [Aircraft Registration Act](#);
- (d) any claim giving rise to a special privilege over an engine in terms of article 42(1) of the [Aircraft Registration Act](#);
- (e) any claim based on a registered non-consensual right or interest registered in the International Registry in terms of the First Schedule and article 42(2) of the [Aircraft Registration Act](#).

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Action *in rem* in cases mentioned in article 742G.
Added by:
[LI.2016.31.](#)

742H. (1) An action *in rem* may be brought against the relevant aircraft engine before the civil courts of Malta on a claim mentioned in article 742G when:

- (a) the claim arises in connection with that aircraft engine;
- (b) the person who would be liable on the claim for an action *in personam* ("the relevant person") was, when the cause of action arose, the owner or lessee of, or in possession or in control of the aircraft engine, if at the time when the action is brought the relevant person is either an owner or beneficial owner of that aircraft engine or the lessee of that aircraft engine under a dry lease agreement; and
- (c) the relevant threshold for the issue of a warrant of arrest of the aircraft or seizure of an aircraft engine as provided in article 865E is satisfied.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of the previous sub-article, in the case of a claim in terms of article 742E(1)(e) in respect of an aircraft engine, an action *in rem* may be brought before the civil courts of Malta against the aircraft engine only if, at the time when the action is brought, it is beneficially owned by the person who would be liable on the claim in an action *in personam*.

Party against whom counter-claim is set up, subject to jurisdiction of the courts of civil jurisdiction.
Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.285.](#)

743. (1) The party against whom the defendant in an action brought by such party sets up a counter-claim shall also be subject to the jurisdiction of the courts of civil jurisdiction.

(2) The provision of this article shall also apply in the cases referred to in article 402.

Where counter-claim may be set up in other competent court in Malta.

744. The provisions of the last preceding article shall apply also in the case where the counter-claim may not, for other reasons, be set up before the court before which the original action has been brought; in such case, the claim of the defendant, if connected with the subject of the action of the plaintiff on any of the grounds mentioned in article 396, may be brought before any other competent court in Malta.

Rules as to jurisdiction between the several courts of Malta.
Amended by:
[XLVI.1973.108;](#)
[XXII.1976.4;](#)
[XXIV.1995.286;](#)
[XXIII.2017.26.](#)

745. In regard to the jurisdiction as between the several courts of Malta, by reason of the presumed residence of parties, absent or under any legal disability, or of any body corporate or other body having a distinct legal personality, unless for other reasons the action be within the exclusive jurisdiction of one of the said courts, the following rules shall be observed:

- (a) citizens of Malta and all other persons domiciled in Malta, who are absent therefrom, shall be presumed to be resident in their last place of abode in Malta;
- (b) any other person, not domiciled in Malta, shall, in the cases referred to in article 742(1)(c) and (f), be presumed to be resident in the place in which the property is situate or exists, notwithstanding that the action be not, for such reason, within the exclusive

jurisdiction of the court of the aforesaid place;

- (c) a minor subject to paternal authority is presumed to reside in the place in which the parent exercising that authority resides;
- (d) any person under the care of a tutor or curator is presumed to reside in the place in which the tutor or curator or any one of the tutors or curators resides;
- (e) any body corporate or other body having a distinct legal personality, is presumed to have its residence in the place in which any one of the representatives of such body or person resides;
- (f) any person represented by an attorney or agent in Malta, or who is allowed to sue and to be sued in the person of his attorney or agent, is presumed to be resident in the place in which the attorney or agent or any one of the attorneys or agents, if more than one, resides, if the action is brought against such attorney or agent;
- (g) in regard to a vacant inheritance, the competent court shall be that of the last place of abode of the deceased, where such place is known; where such place is not known, the competent court shall be that of the place in which the property is situate or exists, or if there is no property, the court of the place in which the plaintiff resides.

746. Where the plea to the jurisdiction of a particular court depends on the value of the thing in issue, the rules contained in the following articles shall be observed.

Plea to jurisdiction based on value of thing in issue.

747. (1) An uncertain or indeterminate value shall always be deemed to be outside the jurisdiction of a court of limited jurisdiction.

Uncertain or indeterminate value.

Amended by:
[II.2012.9.](#)

(2) The following actions shall always be deemed to be of an indeterminable value:

Indeterminable value.

- (a) actions touching any honour, prerogative or prominence;
- (b) actions as to filiation, adoption, interdiction or incapacitation of persons with a mental disorder or other condition, which renders them incapable of managing their own affairs, or persons insane or prodigal; or as to any tutorship or curatorship, or, generally as to the status of any person;
- (c) actions in which the value of the thing in issue does not result from the demand of the plaintiff, and is not determinable under any of the rules set forth in the following articles.

748. The value of the thing in issue is determined by the demand-

Determination of value by the demand.

- (a) when the demand is for the payment of a fixed sum;
- (b) when the demand is for a thing the value of which is determined in the title which gives cause to the action, or in any other writing binding upon the parties, or by common repute, or by the market price.

Determination of value of immovable property,

749. (1) Where the value of any immovable property is not determined in the manner stated in the last preceding article, such value is determined by the net amount of the rent of the last preceding year, multiplied by twenty-five.

or of right in perpetuity to ground-rents, etc.

(2) The rule prescribed in sub-article (1) shall also apply for the purpose of determining -

- (a) the value of a right in perpetuity to ground-rents, annuities, or other yearly payments;
- (b) the value of the thing in issue, in any action touching the revision of an emphyteutical grant in consequence of forfeiture or expiration.

Determination of value of right to ground-rents, etc., for a determinate period.

750. The value of a right to ground-rents, annuities, or other yearly payments for a determinate period, is determined by the total amount of the net income for the remaining period of time, reckoning the yearly income, where the same is not otherwise determined, on the basis of the income of the last preceding year.

Determination of value of right to annuities for life or for indeterminate period.

751. If the right mentioned in the last preceding article is for the lifetime of any person, or for an indeterminate period, the value is determined by the net income of the last preceding year multiplied by ten.

Determination of value in actions for maintenance.
Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.287.](#)

752. In actions for maintenance the value of the claim shall be the equivalent to the amount of maintenance claimed to be due in five years.

Determination of value in actions touching obligations the amount whereof is payable by instalments,

753. (1) In actions touching the performance of an obligation the amount whereof is to be paid by instalments, the value is determined by the amount claimed in respect of the instalment or instalments fallen due up to the day of the claim.

or in actions to enforce or avoid obligations.

(2) When the object of the claim is to enforce or avoid an obligation, the value is determined by the full amount of the obligation.

Avoidance of obligation *ope exceptionis.*

754. The rule laid down in sub-article (2) of the last preceding article shall apply also in the case where the obligation is sought to be avoided by way of defence:

Provided that in such case the court, if it declares the issue so raised to be outside its jurisdiction, shall reserve the costs of the proceedings before it for decision by the court before which the action is subsequently brought.

755. In actions touching the existence or validity of any contract of lease, or the determination of any lease before the term agreed upon, the value is established -

Determination of value in actions touching contracts of lease,

- (a) in the first case, by the total amount of the rent in respect of the whole period for which it is claimed that the contract is operative; and
- (b) in the second case, by the total amount of the rent in respect of the whole period remaining for the completion of the contract.

756. (1) The rule laid down in paragraph (b) of the last preceding article shall apply to actions for the ejectment of tenants for arrears of rent, or for any other lawful cause.

in actions of ejectment of tenants.

(2) Where the ejectment is demanded after the expiration of the lease, the value is determined by the amount of the rent of one year, or, where the yearly rent in respect of urban property is payable by instalments, by the amount of one instalment.

757. (1) In the actions referred to in the last two preceding articles, where it is not alleged that the lease was contracted for a determinate period, the value is determined by the amount of each termly payment, if the lease is in respect of urban property, or by the rent of one year, if the lease is in respect of rural property.

Where no determinate period is alleged,

(2) If the defendant alleges that the lease was contracted for a determinate period by reason of which the court declares the matter to be outside its jurisdiction, the provisions of article 754 shall apply as regards the reservation of costs.

or where a determinate period is alleged by defendant.

758. (1) In actions concerning the rendering of accounts in connection with the administration of sums of money, the value of the thing in issue is determined by the amount of such sums.

Determination of value in actions relating to rendering of accounts.

(2) If the administration is in respect of immovable property, the value of the thing in issue is determined by the yearly rent, without any deduction therefrom, multiplied by the number of years involved in the claim of the plaintiff.

759. If the plaintiff claims payment of several sums due for different causes, the value is determined by the highest sum, irrespective of the smaller sums.

Actions for payment of several sums due for different causes.

760. (1) In actions concerning capital and interest, the value is determined by the aggregate amount of capital and interest.

Actions relating to capital and interest.

(2) Where the plaintiff, on being called upon by the court or by the defendant, refuses to state the period of time which has elapsed since he last received payment of the interest, the value in respect of such interest shall be determined by computing the amount thereof from the time when such interest was agreed upon.

761. In all cases not provided for in the foregoing articles of this sub-title, any value which is uncertain may be determined by a valuation made by experts or by a declaration of the plaintiff to the effect that he is prepared to accept a fixed sum of money in lieu of

Valuation by expert.

the thing in issue.

Appointment of expert.

762. (1) The valuation in the case referred to in the last preceding article shall be made by one expert only.

Where parties do not agree on expert to be appointed.

(2) If the parties do not agree in naming the expert to be appointed, the expert shall be chosen and appointed by the court.

Expert may be challenged for good cause.

(3) The expert so appointed by the court may only be challenged for good cause.

Valuation not subject to appeal.

(4) No appeal shall lie from the valuation of the expert.

Determination of value for the purpose of establishing court to which appeals from judgments of Gozo court in its superior jurisdiction are to be brought.

763. (1) In order to determine the court to which an appeal from a judgment of the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) may be brought in cases where the value may only be determined by a valuation of experts, such valuation shall be made in the manner provided in the last preceding article, in pursuance of an order of the said Court of Magistrates upon a demand, which may be even verbal, of both parties or one of them, within the time of six working days from the day of the judgment.

Amended by:
XIII.1925.5;
XXIII.1971.25;
VIII.1990.3.

(2) The report shall be sworn by the expert in the presence of the registrar, and inserted in the record.

(3) The demand for the valuation may also be made during the hearing of the cause.

(4) The default of a valuation made under sub-article (1) within the period therein prescribed shall not be a cause of the nullity of the appeal if, upon a valuation made in pursuance of an order of the court before whom the appeal has been brought, it results that the matter of the claim is, by reason of its value, within the appellate jurisdiction of that court.

Valuation of expert appointed by parties.

764. A valuation made by one or more experts appointed by consent of both parties, and verified on oath by the expert or experts in the presence of the registrar, shall, for the purposes of articles 761 and 763, have the same effect as a valuation made by an expert appointed by the court.

Fruits, etc., not to be reckoned in determining value.

765. For the purpose of determining the value of the thing in issue, no regard whatever shall be had to any fruits, accession, damages or interest, which may accrue or arise pending the suit.

Determination of value for purposes of jurisdiction only to form basis of taxation of judicial costs.

766. The value determined for the purpose of establishing the jurisdiction of the court shall not be availed of for any other purpose, except for regulating the taxation of judicial costs.

Privilegium fori.
Amended by:
XV.1913.142.

767. The privilege referred to in article 741(c) is granted to parties residing in the Island of Malta with reference to the courts of such Island, and to parties residing in either of the Islands of Gozo and Comino with reference to the court of such Islands.

768. (1) Where the number of the defendants residing in Malta exceeds that of the defendants residing in the Islands of Gozo and Comino, each of the defendants residing in Malta may deny the jurisdiction of the court of Gozo; and where the number of the defendants residing in the Islands of Gozo and Comino exceeds that of the defendants residing in Malta, each of the defendants residing in Gozo or Comino may deny the jurisdiction of the court of Malta.

Rules as to jurisdiction where some defendants reside in Malta and some in Gozo or Comino.

(2) Where the jurisdiction of a court is denied by one of the parties, such court shall cease to have jurisdiction in regard to all the parties.

769. Where the number of the defendants residing in the Island of Malta is equal to that of the defendants residing in the Islands of Gozo and Comino, the *privilegium fori* shall cease.

Cessation of *privilegium fori*, where number of defendants residing in Malta is equal to the number of defendants residing in Gozo and Comino,

770. The *privilegium fori* shall also cease, where the action touches an obligation which, according to the agreement, was to be carried out in any one particular Island.

or where action touches obligation to be carried out in one particular Island.

771. The *privilegium fori* may not be claimed by the heir, where, for the reason mentioned in the last preceding article, it could not have been claimed by his predecessor.

Privilegium fori may not be claimed by heir if it could not be claimed by predecessor.

772. The *privilegium fori* may be waived, and if not claimed shall be deemed to be waived. The contumacy of the party shall be equivalent to a claim to such privilege.

Express or tacit waiver of *privilegium fori*.

773. Subject to the provisions of article 745(b) and (h), if a particular court in Malta is otherwise competent, such competence shall not be affected by reason of the place in Malta where the thing is:

Jurisdiction not affected by reason of the place where thing is. Jurisdiction *ratione depositi*.

Provided that in actions touching the recovery of deposits, the competent court shall be that under the authority of which the moneys or other things are deposited.

774. In the absence of any plea to the jurisdiction, the court shall, of its own motion, declare that it has no jurisdiction -

Where want of jurisdiction is to be declared by court of its own motion.

(a) where the action is not one within the jurisdiction of the courts of civil jurisdiction of Malta and the defendant has either made default in filing the statement of defence or is an absent defendant represented in the proceedings by curators appointed in terms of article 929; or

Amended by: *XV.1913.144.*
Substituted by: *XXIV.1995.288.*

(b) where by reason of the subject matter of the claim or of the value of the thing in issue, the action is not within the jurisdiction of the court; or

(c) where in actions touching the recovery of deposits, the monies or other things are deposited under the authority of another court:

Provided that in the cases referred to in paragraph (b) pleas to the jurisdiction may not be pleaded nor raised *ex officio* in an appellate court.

Conflicting decisions as to jurisdiction.
Amended by:
XV.1913.145;
[XXIV.1995.289](#).

775. Where two or more courts have respectively declared their want of jurisdiction in regard to a particular action, which, nevertheless, is within the jurisdiction of one of such courts, it shall appertain to the Court of Appeal to determine which of such courts is competent, notwithstanding that no appeal from any of the decisions of such courts has been brought before the said Court of Appeal in the ordinary way.

Procedure.
Amended by:
XV.1913.145.

776. Where the issue has not been brought before the Court of Appeal by an appeal in the ordinary way, it shall be lawful at any time for the purposes of the last preceding article, to make an application to that court and that court shall, after hearing the parties, determine which of the said courts is the competent court.

Court of first instance declared competent by Court of Appeal, to take cognizance of action.
Amended by:
XV.1913.145.

777. The court of first instance which is declared by the Court of Appeal to be the competent court, shall take cognizance of the action.

Question of jurisdiction *ratione materiae*.
Amended by:
XV.1913.146;
XXXI.1934.66.
Substituted by:
XXIII.1971.16.

778. Repealed by: [XXIV.1995.290](#).

Question of jurisdiction as between civil and commercial division of Gozo court in its superior jurisdiction.
Added by:
XV.1913.147.
Amended by:
[VIII.1990.3](#).

779. Repealed by: [XXIV.1995.290](#).

Sub-title IV

OF THE PLEA AS TO THE CAPACITY OF THE PLAINTIFF OR DEFENDANT

Plea as to capacity of plaintiff or defendant.

780. The plea as to the capacity of the plaintiff or the defendant may be raised, if the one or the other is under any legal disability to sue or be sued or if he sues or is sued in the name and on behalf of others without being lawfully authorized for the purpose.

Incapacity to sue or be sued.
Amended by:
XV.1913.148;
XLVI.1973.108;
[II.2012.10](#).

781. The following persons may not sue or be sued:

- (a) a minor, except in the person of the parent exercising paternal authority, or, in the absence of such parent, of a tutor or a curator;
- (b) an insane person, a person with a mental disorder or other

condition, which renders him incapable of managing his own affairs, and any other person who is not vested with the free exercise or administration of the rights to which the action refers, except in the person of the party to whom such administration is lawfully entrusted, or of a curator *ad litem*.

782. The provisions of article 781 shall not apply to -

- (a) any minor, if such child carries on trade with the consent of the parent exercising paternal authority even though the action touches matters not relating to trade, or if the said parent has expressly given his assent for the child to sue or be sued without his assistance;
- (b) any minor in any action against the said parent provided the child is represented by a curator *ad litem*.

Exceptions.
Substituted by:
XLVI.1973.108.

783. (1) In the cases referred to in this sub-title, the curator *ad litem* may be appointed by the same court before which the action has been brought, or is about to be brought, upon the application of any person interested.

Appointment of
curator *ad litem*.
Amended by:
XLVI.1973.108.

(2) The application for the appointment of a curator to represent a minor who desires to sue, may be made by any person.

(3) The application for the appointment of a curator shall not be entertained by the court if the person in respect of whom such appointment is applied for is already represented by a tutor or a curator, unless the action is against such tutor or curator.

784. If the parent exercising paternal authority, owing to absence or for other reasons, is unable or refuses to appear for the child, or is unable or refuses to give his assent for his child to sue, the requisite authority may be granted by the court of voluntary jurisdiction, if such court shall deem fit to grant such authority.

Authorization of
court in lieu of
assent of parent.
Amended by:
XLVI.1973.108.

785. (1) In the case referred to in article 784, it shall be lawful for the court of voluntary jurisdiction to grant to the child a general authorization to sue or be sued in any action which may be pending at the time, or which may thereafter be brought.

General authority
by court to child.
Amended by:
XLVI.1973.108.

(2) The court may grant such authorization under such special conditions as it may deem proper, according to circumstances.

786. (1) It shall not be lawful to raise the plea as to the capacity of a party suing or sued in the name and on behalf of any other party against the Economo or other official performing an equivalent function at the Archbishop's Curia in Malta and at the Bishop's Curia in Gozo, against any of the persons mentioned in article 180(1)(a).

Plea as to capacity
of person may not
be raised against
procurator of
revenue of
Diocesan Bishop
of Malta,
Amended by:
XI.1859.31;
L.N. 46 of 1965;
LVIII.1974.68;
XXIV.1975.2;
VIII.1990.3;
XXIV.1995.291.

or Attorney
General or State
Advocate
Substituted by:
[XXI.2019.23.](#)

(2) Nor may such plea be raised against the Attorney General or against the State Advocate in any action in which they are especially authorised by law to appear, or where they are authorized by the competent authority to appear in regard to any action touching public policy, and in so far as the public interest is concerned.

or public official in
Gozo.

(3) Nor may such plea be raised against any official in charge of any branch of the public service in Gozo, who appears before the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) in connection with matters pertaining to his office, provided the head of the department to which the said official may by reason of such office belong, be residing in Malta; in such cases, the provisions of this Code relating to heads of departments, shall be applicable to such official.

When plea of
incapacity is not
allowed.
Added by:
[XXIV.1995.292.](#)

786A. It shall not be lawful to raise the plea of incapacity of a party against any of the persons mentioned in article 181A(2) in the case of a body having a distinct legal personality, and in the case of any person mentioned in article 187(7) in the case of a ship or other vessel.

Nullity of acts by
or against persons
under disability.
Amended by:
[XLVI.1973.108.](#)

787. (1) Any judicial act performed by, or against, any person who is under disability to sue or be sued, and not duly authorized for the purpose, is null.

(2) Any nullity arising from minority may not be alleged except by the minor himself or his heir.

(3) Any nullity from want of assent of the parent, may not be alleged except by the parent; nor may it be alleged by the parent after the child ceases to be subject to paternal authority.

Cure of defect of
nullity.
Amended by:
[IV.1862.16;](#)
[XLVI.1973.108.](#)

788. The defect of nullity may be cured, if the parent exercising paternal authority or the curator, appearing of his own will, or on being made a party to the suit, affirms the acts.

Sub-title V

OF THE PLEA OF NULLITY OF JUDICIAL ACTS

Plea of nullity of
judicial acts.
Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.293.](#)

789. (1) The plea of nullity of judicial acts is admissible -

- (a) if the nullity is expressly declared by law;
- (b) if the act emanates from an incompetent court;
- (c) if the act contains a violation of the form prescribed by law, even though not on pain of nullity, provided such violation has caused to the party pleading the nullity a prejudice which cannot be remedied otherwise than by annulling the act;
- (d) if the act is defective in any of the essential particulars expressly prescribed by law:

Provided that such plea of nullity as is contemplated in paragraphs (a), (c) and (d) shall not be admissible if such defect or

violation is capable of remedy under any other provision of law.

(2) The plea of nullity of an act, under sub-article (1)(c), shall not be admissible if the party pleading such nullity has proceeded, or has knowingly suffered others to proceed, to subsequent acts, without pleading such nullity.

790. Where before an appellate court the plea of nullity of a judgment appealed from is raised, such plea shall not be entertained if the judgment is found to be substantially just, unless such plea is founded on the want of jurisdiction or default of citation, or the incapacity of the parties, or on the judgment of the court of first instance being *extra petita* or *ultra petita* or on any defect which prejudices the right to a fair hearing.

Where plea of nullity of judgment may not be entertained.
Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.294.](#)

Sub-title VI

OF PLEAS IN SPOILIATION SUITS

791. (1) The defendant in a spoliation suit brought within the period of two months from the day on which the spoliation took place may not raise any plea other than dilatory pleas, before he shall have restored the thing to its former condition and fully revested the party despoiled within the time which, according to circumstances, may have been fixed in the judgment, without prejudice to any other right appertaining to the defendant.

Pleas in spoliation suits.
Amended by:
[X.1856.16;](#)
[XVI.2006.26.](#)

(2) The provisions of this article shall also apply in the case where a tenant has been dispossessed of the thing let out to him whether by the lessor or by a third party.

(3) The court shall limit its inquiry to the question of possession or detention, and to the question of spoliation.

(4) In a spoliation suit the depositions of witnesses given in criminal proceedings for an offence under article 85 of the [Criminal Code](#) for the same conduct concerned in the suit shall be admissible as evidence in the suit without prejudice to the right of the other party to cross-examination.

Cap. 9.

Sub-title VII

OF THE PLEA OF *LIS ALIBI PENDENS* OR OF CONNECTION OF ACTIONS

792. Where an action is brought before a competent court after another action in respect of the same claim has already been brought before another competent court, the second action may be transferred for trial to such other court.

Lis alibi pendens.

793. (1) If two or more actions brought before one and the same court are connected in respect of the subject-matter thereof, or if the decision on one of the actions might affect the decision on the other action or actions, it shall be lawful for the court to order

Connection of actions,
Amended by:
[IX.1886.100.](#)

before appellate court.	(2) Where several actions have been tried simultaneously before the court of first instance, they may be tried in like manner before the appellate court, without the necessity of any other order of the court.
Separate judgment in each action.	(3) Nevertheless a separate judgment shall be given in each action, both in the court of first instance and in the appellate court, every judgment containing a statement of the respective reasonings, or a reference to the reasonings premised to the decision given in any other of the actions heard simultaneously.
Period within which to oppose plea. <i>Amended by:</i> <i>XI.1973.377;</i> <i>XXIV.1995.357.</i>	794. (1) The plea of <i>lis alibi pendens</i> or of connection of actions may be raised at any time until judgment is delivered. (2) The court shall determine the plea; and if such plea is disallowed, the court may at the same time decide on the merits of the action.
Cap. 234.	(3) Where an application to the Civil Court, First Hall has been made under article 355 of the <u>Merchant Shipping Act</u> , the foregoing provisions of this article shall apply only to the extent that they are not inconsistent with the provisions of that article.

Sub-title VIII

OF THE PLEA AS TO *BENEFICIUM EXCUSSIONIS*

Plea as to <i>beneficium excussionis</i> . <i>Amended by:</i> <i>IV.1868.11.</i>	795. The defendant who pleads the benefit of discussion shall present during the hearing of the cause, or previously, a list showing distinctly the property situate in Malta, possessed by the party of whom discussion is pleaded, and sufficient to satisfy the claim of the plaintiff.
Deposit of costs of discussion. <i>Amended by:</i> <i>IV.1868.11.</i>	796. If the plea of discussion is admitted, the defendant shall, within the time fixed by the court, deposit in favour of the plaintiff a sum to be also fixed by the court to meet the costs which will be occasioned by the discussion, and bind himself to provide the plaintiff with such further sum as may become necessary for the purpose.
Suspension of proceedings. <i>Amended by:</i> <i>IV.1868.11.</i>	797. Upon compliance with the requirements of the last preceding article, the court shall order that the proceedings of the cause in which the plea of discussion has been raised, be suspended indefinitely or for a fixed time, according to circumstances.
Default of defendant. <i>Amended by:</i> <i>IV.1868.11.</i>	798. If, on the contrary, the defendant fails to comply within the said time with any of the requirements above-mentioned, the cause shall be proceeded with irrespective of the plea of discussion.

799. (1) The provisions of the last preceding article shall apply also in the case where the plaintiff shall not succeed in recovering the whole amount of his claim out of the property mentioned in the list referred to in article 795.

Cause to be proceeded with if claim is not wholly satisfied.
Amended by:
IV.1868.11;
VII.1880.15.

(2) Nevertheless in any such case, the defendant may be allowed to indicate other property, if he shows to the satisfaction of the court, that at the time of the decree suspending the proceedings of the cause he was not aware of the existence of such other property.

800. If the defendant is allowed to indicate other property, the provisions of articles 796 to 799 shall apply.

Discussion of other property.
Amended by:
IV.1868.11.

801. (1) It shall be lawful for the defendant to waive the plea of discussion previously raised by him, and demand that the cause be disposed of even though the plaintiff may have already commenced the procedure of discussion.

Plea may be waived.
Amended by:
XI.1859.32;
IV.1868.11.

(2) In such case, the costs incurred in connection with the procedure of discussion shall be borne by the defendant.

Liability for costs.

Sub-title IX

OF THE PLEA OF FALSIFICATION

802. The plea of falsification may be raised not only by the party to whom the document is attributed but also by any other party against whom the document is produced.

Plea of falsification.

803. Where the cause can be decided independently of the document averred to be false, the court shall decide on the merits, irrespective of the plea of falsification.

Where cause can be decided irrespective of plea.

804. The plea of falsification shall be determined independently of any criminal action.

Plea to be determined independently of criminal action.

805. If, at any stage of the proceedings, it shall appear to the court that there are strong grounds to suspect the falsification of any document, it shall of its own motion order the party suspected of such falsification to be arrested and brought before the Court of Magistrates, in order that he may be dealt with according to law.

Arrest of person suspected of falsification.
Amended by:
[VIII.1990.3.](#)

Title III

OF THE CHANGE OF PARTIES BY DEATH, ETC.

806. In the case of death *pendente lite* of any party to a suit, the heir or executor of such party, or any other person interested may make an application for an order enabling him to continue the suit in substitution for the party deceased.

Where party to suit dies.

Continuation of
suit by
presumptive heir or
curators.
Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.295.](#)

807. (1) Where no application is made by any person to continue the suit in substitution for the deceased party, it shall be lawful for the other party, by means of an application, to demand that the suit be continued in the name of the presumptive heir or heirs of the deceased party, if known.

(2) Such application shall by order of the court, be served on the presumptive heir or heirs who shall have the time of one month within which to declare whether he or they are prepared to continue the suit.

(3) If no such declaration is made, then the court shall of its own motion proceed to appoint a curator *ad litem* to represent the interests of the deceased in the suit in accordance with article 809.

(4) Where no person entitled to represent the deceased is known, such application may contain only the demand for the appointment of curators to continue the suit.

(5) The curator shall take all the necessary measures to identify and locate the presumptive heir or heirs of the deceased and when the presumptive heir or heirs are identified and located the curator shall request the court to notify him or them about the pendency of the case ordering him or them to declare within a specified time whether he or they are prepared to continue the suit.

Default of heir,
etc., to continue
suit not to imply
renunciation of
inheritance, etc.
Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.296.](#)

808. The default of the heir or executor to continue the suit shall not imply renunciation of the inheritance or executorship; and it shall be lawful for the heir or executor, by application, upon proving his title to the court, to assume at any time the continuation of the suit, and cause the effect of the appointment of curators to cease in regard to further proceedings. The application shall be served on the curators and the other parties in the suit who may file an answer thereto within such time as the court may establish.

Service of banns
on presumptive
heir.
Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.297.](#)

809. The banns for the appointment of curators shall be served on the presumptive heir or heirs, if known; and if unknown such banns shall be published twice, in at least two daily newspapers, at an interval of one week between such publications, at the expense of the applicant without the need of any notification.

Acceptance of
curatorship.

810. (1) It shall also be lawful for a party who has not as yet declared his acceptance of the inheritance or executorship, to appear and accept the appointment as curator, and in such capacity continue the suit.

Court may appoint
official curator.

(2) It shall be lawful for the court, if it deems it expedient, to appoint, in addition to the said heir or executor, a curator from among the advocates on the rota referred to in article 91.

Change of parties
due to other
causes.
Added by:
[XXIV.1995.298.](#)

810A. In the case of any other change of parties to the suit other than by the death *pendente lite* of any party to the suit, the person who wishes to take up the case shall file an application requesting authorisation to assume the acts of the case in addition to or instead of the party concerned, and any judgment shall also bind such party assuming the acts.

810B. Where, within six months from the death *pendente lite* of any party to a suit, no application is made by any person to continue the suit in substitution of the deceased party or where during the said time no application has been filed by a party to the suit demanding that the suit be continued in the name of the presumptive heir or heirs of the deceased party, the suit shall continue in the name of the deceased party and any judgement delivered in such suit shall be enforceable against the heirs of the said deceased party:

Continuation of suit in the absence of an application or of a curator.

Added by:
[XVII.2012.6.](#)

Provided that notwithstanding the lapse of the six month period stipulated in this article, any interested person as referred to in article 806 and the other party as referred to in article 807 may, until such time when the suit is adjourned for judgement or after judgement in the case that the said person or party files an application of appeal, avail himself of the provisions of the said articles 806 or 807 respectively:

Provided further that no judgement delivered in respect of a deceased party shall be deemed to be null or defective only by reason of the fact that the period of six months referred to in this article had not lapsed at the time when the suit was adjourned for judgement.

Title IV

OF NEW TRIAL

811. A new trial of a cause decided by a judgment given in second instance or by the Civil Court, First Hall, in its Constitutional Jurisdiction, may be demanded by any of the parties concerned, such judgment being first set aside, in any of the following cases:

New trial of decided causes.

Amended by:
[XI.1859.33;](#)
[IX.1886.101;](#)
[XXII.2005.62;](#)
[VII.2007.23.](#)

- (a) where the judgment was obtained by fraud on the part of any of the parties to the prejudice of the other party;
- (b) where the sworn application was not served on the party cast, provided that, notwithstanding such omission, such party shall not have entered an appearance at the trial;
- (c) where any of the parties to the suit was under legal disability to sue or be sued, provided no plea thereanent had been raised and determined;
- (d) where the judgment was delivered by a court having no jurisdiction in terms of article 741(a), provided no plea thereanent had been raised and determined;
- (e) where the judgment contains a wrong application of the law;

Grounds for new trial.

For the purposes of this paragraph there shall be deemed to be a wrong application of the law only where the decision, assuming the fact to be as established in the judgment which it is sought to set aside, is not in accordance with the law, provided the issue was not in reference to an interpretation of the law expressly dealt with in the judgment;

- (f) where judgment was given on any matter not included in the demand;
- (g) where judgment was given in excess of the demand;
- (h) where the judgment is conflicting with a previous judgment given in a suit on the same subject-matter and between the same parties, and constituting a *res judicata*, provided no plea of *res judicata* had been raised and determined;
- (i) where the judgment contains contradictory dispositions;
- (j) where the judgment was based on evidence which, in a subsequent judgment, was declared to be false or which was so declared in a previous judgment but the party cast was not aware of such fact;
- (k) where, after the judgment, some conclusive document was obtained, of which the party producing it had no knowledge, or which, with the means provided by law, he could not have produced, before the judgment;
- (l) where the judgment was the effect of an error resulting from the proceedings or documents of the cause.

For the purposes of this paragraph there shall be deemed to be such error only where the decision is based on the supposition of some fact the truth whereof is incontestably excluded, or on the supposition of the non-existence of some fact the truth whereof is positively established, provided that, in either case, the fact was not a disputed issue determined by the judgment.

New trial of causes decided in first instance.
Amended by:
IX.1886.101.

812. A new trial may also be demanded in respect of a cause decided by a judgment of a court of first instance and constituting a *res judicata*, by any of the parties concerned, on any of the grounds mentioned in the last preceding article, provided the facts constituting the grounds for such new trial shall have come to the knowledge of the party after the expiration of the time limited for the appeal.

Extent of admissibility of new trial.
Amended by:
XI.1859.34;
IX.1886.101.

813. A new trial shall not be granted except on any of the grounds mentioned in article 811 and shall not be granted except in regard to such heads of the judgment complained of in respect of which any of such grounds exists and in regard to such other heads as are dependent thereon.

Court to which demand for new trial is made.
Amended by:
XI.1859.35;
IV.1865.3;
IX.1886.101.
Substituted by:
XXIV.1995.299.

814. Subject to the provisions of Sub-title II of Title II of Book Third of this Code the demand for a new trial shall be made to the court by which the judgment complained of was given, and the same judges or magistrates may sit.

815. In the superior and inferior courts, the demand for a new trial shall be made, before a court of first instance, by means of a sworn application, and before a court of second instance, by means of an application; the application shall be accompanied by security for costs in terms of article 249.

Form of demand for new trial.
Amended by:
IX.1886.101;
VIII.1990.3.
Substituted by:
XXIV.1995.300.;
XXII.2005.63.

816. In the application, whether sworn or not, the plaintiff shall distinctly state the heads of the judgment which are complained of, and the grounds for the new trial in the terms in which they are stated in article 811, making reference to the relative provisions of that article. Moreover, the plaintiff shall state, in a concise and clear manner, the facts giving rise to every such ground; and where the ground is the wrong application of the law, the plaintiff shall make reference to the law which should have been applied.

Contents of sworn application.
Amended by:
IX.1886.101;
XXIV.1995.301;
XXII.2005.64.

817. Repealed by: *XXIV.1995.302*.

Where demand is by writ of summons.
Amended by:
IX.1886.101.

818. (1) The time for demanding a new trial is three months, which shall commence to run -

Time for demanding new trial.
Amended by:
IX.1886.101;
XXIV.1995.303.

- (a) in regard to the cases referred to in article 811(a) and (k), from the day on which the fraud was discovered, or the document obtained;
- (b) in regard to the case referred to in paragraph (b), from the day on which the plaintiff became aware of the judgment;
- (c) in regard to the cases referred to in paragraph (j), if the falsity was, at the suit or complaint of the plaintiff himself, declared subsequently to the judgment complained of, from the day of such declaration, and if it was declared subsequently to such judgment, but at the suit or complaint of other parties, or if it was declared previously, from the day on which the plaintiff became aware of such declaration;
- (d) in regard to all other cases, from the date of the judgment complained of.

(2) A new trial may in no case be demanded after the lapse of five years from which the first judgment was given.

819. (1) The time limited in the last preceding article is peremptory.

Time to be peremptory and to run against minors, etc.
Amended by:
IX.1886.101;
XI.1977.2.

(2) Such time shall run indiscriminately even against minors and persons interdicted.

820. (1) If a new trial is granted, the judgment complained of being set aside, the rehearing of the cause in respect of the merits shall be proceeded with on the same day or on some other day appointed by the court.

If new trial is allowed, rehearing of cause to be proceeded with.
Amended by:
IX.1886.101.

Separate judgment on demand for new trial.

(2) Nevertheless a separate judgment shall in all cases be given on the demand for a new trial.

Demand for new trial to be made once only.
Exceptions.
Amended by:
IX.1886.101.

821. The demand for a new trial may not be made more than once, except on grounds which may arise subsequently to the first demand.

Demand for new trial may be availed of by defendant.
Amended by:
IX.1886.101.

822. (1) The demand for a new trial may also be availed of by any of the defendants who, in the answer to the libel or petition, or in a note filed previously to the trial on that demand, shall have agreed to it.

(2) In any such case, the defendant may continue the proceedings, notwithstanding that the party who made the demand shall have waived it.

Demand for new trial not to operate as a stay of execution.
Amended by:
IX.1886.101;
XXII.1963.8;
XXIV.1995.304;
XXII.2005.65.

823. (1) The demand for a new trial shall not operate so as to stay the execution of the judgment sought to be set aside.

Power of court.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-article (1), the court before which a new trial is demanded may, at the instance, by application both before the Court of Appeal and before the court of first instance, of the party making such demand, order a stay of execution of the judgment if -

- (a) together with his demand such party gives sufficient security for the execution of the judgment, if it is not set aside, including such security as is mentioned in article 266(10); and
- (b) it is shown to the satisfaction of the court that the execution of the judgment is likely to cause greater prejudice to such party than the stay of execution would cause to the opposite party.

(3) The security referred to in sub-article (2)(a), when given, shall in all cases operate as a stay of execution of a judgment ordering the arrest or imprisonment of the debtor.

(4) The filing of the application containing the demand for the stay of execution of the judgment sought to be set aside shall not operate as a stay of execution of such judgment unless, upon an application to that effect, the court shall for just cause order such stay of execution.

(5) Where the enforcement of a judgment has been authorized by the judgment sought to be set aside the provisions of sub-articles (2), (3) and (4) shall not apply.

(6) An appeal from a judgment disallowing the demand for the stay of execution of the judgment sought to be set aside shall in no case operate as a stay of execution of the latter judgment.

824. It shall not be lawful to grant another new trial in respect of a judgment given upon a new trial.

No new trial in respect of judgment given upon new trial.
Amended by:
[IX.1886.101.](#)

825. (1) Nothing in this Title contained shall operate so as to bar the court, upon the application of any of the parties to be served on the other party, from amending at any time, by a decree, any error of calculation incurred in the judgment.

Errors of calculation in judgment.
Amended by:
[XV.1913.152.](#)

(2) Nor shall the court be debarred from correcting any error in the wording of the judgment, or from altering any expression which is equivocal, or which may bear a construction different from that evidently intended by the court, provided that an application is made to that effect within thirty days from the date of the judgment, and in such case, the time allowed by this Code for entering an appeal from any judgment so amended, shall commence to run from the date of the decree given on the demand for the amendment.

Errors of expression.

Title V

OF THE ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGMENTS OF TRIBUNALS OF COUNTRIES OUTSIDE MALTA

825A. Where regulations of the European Union provide, with regard to the matters regulated under this title, in any manner different than in this title, the said regulations shall prevail, and the provisions of this Title shall only apply where they are not inconsistent with the provisions of such regulations or in matters not falling within the ambit of such regulations.

Applicability of this Title and European Union Regulations.
Added by:
[III.2004.42.](#)

826. Saving the provisions of the British Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) Act, any judgment delivered by a competent court outside Malta and constituting a *res judicata* may be enforced by the competent court in Malta, in the same manner as judgments delivered in Malta, upon an application containing a demand that the enforcement of such judgment be ordered.

Enforcement of judgments of tribunals outside Malta.
Amended by:
[XXII.2006.66.](#)
Cap. 52.

827. (1) The provisions of the last preceding article shall not have effect:

Inquiry by court.
Amended by:
[XV.1913.153;](#)
[XXIV.1995.305.](#)

- (a) if the judgment sought to be enforced may be set aside on any of the grounds mentioned in article 811;
- (b) in the case of a judgment by default, if the parties were not contumacious according to foreign law;
- (c) if the judgment contains any disposition contrary to public policy or to the internal public law of Malta.

(2) For the purposes of this article, the plea to the jurisdiction of the court by which the judgment was delivered, may be raised in terms of article 811(d), even though that court may have adjudged upon a plea to its jurisdiction, in the case of any action brought against any person not subject to the jurisdiction of that court by reason of domicile or residence, unless such person had voluntarily submitted to the jurisdiction thereof.

Effects of
registration of
judgment in Public
Registry.

828. The judgment ordering the enforcement of another judgment delivered by a court outside Malta, upon being registered in the Public Registry Office, shall create as from the day of registration a hypothec in regard to the debt judicially acknowledged by the judgment the enforcement of which is ordered.

Title VI

OF PRECAUTIONARY ACTS

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Party may
safeguard his rights
by precautionary
acts.

829. It shall be lawful for any person, without the necessity of any previous judgment, to secure his rights by one or more of the following precautionary acts, which shall be issued and carried into effect on the responsibility of the person suing out the act, provided he shall have complied with the conditions prescribed by this Code.

Precautionary acts.
Amended by:
IV.1862.17;
XI.1973.377;
XII.1985.16;
XXXIX.1986.2;
XVII.1991.82;
XXIV.1995.306;
XXIV.1995.357.
Substituted by:
XIV.2006.79.
Amended by:
XV.2008.27;
VIII.2010.61.

830. (1) The precautionary acts referred to in the last preceding article are the following:

- (a) warrant of description;
- (b) warrant of seizure;
- (c) warrant of seizure of a commercial going concern;
- (d) garnishee order;
- (e) warrant of impediment of departure;
- (f) warrant of arrest of sea vessels;
- (g) warrant of arrest of aircraft;
- (h) warrant of prohibitory injunction.

Cap. 234.

- (2) (a) Saving the provisions of article 870 of this Code and of article 357 of the [Merchant Shipping Act](#), such acts mentioned in sub-article (1) shall be rescinded, if the party against whom the act is issued makes such deposit or gives such security as, in the court's opinion, according to the circumstances of the case, may be sufficient to safeguard the rights or claims stated in the act, or if it is shown that a judicial act accepting liability as provided in sub-article (3) has been filed in the proper registry.
- (b) Notwithstanding that a deposit is made or security is given as aforesaid, the time limits established in this Title on the creditor to bring forward his action shall continue to apply.
- (c) Such time limits shall run from the date of the issue of the precautionary act, and failure by the creditor to institute proceedings within the said time limits shall entitle the debtor to withdraw the deposit or cancel the security.

(3) Where a precautionary act has been issued against any person, or such as to affect any property of such person, to secure a claim for damages, and a locally registered insurance company or local bureau thereof, as established in the [Motor Vehicles \(Third Party Risks\) Ordinance](#), such person or company shall by means of a judicial act, filed in the registry of the said court, within ten days from the date of the insured person's demand, declare that he or the company is accepting liability to pay all sums that may be due for such damages, in connection with the claim contained in that act if such insured person is found to be responsible for such damages -

Cap. 104.

- (a) the insurer or local bureau, as the case may be, shall be liable to pay all sums that may be due for damages arising as aforesaid;
- (b) the claim for such damages may be pursued against the insurer or the local bureau directly; and
- (c) the precautionary act against such person shall be rescinded.

(4) No precautionary act as provided in sub-article (3) shall be issued against the insured if the person intending to sue out the warrant is cognizant that the insurer or the local bureau has issued to the insured a valid insurance certificate accepting liability for the payment of damages; and in such case the claim for such damages may be pursued against the insurer or the local bureau or agent, as the case may be, directly.

831. (1) The demand for the issue of any of the said acts shall be made by an application prepared by the applicant and containing, under pain of nullity of the act, other than further details which may be prescribed by regulations:

Application for
issue of warrant.
Amended by:
[XV.1913.154](#);
[XIV.1980.5](#);
[XXIV.1995.307](#).
Substituted by:
[XIV.2006.80](#).

- (a) the origin and nature of the debt or claim sought to be secured; and
- (b) when the right sought to be secured by the act is a debt, or a demand which may be satisfied by the payment of a sum of money, the amount of such demand.

If the case has already been filed in court, such demand may specify and include all judicial costs.

(2) The application shall be confirmed on oath by the applicant:

Provided that where in an application there is more than one applicant demanding the issue of any of the precautionary acts mentioned in article 830(1) against the same respondent, the oath shall be taken by at least one of the applicants.

(3) Any of the warrants or order mentioned in article 830 shall be issued by the court:

Provided that, where in the opinion of the Registrar the signature of a judge or magistrate empowered to issue a warrant of seizure or a garnishee order or a warrant of impediment of departure cannot be obtained within a reasonable time and that delay may be prejudicial, the said warrants or order may be issued

over the signature of the Registrar personally after having first obtained verbal authorisation from the judge or magistrate to do so. In this case, the judge or magistrate is to append his own signature under that of the Registrar at the earliest opportunity to confirm that he had given the said verbal authority or, if it is not possible for the Registrar to obtain such verbal authority, the Registrar shall under his authority issue the said warrant or order over his signature, subject to the ratification of such action by a judge or magistrate at the earliest opportunity..

Where claim is for payment of sum of money.

Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.308.](#)

832. Where the right sought to be secured by the act is a debt, or a claim which may be satisfied by the payment of a sum of money, the applicant shall also in this sworn statement referred to in the last preceding article indicate approximately the sum to which, in his belief, the debt or claim amounts, and if a cause has already been filed in court, such a claim may specify and include any judicial costs, under pain of nullity of the act.

Administering of oath.

Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.309;](#)
[XV.2008.18.](#)
Cap. 79.

833. The oath referred to in this Title may be administered by the registrar or by a legal procurator appointed as Commissioner for Oaths under the [Commissioner for Oaths Ordinance](#).

Filing of precautionary warrants with judicial letter.

Added by:
[XV.2008.19.](#)
Amended by:
[XII.2009.14.](#)

833A. Where a judicial letter is filed and sworn according to article 166A, there may also thereupon be sworn and filed the precautionary warrants referred to in article 830(1)(a), (b) and (d):

Provided that when such judicial letter is filed, the applicant shall file a sworn application or application or petition, as the case may be, within twenty days from the date of filing of a full or partial note of contestation or else within sixty days from the date of the issuing of a warrant, unless a note of contestation will have been filed, according to which date first occurs:

Provided also that no sworn application or application or petition, as the case may be, shall be required in the case where the precautionary warrant is converted to an executive warrant or it is removed by means of a counter-warrant.

Letter lodged in accordance with article 34 of the Mediation Act.

Added by:
[VIII.2017.7.](#)
Cap. 474.

833B. Where a letter has been lodged in accordance with article 34 of the Mediation Act, there may also thereupon be filed the precautionary warrants referred to in article 830(1)(a), (b) and (d):

Provided that when such letter is filed in accordance with article 34 of the Mediation Act, the applicant shall nonetheless attach a copy of such letter in the acts of the precautionary warrant, and such warrant shall conform with the provisions of Title VI of Book Third of this Code.

833C. Where a judicial letter has been filed to render bills of exchange or promissory notes executable in accordance with the proviso to article 253(e) there may be filed the precautionary warrants referred to in article 830(1)(a), (b) and (d):

Filing of precautionary warrant with judicial letter for execution of bills of exchange and promissory notes issued in terms of the Commercial Code.

Added by:
[XXVII.2021.2.](#)

Provided that, when such letter is filed to render bills of exchange or promissory notes executable in accordance with the proviso to article 253(e), the applicant shall attach a copy of such letter in the acts of the precautionary warrant, and such warrant shall conform with the provisions of Title VI of Book Third of this Code.

833D. Where a judicial letter has been filed in accordance with article 466, there may be filed the precautionary warrants referred to in article 830(1)(a), (b) and (d):

Filing of precautionary warrant with judicial letter filed in accordance with article 466.

Added by:
[XXVII.2021.2.](#)

Provided that, when such letter is filed in accordance with article 466, the applicant shall attach a copy of such letter in the acts of the precautionary warrant, and such warrant shall conform with the provisions of Title VI of Book Third of this Code.

834. The court executing officer shall, at the earliest time possible, serve notice in writing to the applicant, the lawyer or the legal procurator whose signature is subscribed on the application, of the execution of the warrant or order.

Notice of execution of warrant.

Amended by:
[XIX.1965.17;](#)
[VIII.1990.3.](#)
Substituted by:
[XIV.2006.83.](#)

835. *Repealed by:* [XIV.2006.84.](#)

S. 834 not to apply to inferior courts.

Amended by:
[XV.1913.155;](#)
[XXIII.1971.27;](#)
[XIII.1983.5;](#)
[VIII.1990.3;](#)
[XXIV.1995.310;](#)
[L.N. 407 of 2007.](#)

836. (1) Without prejudice to any other right under this or any other law, the person against whom any precautionary act has been issued, may make an application to the court issuing the precautionary act, or, if a cause has been instituted, may make an application to the court hearing such cause, praying that the precautionary act be revoked, either totally or partially, on any of the following grounds:

Counter-warrant.

Amended by:
[XV.1913.156;](#)
[XIV.1980.6.](#)
Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.311.](#)
Amended by:
[XXII.2005.67;](#)
[L.N. 407 of 2007;](#)
[XIV.2006.85;](#)
[XII.2009.15.](#)

- (a) that the precautionary act ceased to be in force;
- (b) that any one of the conditions requested by law for the issue of the precautionary act does not in fact subsist;
- (c) that other adequate security is available to satisfy the claim of the person at whose request a precautionary act was issued either by the issue of some other precautionary act or if such other security can to the satisfaction of the court adequately secure the claim; or
- (d) if it is shown that the amount claimed is not *prima facie* justified or is excessive; or

- (e) if the security provided is deemed by the court to be sufficient; or
- (f) if it is shown that in the circumstances it would be unreasonable to maintain in force the precautionary act in whole or in part, or that the precautionary act in whole or in part is no longer necessary or justifiable.

(2) The person making the application according to sub-article (1) shall, together with the application, file in writing all submissions to be made together with all documents in support of the demand that is being filed.

(3) The application, except for any application in terms of sub-article (1)(a), shall be served on the opposite party who may, within seven days from the service, file a note containing all submissions to be made together with all documents in support of the demand that is being filed.

(4) The court shall decide the application with urgency either *in camera* or after hearing the advocates of the parties, if it deems fit, provided that not more than one sitting may be fixed for such purpose.

(5) No appeal and no challenge shall lie from a decree acceding to an application referred to in sub-article (1), and such decree shall be final and irrevocable, and except in the case contemplated in sub-article (1)(a) a similar precautionary act may not be issued in security of the claim against the person against whom the precautionary act so revoked was issued, unless in the application for the issue of such similar precautionary act the applicant states that circumstances have arisen since the revocation of the previous precautionary act which justify the issue of a similar fresh precautionary act to that which has been revoked, and the provisions of this article shall thereupon apply to such precautionary act freshly issued on the basis of such application.

(6) The provisions of article 831(4) shall apply to the decree issued under sub-article (1)(a).

(7) Notwithstanding that adequate security for the satisfaction of the claim of the person at whose request the precautionary act was issued is deposited in the registry of the court, the court which issued the counter-warrant under the provisions of this article may still, on a request made by application by any interested person, investigate the legality or otherwise of the relative precautionary act and the court may also order the reduction of the amount of security deposited or declare the precautionary act to be contrary to law, in which latter case it shall give such orders as it may deem appropriate, including, if the case so warrants, the giving of the security back to the debtor.

(8) The court may condemn the applicant at whose request a precautionary act was issued to pay a penalty of not less than one thousand and one hundred and sixty-four euro and sixty-nine cents (1,164.69) and not more than six thousand and nine hundred and eighty-eight euro and twelve cents (6,988.12) in favour of the person against whom the precautionary act was issued, in each of the

following cases:

- (a) if the applicant, without any valid reason, does not bring the action in respect of the claim, within the time established by law;
- (b) if, on demand of the defendant for the rescission of the precautionary act, the plaintiff fails to show that the precautionary act had to be issued or that within the fifteen days previous to the application for the precautionary act, he had in any manner called upon the defendant to pay the debt, or, if the debt be not a liquidated debt, to provide sufficient security:

Provided that the provisions of this paragraph shall not apply where it is shown that there were reasons of urgency for the issue of the warrant;

- (c) if the circumstances of the debtor were such as not to give rise to any reasonable doubt as to his solvency and as to his financial ability to meet the claims of the applicant, and such state of the debtor were notorious;
- (d) if applicant's claim is malicious, frivolous or vexatious.

(9) In the case under the previous sub-article, the court at the request, by application, of the person against whom the precautionary act was issued may condemn the applicant at whose request the precautionary warrant was issued to pay such damages as may have been caused by the issue of the warrant, and in any such proceedings the court shall refer to, and make use of, the records of the proceedings of the precautionary act and of any other proceedings arising therefrom or consequential thereto, and such records shall be admissible evidence for the purposes of this action.

837. (1) It shall not be lawful for the Court of Magistrates (Malta), or the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) in its inferior jurisdiction to issue any warrant of description or impediment of departure for the purpose of a reference to the oath of the opposite party.

Precautionary acts which may not be issued by inferior courts.

Amended by:

XI.1859.36;

I.1880.4;

XV.1913.157;

XXIII.1971.28;

L.N. 148 of 1975;

[*XII.1985.17;*](#)

[*VIII.1990.3;*](#)

[*XXIV.1995.312;*](#)

[*XV.2008.29.*](#)

[*XI.2018.26.*](#)

(2) It shall not be lawful to issue any precautionary warrant of seizure or garnishee order in security of any right or claim against the Government of Malta.

Warrants which may not be issued against Government.

(3) It shall not be lawful to issue any warrant of seizure or garnishee order, in security of any right or claim against any of the persons mentioned in sub-article (4)(a), or any warrant of impediment of departure in security of any right or claim against any of the persons mentioned in paragraphs (b) or (c) of the said sub-article.

Persons against whom certain warrants may not be issued.

(4) The persons to whom sub-article (3) refers are:

- (a) any person belonging to the armed forces of any

country or any person belonging to any vessel wholly chartered in the service of the Government of Malta if such person is in Malta with the force or vessel to which he belongs;

- (b) any master, seaman or other person regularly enrolled, if the ship to which he belongs has obtained her clearance; and
- (c) any engineer of any rank, employed on any steam vessel.

Rescission of warrants unduly obtained.

(5) (a) If any such warrant or order has been unduly issued and carried into effect against any of the persons above-mentioned, it shall be lawful to obtain the rescission of the warrant or order or of anything done thereunder by making an application to that effect stating out the cause for his exemption, and producing in support thereof any certificate, document, or other evidence to the satisfaction of the judge or magistrate by whom the warrant or order was issued.

(b) The release of the person from the warrant or order may also be applied for as aforesaid by the officer commanding the vessel on which such person is enrolled, or by the officer commanding the force, the regiment or the company to which such person belongs, or by any other military, naval or air force authority.

(6) It shall not be lawful to issue any precautionary warrant of seizure, warrant of seizure of a commercial going concern or garnishee order in security of any right or claim against any person for damages for libel or other defamation under any law.

Precautionary acts.

Added by:
[IX.1886.102.](#)
Substituted by:
[XIV.2006.87.](#)

838. The court may, when any party makes an application before it which is served on the other party, give any order as may be required so as to prevent any damage or deterioration being caused to the things described in the precautionary act.

Security for payment of penalty, etc.
Added by:
[XXIV.1995.313.](#)

838A. It shall be lawful for the court, on good cause being shown, upon the demand by application of the person against whom a precautionary act has been issued, to order the party suing out the warrant to give, within a time fixed by the court, sufficient security for the payment of the penalty that may be imposed, and of damages and interest, and, in default, to rescind the precautionary act.

Precautionary warrants to remain in force until the cause becomes *res judicata*.

Added by:
[XXXI.2002.172.](#)
Amended by:
[XIV.2006.88;](#)
[XV.2008.30.](#)
Substituted by:
[XII.2009.16.](#)
Amended by:
[XXVII.2021.2.](#)

838B. (1) Unless rescinded by the court or withdrawn by the party suing out the warrant, all precautionary warrants shall remain in force for a period of fifteen days after the cause becomes *res judicata*.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-article (1), precautionary warrants issued under article 830(1) become executive warrants after that the cause becomes *res judicata* or when in accordance with article 166B, article 253(e) and article 466, such judicial letter, bill of exchange or promissory note constitutes an executive title, so however that:

- (a) in the case of a warrant issued under article 830(1)(b), (c), (d) and (f), the creditor shall file a note within fifteen (15) days from when the executive title is obtained in the acts of the same warrant and demand an extension or reduction of the effects of the warrant to an amount equivalent to the legal costs, interest and the principal amount due in terms of the executive title obtained, and such note is to be served upon the debtor and such persons as may have any interest therein;
- (b) in the case of a warrant issued under article 830(1)(a) and (e), the creditor shall file an application under the provisions of article 388E within fifteen days from the cause becoming *res judicata*.

Sub-title I

OF THE WARRANT OF DESCRIPTION

839. A warrant of description may be issued in order to secure a right over movable things, for the exercise of which the applicant may have an interest that such movable things remain in their actual place or condition.

Object of warrant.

840. (1) The marshal shall execute a warrant of description by describing the things in detail stating the number and quality thereof.

Manner of
executing warrant.

(2) He shall also state the weight or measure, and the value thereof, if the applicant makes an express demand to that effect in the application for the issue of the warrant, or subsequently, by means of a note; in any such case the value shall be stated upon an appraisement made by one or more experts appointed by the court.

841. The things so described shall remain in the custody of the person in whose possession they are found, and such person shall be responsible for their safe keeping, an express injunction to that effect being included in the warrant.

Liability of person
in possession of
things described.

842. It shall be lawful for the court, upon the application of any party notice whereof is given to the other party, to give any order calculated to prevent any loss, damage or deterioration of the things described.

Power of court.

843. (1) The applicant is bound to bring the action in respect of the right stated in the warrant within twenty days from the issue of the warrant:

Time within which
to bring action.

Amended by:

XII.1924.6;

XXVII.1977.3;

XXIV.1995.314;

XXII.2005.68.

Substituted by:

XIV.2006.89.

Provided that where the issue of the warrant is demanded by any spouse against the other spouse, and the spouse issuing the warrant has commenced proceedings in court, the time limit herebefore mentioned shall commence running from such date when that spouse is authorised to proceed by the court, provided that the warrant shall cease having its effect immediately upon the

proceedings being withdrawn or abandoned.

(2) If the applicant fails, without just cause, to bring such action, the effects of the warrant shall cease and he shall be liable for all damages and interest.

Extension of time.

844. Where the party against whom the warrant was executed shall, by means of a note filed in the registry, allow to the applicant a time longer than that mentioned in the last preceding article, the warrant shall remain in force for such extended time.

Applicability of articles 275, 276 and 279.

845. The provisions of articles 275, 276 and 279, shall apply to the execution of a warrant of description.

Substituted by:

[*XV.2006.90.*](#)

Amended by:

[*VII.2007.30.*](#)

SUB-TITLE II

OF THE WARRANT OF SEIZURE

Warrant of seizure.

846. (1) The warrant of seizure of movable property shall, other than the details referred to in article 282, also contain an order to the Registrar to seize from the debtor such articles or article from the place therein indicated.

Amended by:

XI.1859.37;

IX.1886.103;

XII.1924.7;

XXXI.1934.67;

XXVII.1977.4;

[*XLIX.1981.6;*](#)

[*XIII.1983.5;*](#)

[*XXIV.1995.315.*](#)

Substituted by:

[*XIV.2006.91.*](#)

Amended by:

[*VII.2007.30.*](#)

Official consignee.

(2) When a demand is made for the removal of the seized articles the court shall appoint an official consignee.

Applicability of articles 275 to 293, 842 to 844.

(3) The provisions of articles 275 to 293 and articles 842, 843 and 844, shall apply to warrants of seizure.

Judicial acknowledgement of claim to precede judicial sale by auction.

847. The judicial sale by auction of the property seized shall not take place without a previous judicial acknowledgment or rendering as an executive title of the debt or claim:

Amended by:

[*XXIV.1995.316;*](#)

[*XIV.2006.92.*](#)

Provided that in the case of perishable goods or other deteriorating assets, the court, on the application of claimant in pending litigation before the court, may order the sale of the asset *pendente lite* if it appears to the court upon an application of a creditor that the debtor is insolvent or otherwise unlikely to be able to continue trading and maintaining the asset. In reaching its conclusion the court shall consider all the circumstances connected therewith including the nature of the claim, if any, and such other steps which the debtor has taken to secure the claim, or otherwise to preserve the asset.

848. Saving the provisions of articles 466 and 467 respecting the claims of the Government, no warrant of seizure shall be issued by the Court of Magistrates (Malta) or by the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) in its inferior jurisdiction, unless the warrant is sued out accompanied by a demand that the credit or claim are judicially acknowledged and the debt or claim exceeds one thousand, one hundred and sixty-four euro and sixty-nine cents (€1,164.69), or the demand for such warrant is for an article which, as stated, is property belonging to the person suing out the warrant.

In inferior courts demand for judicial acknowledgment of claim to accompany demand for issue of warrant.

Amended by:
XV.1913.158, 159;
XXIII.1971.29;
XIII.1983.5;
XII.1985.18;
VIII.1990.3;
L.N. 407 of 2007;
XIV.2006.93.

Sub-Title III

OF THE WARRANT OF SEIZURE OF A COMMERCIAL GOING CONCERN

Added by:
XIV.2006.94.

848A. (1) A precautionary warrant of seizure of a commercial going concern may solely be issued to secure a debt or claims which could be frustrated by the sale in part or in whole of the said going concern and, for this purpose, no other warrant may be issued against the going concern, unless it is this warrant of seizure.

Scope of warrant.
Added by:
XIV.2006.94.

(2) The effect of a precautionary warrant of seizure of a commercial going concern is to preserve the totality of the assets of the going concern, including licences and good-will, to order that same is not sold in part or in whole and are to be concurrently kept in business, provided that in any case the court shall not accept a demand for the issuing of a warrant if it is satisfied that there are other means to safeguard the amount due.

(3) The court shall not issue any such warrant unless it is satisfied that such warrant is necessary in order to protect the rights belonging to applicant who, *prima facie*, appears to have such rights.

(4) The provisions of articles 840, 842, 843, 844 and 848 shall apply to this warrant.

848B. (1) When a demand is made for the issue of this warrant the court shall, after hearing the parties, appoint an administrator and in order to effect such action it shall consider whether to allow the going concern to continue being run by the debtor or by such persons as may be entrusted by the debtor with the assistance of the administrator, or that an administrator is appointed who in the opinion of the court has the necessary qualifications to run and administer the going concern on his own.

Court to appoint administrator and expert.
Added by:
XIV.2006.94.

(2) The court shall appoint an expert under article 89 and establish a short and peremptory time within which there shall be filed an itemized list, to be confirmed on oath, of the value of the whole property forming the capital of the commercial going concern.

(3) The appointed administrator shall be responsible for the commercial going concern and shall have the right to sell and administer the ordinary running of the concern provided that for any decision of an extraordinary nature he shall file a demand in court for the granting of such authorisation.

(4) The administrator may, if he is of the opinion that the going concern will incur a market loss in its value, demand the court either to authorise him to sell the whole going concern or any part thereof.

(5) The administrator appointed under this article shall have the right to such payment as the court may, in its discretion, be of the opinion that is due to him in consideration of the value of the going concern and of the activity undertaken with regard to the running of the business.

Amended by:
[XIV.2006.95.](#)

Sub-title IV

OF THE GARNISHEE ORDER

Precautionary
garnishee order.
Amended by:
[IX.1886.104;](#)
[XXVII.1977.5;](#)
[XIV.2006.96.](#)

849. The effects of a precautionary garnishee order are the same as those of an executive garnishee order, and the provisions of articles 375 to 383 inclusive, and articles 842, 843, 844, 846 and 848, shall apply to such order:

Provided that where the garnishee is a bank, a precautionary garnishee order shall not apply to money payable by the bank in execution of any guarantee given by the bank that it will effect payment on the demand of the person in whose favour the banker's guarantee is made out; and in any such case, notwithstanding the garnishee order, the bank shall have power to pay out or otherwise dispose of any such money as free from any garnishee order and shall also be entitled to withdraw any such money from any court or other place, or from any person, into which, or with whom, it may have been lodged or deposited, and it shall be the duty of the Registrar of such court or other person in possession or having control over such money to return it forthwith to the bank.

Duration of
garnishee order.
Amended by:
[XXXI.1934.68;](#)
[XXIV.1995.318.](#)

850. *Repealed by* [XXXI.2002.179.](#)

Order for judicial
sequestration.
Amended by:
[XIV.2006.97.](#)

851. (1) The court may, at any stage of the cause, on the demand of either of the parties, or of its own motion, make an order for judicial sequestration.

Statement as to
nature, etc., of
claim not requisite.

(2) The sworn statement referred to in article 831(2) shall not be requisite in regard to any such sequestration.

Duration of order.

(3) The sequestration order shall remain in force until rescinded by the court.

Power of court.

(4) Under such order, the court may direct that the thing in litigation be deposited with, or delivered to a third party who shall bind himself to restore such thing, on the termination of the cause or within the time fixed by the court, to the party to whom the court shall order the thing to be restored.

852. The sequestration mentioned in the last preceding article may also be ordered in regard to immovable property, where the possession or ownership thereof is in dispute, or where it is necessary for the security or preservation of the rights of any party interested.

Sequestration order in regard to immovable property.

853. (1) The sequestrator shall be chosen either by consent of the parties interested, or by the court *ex officio*.

Judicial sequestrator.

(2) The sequestrator shall be subject to the same liabilities as the depositary.

Duties.

854. The sequestrator appointed under article 851 shall be entitled to a remuneration, in the discretion of the court.

Remuneration.

Sub-title V

OF THE WARRANT OF ARREST OF SEA VESSELS

Added by:
[XIV.2006.100.](#)
Amended by:
[VII.2007.34.](#)

855. (1) A precautionary warrant of arrest of any sea-going vessel having a length exceeding ten metres may solely be issued to secure a debt or claims, whether *in personam* or *in rem*, which could be frustrated by the departure of the said ship, and no other warrant may be issued against a sea-going vessel, with the exception of a warrant of ejectment or expulsion, unless it is a warrant of arrest, and whether such vessel is at sea or at some other place:

Object of warrant.
Revoked by:
[XIV.2006.99.](#)
Added by:
[XIV.2006.100.](#)
Re-numbered by:
[VII.2007.34;](#)
[XXXVII.2021.42.](#)

Provided that a precautionary warrant of arrest may also be issued by the Court in the circumstances provided for under article 1526(5) of the Civil Code to secure, in the event of a default, the rights of lessor against a lessee and the provisions of this title shall also apply to such warrants of arrest, *mutatis mutandis*:

Cap. 16.

Provided further that for the purposes of article 843, the lessor shall be obliged to file the application pursuant to article 1526(5) of the Civil Code within twenty (20) days from the warrant of arrest.

Cap. 16.

(2) The provisions of article 843 shall apply to the warrant.

856. (1) The warrant of arrest shall have the effect to seize the sea vessel, having a length exceeding ten metres, from the debtor and also to attach the same in the hands of the authority where property is. The Court shall also order that the said authority shall not release such sea vessel or allow the debtor to divest himself in any way from the same in whole or in part or to give or surrender to any person any rights on the same and the Court shall order the person indicated by the party issuing the warrant, to effect service of a copy of the warrant in accordance with sub-article (3), as well as to seize the appropriate documentation and certification from on board the vessel.

Warrant to have effect both to seize and to attach the vessel.
Revoked by:
[XIV.2006.99.](#)
Added by:
[XIV.2006.100.](#)
Re-numbered by:
[VII.2007.34.](#)
Amended by:
[XXXI.2019.9.](#)

(2) The warrant is executed for all effects of the law when notice is served on the executive officer of the authority who has the sea vessel in its hands or under its power or control.

(3) A copy of the warrant of arrest shall also be served on the person whose ship or vessel is arrested, the master or other person in charge of such ship or vessel, or the agent of such ship or vessel:

Provided that the party issuing the warrant shall indicate in the appropriate part of the warrant the necessary details of the person who shall effect service of the copy of the warrant referred to in this sub-article upon the master or other person in charge of such ship or vessel.

(4) Any documentation and certification seized from on board a ship or vessel in accordance with sub-article (1), shall within one working day, be handed over to the registrar.

The authority in charge of the vessel to be considered official consignee.

Amended by:

[*IV.1996.9.*](#)

Revoked by:

[*XIV.2006.99.*](#)

Added by:

[*XIV.2006.100.*](#)

Re-numbered by:

[*VII.2007.34.*](#)

Amended by:

[*XV.2008.31;*](#)

[*XV.2009.49.*](#)

857. (1) The authority which has in its hands or under its control the sea going vessel against which such warrant of arrest has been issued shall take all necessary measures to display the court order for the general attention of third parties.

(2) For the purposes of this warrant the Authority for Transport in Malta or such other authority as may be designated from time to time by the Minister shall be deemed to be the authority having in its hands or under its power or control the arrested ship or vessel.

(3) A vessel is deemed to be in the power or control of the Authority for Transport in Malta as soon as the vessel enters Maltese territorial waters.

(4) All expenses as may be necessary for the preservation of the arrested ship or vessel shall, from the moment that the warrant of arrest is served on the Authority for Transport in Malta, be borne by the party issuing the warrant, saving his right to recover such expenses together with his claim.

Warrant to be sued out on appropriate form.

Revoked by:

[*XIV.2006.99.*](#)

Added by:

[*XIV.2006.100.*](#)

Re-numbered by:

[*VII.2007.34.*](#)

858. (1) A warrant of arrest shall be sued out by means of an application on a form to be prescribed by the Minister responsible for justice, on which form there shall be included a court decree by virtue of which the necessary orders are given and issued.

(2) The court executive officer shall have the power to adopt, subject to such directives as may be given by the Court or the Registrar of Courts, all such measures as may be deemed necessary for the execution of the warrant of arrest.

Warrant available where claim is not less than €7,000.

Revoked by:

[*XIV.2006.99.*](#)

Added by:

[*XIV.2006.100.*](#)

Re-numbered by:

[*VII.2007.34.*](#)

Amended by:

[*XV.2008.31;*](#)

[*XII.2009.17.*](#)

859. A warrant may be demanded and obtained before the Court of Magistrates (Malta) or before the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) in its inferior jurisdiction or before the First Hall of the Civil Court in security of a debt or any other claim whatsoever amounting to not less than seven thousand euro.

860. The application for the issue of a warrant of arrest shall, under pain of nullity, state in a clear manner such particulars as may enable the identification of the ship or vessel, the name of the authority in whose hands or under whose power or control the arrested ship or vessel may be, as well as the place where the ship or vessel is to be found and the details of the person who shall effect service of the copy of the warrant referred to in article 856(1).

Statement to be contained in application.
Revoked by: [XIV.2006.99.](#)
Added by: [XIV.2006.100.](#)
Re-numbered by: [VII.2007.34.](#)
Amended by: [XXXI.2019.10.](#)

861. Where it is found that the warrant was obtained upon a demand maliciously made, the penalty in terms of article 836(8) shall not be less than eleven thousand and six hundred euro.

Penalty in case of malicious demand for warrant.
Amended by: [L.N. 407 of 2007.](#)
Revoked by: [XIV.2006.99.](#)
Added by: [XIV.2006.100.](#)
Re-numbered by: [VII.2007.34.](#)

862. It shall be lawful for the court, on good cause being shown, upon the demand by application by a person whose ship or vessel is detained, by the master of the ship or vessel, or by any person being in charge thereof or by its agent, to order the party suing out the warrant to give, within a time fixed by the court, sufficient security, in an amount not less than eleven thousand and six hundred euro, for the payment of the penalty, damages and interest and, in default, to rescind the warrant.

Security for payment of penalty, etc.
Revoked by: [XIV.2006.99.](#)
Added by: [XIV.2006.100.](#)
Re-numbered by: [VII.2007.34.](#)

863. (1) No warrant shall be issued against any ship or vessel wholly chartered in the service of the Government of Malta or employed in any postal service either by the Government of Malta or by any other government.

Ships or vessels not subject to the issue of a warrant.
Revoked by: [XIV.2006.99.](#)
Added by: [XIV.2006.100.](#)
Re-numbered by: [VII.2007.34.](#)
Amended by: [XV.2009.49.](#)

(2) No warrant shall be issued against any ship of war.

(3) Following the arrest of a ship or vessel in any port or harbour in Malta and on the application of the Authority for Transport in Malta, a court may, if it is satisfied that because of its cargo, its length or draught and, or other circumstances concerning safety, pollution, navigation or port operation, it is advisable that the seagoing vessel should leave port without delay, order that the ship or seagoing vessel be shifted from that port or harbour to any other anchorage within territorial waters.

(4) Following the arrest of a ship or vessel in any port or harbour or in the territorial waters of Malta, and on an application of the Authority for Transport in Malta, a court may, if it is satisfied that because of the nature of its cargo and, or other circumstances concerning safety or pollution it is advisable that the ship or vessel should leave port and, or Maltese territorial waters, rescind the warrant of arrest and order that the ship or vessel should leave Malta and its territorial waters without delay.

Order for the sale of a ship or vessel *pendente lite*.

Amended by:
[L.N. 407 of 2007](#).

Revoked by:
[XIV.2006.99](#).

Added by:
[XIV.2006.100](#).

Re-numbered by:
[VII.2007.34](#).

Joint and several liability.

Revoked by:
[XIV.2006.99](#).

Added by:
[XIV.2006.100](#).

Re-numbered by:
[VII.2007.34](#).

864. The court may order the sale of an arrested ship or vessel *pendente lite* if it appears to the court upon the application of a creditor that the debtor is insolvent or otherwise unlikely to be able to continue trading and maintaining the asset. In reaching its conclusion the court shall consider all the circumstances connected therewith, including the nature of the plaintiff's claim, the defence raised against such claim, if any, and such other steps which the debtor has taken to secure the claim, or otherwise to preserve the asset.

865. (1) If, notwithstanding the issue and execution of a precautionary warrant of arrest, a ship or vessel is removed from the jurisdiction of the court in breach of the warrant of arrest, the owner, bareboat charterer or other person being in possession of the ship or vessel at the time of such breach shall be jointly and severally liable to a penalty of one hundred and sixteen thousand and four hundred and seventy euro payable to the party issuing the warrant.

(2) The liability for the payment of a penalty arising under this article shall be without prejudice to any other possible sanction arising under the provisions of Title XVII of Book Third of this Code.

(Articles 866 to 870, both inclusive, were deleted by [XIV.2006.99](#))

Sub-title IV A

OF THE WARRANT OF ARREST OF AIRCRAFT

Object of warrant.

Added by:
[VIII.2010.61](#).

Amended by:
[LII.2016.32](#);
[XXXVII.2021.43](#).

865A. (1) A precautionary warrant of arrest of any aircraft may solely be issued to secure a debt or claims, whether *in personam* or *in rem* which could be frustrated by the departure of the said aircraft, and no other warrant may be issued against an aircraft, with the exception of a warrant of ejectment or expulsion, or the aircraft engine unless it is a warrant of arrest:

Provided that a precautionary warrant of arrest may also be issued by the Court in the circumstances provided for under article 1526(5) of the Civil Code to secure, in the event of a default, the rights of lessor against a lessee and the provisions of this Title shall also apply to such warrants of arrest, *mutatis mutandis*:

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Provided further that for the purposes of article 843, the lessor shall be obliged to bring the application contemplated in article 1526(5) of the Civil Code within twenty (20) days from the warrant of arrest.

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(2) (a) A precautionary warrant of arrest may be issued on an aircraft to which an aircraft engine is attached to secure a debt or claim, whether *in personam* or *in rem* which could be frustrated by the departure of the said aircraft with the aircraft engine, and for as

long as the aircraft engine is attached to an aircraft no other warrant may be issued against an aircraft or the aircraft engine unless it is a warrant of arrest. Such warrant of arrest may be issued notwithstanding the fact that the aircraft is owned by a different person than the owner of the aircraft engine.

(b) When such a warrant of arrest of an aircraft is issued in relation to any engine attached to the aircraft, the person having possession or control of the aircraft may, without leave of Court, take all such actions as may be within his powers to remove the engine from the aircraft so as to be able to continue with the operations of the aircraft. The person having possession or control of the aircraft shall be obliged to place the engine under the authority of the Court Marshall executing the original warrant and notify the Authority for Transport in Malta and when such action is taken the Court shall immediately release the aircraft from the effects of the warrant, which warrant shall continue to apply only to the relevant engine without the need for any other procedure by the claimant.

In the event of any opposition, the Court shall, on demand, issue all such orders as may be necessary.

(c) without prejudice to the rights referred to in the preceding sub-articles, when an aircraft engine is not attached to an aircraft, a precautionary warrant of seizure as described in article 846 or, if it is in possession or under the control of a third party, a precautionary garnishee order as described in article 849 may be issued in relation to an aircraft engine without in any way affecting any aircraft to which it may be connected, commercially, under any contract or in any register.

(3) The provisions of article 843 shall apply to the warrant.

(4) For the purposes of this Code, the word "aircraft" shall comprise -

- (a) all data, manuals and technical records, and
- (b) the airframe, all equipment, machinery and other appurtenances as accessories belonging to the aircraft, which are on board or which have been temporarily removed therefrom,
- (c) if in Malta, any engines owned by the owner of the aircraft whether attached to the aircraft or not, as well as any replacement engines which are designated for use on the aircraft and owned by the owner of the aircraft but temporarily not attached to the aircraft,

but shall not include any engine which is attached to the aircraft and which does not belong to the owner of the aircraft, which

engine shall be subject to such orders of the court as are appropriate to the protection of the rights of the owner of the engine and the safe operation of the aircraft in accordance with the agreement relating to such engine.

(5) (a) A court seized of the proceedings relating to the issue of a warrant of arrest of an aircraft, shall also be competent to hear any applications and issue any orders on the application of the owner of any engine which may be attached to the aircraft and which does not belong to the owner of the aircraft.

(b) The owner of an engine which does not belong to the owner of the aircraft to which the engines are attached and which may have been arrested as aforesaid shall be entitled to intervene in any proceedings relating to the arrest of the aircraft and make any applications and submissions to the court seized of the warrant of arrest in order to protect its rights and interests relating to the engine.

(c) Any court receiving any application by the owner of an engine in terms of this sub-article shall immediately order its service upon the person having possession or control of the aircraft and rule on any such application expeditiously and within a maximum period of two working days from when any such applications are made.

(d) In this sub-article the term "owner" of an engine shall include any mortgagee or holder of any international interest or other security interest over the engine.

(6) (a) Any court seized of the proceedings relating to a warrant of arrest, seizure or garnishee intended to operate in relation to an aircraft engine which is attached to an aircraft owned by a different person, shall also be competent to deal with any applications for the protection of the rights and interests of the owner of the aircraft.

(b) The owner of such aircraft shall be entitled to intervene and make submissions to the court dealing with a warrant of arrest, seizure or garnishee intended to operate in relation to an aircraft engine in order to protect his rights and interests.

(c) A court shall not consider the inability of the aircraft to operate without the relevant engine to be a good and sufficient ground for denying the request for the issue or for revoking the warrant intended to operate in relation to an aircraft engine.

(d) Any court receiving any application by the owner of an aircraft in terms of this sub-article shall immediately order its service upon the owner of the engine and rule on any such application expeditiously and within a maximum period of two working days

from when any such application is made.

865B. (1) The warrant of arrest shall have the effect to seize the aircraft from the debtor and also to attach the same in the hands of the authority where the property is, and also to order that the said authority shall not release such aircraft or allow the debtor to divest himself in any way from the same in whole or in part or to give or surrender to any person any rights on the same.

Warrant's effects.

Added by:

[*VIII.2010.61.*](#)

Amended by:

[*LII.2016.33.*](#)

(2) The warrant is executed for all effects of the law when notice is served on the executive officer of the authority which has the aircraft in its hands or under its power or control.

(3) A copy of the warrant of arrest shall also be served on the person whose aircraft is arrested or the aircraft commander or other person in charge of the aircraft or the agent of such aircraft.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-article (1), where aircraft engines are not owned by the owner of the aircraft, the effect of the warrant of arrest applies to the engine only to the extent that the application for the warrant of arrest expressly states that the warrant is also intended to operate in relation to the engine and in all other cases it shall be presumed that if the engines are not owned by the owner of the aircraft, the warrant is not intended to extend to the engines and the Authority for Transport or the Court shall act on such presumption if petitioned by the owner of the engines who also provides satisfactory evidence of his title to the engines.

In this sub-article the term "owner" of an engine shall include any mortgagee or holder of any international interest or other security interest over the engine.

865C. (1) The authority which has in its hands or under its control the aircraft against which such warrant of arrest has been issued, shall take all necessary measures to display the court order for the general attention of third parties.

The authority in charge of the aircraft to be considered official consignee.

Added by:

[*VIII.2010.61.*](#)

(2) For the purposes of this warrant the Authority for Transport in Malta, or such other authority or person as may be designated from time to time by the Minister shall be deemed to be the authority having in its hands or under its power or control the arrested aircraft.

(3) An aircraft is deemed to be in the power or control of the Authority for Transport in Malta as soon as the aircraft enters Maltese airspace.

(4) All expenses as may be necessary for the preservation of the arrested aircraft shall, from the moment that the warrant of arrest is served on the Authority for Transport in Malta, be borne by the party issuing the warrant, saving his right to recover such expenses together with his claim.

Warrant to be sued out on appropriate form.

Added by:
[VIII.2010.61.](#)

865D. (1) A warrant of arrest shall be sued out by means of an application on a form to be prescribed by the Minister responsible for justice, on which form there shall be included a court decree by virtue of which the necessary orders are given and issued.

(2) The court executive officer shall have the power to adopt, subject to such directives as may be given by the Court or the Registrar of Courts, all such measures as may be deemed necessary for the execution of the warrant of arrest.

Warrant not below certain values.

Added by:
[VIII.2010.61.](#)
Substituted by:
[LI.2016.34.](#)

865E. (1) A warrant may be demanded and obtained before the Court of Magistrates (Malta) or before the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) in its inferior jurisdiction or before the First Hall of the Civil Court in security of a debt or any other claim whatsoever subject to the following limitations:

(a) aircraft:

(i) in all cases the amount of the claim must not be for less than seven thousand euro;

(ii) in case of an aircraft being used for public air transport of passengers or goods:

(aa) for aircraft permitted to carry less than ten passengers, the claim must not be for less than two hundred and fifty thousand euro; and

(bb) for aircraft permitted to carry more than ten passengers the claim must not be for less than one million euro;

(b) engines:

(i) if the engine is not attached to the aircraft the claim must be for not less than seven thousand euro;

(ii) if the engine is attached to an aircraft referred to in paragraph (a)(ii)(aa) the claim must not be for less than fifty thousand euro;

(iii) if the engine is attached to an aircraft referred to in paragraph (a)(ii)(bb) and the engine is not owned by the owner of the aircraft, the claim must not be for less than one hundred thousand euro; and

(iv) if the engine is attached to an aircraft referred to in paragraph (a)(ii)(bb) and the engine is owned by the owner of the aircraft, the claim must not be for less than one million euro.

(2) The limitations on the amount of the claim stated in this article do not apply to:

(a) any claims made by holders of a mortgage or an international interest or a security interest when such mortgage or interest has been registered or is recognized under Part IV or in accordance with Part VI of the Aircraft Registration Act; or

- (b) any claims made by holders of an international interest for the repossession of an aircraft engine when such interest has been registered in accordance with Part VI of the Aircraft Registration Act.

(3) In this article reference to the amount of the claim is a reference to the principal due and no reference shall be made to any interest accrued or accruing or to other costs.

865F. The application for the issue of a warrant of arrest shall, under pain of nullity, state in a clear manner such particulars as may enable the identification of the aircraft or the aircraft engine, the name of the authority in whose hands or under whose power or control the arrested aircraft or aircraft engine may be, as well as the place where the aircraft or aircraft engine is to be found.

Statement to be contained in application.

Added by:
[VIII.2010.61.](#)
Substituted by:
[LII.2016.35.](#)

865G. (1) Where it is found that the warrant was obtained upon a demand maliciously made, the penalty in terms of article 836(8) shall not be less than the commercial value of a lease which the aircraft or aircraft engine may attract, notwithstanding that the aircraft or engine may not have been subject to an actual lease, and depending on the type, value and operation of the aircraft, or engine, and which in no case shall be less than eleven thousand and six hundred euro.

Penalty in case of malicious demand for warrant.

Added by:
[VIII.2010.61.](#)
Amended by:
[LII.2016.36.](#)

(2) The Court shall take into consideration only the daily lease value and no other type of damages.

865H. It shall be lawful for the court, on good cause being shown, upon the demand by application by a person whose aircraft is detained or by the commander of the aircraft, or by any person being in charge thereof or by its agent, order the party suing out the warrant to give, within a time fixed by the court, sufficient security, in an amount not less than eleven thousand and six hundred euro, for the payment of the penalty, damages and interest and, in default, to rescind the warrant.

Security for payment of penalty, etc.

Added by:
[VIII.2010.61.](#)

865I. (1) No warrant shall be issued against any aircraft wholly chartered in the service of the Government of Malta.

Aircraft not subject to the issue of a warrant.

Added by:
[VIII.2010.61.](#)

(2) No warrant shall be issued against any aircraft of war.

(3) Following the arrest of an aircraft in any airport and on the application of the Authority for Transport of Malta, a court may, if it is satisfied that because of its cargo, or other circumstances concerning safety, pollution, air navigation, it is advisable that the aircraft should leave the aerodrome or airport without delay, order that the aircraft should leave without delay or order that the aircraft be shifted from that airport to any other location within Malta or if not possible, to leave Malta.

(4) Following the arrest of an aircraft in any airport or aerodrome or Maltese airspace and on an application of the Authority for Transport in Malta, a court may, if it is satisfied that because of the nature of its cargo and, or other circumstances concerning safety or pollution it is advisable that the aircraft should leave the airport or Maltese airspace, rescind the warrant of arrest and order that the aircraft should leave Malta and its airspace without delay.

Order for the sale
of an aircraft
pendente lite.
Added by:
[VIII.2010.61](#).

865J. The court may order the sale of an arrested aircraft *pendente lite* if it appears to the court upon the application of a creditor that the debtor is insolvent or otherwise unlikely to be able to continue trading and maintaining the asset. In reaching its conclusion the court shall consider all the circumstances connected therewith, including the nature of the plaintiff's claim, the defence raised against such claim, if any, and such other steps which the debtor has taken to secure the claim, or otherwise to preserve the asset.

Joint and several
liability.

865K. (1) If, notwithstanding the issue and execution of a precautionary warrant of arrest, an aircraft is removed from the jurisdiction of the court in breach of the warrant of arrest, the owner, lessee or other person being in possession of the aircraft at the time of such breach shall be jointly and severally liable to a penalty of one hundred and twenty thousand euro payable to the party issuing the warrant.

(2) The liability for the payment of a penalty arising under this article shall be without prejudice to any other possible sanction arising under the provisions of Title XVII of Book Third of this Code.

Sub-title V

OF THE WARRANT OF PROHIBITORY INJUNCTION

Object of warrant.
Amended by:
[VIII.1981.8](#);
[XXII.1995.320](#).
Substituted by:
[XIV.2006.102](#).

873. (1) The object of a warrant of prohibitory injunction is to restrain a person from doing anything whatsoever which might be prejudicial to the person suing out the warrant.

Inquiry of court.

(2) The court shall not issue any such warrant unless it is satisfied that such warrant is necessary in order to preserve any right of the person suing out the warrant, and that *prima facie* such person appears to possess such right.

(3) The court shall not issue any such warrant against the Government or authority established by the [Constitution](#) or any person holding a public office in his official capacity unless the authority or person against whom the warrant is demanded confirms in open court that the thing sought to be restrained is in fact intended to be done and the court is satisfied, after hearing the explanations given, that unless the warrant is issued the prejudice that would be caused to the person suing out the warrant would be disproportionate when compared with the actual doing of the thing sought to be restrained.

(4) If on an application, it is proved to the satisfaction of the court that subsequent to the issue of the warrant of prohibitory injunction the person restrained has acted directly or indirectly in breach of the court's order, the court shall, without prejudice to any other action competent to it at law, at a request of applicant, condemn the person against whom the warrant had been issued to

remedy what was committed in breach of its order and to authorise in default the applicant to carry out such remedial works as the court may direct at the expense of the person restrained.

874.* (1) A warrant of prohibitory injunction may also be demanded by a creditor to secure a debt or any other claim amounting to not less than eleven thousand six hundred and forty-seven euro (11,647). The object of such a warrant is to restrain the debtor from selling, alienating, transferring or disposing *inter vivos* such property as may be indicated in the application by onerous or gratuitous title or in any manner creating a burthen or real and, or personal rights; provided that such a warrant shall not apply to the constitution of any right on, or alienation or transfer of any property made pursuant to a court order, or over bank guarantees and letters of credit.

Warrant to secure debt or claim.
Substituted by:
[XIV.2006.102.](#)
Amended by:
[L.N. 407 of 2007](#);
[XII.2009.18](#);
[IV.2016.21.](#)

(2) Where a warrant prohibits the sale, alienation, transfer or other disposal of immovable property the application shall contain all the particulars relating to the person against whom it is directed that are required by law in respect of the registration of a transfer of immovable property by such person in the Public Registry. Where the warrant refers to specific immovables, the application shall describe them in the manner provided for in the [Public Registry Act](#), in respect of notes of enrolment, namely it shall apply with reference to the geographical data in question. Where the application refers to specific immovables it shall also be accompanied by a complete draft of the note of enrolment for filing in the Public Registry.

Cap. 56.

(3) The warrant referred to in sub-article (2) shall upon its issue and at the expense of the applicant, be served by the Registrar, within twenty-four hours, on the Director of the Public Registry and the Land Registrar or on such authority as may be nominated by the Minister responsible for justice, who shall forthwith register the same in books kept for the purpose. Such books shall be indexed and accessible to the public. It shall also be served upon any person indicated by the applicant.

(4) Upon registration of the warrant referred to in sub-article (2) by the Director of the Public Registry, any future sale, alienation, transfer or disposal of immovable property to which the warrant refers shall be void and to no effect.

(5) Without prejudice to the provisions of article 836, the warrant referred to in sub-article (2) shall, unless previously revoked or otherwise ceasing to be in force, continue to have effect for a period of one year from the date of final judgment in favour of the creditor in his action for the recovery of the debt or claim referred to in sub-article (1).

(6) Where a warrant prohibits the sale or transfer of the shares in a commercial partnership, notice shall also be served on the

*Legal Notice [42 of 2016](#), which brought into force amendments made to this article by article 21 of Act [IV of 2016](#), stated that the provisions of the said article 21 are to apply only to demands, for the issue of warrants, which are made after the 15th February, 2016.

Registrar of Companies and from the date of such service any transfer of shares shall be null.

(7) No action for damages shall lie against the Registrar for failure to comply with any of the provisions of this article except on the basis of wilful acts done in bad faith or of gross negligence.

Execution of
warrant.
Substituted by:
[XIV.2006.102.](#)
Amended by:
[XV.2008.20.](#)

875. (1) The application shall be served on the party against whom it is issued who shall file a reply thereto within ten days:

Provided that the court may, in urgent cases, reduce the said period in this sub-article. In default of opposition, the court may accede to the demand.

(2) The court may initially issue provisionally a warrant for a short period under such terms and conditions as it may deem necessary according to the case, and subsequently decide about the matter in a definitive manner.

(3) The court shall, after appointing the application for hearing, decide on its merits after receiving any evidence it deems fit, within the shortest time possible but not any later than one month from the day when the warrant had been filed and confirmed on oath and the parties have been duly notified.

Warrant in cases of
personal separation
or divorce.
Added by:
[XXI.1993.87.](#)
Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.321.](#)
Substituted by:
[XXXI.2002.185.](#)
Amended by:
[L.N. 218 of 2012.](#)

876. (1) Where a spouse has brought or intends to bring before the Civil Court, a suit for personal separation, the spouse may request such court to issue a warrant of prohibitory injunction:

- (a) against the other spouse restraining such other spouse from selling, alienating, transferring or disposing *inter vivos* whether by onerous or gratuitous title any shareholding in any commercial partnership if such shareholding is comprised in the community of acquests; or
- (b) against any commercial partnership in which the other spouse has a majority shareholding which pertains to the community of acquests from selling, alienating, transferring or otherwise disposing by onerous or gratuitous title, any immovable property or rights annexed thereto owned by that commercial partnership; or
- (c) against the other spouse from contracting any debt or suretyship which is a charge on the community of acquests.

(2) The demand referred to in sub-article (1) may be made at any time after filing the application before the Civil Court, and until final judgement has been given in any such action for separation or divorce. The demand may also be made where it is the other spouse who has made the said application.

(3) A warrant issued under this article shall not apply to the constitution of any right on, or alienation or transfer of any property made pursuant to any court order.

(4) When the warrant is duly served, any obligation referred to in sub-article (1)(c) contracted after such service by the spouse

against whom the warrant is issued in favour of the person served with the warrant shall be void and of no effect, and this without prejudice to any liability for contempt of court under this Code.

(5) The spouse against whom the warrant is issued as well as any partnership referred to in the warrant and any person showing an interest may at any time by application request the court to revoke or vary the warrant under this article.

876A. The provisions of articles 829 to 844 shall apply to the warrant of prohibitory injunction.

Applicability of certain articles.

Added by:

[*XIV.2006.102.*](#)

Amended by:

[*VII.2007.24.*](#)

877. (1) A warrant of prohibitory injunction may also be issued to restrain any person from taking any minor outside Malta.

Warrant to restrain a person from taking a minor outside Malta.

Added by:

[*XXIV.1995.322.*](#)

Amended by:

[*XXXI.2002.186;*](#)

[*XII.2009.19.*](#)

(2) The warrant shall be served on the person or persons having, or who might have, the legal or actual custody of the minor enjoining them not to take, or allow anyone to take, the minor, out of Malta.

(3) The warrant shall also be served on:

(a) the officer charged with the issue of passports enjoining him not to issue, and or deliver, any passport in respect of the minor and not to include the name of the minor in the passport of the minor's legal representatives or in the passport of any other person; and

(b) the Commissioner of Police enjoining him not to allow such minor to leave Malta.

(4) If, before the service of the warrant on the officer charged with the issue of passports, a passport in respect of the minor had already been issued or the name of the minor had already been included in the passport of another person, such officer shall take the necessary steps to withdraw the passport in respect of the minor, and of any other passport which includes the name of the minor, and to delete the name of the minor from such passport.

(5) The warrant shall contain the name and surname of the minor and any other particulars that may be established by regulations, so as to enable the persons served with the warrant to establish the identity of the minor.

Contents of warrant.

(6) Any person served with the warrant who, directly or indirectly, takes the minor, or allows the minor to be taken, out of Malta shall be guilty of contempt of court.

Contempt of court in case of breach.

(7) The warrant which has not ceased to be in force for other reasons, shall remain in force for one year to be reckoned from the day on which it was issued, unless within such time the person suing out the warrant shall have, upon an application to that effect, obtained an extension.

(8) Such extension may be granted more than once, but it may not be granted for more than one year each time.

(9) The decree allowing the extension shall state the date up to which the warrant shall remain in force.

(10) The decree allowing the extension shall be served on the persons mentioned in subsection (2) and (3).

(11) None of such persons shall incur any liability if, after the expiration of the said time, whether original or extended, and before the decree of any such extension has been served on him, he shall act as if the warrant had ceased to be in force.

(12) The absence of a demand for an extension shall not be a bar to the issue of a fresh warrant.

Repealed by:
[XII.1985.23.](#)

Sub-title VI

OF THE *MEDITATIO FUGAE* WARRANT

Articles 876 to 888, both inclusive, were repealed by Act No. [XII of 1985.](#)

Amended by:
IV.1868.12.

Title VII

OF THE PROTEST AND JUDICIAL LETTER

Protest and judicial letter.

Amended by:
IV.1868.13;
IX.1886.105.

889. (1) The object of a protest is to make a solemn intimation or declaration in order to place other parties in bad faith, or to preserve one's own rights.

(2) Nevertheless, where the law provides that such intimation or declaration is to be made by means of a judicial act without specifying the form thereof, the intimation or declaration may be made by means of a judicial letter.

(3) Where the law does not prescribe the manner in which such intimation or declaration is to be made, the intimation or declaration may be made orally.

Effect from date of service.

Amended by:
IV.1868.14.

890. The protest or judicial letter shall take effect from the day of the service thereof.

Act interrupting prescription to take effect from day of filing.

Amended by:
IV.1868.14.

891. (1) Nevertheless, where the protest or judicial letter is intended to interrupt the course of prescription, such protest or judicial letter shall take effect from the day on which it is filed, provided, if service is not effected within the eight days following, the party filing the protest or judicial letter makes a demand by an application for the publication in the Government Gazette of a notice, signed by the registrar, containing the substance of the act itself, and such notice is published in the Government Gazette within a month to be reckoned from the day on which the act is filed.

(2) Where the demand for the publication of the notice in the Government Gazette is not made in time for the publication thereof to take place on the day appointed by the Government for the ordinary publication of the Gazette, an issue of the Gazette containing the said notice shall be published as soon as possible, on another day, on the demand and at the expense of the party filing the protest or judicial letter.

(3) The provisions of this article shall also apply if the act interrupting the course of prescription is a warrant.

892. The *Cautio Angeli* is abolished.

Cautio Angeli.
Amended by:
IX.1886.106.

Title VIII OF SECURITY

893. Any security prescribed by law, or ordered by the court, or required in a lodgment schedule or in any other act, shall not, in contentious matters, be deemed to be sufficient for the purpose for which it is intended unless -

Security.

When deemed to
be sufficient.

- (a) the surety is accepted by the party concerned; or
- (b) the time within which the sufficiency of the surety may be impugned has elapsed and the party giving the security has passed on to further acts, or has insisted on obtaining the object for which the security was offered; or
- (c) the surety, if objected to, is declared to be sufficient by the court, on the demand of the party producing the surety against the party objecting; or
- (d) the surety is named in the judgment, schedule, or other act, ordering or requiring the security.

894. (1) Unless otherwise provided by law, the security is offered by means of a note or an application, stating the name, surname, profession, trade, or other status of the surety, his place of abode or his legally valid identification document number; such note or application shall be served on the parties concerned who shall, within a time to be fixed by the court according to the circumstances of each particular case, declare whether they accept or refuse the surety offered.

How security is
offered or objected
to.

Amended by:
XV.1913.160.
Substituted by:
XXIV.1995.323.
Amended by:
XXII.2005.69;
L.N. 426 of 2012.

(2) Objection against the surety may be entered by means of a note or in the answer to the application.

(3) If the security is offered in connection with proceedings taken by application, whether sworn or not, the surety may be named in the application, whether sworn or not.

895. (1) Where objection has been made to the sufficiency of the surety ordered or required for the withdrawal of the proceeds or of a portion of the proceeds of immovable property, the surety, unless such surety be a local bank or an insurance company locally represented, in each case approved by the court for the purpose,

Where objection is
made to
sufficiency of
surety.
Substituted by:
XII.1942.2.

shall not be declared sufficient unless it be shown on proceedings taken against the party objecting that he possesses immovable property in Malta sufficient to meet the debt or obligation for which he has made himself liable.

(2) Nevertheless, the party seeking to withdraw the said proceeds in whole or in part may, in lieu of producing the surety prescribed by law or ordered by the court or required in a lodgment schedule or in any other act, or, where the surety produced has been objected to, in lieu of finding a new surety, demand that an advocate be appointed by the court at his own expense and subject to such other conditions as the court may in its discretion impose, in order that he may investigate the title to the property sold and to report whether there is any reasonable ground to fear that the purchaser might be evicted or molested in the quiet enjoyment of the property, and in any such case, if the advocate's report shows to the satisfaction of the court that the title to the property is a good title and that there is no reasonable ground to fear that the purchaser might be evicted or molested in the quiet enjoyment of the property, the court shall, after hearing the purchaser, order that the hypothecation made by the party seeking the withdrawal of the proceeds, even if such party does not own immovable property, shall in itself be sufficient security for the recovery of the proceeds, regardless of any conditions originally imposed for such withdrawal.

(3) Where the surety required is not in respect of the proceeds of immovable property, it shall be lawful for the court on proof being made to its satisfaction to declare the proposed surety to be sufficient surety without the necessity of his having immovable property.

Security for
judicial costs.
Amended by:
IX.1886.108;
XV.1913.161.

896. (1) Security for judicial costs shall not be required, except where prescribed by this Code.

Judicial costs to
include registry
fees.

(2) Judicial costs shall also include the fees due to the registry.

Objection to
security.

(3) The security given may be objected to both by the registrar and the opposite party.

Form of objection.
Amended by:
XV.1913.162.
Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.324.](#)

897. Any objection to the security for costs shall be made by the opposite party in the answer or, in the case of counter-claims, in the reply. Such objection may also be made by means of a protest, provided that such protest is filed, in regard to actions before a court of first instance, within the time allowed for the answer, or in cases of a counter-claim, within the time allowed for the reply.

Protest not to
suspend running of
time for filing
pleadings.

898. The protest referred to in the last preceding article shall not operate so as to suspend the running of the time prescribed for the filing of any written pleading.

899. Where the time allowed for the filing of any written pleading has been enlarged or where contumacy has been cleared, the time within which objection to the security for costs may be taken as provided in article 897 shall in no case be deemed to be thereby enlarged or granted anew.

Enlargement of time for filing pleading, etc., not to imply enlargement of time for objecting to security.

900. (1) Where objection to the security for costs is regularly taken, the party giving the security shall be notified thereof; and before the cause is set down on the list for hearing, he shall either produce a fresh security, or file an application demanding that the security already offered be approved, or that he be admitted to the juratory caution if such caution is admissible.

Objection to be notified to party giving security. Party to give fresh security, etc.
Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.325.](#)

(2) Any fresh security shall be notified as aforesaid, and objection thereto may also be taken in the first act filed by the party objecting within the time allowed for the filing of such act, or by a protest, within a time corresponding to the time referred to in article 897.

Fresh security to be notified to party objecting.

901. The disallowing of the demand contained in the application referred to in the last preceding article, shall not operate so as to bar the production of a fresh security; but such security may always be objected to within the said time, after notice thereof has been duly given to the parties concerned.

Fresh security admissible, if previous security declared insufficient.
Amended by:
[XXI.V.1995.326.](#)

902. (1) Where objection to the security for costs is taken after the cause is set down on the list for hearing, or where such objection is notified less than two days before the cause is so set down, the party giving the security may, on the day appointed for the hearing, demand orally that he be allowed to prove, before the commencement of the hearing, the sufficiency of the surety.

Where objection is taken after cause is set down for hearing.

(2) Where the time for taking objection to the surety expires after the cause is set down on the list for hearing, the objection may be taken orally before the commencement of the hearing, and in such case the party giving the security may demand that he be allowed the time of at least two days in order to prove the sufficiency of the surety.

Where time for objecting expires after cause is set down for hearing.

(3) In either case, failing such proof, the provisions contained in articles 200 to 209 inclusive, shall be observed.

Where party giving security fails to prove sufficiency of security.

903. Where objection to the security for costs is taken by the registrar, such objection shall be made by a protest within the time referred to in articles 897 and 900:

Objection to security by registrar.
Added by:
[XV.1913.163.](#)

Provided that in the cases referred to in the last preceding article, the objection shall be made orally, as provided in sub-article (2) of that article.

904. (1) It shall be lawful to admit the plaintiff or appellant to juratory caution, if he shows *prima facie a probabilis causa litigandi* and swears that he was unable to raise such security as is required by law.

Juratory caution.
Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.327.](#)

(2) It shall be lawful for the court at the hearing of the

application for the juratory caution, to proceed to hear the merits in so far as the same might bear on the issue as to the juratory caution.

Special rules
respecting security.
Amended by:
XV.1913.164;
L.N. 148 of 1975.

905. In the absence of any special provisions to the contrary in regard to security, the following rules shall be observed:

- (a) the Government of Malta is exempt from giving any security whatsoever prescribed or required;
 - (b) churches or other pious institutions or bodies corporate may, in matters in which they are concerned, and after having obtained the requisite authority, give a hypothecary security affecting property belonging to them, in lieu of any other security prescribed or required;
 - (c) in the case of a deposit representing the proceeds of a sale of immovable property, the person applying for the withdrawal of such deposit may be allowed to give a hypothecary security on his own property, if he shows to the full satisfaction of the court, in proceedings taken against the party in whose favour the security is prescribed or required, that he possesses sufficient immovable property, situate in Malta, to safeguard the interest to be secured; the costs of such proceedings shall be borne by the plaintiff, saving his right, if any, to recover them from any person liable therefor;
 - (d) if a surety after being accepted becomes insolvent, another shall be produced;
 - (e)
 - (i) the surety shall enter into a bail-bond in the registry of the competent court;
 - (ii) a bail-bond shall also be entered into by the principal debtor where he is required expressly to bind himself, even in the case of a juratory caution or a hypothecary security;
 - (iii) in either case the obligation on the bond may be enforced by personal arrest;
 - (f) it shall be lawful for the surety, at any time, to release himself from his obligation, by substituting another sufficient security;
 - (g) any person interested may cause the said obligations, as well as the hypothecary security referred to in paragraphs (b) and (c), to be registered in the Public Registry.
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Title IX
OF DISCONTINUANCE

906. (1) Any of the parties may, by means of a note signed by him or his advocate, at any stage of the trial before definitive judgment is given, withdraw the acts filed by him.

Withdrawal of acts.
Amended by:
[XXVII.1979.20](#);
[XXIV.1995.328](#).

(2) If on the day appointed for the trial as stated in article 152, the notice mentioned in article 152(2) was not served upon him, his advocate or his legal procurator, and the failure of service has persisted for more than one month from the date first set for the trial, the court shall adjourn the case *sine die*.

907. (1) The withdrawal produces the same effects as desertion.

Effect of withdrawal.
Amended by:
[IX.1886.109](#).

(2) The party discontinuing the action shall pay the costs of the proceedings, and he may not commence another action for the same cause before he has actually paid such costs to the other party.

Payment of costs before institution of fresh action.

908. Where the withdrawal is not unconditional, it shall be lawful for the other party not to accept it and to insist that the action be proceeded with and determined.

Conditional withdrawal.
Amended by:
[IX.1886.109](#).

909. If the party discontinuing the action desires to commence another action for the same cause, any of the exhibits or any other evidence produced by him in the former proceedings, shall at his request be inserted in the record of the new action; and where the new action is, or has been instituted in another court, any such exhibits or any other evidence shall, upon a demand to that effect by an application, be forwarded to such other court.

Annexing of exhibits to fresh record.
Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.329](#).

910. Where several parties having the same interest have entered an appeal against a judgment and some of the parties have discontinued their appeal, it shall not be lawful for the other parties continuing the appeal to demand, in the same proceedings, the adjudication in their favour of the shares of the parties discontinuing the appeal in addition to what they have originally claimed.

Effect of discontinuance of appeal by some of the co-appellants.

Title X
OF THE ADMISSION TO SUE OR DEFEND WITH THE
BENEFIT OF LEGAL AID

Substituted by:
[XXIII.1971.38](#).

911. (1) The demand for admission to sue or defend with the benefit of legal aid in any court mentioned in articles 3 and 4, in any arbitration which is compulsory by law and before any other adjudicating authority where the benefit of legal aid is by law granted, shall be made by application to the Civil Court, First Hall.

Benefit of legal aid.
Amended by:
[XXXI.1934.76](#);
[XXIII.1971.39](#);
[VIII.1990.3](#).
Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.330](#).

(2) Nevertheless, such demand may also be made orally to the Advocate for Legal Aid.

Amended by:
[III.2002.158](#);
[IX.2004.9](#).

(3) The decree granting the benefit shall apply to all the courts

and adjudicating authorities mentioned in sub-article (1).

(4) The Advocate for Legal Aid shall render his professional services to persons whom he considers would be entitled to the benefit of legal aid, and prior to their obtaining such benefit, prepare and file all judicial acts, which may be of an urgent matter. The following procedure shall be followed:

- (a) the Advocate for Legal Aid, shall file an application in the competent court in his own name requesting that he be authorised to file specific judicial acts, on behalf of a person or persons claiming the benefit for legal aid as he considers the matter urgent;
- (b) the competent court shall, in such an event, allow such request unless there are serious reasons to the contrary;
- (c) the Advocate for Legal Aid, after the judicial acts are allowed to be filed, shall then follow the normal procedure leading to the appointment or otherwise of an advocate and legal procurator *ex officio* as provided in this Title:

Provided that if the Civil Court, First Hall, shall subsequently exclude the benefit of legal aid, this shall not produce the nullity of any judicial act filed with such benefit but shall merely terminate for the future the benefit of legal aid given as aforesaid, and the court may order that the person deprived of such benefit pay all costs incurred.

(5) The Minister responsible for justice shall provide such facilities as are necessary for the proper administration of the benefit of legal aid.

(6) There shall be an Advocate for Legal Aid and the expression "Advocate for Legal Aid" in this Code or in any other law includes any other lawyer, officer or public officer designated by the Minister responsible for justice to perform, under the guidance of the Advocate for Legal Aid, any function pertaining to the Advocate of Legal Aid or to the administration of the benefit of legal aid.

Conditions for admission to the benefit of legal aid.

Amended by:

IX.1886.111;

XVI.1922.6;

XXXI.1934.77.

Substituted by:

XXIII.1971.40.

Amended by:

XIII.1983.5.

Substituted by:

XXIV.1995.331.

Amended by:

IV.1996.12;

L.N. 407 of 2007;

VIII.2022.2.

912. No demand as is mentioned in article 911 shall be granted unless the applicant confirms on oath, in the case of an application, before the registrar, and in the case of an oral demand, before the Advocate for Legal Aid:

- (a) that he believes that he has reasonable grounds for taking or defending, continuing or being a party to proceedings; and
- (b) that excluding the subject-matter of the proceedings, he does not possess property of any sort, the net value whereof amounts to, or exceeds, thirteen thousand euro (€13,000), or such other sum as the Minister responsible for justice may from time to time by order in the Gazette establish, not including everyday household items that are considered reasonably

necessary for the use by applicant and his family, and that his yearly income is not more than the national minimum wage established for persons of eighteen years and over, or such other sum as the Minister responsible for justice may from time to time by order in the Gazette establish:

Provided that in calculating the said net asset value, no account shall be taken of the principal residence of applicant or of any other property, immovable or movable, which forms the subject matter of court proceedings, even though such other property is not the subject-matter of the proceedings in respect of which legal aid is being applied for:

Provided further that in calculating the said net asset value, account shall be taken of the rent paid for the property used as the main residence, upon presentation of a registered contract according to law and relevant payment receipts; and account shall be taken of the maintenance paid to the other spouse and children, issued by a Court order, upon presentation of relevant evidence of payment:

Provided further that in calculating the income, the period of computation shall be the twelve months' period prior to the demand for the benefit of legal aid.

913. (1) The provisions of the last preceding article shall not apply to the granting of legal aid to any person for bringing an action for the correction or cancellation of any registration, or for the registration, of any act of birth, marriage or death.

Non-applicability
of s. 912.
Added by:
[XL1980.4.](#)

(2) Where any such action is disallowed the court shall deprive of such benefit the person admitted to proceed with the benefit of legal aid and, unless it sees good cause to the contrary, order him to pay all costs of the suit.

914. (1) Where the demand is made by an application, the Civil Court, First Hall, shall refer the application to the Advocate for Legal Aid who shall summarily examine the demand and report to the Civil Court, First Hall, whether the applicant has reasonable grounds for taking or defending proceedings, and where the demand is made orally to the Advocate for Legal Aid, he shall proceed directly with such examination and report:

Examination of
demand for benefit
of legal aid by
Advocate for Legal
Aid.
Amended by:
[IX.1886.112;](#)
[XXXI.1934.78;](#)
[XXIII.1971.41;](#)
[XXIV.1995.332.](#)

Provided that no such examination shall be necessary where the demand for admission to the benefit of legal aid is made by the defendant in first instance or the respondent in second instance, and such defendant or respondent shall always be admitted to defend with such benefit upon taking the oath prescribed in article 912.

(2) Where the defendant desires to set up a counter-claim against the plaintiff, the said examination shall be made in regard to such counter-claim.

Examination of
counter-claim.

Summoning of witnesses to be examined by Advocate for Legal Aid.

(3) Where the Advocate for Legal Aid deems it necessary to examine witnesses, he shall apply to the Civil Court, First Hall, for such witnesses to be summoned to attend before him.

Subpoena issued free of charge.

(4) The writ of subpoena to such witnesses shall be issued free of charge.

Administering of oath to witnesses.

(5) The Advocate for Legal Aid, before taking the evidence of the witnesses, shall administer the oath to them.

Where witnesses fail to attend.

(6) Should any witness, duly summoned, fail to attend, the Civil Court, First Hall, shall, on the report in writing of the Advocate for Legal Aid, proceed in the manner provided in article 575.

Notice of demand to opposite party.
Amended by:
IX.1886.113;
XXXI.1934.79;
XXIII.1971.42;
XXIV.1995.333.

915. *Repealed by: IX.2004.10.*

Enlargement of time for report of advocate for Legal Aid.

916. Where in any particular case, the character of the examination to be made by the Advocate for Legal Aid is such as to require a longer period of time, he shall make an application to the Civil Court, First Hall, and the court may grant such extension of the time as it may deem necessary.

Amended by:
XXIII.1971.43;
XXIV.1995.334.

Decree allowing or rejecting demand for legal aid.

917. If the report of the Advocate for Legal Aid is in favour of the applicant, the latter shall be admitted to the benefit applied for; but if the report is unfavourable, it shall be examined by the Civil Court, First Hall, which shall give the parties the opportunity to make their submissions, before it decides on whether to accept the adverse report, or to reject the report and admit the demand.

Amended by:
XXIII.1971.44.
Substituted by:
XXIV.1995.335.

Advocate and legal procurator to be assigned to person with benefit of legal aid.

918. The Civil Court, First Hall, shall assign to the party admitted to proceed with the benefit of legal aid the advocate and the legal procurator whose turn it is according to the rota referred to in article 91, and it shall be lawful for such party for a good cause, to request the court, through the Advocate for Legal Aid, to substitute the advocate or legal procurator by another advocate or legal procurator from the rota:

Amended by:
XXIII.1971.45;
XXIV.1995.336.

Provided that if the party is admitted to appeal with the benefit of legal aid from a judgment of first instance, he shall continue to be served by the advocate and legal procurator assigned to him as aforesaid.

When party may not be admitted to proceed with the benefit of legal aid.
Amended by:
XXIII.1971.46.

919. (1) A person shall not be admitted to proceed with the benefit of legal aid -

- (a) where in the same cause and by the same court a demand made by such party for admission to the juratory caution or any other benefit whatsoever has been disallowed for want of a *probabilis causa litigandi* on the part of the applicant in respect of the action which he intends to prosecute; or
- (b) where in regard to the same action, such party has

already been by the same court refused admission to proceed with the benefit of legal aid for want of a *probabilis causa litigandi*.

(2) The provisions of this article shall apply so long as the circumstances relating to the absence of a *probabilis causa litigandi* remain the same.

920. (1) The person admitted to proceed with the benefit of legal aid shall be exempt from the payment of all fees and from giving security for costs; but the plaintiff, or the defendant setting up a counter-claim, as the case may be, shall give a juratory caution to pay the costs, if able to do so, to the opposite party, in case it shall be so adjudged.

Person with benefit of legal aid to be exempt from payment of fees, etc.
Amended by:
XXIII.1971.47.

(2) Where the party proceeding with the benefit of legal aid is cast in costs, it shall in no case be lawful for the registrar to claim from the successful party the fees due to the registry.

Where party proceeding with the benefit of legal aid is cast in costs.

921. If the party admitted to proceed with the benefit of legal aid succeeds in the action, he shall, out of the amount obtained or out of the proceeds of the judicial sale by auction of the movable or immovable property effected in pursuance of the judgment, pay the fees due to the registry, advocate, legal procurator and to the curators and referees, if any, saving his right of reimbursement as against the party who may have been ordered to pay such fees.

Where party proceeding with the benefit of legal aid succeeds in his action.
Amended by:
XXIII.1971.48.

922. (1) All acts filed by the party proceeding with the benefit of legal aid shall be null if they are not in accordance with the terms of the admission to such benefit.

Nullity of acts not in accordance with terms of admission.
Amended by:
IX.1886.114;
XXXI.1934.80;
XXIII.1971.49.

(2) Nevertheless, it shall be lawful for the advocate assigned to the party admitted to proceed with the benefit of legal aid to bring the action in a manner different from the terms of the admission, if he deems it expedient so to do in the interest of such party, provided he shall not substantially alter the claims admitted in the report of the Advocate for Legal Aid.

Advocate may bring action in a manner different from terms of admission.

923. (1) The Civil Court, First Hall, shall deprive of such benefit the person admitted to proceed with the benefit of legal aid if it is shown that he possesses capital or income exceeding that established for the grant of legal aid.

Where person may be deprived of benefit.
Amended by:
XVI.1922.5;
XXIII.1971.50;
XIII.1983.5.
Substituted by:
XXIV.1995.337.

(2) If it is shown that he knowingly possessed such capital or income at the time the benefit of legal aid was granted or that he knowingly had an increase in his financial circumstances *pendente lite* thereby possessing such capital or income in excess of that established for the grant of legal aid and had failed to report the same to the Civil Court, First Hall, then it shall be lawful for the said court to condemn him for contempt of court:

Person deprived of benefit may be guilty of contempt of court.

Provided that no contempt proceedings shall be taken by

the said court if such a person is liable to legal proceedings for perjury, and the said court has ordered that he be forthwith arrested, and that a copy of the acts be transmitted without delay, through the registrar, to the Court of Magistrates in order that proceedings may be taken according to law.

(3) The Civil Court, First Hall, shall also deprive the applicant of such benefit if he is proceeding vexatiously.

(4) In all cases in which the applicant for the benefit of legal aid has been deprived of such benefit, he shall be liable personally for all the costs of the proceedings to which he would have been liable if the benefit of legal aid had not been granted to him.

Penalty for advocate or legal procurator refusing his aid without just cause.

Amended by:
XXIII.1971.51;
XXIV.1995.338.

Duties of advocate or legal procurator.

Amended by:
XXIII.1971.52.
Substituted by:
XXIV.1995.339.
Amended by:
XXII.2005.70;
VII.2007.25.

924. If the advocate or legal procurator assigned to the person admitted to the benefit of legal aid, without good cause, refuses to undertake or continue the case, it shall be lawful for the Civil Court, First Hall, to sentence such advocate or legal procurator to pay the expenses necessary for the suit, or order him to undertake or continue the case under pain of interdiction from the exercise of his profession for a period not exceeding one month.

925. (1) The advocate or legal procurator assigned to the person admitted to the benefit of legal aid shall:

- (a) act in the best interest of the person admitted to the benefit of legal aid, and may not demand any form of payment from that party;
- (b) appear in court when the case of the person admitted to the benefit of legal aid is called;
- (c) make the necessary submissions and file the requisite notes, applications, replies, notices, applications, and other written pleadings as circumstances require.

(2) The advocate or legal procurator shall remain responsible for a cause assigned to him as aforesaid, until the same has been finally disposed of, even though the period of his appointment may have expired.

Companies not entitled to legal aid.

Added by:
XXIII.1971.53.
Amended by:
L.N. 148 of 1975;
XIII.1983.5.
Repealed by:
XXIV.1995.340.
Added by:
VII.2007.26.
Cap. 386.

926. Companies registered under the Companies Act shall not be entitled to the benefit of legal aid.

Demand and grant of benefit of legal aid.

Added by:
XXIII.1971.53.

927. *Repealed by: XXIV.1995.340.*

928. Repealed by: [XXIV.1995.340.](#)

Applicability of preceding articles.
Added by:
[XXIII.1971.53.](#)

Title X A

Added by:
[L.N. 342 of 2005.](#)

OF LEGAL AID (CROSS-BORDER DISPUTES)

928A. For the purposes of this Title:

Interpretation.

"cross-border dispute" means a dispute where the party applying for legal aid in the context of the Directive is domiciled or is habitually resident, as determined by Article 59 of [Council Regulation \(EC\) No. 44 of 2001](#), in a Member State other than Malta or where the decision is to be enforced, with the exception of disputes relating to maintenance obligations;

Added by:
[L.N. 342 of 2005;](#)
Amended by:
[L.N. 45 of 2019](#)

"the Directive" means the provisions of [Council Directive 2002/8/EC](#) of the 27th January, 2003 to improve access to justice in cross-border disputes by establishing minimum common rules relating to legal aid for such disputes;

"Member State" means any State referred to in the definition "the Treaty" contained in article 2(1) of the [European Union Act](#), excluding Denmark.

Cap. 460.

928B. (1) Legal aid shall be granted to the applicants involved in a cross-border dispute who are, partially or totally, unable to meet the costs of the proceedings as a result of their economic situation.

Right to legal aid.
Added by:
[L.N. 342 of 2005.](#)

(2) Applicants who have received legal aid in a Member State other than Malta in respect of proceedings before a court in that other Member State shall be entitled to receive legal aid in Malta if recognition or enforcement of the judgement is sought in Malta.

(3) Legal aid applies to:

- (a) pre-litigation advice with the aim of reaching a settlement prior to instituting legal proceedings;
- (b) legal assistance and representation in court, even at the appeal stage, with or without the cost of proceedings of the recipient;
- (c) the costs of the opposing party had the recipient lost the case and would be so obliged to pay such costs if he were domiciled or habitually resident in the Member State in which the court is sitting;
- (d) the enforcement of authentic instruments in another Member State;
- (e) extrajudicial procedures under the conditions defined in the Directive if there is a legal requirement for the parties to use them or if the parties to the dispute are ordered by the court to have recourse to them.

(4) Legal aid shall be granted or refused by the competent authority when the Court is sitting in Malta and by the competent

authority of the Member State other than Malta when the Court is sitting outside Malta.

(5) Without prejudice to sub-article (4), legal aid applicants may not be prevented from legal aid if they prove that they are unable to pay the cost of the proceedings as a result of differences in the cost of living between the Member State of domicile or habitual residence and of the forum.

Appointment of the competent authority.
Added by:
L.N. 342 of 2005.

928C. For the purposes of the Directive, the competent authority in Malta is the Advocate for Legal Aid as defined in article 911(6).

Functions of the competent authority.
Added by:
L.N. 342 of 2005.

928D. It shall be the duty of the competent authority:

- (a) to act as a receiving or transmitting authority for legal aid applications;
- (b) to assist the applicant in ensuring that the application is accompanied by all the supporting documents known by such applicant to be required to enable the application to be determined;
- (c) as a transmitting authority, to assist the applicant in providing the translation of the application and of the necessary supporting documents when the application is submitted to the authorities in another Member State;
- (d) as a receiving authority, to assess the economic situation of a person in the light of the provisions of article 912, including the amount of the resources of persons who are financially dependent on the applicant;
- (e) to grant or refuse legal aid;
- (f) to consider, when taking a decision on the merits of an application, and without prejudice to paragraph (d), the importance of the individual case to the applicant, and may also take into account the nature of the case when the applicant is claiming damage to his or her reputation but has suffered no material or financial loss, or when the application concerns a claim arising directly out of the applicant's trade or self-employed profession;
- (g) to keep the applicant informed with the processing of the application, and where the application is totally or partially rejected, to give reasons for the rejection;
- (h) to decide whether recipients of legal aid must refund in whole or in part the assistance granted if their financial situation has substantially improved or if the decision to grant legal aid had been taken on the basis of inaccurate information given by the recipient and to collect any reimbursement so due.

928E. (1) Legal aid applications by persons who are domiciled or habitually resident in Malta may be submitted either:

Procedure.
Added by:
L.N. [342 of 2005](#).

- (a) to the competent authority in Malta hereinafter referred to as "the transmitting authority"; or
- (b) to the competent authority of the Member State in which the court is sitting or where the decision is to be enforced, hereinafter referred to as "the receiving authority".

(2) Legal aid applications shall be completed in accordance with such forms as may be prescribed by the Minister responsible for justice by Order in the Gazette.

(3) The competent authority in Malta may decide to refuse to transmit an application to the receiving authority of another Member State if it is manifestly:

- (a) unfounded; or
- (b) outside the scope of the Directive.

When an application for transmission is totally or partially rejected, the reasons for rejection shall be given, and the provisions of article 917 shall apply.

(4) Without prejudice to sub-article (3), when the competent authority in Malta receives a request for legal aid in relation to proceedings which are being heard before a court in a Member State other than Malta, it shall transmit the application to the competent receiving authority in the other Member State within fifteen days of the receipt of the application duly completed in one of the languages of the Member State of the competent receiving authority, and the supporting documents translated, where necessary, into one of those languages.

(5) Applicants for legal aid shall be fully informed of the processing of the application.

(6) Where the competent authority in Malta refuses to grant legal aid, it shall inform the applicant of the reasons for rejection, and the provisions of article 917 shall apply.

928F. (1) Legal aid granted by the competent authority in Malta when it is acting as a receiving authority shall cover the following costs:

Costs.
Added by:
L.N. [342 of 2005](#).

- (a) interpretation;
- (b) translation of documents required by the court or by the competent authority and presented to the recipient, which are necessary for the resolution of the case;
- (c) travel costs to be borne by the applicant where the physical presence of the persons concerned with the presentation of the applicant's case is required in court, and the court is satisfied that the persons concerned cannot be heard to the satisfaction of the court by any other means.

(2) Legal aid granted by the competent authority in Malta when

it is acting as a transmitting authority shall cover the following costs:

- (a) costs relating to the assistance of a local lawyer or another person entitled to give legal advice, incurred by the competent authority until the application for legal aid has been received in the Member State where the court is sitting;
- (b) the translation of the application and of the necessary supporting documents when the application is submitted to the authorities of that Member State where the court is sitting.

Other costs.
Added by:
L.N. [342 of 2005](#).

928G. Costs related to the translation of the application and supporting documents incurred by the competent authority following an application for legal aid by a person domiciled or habitually resident in Malta shall be repaid to the competent authority if the application is rejected by the competent authority of the Member State other than Malta where the Court is sitting.

Miscellaneous.
Added by:
L.N. [342 of 2005](#).

928H. Documents transmitted by the competent authority shall be exempt from legislation or other similar formality.

Added by:
L.N. [45 of 2019](#)

Title X B
OF LEGAL AID IN CROSS-BORDER DISPUTES RELATING TO
MAINTENANCE OBLIGATIONS

Interpretation.

928I. (1) For the purposes of this Title:

S.L. 460.25

"Central Authority" means the Director as designated pursuant to International Maintenance Obligations Order or such other authority as the Minister may by notice designate from time to time;

"Contracting State" means a Member State of the European Union or a Contracting State to the Convention, as the case may be;

"the Convention" means the Hague Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance concluded on the 23rd November 2007;

"creditor" means any individual to whom maintenance is owed or is alleged to be owed;

"decision" means a decision in matters relating to maintenance obligations given by a court of a Contracting State, whatever the decision may be called, including a decree, order, judgment or writ of execution, as well as a decision by an officer of the court determining the costs or expenses;

"the Regulation" means Council Regulation (EC) No 4/2009 of 18 December 2008 on jurisdiction, applicable law, recognition and enforcement of decisions and cooperation in matters relating to

maintenance obligations;

"requested Contracting State" means the Contracting State whose Central Authority receives an application pursuant to Chapter VII of the Regulation or pursuant to Chapter III of the Convention;

"requesting Contracting State" means the Contracting State whose Central Authority transmits an application pursuant to Chapter VII of the Regulation or pursuant to Chapter III of the Convention'.

(2) For the purposes of this Title, the term 'court' includes the administrative authorities of the Contracting States with competence in matters relating to maintenance obligations pursuant to the Regulation or the Convention, as the case may be

928J. (1) An application for legal aid made by a party to a dispute covered by the Regulation or the Convention who is resident in Malta, being the requesting Contracting State, shall be submitted to the Central Authority which shall transmit such application to the Central Authority of the requested Contracting State.

Application for
Legal aid.

(2) Where an applicant for legal aid who is a party to a dispute covered by the Regulation or the Convention is resident in another Contracting State, being the requesting Contracting State, the Central Authority shall receive and transmit such application to the Advocate for Legal Aid.

928K. The Advocate for Legal Aid and the Registrar, as applicable, shall waive all fees pertaining to the provision of the assistance referred to in Article 45 of the Regulation, including in relation to the filing of any act, in respect of any application made by a creditor under Article 56 of the Regulation or under Chapter III of the Convention, concerning maintenance obligations arising from a parent-child relationship towards a person under the age of 21:

Waiver of fees.

Provided that, in relation to applications other than those for the recognition or recognition and declaration of enforceability of decisions, or for the enforcement of decisions given or recognised in Malta as the requested Contracting State, the Advocate for Legal Aid and, or the Registrar may refuse to apply this Article if they consider that, on the merits, the application or any appeal or review is manifestly unfounded:

Provided further that where an applicant as referred to in this article, having received free legal aid, is unsuccessful in the case, the Advocate for Legal Aid and the Registrar shall be entitled to recover the expenses so waived, insofar as the applicant's financial situation so permits.

Title XI

OF CURATORS

Where curators are to be appointed in superior courts or Gozo court in superior jurisdiction.

Amended by:
[XXIII.1971.54;](#)
[XY.1983.11;](#)
[VII.1990.3;](#)
[XXIV.1995.341;](#)
[II.2012.11.](#)

929. Besides the cases where by express provision of this Code the appointment of curators is necessary, the court shall also appoint curators to appear in and defend proceedings in any of the superior courts or in the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) in its superior jurisdiction -

- (a) in the interest of any absent person or minor not legally represented, or person with a mental disorder or other condition, which renders him incapable of managing his own affairs, or person interdicted or any person uncertain who is entitled to succeed to an entail or to any vacant inheritance not legally represented or any person who may in future be entitled to succeed to such entail or inheritance; or
- (b) in the interest of any person not known to be living or presumed to be dead, where, for the purposes of any action, it is necessary judicially to call upon such person; or
- (c) in the interest of any person presumed to be dead, where any other person claims to succeed to the rights of such person; or
- (d) in the interest of any commercial partnership registered or established under the [Commercial Partnerships Ordinance](#)* or any other law substituting the same Ordinance or any body of persons or other organization if the person or any of the persons vested with the representation thereof is or are absent from Malta or where there is or are no such person or persons, or enough persons vested with such representation.

Cap. 168.

Appointment of curators before or in the course of proceedings.

930. (1) The curators shall be appointed by the competent court on a demand made by an application filed together with the act whereby the action is commenced; in any such case the names of the curators shall not be stated in the act whereby the action is commenced, and it shall be the duty of the registrar, upon the appointment of the curators, to insert the names of such curators in the act before giving course thereto.

(2) Curators may also be appointed on an application *pendente lite* or even on a verbal demand made during the hearing of the suit, where the appointment of curators becomes necessary after the commencement of the suit.

(3) The filing of any such application shall suspend the course of any time respecting the acts of procedure.

*Repealed by Act [XXV of 1995](#) (Cap. 386).

931. (1) The court, upon making an order for the appointment of curators, shall issue banns to be posted up at the entrance of the building in which the court sits.

Issue of banns.
Posting up and
service of banns.
Substituted by:
[XXI.1983.12.](#)
Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.342.](#)

(2) A copy of the banns together with a copy of the pleading or a summary thereof shall be served on one of the persons most closely related to the person to be represented or in respect of whose inheritance the appointment of curators is demanded, and where no relations are known, such copy shall be served on some other person known to be or have been a friend of the person concerned.

(3) Where no relation or friend as is mentioned in sub-article (2) is known to the person demanding the appointment of curators, the court may order that instead of the service mentioned in sub-article (2) a copy of the banns together with a copy of the pleading or a summary thereof be published in the Government Gazette and in at least two daily newspapers at the expense of the applicant.

932. (1) The banns shall contain an indication of the demand for the appointment of curators and of the order of the court, together with an intimation that any person willing to accept the appointment is to appear, within six days in the registry and declare his acceptance by means of a note.

Contents of banns.
Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.343.](#)

(2) There shall also be stated in the banns that, in default of any such declaration, the court shall proceed to appoint official curators.

933. Where any person appears and, by a note signed by him, offers to accept the appointment, it shall be lawful for the court, if it deems it for the benefit of the interest to be represented, to confirm as curator the person so appearing.

Confirmation as
curator of person
offering to accept
appointment.

934. If no person appears within the said time of six days, or if the court does not confirm the person appearing, the court shall appoint as curators an advocate and a legal procurator from those on the rota mentioned in article 91.

Appointment of
official curators.
Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.343.](#)

935. The person appearing to the banns, if confirmed as curator, shall not be entitled to the reimbursement of the expenses, except where a favourable judgment is obtained with costs.

Person confirmed
as curator not
entitled to
expenses.

936. (1) The curators are bound to use their best diligence for the benefit of the interest which they represent. The duties of the curators shall include the following:

Duties of curators.
Substituted by:
[XXIV.1995.344.](#)

- (a) to fully inquire as to the rights of the persons whom they represent and to identify these rights;
- (b) to take all the necessary measures to safeguard the aforesaid rights;
- (c) to contact forthwith the person or persons whom they represent, if the address is known; if unknown, they are to take all possible measures to find out their address including that of publishing, with the authority of the court, a notice in a newspaper of the place where last known;

- (d) to inform the person or persons whom they represent of any judicial act and of the contents thereof;
- (e) to obtain all the necessary information to defend the interests of the person or persons whom they represent;
- (f) to continue looking after the interests of the person or persons whom they represent with regard to pending matters although the period of appointment under articles 89 or 90 may have expired; and
- (g) to keep the court regularly informed of all actions taken in the execution of their duties.

(2) The curators shall be liable for damages and interest which may be occasioned by their negligence.

Duties of legal procurator appointed as curator.

937. The legal procurator appointed to act as curator shall obtain for the advocate such information as to facts as the advocate shall require, file the written pleadings, be present at the hearing, and afford all other necessary assistance to the advocate.

Fees due to official curators.
Amended by:
IX.1886.115.
Substituted by:
XXIV.1995.345.

938. The curators appointed from the rota shall, respectively, be entitled to the necessary expenses incurred by them and to such fees as according to the tariffs in Schedule A annexed to this Code are generally due to the advocate and the legal procurator in a cause:

Provided that the court may at the request of the curator order that a provisional sum be paid on account and in advance to the curator by the person requesting the appointment of such curator to cover expenses which the curator indicates that he would be incurring:

Provided further that where the court removes a curator in case of misconduct or negligence according to the provisions of article 96, the court shall order that no fees as aforesaid be paid to the curator or that only a specified portion thereof be paid, without prejudice to any other right competent to the person he was representing for damages suffered.

Appointment as curators of persons expert in the subject-matter of the curatorship.

939. Where the curator is to be entrusted with the charge of ships or merchandise, the court shall appoint as curator a person who is skilled in the matter for which the appointment is sought, but if any action shall arise, the court shall, in addition to such curator, appoint one of the advocates on the rota mentioned in article 91.

Appointment of curators *ad litem* in inferior courts.
Amended by:
XV.1913.165;
VIII.1990.3.

940. In the Court of Magistrates (Malta) and in the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) in its inferior jurisdiction, the appointment of curators *ad litem* shall be made on the verbal demand of the party, observing the procedure laid down in articles 931, 932 and 933.

Power of court.
Amended by:
IX.1886.116.

941. Where, in the cases referred to in the last preceding article, no person voluntarily appears to assume the curatorship, or the court does not deem it proper to confirm the person appearing, the court shall appoint as curator an advocate or a legal procurator even though not on the rota mentioned in article 91.

942. The procedure prescribed in this Title shall also apply where the occasion for appointing curators arises before a court of second instance or on a new trial.

Procedure prescribed in Title to apply to cases arising before court of second instance or on new trial.

Title XII OF DEPOSITS

943. (1) Irregular deposits of moneys in the superior or inferior courts shall be effected by the filing of a schedule in the registry and the lodging of the moneys in the place appointed by the Minister responsible for justice by a notice in the Government Gazette.

Irregular deposits (i.e. lodgment of money legally current in Malta).
Amended by:
VIII.1903.3;
XV.1913.166;
L.N. 4 of 1963;
XXXI.1966.2;
VIII.1990.3;
XXIV.1995.357.

(2) A copy of the lodgment schedule shall be served upon all parties interested.

(3) The lodgment schedule shall be signed by an advocate or a legal procurator, as the case may be:

Provided that in matters pertaining to the Civil Court, First Hall or to the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) in its superior jurisdiction in commercial matters or to the inferior courts, the signature of the person making the deposit shall be sufficient.

(4) The Government shall be responsible for such deposits.

944. (1) Save as otherwise provided by law, the money so lodged may not be withdrawn, in whole or in part, except on compliance with the conditions laid down in the lodgment schedule, unless the withdrawal of such money is effected in execution of a judgment constituting a *res judicata* or in pursuance of the express consent of the parties interested.

Conditions for withdrawal of money.
Amended by:
IX.1886.117;
XV.1913.167;
XXII.2005.71.

(2) Where, however, the lodgment is made by the marshal or other executive officer to whom, in the execution of any warrant issued in virtue of a judgment or other executive title, the debtor may have delivered, either wholly or in part, the amount stated in the warrant, on condition that such amount shall remain on deposit, the creditor at whose suit execution was issued, shall, on his demand, even verbal, be allowed to withdraw such amount, unless the debtor, within fifteen days from the execution of the warrant, by sworn application, shall have brought forward his reasons against the withdrawal by the creditor of such amount, wholly or in part.

Where lodgment is made by execution officer.

(3) The said time of fifteen days may be extended, on good cause being shown, to another fifteen days only, on the demand of the debtor by an application.

Time for entering opposition to withdrawal.

Enlargement of time.

945. (1) Where a deposit is withdrawn, wholly or in part, either on account or in full settlement of a debt due under a judgement or other public deed, the registrar shall, on the demand and at the expense of any person interested, enter a note of such withdrawal in the margin of the judgment, and transmit a note thereof to the notary or other officer before whom the deed from which the debt arises was received or who is the keeper thereof.

Duties of registrar in connection with withdrawal of money.
Added by:
IX.1886.118.
Substituted by:
XXIV.1995.346.
Amended by:
II.1996.78.

Reductions and cancellations of lawful causes of preference.

(2) Where the debt referred to in sub-article (1) is secured by any one of the lawful causes of preference specified under article 1996 of the [Civil Code](#), any interested party may effect the reduction or cancellation of the relative registration in the manner provided in articles 2065 and 2066 of the aforementioned Code. The relative note shall be signed by the person requesting the reduction or cancellation of the registration or by an advocate, a notary or a legal procurator.

Additional pre-requisite for registration.

(3) It shall be a pre-requisite for such registration that an authentic copy of the note of withdrawal referred to in sub-article (1) be annexed to the note of reduction or cancellation.

Claim touching a deposit, equivalent to garnishee order.
Amended by:
[XV.1913.168](#);
[XXIV.1995.347](#);
[XXII.2005.72](#).

946. (1) Where a claim is made by sworn application touching a deposit existing in any court, the registrar shall, on the demand of the party, make a note thereof on the lodgment schedule and such claim shall, upon such demand, have the effect of a garnishee order until the decision on such claim shall have become *res judicata*, saving the provisions relating to the enforcement of judgments pending an appeal therefrom.

(2) The provisions of sub-article (1) shall also apply in the case where the claim is made by an application, provided the applicant makes a demand to the registrar to enter a note of such claim on the lodgment schedule.

(3) The demand referred to in this article shall be made by means of a note.

Withdrawal of deposit made under a schedule of redemption.
Amended by:
[II.1940.14](#);
[IV.1961.12](#).

947. Any deposit made under a schedule of redemption may, the right of redemption being waived, be withdrawn by the party making the deposit without the necessity of the consent of the party against whom the right of redemption was sought to be exercised, even though the latter may have been notified of the deposit, provided he shall not have signified by means of a judicial act his acceptance of the redemption.

Deposit of things other than cash.
Amended by:
[XV.1913.169](#).

948. (1) Any deposit not consisting in cash shall be made in the manner prescribed in article 943, but a detailed description of the things deposited shall be made in the schedule.

(2) Saving the provisions of article 951, the things deposited shall remain under the custody of the registrar.

(3) The same rule shall be observed if the deposit is made by the marshal in the execution of a court warrant.

Rules regarding place for deposit of things other than cash.
Amended by:
[IV.1862.20](#);
[XV.1913.170](#);
[L.N. 4 of 1963](#);
[XXXI.1966.2](#).

949. (1) The courts shall have power to make special rules in regard to the place appointed for the deposits referred to in the last preceding article, and for the due preservation of the things deposited.

(2) Where the things seized are so bulky or in such a number as to occupy considerable space, or if there is no more room in the place appointed by the Minister responsible for justice, the person making the deposit shall, at his own expense, provide another place, to the satisfaction of the registrar, saving in any such case the right, if any, of such person to the reimbursement of such

expense against the party in whose favour the deposit is made or other parties interested.

950. (1) If the parties interested in any of the deposits referred to in article 948, fail to take the necessary steps for the disposal of the things deposited, it shall be lawful for the court, after ten years from the date of the deposit, if it consists of jewels or articles of precious metal, or after three years, if it consists of other things, upon the application of the registrar, to direct that the interested parties named in the lodgment schedule be called upon by the registrar by letter, to take the necessary steps, within such reasonable time as the court may fix; and, in default, to order the withdrawal by the owner of the things deposited, or the judicial sale thereof by auction; in the latter case, the proceeds of such sale shall be lodged in court.

Compulsory withdrawal of things other than cash in certain cases.

Amended by:
VIII.1901.1;
XV.1913.171.

(2) The proceeds so lodged shall for all purposes of the law be considered as if they were the identical thing sold.

(3) The intimation referred to in sub-article (1), if it cannot be made otherwise, may be made by means of a public notice to be posted up at the entrance of the building in which the court sits, and inserted in one or more of the periodical newspapers including in any case the Government Gazette.

951. (1) Regular deposits of moneys not legally current in Malta, gold or silver articles, pearls or precious stones shall be made in the place appointed by the Minister responsible for justice by notice in the Government Gazette; and the Government shall be responsible for such deposits in the same manner as any other person with whom a regular deposit is made.

Regular deposits (i.e. lodgment of money not legally current in Malta, gold or silver articles, etc.).

Amended by:
XV.1885.1;
IX.1886.119;
L.N. 4 of 1963;
XXXI.1966.2.

(2) If the regular deposit consists of money not legally current in Malta, such money shall, on the expiration of four months from the date of the lodgment, be converted, by the officer charged with the custody thereof, into legal currency, at the current rate of exchange at the time of such conversion, and transferred to the place appointed for irregular deposits; and it shall for all legal purposes be considered as an irregular deposit from the date of such conversion and transfer.

Conversion of foreign money into local currency.

(3) Immediately upon such conversion and transfer, the officer effecting the same shall give notice in writing to the registrar who had received the relative schedule; and the registrar shall, in the margin of such schedule, enter a note of such conversion and transfer, stating the amount realized as a result of the conversion.

Duties of registrar.

Title XIII

OF THE BENEFIT OF *CESSIO BONORUM*

Articles 952 to 959 were repealed by Act [XXIV.1995.348](#).

Title XIV

OF THE INTERVENTION AND JOINDER OF PARTIES

Admission of party
in statu et terminis.

960. Any person who shows to the satisfaction of the court that he is interested in any suit already pending between other parties, may, on an application, be admitted *in statu et terminis*, as a party to the suit at any stage thereof, whether in first or in second instance; but such admission shall not suspend the proceedings of the suit.

Joinder of third
party.

961. A third party may also, by decree of the court, at any stage of the proceedings before the judgment, be joined in any suit pending between other parties in a court of first instance, whether upon the demand of either of such parties, or without any such demand.

Effect of joinder of
third party.
Amended by:
[XIII.1964.23](#);
[XXIV.1995.349](#);
[XXII.2005.73](#).

962. The third party joined in the suit shall be served with the application, whether sworn or not, and shall for all purposes be considered as a defendant; and as such he shall be entitled to file any written pleading, raise any plea and avail himself of any other benefit which the law allows to a defendant; and the claim may, according to circumstances, be allowed or disallowed in his regard, as if he were an original defendant.

Title XV

OF THE DESERTION OF CAUSES

Time for close of
pleadings.
Amended by:
[IX.1886.120](#);
[XXXI.1934.81](#);
[XXIV.1995.350](#);
[IV.1996.13](#);
[XXII.2005.74](#);
[VIII.2007.29](#).

963. (1) Saving the provisions of sub-article (3) and of articles 416 and 420, the written pleadings in any cause shall be closed, in first instance, within the peremptory time of six months, and, in second instance, within the peremptory time of one year.

Running of time in
first and second
instance.

(2) The time shall commence to run, in first instance, from the day on which the sworn application is filed, and, in second instance, from the date of the application of appeal for the reversal or variation of the judgment appealed from.

Power of court.

(3) If, even where the peremptory times referred to in sub-article (1) shall have lapsed, it is found that the written pleadings in any cause are not closed, the court shall once only give such orders which it may deem fit so that such pleadings may be closed as soon as possible in order to avoid that such cause be deserted by reason of some failure to notify or by reason of the failure of performance of a procedure or formality.

(3A) The desertion of a cause shall be declared by means of a decree delivered in open court if, after the orders referred to in sub-article (3) shall have been given, the written pleadings are not closed.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-article (3), the pleadings shall be deemed to be closed if the party not served with the pleading necessary for the close of the record, appears at the trial and does not raise the question that the pleadings are not closed and proceeds or knowingly allows others to proceed to further acts without raising such question.

Pleadings to be deemed closed if party not served with pleading appears at trial.

(5) Saving the provisions of article 732(2), the causes the written pleadings whereof are not closed, in spite of the orders given by the Court in accordance with sub-article (3), within the said time shall:

If pleadings are not closed, cause to be deemed deserted.

- (a) where the cause is before a court of first instance be deemed to be a cause which has been set down for hearing and subsequently by order of the court, adjourned to an unspecified date, and the provisions of articles 964 to 967 shall apply thereto; and
- (b) where the cause is before a court of second instance, be deemed to be deserted.

(6) The desertion of any cause in first instance shall operate as an abandonment of the proceedings, but shall not bar the right of action. In second instance, the desertion shall operate as an abandonment of the appeal and the judgment appealed from becomes *res judicata*.

Effects of desertion.

964. (1) Any cause in any court of civil jurisdiction which, after having been set down for hearing, is subsequently by order of the court adjourned to an unspecified date or otherwise suspended, shall be deemed to be deserted unless it is re-appointed for hearing by the court within the peremptory time of three (3) months of it having been so adjourned or suspended or an application for its re-appointment has, within such period, been filed in court:

Causes adjourned *sine die* or otherwise suspended.
Amended by: XI.1859.40; IX.1886.120; XV.1913.173; XIII.1964.24.
Substituted by: LII.1981.3.
Amended by: VII.1990.3; XXIV.1995.351.
Substituted by: XXXI.2002.188.
Amended by: XXXII.2021.12.

Provided that where the cause has been suspended until judgment is pronounced in another cause, the said time shall commence to run from the date when such judgment is delivered.

(2) Re-appointment shall be made either by the court on its own motion or following the application of any of the parties

965. Repealed by XXXI.2002.189.

When cause is deemed deserted.
Amended by: IX.1886.120.
Substituted by: LII.1981.4.
Amended by: XXIV.1995.352.

966. Repealed by XXXI.2002.189.

Power of court to enlarge time.
Demand for enlargement to be by application.
Amended by: XI.1859.41; IX.1886.120; LII.1981.5.

Date on which
desertion takes
place.

Amended by:
IX.1886.120;
[XXXI.2002.190.](#)

967. Where desertion takes place under the provisions of articles 963 and 964, it shall be deemed to take place on the day on which the time therein prescribed expires; and the registrar may from that day demand the fees payable to the registry, in accordance with Tariff A in Schedule A annexed to this Code.

Title XVI

OF ARBITRATION

Arbitration.

Amended by:
IX.1886.121.
Substituted by:
[II.1996.78.](#)
Amended by:
L.N. [218 of 2012](#);
[XXIII.2017.27.](#)
Cap. 387.

968. (1) Subject to the provision of sub-article (2), any cause concerning any matter in dispute which has been brought before a court of civil jurisdiction in Malta may be submitted at the request of all the parties for determination by arbitration, under the provisions of the [Arbitration Act](#), and the provisions of the aforesaid Act shall apply thereto.

(2) Any submission to arbitration in regard to any dispute concerning questions of personal status including those relating to separation, divorce or annulment of a marriage between spouses, or in regard to things or rights which may not form the subject-matter of a contract, whether absolutely or without certain formalities required by law, is null.

Nullity of
submission to
arbitration.

Added by:
IX.1886.121.

969. Any submission to arbitration made by any administrator, or by any person who is not at liberty to dispose of the thing to which the dispute refers, is null.

Form of
submission.

Added by:
IX.1886.121.
Amended by:
XV.1913.174.
Substituted by:
[XV.1983.13.](#)
Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.353.](#)

970. *Repealed by Act [II.1996.78.](#)*

Witnesses to be
examined by
arbitrators.

Added by:
IX.1886.121.
Substituted by:
[XV.1983.14.](#)

971. *Repealed by Act [II.1996.78.](#)*

Persons under
tutorship or
curatorship may
not act as
arbitrators.

Amended by:
XLVI.1973.108.

972. *Repealed by Act [II.1996.78.](#)*

Duration of
submission.

973. *Repealed by Act [II.1996.78.](#)*

Submission to state
dispute and name
of arbitrators.

974. *Repealed by Act [II.1996.78.](#)*

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975. *Repealed by Act [II.1996](#).78.* Power to enlarge time for making award.
Amended by: [XV.1913.175](#).
976. *Repealed by Act [II.1996](#).78.* Power of parties to submission to compel arbitrators to declare acceptance of reference within specified time.
977. *Repealed by Act [II.1996](#).78.* Acceptance of appointment by arbitrators to be made in writing.
Amended by: [IX.1886.122](#); [XV.1983.15](#).
978. *Repealed by Act [II.1996](#).78.* Arbitrator refusing to act without just cause liable to damages.
979. *Repealed by Act [II.1996](#).78.* Power of parties to withdraw from submission in certain cases.
980. *Repealed by Act [II.1996](#).78.* Demand of party to withdraw from submission to be made by writ of summons.
981. *Repealed by Act [II.1996](#).78.* Formalities and times to be observed in arbitration proceedings.
982. *Repealed by Act [II.1996](#).78.* Arbitrators to adjudge according to rules of law.
Amended by: [IX.1886.123](#).
983. *Repealed by Act [II.1996](#).78.* Notice to parties of publication of award.
Added by: [IX.1886.123](#).
984. *Repealed by Act [II.1996](#).78.* Deliberation of majority to form award. Contents of award.
Added by: [IX.1886.123](#).
985. *Repealed by Act [II.1996](#).78.* Deposit of the original of award, etc.
Added by: [IX.1886.123](#).
986. *Repealed by Act [II.1996](#).78.* Rescission or annulment of award.
Amended by: [IX.1886.124](#); [XV.1983.16](#).

When submission
ceases to be
operative.
Amended by:
IX.1886.126.

987. *Repealed by Act [II.1996.78.](#)*

Title XVII

OF THE RESPECT DUE TO THE COURT

Order at sittings.
Amended by:
XV.1913.176;
L.N. 148 of 1975.

988. (1) It shall appertain to the judges and the magistrates respectively to enforce order during the sittings of the courts in which they sit.

Order within
precincts of courts.

(2) It shall also appertain to the judges and the magistrates respectively to provide for the maintenance of good order and decorum within the precincts of the courts in which they sit.

Unseemly
behaviour *in facie*
curiae.

989. It is forbidden at any sitting of the court to utter exclamations of approval or disapproval, or to disturb in any other manner the attention of the court.

Punishment of
contemner.
Amended by:
XII.1978.7.

990. In the case of any improper behaviour under the last preceding article, it shall be lawful for the judge or magistrate to whom it appertains to enforce order during the public sittings of the court under article 988 to punish the contemner -

- (a) with reprimand;
- (b) with expulsion from the court;
- (c) with arrest for a period not exceeding twenty-four hours in a place within the building in which the court sits;
- (d) with a fine (*ammenda* or *multa*) in terms of the [Criminal Code](#).

Cap. 9.

Punishment for
indecent words or
gestures or
insulting remarks
in facie curiae.
Cap. 9.

991. It shall be lawful for the judge or magistrate referred to in article 988 forthwith to sentence to a fine (*ammenda* or *multa*) or to detention in terms of the [Criminal Code](#), any person who, by any indecent word or gesture during the sitting, commits any act of contempt of court, or insults any other person.

Where act of
contempt
constitutes a
criminal offence.
Cap. 9.

992. Where any of the aforesaid acts constitutes an offence under the provisions of the [Criminal Code](#), it shall be lawful for the judge or magistrate to order the arrest of the offender, draw up a *procès-verbal* of the fact, and remit the party arrested to the Court of Magistrates to be dealt with according to law.

Where act of
contempt is
committed by
advocate, etc.
Amended by:
XII.1978.8.

993. Any advocate, legal procurator or other officer of the court, who commits any of the acts referred to in article 991, or 994, may, in serious cases, be also forthwith condemned by the judge or magistrate to interdiction from the exercise of his profession or office for a period not exceeding one month.

Use of forbidden
expressions etc.
Substituted by:
XII.1978.9;
[XI.1980.5.](#)

994. (1) It is forbidden to use in any written pleading or during the hearing of a cause any insulting or offensive expression or any expression which is otherwise objectionable, unless such expression is necessary for the purposes for which the written pleading is by law intended or for the cause in which it is used, or

to produce without the previous permission of the court, any document which contains any such expression.

(2) Any person who acts in contravention of the foregoing provisions of this article or who presents or produces or attempts to present or to produce any written pleading or document which contains an expression forbidden by this article, and any person who has signed any such written pleading, shall be guilty of contempt of court and shall be sentenced by the court to reprimand or to a fine (*ammenda* or *multa*) or to detention in terms of the [Criminal Code](#).

Cap. 9.

(3) Where notwithstanding the provisions of article 184 a written pleading has been filed or a document has been produced which contains expressions forbidden by this article, the court shall, on its own motion or on the demand of the aggrieved party, order the whole of the written pleading or of the document to be expunged from the registry of the court or from the records of the proceedings, and the written pleading or document shall for all purposes be deemed never to have been filed or produced.

(4) Where it can be shown to the court that the contravention is slight and was not wilful and can be remedied adequately by the striking out of the forbidden expression, the court may in lieu of applying the foregoing provisions of this article order that the said expressions be struck out.

995. Any functionary, referee or other officer of the court, who is insulted in the execution of any warrant, or in the discharge of his duties, shall report the matter to the judge or magistrate, and the- contemner shall be liable to be by the judge or magistrate sentenced to a fine (*ammenda* or *multa*) or to detention, saving any other punishment, applicable by the competent court, to which the contemner may be liable if the fact constitutes a more serious offence, according to law.

Punishment for insults to court officers.

996. The judge or magistrate shall repress any excess on the part of any advocate, legal procurator, or other officer, while in the discharge of his duties; it shall also be incumbent upon the judge or magistrate to ensure the most ample liberty to every advocate, legal procurator or other officer in the discharge of his duties consistently with the law, and he shall of his own motion repress any improper behaviour committed in his presence towards any advocate, legal procurator or other officer, while in the exercise of his duties, by inflicting any of the punishments referred to in articles 990 and 991 according to circumstances.

Excesses by advocate, etc.
Amended by:
[XV.1913.177](#);
[II.1947.4.5](#);
[VIII.1981.9](#).
Improper behaviour towards advocate, etc.

997. (1) In proceedings for any act or omission amounting to contempt of court, the offender shall, on conviction, be liable to imprisonment for a term up to one month or to a fine (*multa*) of not less than two hundred and thirty-two euro and ninety-four cents (232.94) but not more than two thousand and three hundred and twenty-nine euro and thirty-seven cents (2,329.37) or to both such fine and imprisonment.

Contempt of court proceedings.
Substituted by:
[XXXI.2002.191](#).
Amended by:
[L.N. 407 of 2007](#).

(2) The court may, notwithstanding any punishment to which it may sentence the offender, order him to remove any nuisance or

inconvenience to which the offence relates within a time, sufficient for the purpose but in any case not exceeding three months from the date of the judgment, to be fixed by the court; and, if the offender fails to comply with any such orders within the time so fixed, he shall be liable to the penalty of a fine (*ammenda*) of not less than twenty-three euro and twenty-nine cents (23.29) and not more than one hundred and sixteen euro and forty-seven cents (116.47) as the court may fix, for every day during which the default continues after the expiration of the said time.

Warrant of escort
or arrest of
offender.

998. Where, in the cases referred to in this Title, the party accused, on being summoned by order of the judge or magistrate, fails to attend, it shall be in the power of the said judge or magistrate to compel his attendance to answer to the charge, by means of a warrant of escort or arrest.

Place of custody
for persons
sentenced to
detention.

999. Any person sentenced to detention by the judge or magistrate shall be kept in custody in the prison within the building of the courts, or in the prison appointed by law for the custody of persons sentenced to such punishment by a court of criminal jurisdiction.

Court may
commute or remit
punishment.
Amended by:
[XXIV.1995.354.](#)

1000. It shall be lawful for the court to commute or remit any punishment which it may have awarded.

Fines forfeited to
Government.
Amended by:
[XII.1978.10.](#)

1001. Every fine (*ammenda* or *multa*) shall be forfeited to the Government of Malta.

Pecuniary
punishment
convertible into
detention or
imprisonment.
Cap. 9.

1002. In default of payment of a fine (*ammenda* or *multa*), the person sentenced shall undergo the punishment of detention or imprisonment as provided in the [Criminal Code](#).

No appeal from
sentences for
contempt *in facie*
curae.
Amended by:
[XV.1913.178;](#)
[XIII.1964.25.](#)

1003. (1) No appeal shall lie from any sentence passed under article 990 or 991, and any such sentence may be carried into execution forthwith.

Right of appeal in
other cases.

(2) In any other case, an appeal from a sentence passed under the provisions of this Title by any court, other than the Court of Appeal or the Constitutional Court, shall lie to the Court of Appeal. Such appeal shall be made by an application within two days from the date of the sentence.

Appeal to operate
as stay of
execution.

(3) Any such appeal shall stay the execution of the sentence.

Sentence not to
form part of
record.

(4) Any sentence passed under the provisions of this Title shall not form part of the record of the cause at the trial of which the sentence is passed.

1003A. Subject to the provisions of this Title, in any proceedings for contempt of court, the Registrar shall institute, as directed by the court, the necessary proceedings and, for all intents and purposes of law, he shall be considered as the plaintiff:

Registrar shall institute etc. contempt proceedings.
Added by: [XXIV.1995.355.](#)
Amended by: [IV.1996.14.](#)

Title XVIII OF JUDICIAL COSTS

1004. (1) Costs shall be taxed and levied in accordance with the Tariffs in Schedule A annexed to this Code and with regulations made by the Minister responsible for justice under this article.

Taxation of judicial costs.
Amended by: [IV.1865.4;](#)
[XV.1913.179;](#)
[L.N. 4 of 1963;](#)
[XXXI.1966.2.](#)
Substituted by: [XXXI.1980.8.](#)

- (2) Regulations made by the Minister under this article may -
- (a) amend, add to, revoke or substitute all or any of the Tariffs in the said Schedule A;
 - (b) make any provision relating to the payment of costs and in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing -
 - (i) to ensure the payment thereof at the time they are due;
 - (ii) to require the payment or deposit of any such costs or part thereof, as may be prescribed by the regulations; and
 - (iii) to provide for such consequences, effects and penalties with respect to any failure to pay costs or otherwise to comply with the regulations, as may be prescribed therein.

1005. (1) Where the party condemned to pay the fees due to the registry or the costs incurred by the other party was, at the time of the judgment, represented in the proceedings, as absent from Malta, by an agent appointed by him, it shall be lawful for the registrar, and for such other party, to demand payment of such fees or costs, from the said agent, in the same manner as if such agent had been personally and *in solidum* with his principal, condemned to pay such fees or costs.

Agent of absent litigant, liable to registry fees and costs.

(2) The right granted as aforesaid to the registrar and to the party to whom the costs are due, may be exercised notwithstanding that the principal be present in Malta, either before or at the time when payment of such fees or costs is demanded.

1006. Where a defendant is ordered to pay the costs of the action or any part of the fees due to the registry, it shall be lawful for the registrar to claim from him, directly and *in solidum*, the payment of such fees, wholly or in part, according to the incidence thereof on such defendant.

When registrar may claim registry fees from defendant.
Added by: [XV.1913.180.](#)

Title XIX

OF FORMS

Forms.
Amended by:
XXVII.1979.21.

1007. (1) In the superior courts, all acts shall be drawn up in accordance with the forms in Schedule B annexed to this Code.

(2) In the inferior courts, the forms prescribed for the superior courts shall be used in so far as applicable, with such alterations or variations as may be necessary to adapt them to the inferior courts.

(3) The Minister responsible for justice may by regulations amend, substitute or make additions to the forms contained in Schedule B annexed to this Code.

Purchase of forms.
Added by:
XV.1913.181.
Amended by:
L.N. 4 of 1963;
XXXI.1966.2;
IV.1996.15.

1008. Without prejudice to the provisions of article 1009, where under this Code an act is required to be drawn up by the party concerned according to a prescribed form, the form shall be provided by the registrar or any other officer designated by the Minister responsible for justice, upon payment of a fee to be shown thereon.

REPEALING PROVISION

Contrary usage to
be inoperative.

1009. Any usage or custom contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions contained in this Code shall be of no effect.

Procedure by
electronic means.
Added by:
XXIV.1995.356.

1009A. The Minister responsible for justice may make regulations providing for or allowing -

- (i) the making of judicial acts by means of electronic equipment;
- (ii) the transmission and service by the use of electronic means;

in connection with judicial acts, court proceedings, records and services and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing such regulations may provide for -

- (a) the form of judicial acts prepared by electronic means;
- (b) the transmission, filing and service of acts by electronic equipment and for the way in which such service is to be evidenced;
- (c) the storing of court records by electronic means and the mode whereby such records are to be authenticated and how copies thereof are to be made and authenticated;
- (d) the fees that may be charged in connection with the use of such electronic means in relation to the making, transmission, filing or service of judicial acts, and for the making of copies of court records; and
- (e) such other matter consequential or incidental thereto including such transitional provisions as may appear to the Minister to be necessary or expedient in connection therewith.

1009B. The Minister responsible for justice may make regulations for the implementation of the provisions of this Code and, in general, to bring the provisions of this Code into effect. Regulations.
Added by:
[XXI.2002.193.](#)

SCHEDULE A

(Articles 75, 179, 666, 967 and 1004)

TARIFFS REFERRED TO IN THE CODE OF ORGANIZATION AND CIVIL PROCEDURE

TARIFF A

Fees payable in respect of the trial of causes in the Registries of the Superior Courts of Justice and the Courts of Magistrates in Malta and Gozo excluding the Court of Voluntary Jurisdiction

Amended by:
 XI.1859.42;
 IX.1886.128;
 G.N. 136 of 1919;
 G.N. 475 of 1929;
 G.N. 549 of 1939;
 G.N. 653 of 1942;
 G.N. 139 of 1949;
 L.N. 49 of 1980;
 L.N. 99 of 1980.
Substituted by:
 L.N. 102 of 1980.
Amended by:
 L.N. 56 of 1981;
 XIII.1983.4,5; L.N. 3 of 1986; L.N. 28 of 1988;
 VIII.1990.3;
 L.N. 116 of 1992;
 L.N. 91 of 1995;
 L.N. 124 of 1996.
Substituted by:
 L.N. 142 of 2000.
Amended by:
 L.N. 197 of 2000;
 L.N. 8 of 2001;
 L.N. 277 of 2005;
 XXII.2005.75;
 L.N. 181 of 2006.
Substituted by:
 L.N. 407 of 2007.
Amended by:
 L.N. 371 of 2011;
 L.N. 224 of 2014.
Substituted by:
 L.N. 36 of 2015.
Amended by:
 L.N. 69 of 2015;
 XLV.2016.5;
 L.N. 327 of 2017;
 L.N. 137 of 2020;
 XLIV.2021.23.

- 1 (a) In actions for personal separation, divorce, annulment, maintenance, filiation, paternity, child abduction or custody, relating to the civil status of a person, relating to human rights or relating to general elections and in actions of possession and jactitation suits or concerning personal injury, claims for the payment of wages or claims for unjust dismissal from employment, all the fees provided for in this Tariff, with the exception of the tariff stated in paragraph 3 shall be rebated by 50%:
 Provided that in the case of actions for the correction or cancellation of registrations on the basis of article 253 of Cap. 16 €20
- (b) The same shall apply with regard to the execution of a promise of sale or of a promise of transfer both of movable and immovable property.
- (c) No fees shall be due for any act filed by a curator *ex officio* acting in that capacity, subject to a refund by plaintiff at the termination of proceedings.
- 2 (1) For the filing of any petition, sworn application or other act of procedure containing a claim which initiates a contentious procedure in a Court of First Instance and requiring the decision of a Judge or Magistrate as well as for any reply, answer or other act of procedure in reply thereto and intended to contest, whether totally or partially, the claim made . €120

Provided that the above fee shall include the filing of all other acts of procedure and court services (including but not limited to filing of warrants for the examination of witnesses, the examination itself, recording fees, transcriptions and copies, the services of judicial assistants, the transmission of the records of causes, taxed bill of costs and copies of the judgement) required following the initiation of the cause through the said act up to and including final judgement but excluding any fees due for the notification of acts and fees due to referees or experts appointed by the Court or any fees which the Court may be required to pay to third parties.

(2) For the filing of any petition, sworn application or other legal act initiating a contentious procedure in a Court of Appeal and requiring the decision of a Judge as well as for any reply, answer or other act of procedure in reply thereto and intended to contest, whether totally or partially, the appeal €200

Provided that in respect of an answer to an appeal which does not contain a cross appeal, there shall be paid a fee of €80

Provided that no fee shall be payable under this paragraph for any appeal filed in terms of any other law which already provides a fee to be paid for such an appeal:

Provided further that the above fees shall include the filing of all other acts of procedure and court services (including but not limited to the filing of warrants for the examination of witnesses, the examination itself, recording fees, transcriptions and copies, the services of judicial assistants, the transmission of the records of causes, taxed bill of costs and copies of the judgement) required following the initiation of the appeal through the said act up to and including final judgement but excluding any fees due for the notification of acts and any fees due to referees or experts appointed by the Court or any fees which the Court may be required to pay to third parties.

(3) No fee shall be levied under this paragraph for the filing of any note of admission of a claim provided that the claim is admitted in full and unconditionally before any contestation thereon.

- 3 (1) In addition to the fees stated in paragraph 2, on the filing any petition, application, or other act of procedure containing a claim which initiates a contentious procedure in a Court of First Instance and requiring the decision of a Judge or Magistrate and when the registry fee is assessable on a determinate value or on a value which may be determined according to law or from the act itself, the following fees shall also be due:
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| (a) up to €7,000 per €100 or part thereof | €3.90 |
| (b) in respect of any value in excess of €7,000 up to €10,000, per €100 or part thereof | €2.75 |
| (c) in respect of any value in excess of €10,000 up to €25,000 per €100 or part thereof | €2.50 |
| (d) in respect of any value in excess of €25,000 up to €100,000 per €100 or part thereof | €1.90 |
| (e) in respect of any value in excess of €100,000 up to €200,000, per €100 or part thereof | €1.20 |
| (f) in respect of any value in excess of €200,000, per €100 or part thereof | €0.90 |

Provided that the fees established in sub-paragraphs (a) to (f) of this paragraph shall be inclusive of any declaration, which may be necessary, and of any decree given in a cause up to final judgement.

- (2) (a) In addition to the fees stated in paragraph 1, on the filing of a statement of defence, answer or other act of procedure filed in reply to a claim and intended to contest, whether totally or partially, a claim made in a Court of First Instance, the fees stated in sub-paragraph (1) of this paragraph shall also be due but shall be rebated by 50%
- (b) The amount to be paid in accordance with sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph is to be paid not later than the day preceding the day of the first court sitting in the case, and in the event that such payment is not effected, such act of procedure shall be deemed not to have been done.
- (c) In computing such amount, the Registrar shall, together with the notified act concerning which the act is done, inform such person of the amount to be paid and by which date.

- (d) In the case of special summary proceedings or proceedings in the Court of Magistrates or any other proceedings where the act of procedure is filed in the Court and not in the registry, the fees due shall be paid not later than the day preceding the day of the sitting following the filing of the act, and if such payment is not effected, such act of procedure shall be deemed not to have been done.
- (e) The provisions of sub-paragraph (c) shall not apply in the eventualities provided for in sub-paragraph (d).
- (3) Any counter-claim contained in any act of procedure stated in sub-paragraphs (1) or (2) of this paragraph shall be treated as if it is a new claim and the fees set out in sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) of this paragraph shall be levied on the counter claim and the reply thereto.
- (4) In actions for personal separation, divorce, annulment, maintenance, filiation, paternity, child abduction or custody, relating to the civil status of a person, relating to human rights or relating to general elections and in actions of possession and jactitation suits or concerning personal injury, claims for the payment of wages or claims for unjust dismissal from employment, causes respecting the execution of a promise of sale or of a promise of transfer both of movable and immovable property, causes of spoliation requesting that works be carried out under the supervision of the Court, the fees stated in this paragraph shall not apply but there shall be levied a one time fee of €100
- (5) The fees established in sub-paragraph (1) of this paragraph shall be raised by one-third on appeal, but no fee shall be due in terms of sub-paragraph (2) of this paragraph.
- (6) No fee shall be payable under this paragraph for any appeal filed in terms of any other law which already provides a fee to be paid for such an appeal.
- (7) In the case of appeals filed in terms of any other law for which no fee is established in terms of that law, including appeals filed in terms of articles 41 and 75 of the Environment and Development Planning Act (Cap. 504), the fees established in terms of this paragraph shall not be due but there shall be levied a one-time fee of €120

4 (1) When the value of a claim is uncertain or indeterminate and the fees stated in paragraph 3 cannot be applied, the value of the claim shall be assessed in accordance with the following rules:

- (a) In actions brought by the Government or by any Authority or Public Corporation where the claim is for the recovery of a penalty which has both a minimum and a maximum fixed by law, the value to be assessed shall be the maximum amount of the penalty fixed by law.
- (b) In actions concerning the partition of property whether *inter vivos* or *causa mortis* and independently of whether the actual partition is requested or not, and in actions concerning succession, the claimant may, together with his claim, submit a list of the property the partition of which is being requested or which is involved in the succession together with a declaration, signed and attested to on oath by a perit in the case of immovables and by a competent valuer in the case of movables, certifying the valuation of such property, and the value shall be assessed on the total sum shown on such valuation:

Provided that in no case shall the fee taxed be less than €700

- (c) In actions concerning the payment of annuities, allowances and the like the fee taxed shall be ... €700

- (d) In actions relating to the ranking of creditors, bankruptcy proceedings or any other adjudication upon competing claims the claimant shall together with his claim submit a valuation by a certified accountant of the assets and liabilities being the subject of the claim and the value to be assessed shall be the higher sum between the assets and liabilities:

Provided that in no case shall the fee taxed be less than €700

- (e) In causes concerning a claim that the Court declares that plaintiff has a right to any property or on any property against another person, the claimant shall submit a sworn statement approximately attesting to the amount he considers claiming should his right thereto be established and the value on which the fee shall be taxed shall be such value as is declared by plaintiff:

Provided that in no case shall the fee to be taxed be less than €250

- (f) In causes where the claim is for the Court to declare the existence of a right of the claimant against any other person which right may reasonably be inferred to be followed by a liquidation of the amount due, even if such liquidation is not requested in the claim, the claimant shall be obliged together with his claim to submit a sworn declaration stating the approximate sum which he believes he could claim if his right is established, and the value to be assessed shall be the value declared by the claimant:

Provided that in no case shall the fee taxed be less than €700

- (2) Where, notwithstanding the rules contained in sub-paragraph (1) of this paragraph, the value is still uncertain or indeterminate, the fee taxed shall not be less than €700

- (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of this paragraph, if, following definitive judgement, the Court will have declared or liquidated an amount as the value of the cause and that value is determinate or shall be determined according to law and the fees due on such value are higher than the amount paid as registry fees, the Registrar of Courts may demand the difference from the party filing the cause; and if at the end of proceedings the value shall still be undeclared or undetermined by the parties or by the said Court, the fees shall be established according to the minimum to which there shall be added €600, saving the right which the registrar has of taxing an additional fee if and when the case may arise.

(4) Any action requesting the nullity of the issue of a precautionary or executive warrant or requesting the issue of a counter-warrant shall, independently of the act used to initiate the action, be taxed as if it were an application for the issue of a counter-warrant.

(5) Action for a declaration on point of law or of fact, the taxed fee shall be €650

(6) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 3 and 4 and in addition to the fees mentioned in paragraph 2, for the cases instituted according to the Consumer Affairs Act and regulations made thereunder, the Competition Act and the Control of Concentrations Regulations, the taxed fee shall be that of six-hundred and fifty euro (€650).

(b) In the case of appeals from judgements delivered according to the Consumer Affairs Act and regulations made thereunder, the Competition Act and the Control of Concentrations Regulations, sub-paragraph (7) of paragraph 3 shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

5 (1) In cases of compromise or discontinuance of any cause in a Court of First Instance:

after contestation of the claim but before the first hearing of the cause, all fees paid in terms of paragraph 3 or 4 will be rebated by 75%

following the first hearing of the cause but not later than the third sitting thereof, all fees paid in terms of paragraph 3 or 4 will be rebated by . 50%

following the third hearing of the cause but before the cause has been put off for judgement, all fees paid in terms of paragraphs 3 and 4 will be rebated by 25%

(2) In cases of compromise or discontinuance of a cause in a Court of Appeal the rebates established in the previous sub-paragraph of this paragraph shall be applied as well but limited only to the fees paid relative to the appeals procedure.

(3) The fees stated in paragraphs 2 to 4 of this Tariff shall also be due on the filing of any application to a Court to be permitted to file any statement of defence, answer or other act of procedure filed in reply to a claim and intended to contest, whether totally or partially, a claim made in a Court of First Instance or in a Court of Appeal provided that in the event of a judgement of non-suit all fees paid in terms of paragraphs 2 to 4 shall be rebated by 50%

- 6 (1) For every notification of an act of procedure, including expenses incurred in the execution of such notification, the following fees shall be due:

(i) registry fee	€6.00
(ii) fee due to the executive officer effecting the service	€1.20

Provided that if service is to be effected outside normal working hours, the fees contained in this paragraph shall be increased by 100%; and if such notification is made to the party's legal consultant within the Court building, the fee due shall be two euro thirty-three cents (€2.33) for the full service.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Tariff, if the notification of any act is to be executed personally by an executive officer of the Court, in cases where the law permits that service be effected otherwise, the following additional fees shall be due for each notification:

(i) registry fee	€25
(ii) fee due to the executive officer effecting the service	€7

(3) The fees established in sub-paragraph (2) shall not apply when service is to be effected personally by an executive officer of the Court in terms of any law, and in such cases the fees established in sub-paragraph (1) of this paragraph shall apply.

- 7 For any other act of procedure indicated in the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure but for which no fee is established in these Tariffs €20
- 8 For the opening of the registry outside working hours:
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| (i) registry fee | €120 |
| (ii) fee due to attending deputy registrar ... | €50 |
| (iii) fee due to each executive officer required to effect service | €35 |

Provided that when the Superintendent of Public Health orders the closure of the court in terms of the Public Health Act, the fees established in this item shall not apply to actions mentioned in items 1 (a) and (c) of this Tariff; with the exception of actions relating to the civil status of a person, relating to human rights or relating to general elections and of actions of possession and jactitation suits or concerning personal injury, claims for the payment of wages or claims for unjust dismissal from employment; in the event that the opening of the registry is requested on any working day during the opening hours established by law.

- 8A There shall be charged by the Registrar of Courts, in respect of the publication of a court notice in the Gazette, irrespective of the length of such notice, a fee of four euro and sixty-six cents (€4.66).
- 9 (1) Unless otherwise stated, all fees due shall be paid together with the filing of the relative act and the Registrar shall not accept for filing any act of procedure which is not accompanied by the relative fee.
- (2) The assessment of the Registrar on the amount of fees to be paid shall be final.
- (3) In assessing the fees laid down in this Tariff no account shall be taken of any fraction of €1.
- 10 (1) The Court may, when delivering judgement, order that the plaintiff or defendant in a cause pay increased costs to the Registrar of Courts of not less than €500 and not more than €3,000 if the Court deems that the act of procedure initiating the claim or the act of procedure in reply was frivolous or vexatious or that either of the parties has unnecessarily prolonged the proceedings and in such case such sum will not be recoverable from the other party.
- (2) The Court may, when delivering judgement, also refer to the Commission for the Administration of Justice the advocate of the plaintiff or of the defendant if the Court deems that the advocate is responsible, wholly or partly, for the frivolous or vexatious act of procedure or for prolonging the proceedings.

- 11 (1) The Registrar shall cause a taxed bill of costs to be kept in the file of each cause and shall immediately enter therein all payments made to the Registrar and all payments due to the advocates and legal procurators of the parties and the parties, their advocates and legal procurators shall have the right to a copy thereof at any time.
- (2) Within one month of the delivery of the definitive judgement, the Registrar shall cause a final taxed bill of costs to be drawn up and a copy thereof shall be sent to the parties and their advocates and legal procurators.
- (3) For filing any application requesting a new taxing of fees or the approval of an itemization of expenses made under this item there shall be paid a fee of €50
- 12 With respect to causes which have been presented prior to the coming into force of this Tariff the Registrar shall, on the conclusion of that cause or on the compromise or discontinuance thereof, tax the fees due on the basis of this Tariff deducting therefrom any sums paid to date and any difference in favour of the Registrar shall be due by the party established in this Tariff:

Provided that this paragraph shall not apply to any cause -

- (i) which, on the day of the coming into force of this Tariff, is put off for judgement;
- (ii) which, following the coming into force of this Tariff but not later than the 30th September 2015, is unconditionally compromised or unconditionally discontinued:

Provided further that any agreement registered in the records of the cause stating that the parties have agreed to discontinue the cause and refer it to the binding decision of the Malta Arbitration Centre shall, for the purpose of this paragraph, be treated as an unconditional compromise or discontinuance:

Provided further that any person acting as mandatory of another person in a cause shall, if he renounces his mandate not later than the 30th April, 2015, be liable for fees calculated in accordance with this Tariff as in force on the 31st December, 2014.

Substituted by:
L.N. [102 of 1980](#).
Amended by:
[XIII.1983.4](#).
L.N. [91 of 1995](#).
Substituted by:
L.N. [124 of 1996](#).
L.N. [142 of 2000](#).
Amended by:
L.N. [197 of 2000](#).
L.N. [8 of 2001](#).
L.N. [277 of 2005](#).
L.N. [290 of 2005](#).
Substituted by:
L.N. [407 of 2007](#).
Amended by:
L.N. [371 of 2011](#).
Substituted by:
L.N. [36 of 2015](#).
Amended by:
L.N. [137 of 2020](#).

TARIFF B

Fees payable in respect of Judicial Acts and Services not connected with the trial of causes in the Registries of the Superior Courts of Justice and the Courts of Magistrates in Malta and Gozo excluding the Court of Voluntary Jurisdiction

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1 For the filing of any judicial letter or judicial protest but excluding fees due for any notification required	€15
Provided that when the judicial letter is required in terms of articles 166A and 253(b) and (e) of Cap. 12	€30
2 For every certificate required to be issued by the Registrar	€20
3 For legalising any note required to be registered in the Public Registry	€25
4 For the affixing of any seal of the Court where this is prescribed by law or by the Court	€20
Provided that no fee shall be due when such seal is required on any judicial act.	
5 For every copy, authenticated or otherwise, for each page	€0.35
Provided that no fee shall be due when the copies are provided by the person filing the original act or when copies are requested of a court order.	
6 For every translation required by law or by the Court:	
registry fee	€40
fee due to the translator or interpreter	from €10 to €100
7 For every search in the archives of the Court, per individual cause	€5
and for any copy thereof, whether authenticated or not, per page	€0.35
8 For the administration of an affidavit not in connection with court proceedings	€7
9 For the lodgement of any monies in Court, for any schedule of set-off or redemption, a fee equal to	2%
of the money to be deposited, to be set-off or redeemed shall be levied but such fee shall not include the notification of such schedule on third parties indicated in the schedule and provided further that in no case shall such fee be less than	€25
Provided that when such lodgement or schedule is required by law, a fee of €25 shall be paid in lieu of the fee of 2%.	

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- 10 For the lodgement in Court of any object not being monies excluding the service of such schedule on third parties indicated in the schedule €50
- 11 For the searching for and inspection of any application for the withdrawal of any monies or things deposited in Court but not including the notification of such application on third parties indicated in the application and for any reply thereto €20
- 12 For the opening of the registry outside working hours:
- (i) registry fee €120
 - (ii) fee due to attending deputy registrar €50
 - (iii) fee due to each executive officer required to effect service €35
- Provided that when the Superintendent of Public Health orders the closure of the court in terms of the Public Health Act, the fees established in this item shall not apply to actions mentioned in items 16 (a) and (c) of this Tariff; with the exception of actions relating to the civil status of a person, relating to human rights or relating to general elections and of actions of possession and jactitation suits or concerning personal injury, claims for the payment of wages or claims for unjust dismissal from employment; in the event that the opening of the registry is requested on any working day during the opening hours established by law.
- 13 (1) For every notification of an act of procedure, including expenses incurred in the execution of such notification, the following fees shall be due:
- (i) registry fee €6
 - (ii) fee due to the executive officer effecting the service €1.20
- Provided that if service is to be effected outside normal working hours, the fees contained in this paragraph shall be increased by 100%; and if the notification has to be made to the legal consultant of the party, the fee due shall be two euro thirty-three cents (€1) for the full service.
- (2) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Tariff if the notification of any act is to be executed personally by an executive officer of the Court, in cases where the law permits that service be effected otherwise, the following additional fees shall be due for each notification:

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| (i) registry fee | €25 |
| (ii) fee due to the executive officer effecting
the service | €7 |
- (3) The fees established in sub-paragraph (2) shall not apply when service is to be effected personally by an executive officer of the Court in terms of any law, and in such cases the fees established in sub-paragraph (1) of this paragraph shall apply.
- 14 For any other act of procedure indicated in the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure but for which no fee is established in these Tariffs €30
- 15 (1) All fees due shall be paid together with the filing of the relative act and the Registrar shall not accept for filing any act of procedure which is not accompanied by the relative fee.
- (2) The assessment of the Registrar on the amount of fees to be paid shall be final.
- (3) In assessing the fees laid down in this Tariff no account shall be taken of any fraction of €1.
- 16 (a) In actions for personal separation, divorce, annulment, maintenance, filiation, paternity, child abduction or custody, relating to the civil status of a person, relating to human rights or relating to general elections and in actions of possession and jactitation suits or concerning personal injury, claims for the payment of wages or claims for unjust dismissal from employment, all the fees provided for in this Tariff shall be rebated by 50%
The same shall apply in actions relating to the execution of a promise of sale or of a promise of transfer both of movable or immovable property.
- (b) No fees shall be due for any act filed by a curator ex officio acting in that capacity.
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TARIFF C

Fees payable in respect of Acts filed in the Court of Voluntary Jurisdiction

- 1 For every application filed and for every answer thereto, not being an application or answer indicated in any of the following paragraphs of this Tariff €15

Provided that the above fee shall include the filing of all other acts of procedure and court services (including but not limited to the filing of all procedural acts, examination of witnesses, preparation and publication of notices, banns and edicts, copies of decrees, taxation of fees and the like) required following the initiation of proceedings through the said application up to and including the final decree but excluding any fees due to referees or experts appointed by the Court or any fees which the Court may be required to pay to third parties.

- 2 For the presentation of every secret will €50

- 3 For any obligation entered in the records of the Court:

- (i) if the value of the estate does not exceed €5,000 €50
- (ii) if the value of the estate does not exceed €20,000 €80
- (iii) if the value of the estate does not exceed € 100,000 €200
- (iv) if the value of the estate exceeds €100,000 €300

- 4 For every report on a reference as to the taxation of fees:

- (i) registry fee €50
- (ii) fee due to the referee appointed by the Court €120

Provided that the Court may order that a higher fee be paid to the referee appointed by the Court if it deems that the work involved so warrants.

- 5 For the examination of accounts:

- (i) registry fee €70

Amended by:
IV.1862.21;
G.N. 162 of 1917;
G.N. 549 of 1939.
Substituted by:
L.N. 102 of 1980.
Amended by:
XIII.1983.4.
Substituted by:
L.N. 142 of 2000.
Amended by:
L.N. 197 of 2000;
L.N. 8 of 2001.
Substituted by:
L.N. 407 of 2007;
L.N. 36 of 2015.

- (ii) fee due to the expert appointed by the Court €250
- Provided that the Court may order that a higher fee be paid to the expert appointed by the Court if it deems that the work involved so warrants.
- 6 For every curatorship in cases of discharge or in connection with edicts:
- (i) registry fee €20
- (ii) fee due to the curator appointed by the Court €50
- Provided that the Court may order that a higher fee be paid to the curator appointed by the Court if it deems that the work involved so warrants.
- 7 For the opening of the registry outside working hours:
- (i) registry fee €60
- (ii) fee due to attending deputy registrar €25
- (iii) fee due to each executive officer required to effect service €15
- 8 (1) The fees stated in paragraphs 1 to 5 of this Tariff are inclusive of the filing of any subsequent act of procedure, transport expenses for court executive officers, the filing of valuations or reports by Court appointed experts, the publication of banns and notices in the Government Gazette and any other court service in connection thereto and which is not specifically excluded by this Tariff.
- (2) The fees stated in paragraphs 1 to 5 of this Tariff do not include fees and expenses due to Court appointed experts and to third parties, which fees and expenses shall be taxed separately.
- 9 For any other service or act of procedure indicated in the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure but for which no fee is established in these Tariffs €15
- Provided that fees for services or acts not specifically provided for in this Tariff but provided for in other Tariffs shall be taxed according to those Tariffs but rebated by 75%

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- 10 (1) For every notification of an act of procedure, including expenses incurred in the execution of such notification, the following fees shall be due:
- (i) registry fee €2.50
 - (ii) fee due to the executive officer effecting service €0.60
- (2) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Tariff, if the notification is to be executed personally by an executive officer of the Court in cases where the law permits that service be effected otherwise, the following fees shall be due for each notification:
- (i) registry fee €25
 - (ii) fee due to the executive officer effecting the service €5
- (3) The fees established in sub-paragraph (2) shall not apply when service is to be effected personally by an executive officer of the Court in terms of any law, and in such cases the fees established in sub-paragraph (1) of this paragraph shall apply.
- (4) In the case of circular letters requested by law the above fees shall be reduced by 50%
- 11 (1) All fees due shall be paid together with the filing of the relative act and the Registrar shall not accept for filing any act of procedure which is not accompanied by the relative fee.
- (2) The assessment of the Registrar on the amount of fees to be paid shall be final.
- (3) In assessing the fees laid down in this Tariff no account shall be taken of any fraction of €1.
- 12 No fees shall be due under this Tariff for any act filed by a curator or by a voluntary organization, enrolled in the Register of Voluntary Organisations under the Voluntary Organisations Act, upon the filing of an application under the Protection of Minors (Registration) Act.
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Amended by:
 VII.1880.10;
 G.N. 340 of 1916;
 G.N. 393 of 1934;
 G.N. 249 of 1941;
 G.N. 653 of 1942;
 G.N. 139 of 1949.
 Substituted by:
 L.N. 78 of 1971;
 L.N. 102 of 1980.
 Amended by:
 XIII.1983.4.
 Substituted by:
 L.N. 3 of 1986.
 Amended by:
 L.N. 28 of 1988;
 VIII.1990.3;
 L.N. 116 of 1992;
 L.N. 91 of 1995.
 Substituted by:
 L.N. 124 of 1996;
 L.N. 142 of 2000.
 Amended by:
 L.N. 197 of 2000;
 L.N. 8 of 2001;
 L.N. 277 of 2005.
 Substituted by:
 L.N. 407 of 2007.
 Amended by:
 L.N. 371 of 2011;
 L.N. 79 of 2012.
 Substituted by:
 L.N. 36 of 2015.
 Amended by:
 XLV.2016.6;
 Amended by:
 LI.2016.37;
 L.N. 137 of 2020.

TARIFF D

Fees payable in respect of Precautionary and Executive Acts and Judicial Sales by Auction in the Registries of the Superior Courts of Justice and the Courts of Magistrates in Malta and Gozo excluding the Court of Voluntary Jurisdiction

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1	For the filing of a warrant of prohibitory injunction:	
	(i) registry fee	€150
	(ii) fee due to the executive officer required to effect service, for each notification	€7
2	For the filing of a warrant of impediment of departure for children	€60
	fee due to the executive officer required to effect service, for each notification	€7
3	For the filing of any other warrant:	
	(i) registry fee	€50
	(ii) fee due to the executive officer required to effect service, for each notification	€7
4	For the filing of any counter-warrant:	
	(i) registry fee	€20
	(ii) fee due to the executive officer required to effect service, for each notification	€7
5	(1) (a) For the filing of any application for a judicial sale by auction of immovable property including an application to re-appoint a judicial sale by auction which has been suspended:	
	(i) registry fee	€200
	(ii) fee due to the executive officer required to effect service, for each notification	€7
	(b) For filing any application for a judicial sale by auction of movable property, including an application for the re-appointment of a judicial sale by auction which had been suspended:	
	(i) registry fee	€65
	(ii) fee due to the executive officer required to execute the notification, for each notification	€7

- (c) No fee shall be levied for the suspension of a judicial sale by auction or for the re-appointment of a judicial sale by auction, the suspension of which was due to any notification required by law not having been effected or which has been suspended by the court following the request of the debtor.

(2) The fees due in accordance with sub-paragraph (1) shall include all services, fees and expenses required up to the sale itself, except for fees due for the service of any judicial act, which fees shall be taxed separately.

(3) For the storage in Government property of any movable to be sold by auction, per day €30

Provided that the applicant shall, together with the filing of the application for the judicial sale by auction, deposit a sum equivalent to seven days' storage which sum shall be adjusted following the adjudication of the sale or on its suspension.

(4) For the adjudication of any movable or immovable following a judicial sale by auction, for every €100 1%

Provided that in no case shall the fee levied be less than €120

Provided further that when a licensed auctioneer or broker performs the auction, such licensed auctioneer or broker shall be paid the following fees:

- (a) in the case of an auction
of immovable property,
of rights annexed to such
immovable property, of ships
and of commercial going concerns
zero point two per cent of the price
of the item sold, solely from the
applicant on whose demand the
judicial sale is made; and

- (b) in the case of an auction of
movable items
zero point one per cent
of the price of the item
sold, solely from the
applicant on whose
demand the judicial sale
is made:

Provided further that the parties may, in writing, agree that the licensed auctioneer or broker, as the case may be, be paid different fees, not being less than those provided for in paragraphs (a) and (b), and in such proportions as they may so agree in writing.

6 For the opening of the registry outside working hours:

- | | |
|--|------|
| (i) registry fee | €120 |
| (ii) fee due to attending deputy registrar | €50 |
| (iii) fee due to each executive officer required to effect service | €35 |

Provided that when the Superintendent of Public Health orders the closure of the court in terms of the Public Health Act, the fees established in this item shall not apply to actions mentioned in items 11 (a) and (c) of this Tariff; with the exception of actions relating to the civil status of a person, relating to human rights or relating to general elections and of actions of possession and jactitation suits or concerning personal injury, claims for the payment of wages or claims for unjust dismissal from employment; in the event that the opening of the registry is requested on any working day during the opening hours established by law.

7 (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2) of this paragraph, the fees stated in paragraphs 1 to 4 of this Tariff are inclusive of all expenses and services required in connection with the execution of the relative act of procedure, any police assistance which the executive officer may require in executing the act, the filing of valuations or reports by Court appointed experts and the publication of banns and notices in the Gazette.

(2) The fees stated in paragraphs 1 to 4 of this Tariff do not include fees and expenses due to Court appointed experts and to third parties which fees and expenses shall be taxed separately.

8 For any other act of procedure indicated in the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure but for which no fee is established in these Tariffs €20

- 9 For every notification, not previously mentioned in this Tariff, of an act of procedure, including expenses incurred in the execution of such notification, the following fees shall be due:

(i) registry fee	€7
(ii) fee due to the executive officer effecting the service	€2.35

Provided that if service is to be effected outside normal working hours, the fees contained in this paragraph shall be increased by 100%.

- 10 Notwithstanding anything contained in this Tariff if the notification is to be executed personally by an executive officer of the Court in cases where the law permits that notification be effected otherwise, the following fees shall be due, for each notification:

(i) registry fee	€25
(ii) fee due to the executive officer effecting the service	€7

- 11 (a) In actions for personal separation, divorce, annulment, maintenance, filiation, paternity, child abduction or custody, relating to the civil status of a person, relating to human rights or relating to general elections and in actions of spoliation or concerning personal injury, claims for the payment of wages or claims for unjust dismissal from employment, actions of possession and jactitation suits and actions in respect of the execution of a promise of sale or of a promise of a transfer both of movable or immovable property, all the fees provided for in this Tariff shall be rebated by 50%
- (b) No fees shall be due for any act filed by a curator *ex officio* acting in that capacity.

- 11A For the filing of any warrant issued for the purpose of enforcing a decision of the Consumer Claims Tribunal, all the fees provided for in this Tariff shall be rebated by 50%

- 12 (1) All fees due shall be paid together with the filing of the relative act and the Registrar shall not accept for filing any act of procedure which is not accompanied by the relative fee.

(2) The assessment of the Registrar on the amount of fees to be paid shall be final.

(3) In assessing the fees laid down in this Tariff no account shall be taken of any fraction of €1.

(4) For filing any application requesting a new taxing of fees or the approval of an itemization of expenses made under this article there shall be paid a fee of €50".

13. Fees for the approval by the Court of sales in accordance with Sub-Title V of Title VII of Part I of Book Second (Of Court Approved Sales of Ships, Vessels and Aircraft) - there shall be paid a registry fee, calculated on the sale value of the asset being sold:

On the first Euro 1,000,000	1%
From Euro 1,000,001 to Euro 5,000,000	0.5%
From Euro 5,000,001 to Euro 10,000,000	0.1%
Above Euro 10,000,000	0.01%

TARIFF E

Fees payable to Advocates, Legal Procurators and Official Curators

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1. (a) For each note of acceptance of banns and for each protest against the sufficiency of a bail for costs, even if such protest is not filed separately 11.65

(b) For each note required to be filed under the provisions of the [Commercial Code](#) 11.65

(c) For every note of submission filed in any court,
..... from 46.59
to 232.94

2. (a) For each application for summoning of witnesses 23.29

(b) For each first application for sale of immovables (including research in the Public Registry, the ordering of certificates of hypothec, and perusal of relative deeds from 23.29
to 69.88

(c) For any other application from 11.65
to 58.23

(d) For any application filed after office hours or on a Sunday or public holiday, there shall be taxed an additional fee of 58.23

3. For each application filed in the Court of Voluntary Jurisdiction:

(i) if it concerns the admission of minors to an industrial school or to an approved school 6.99

Amended by:
VII.1856.4,5,6,7;
IV.1868.15;
G.N. 136 of 1919;
G.N. 137 of 1919;
G.N. 475 of 1929;
G.N. 393 of 1934;
G.N. 653 of 1942.
Substituted by:
L.N. 7 of 1968.
Amended by:
L.N. 9 of 1968;
L.N. 78 of 1971.
Substituted by:
L.N. 102 of 1980.
Amended by:
XIII.1983.4;
L.N. 3 of 1986;
L.N. 1 of 1987.
Substituted by:
L.N. 121 of 1996.
Amended by:
L.N. 154 of 1996;
XXXI.2002.194;
L.N. 277 of 2005;
L.N. 290 of 2005;
XXII.2005.75.
Substituted by:
L.N. 407 of 2007.
Amended by:
XXIII.2009.15;
L.N. 371 of 2011;
L.N. 224 of 2014.

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(ii) if it concerns the candidature in a marriage legacy or the renewal of an authorisation previously given, or the taxing of fees	11.65
(iii) in all other cases (including notes of acceptance or waiver of an inheritance)	23.29
<p>Provided that an additional fee shall be taxed when the drawing up of the application, and/or the preparation and/or the filing of the relative documents, entails more work than is ordinarily required.</p>	
4. For each attendance during sittings before the Court of Voluntary Jurisdiction	23.29
<p>5. (a) For each lodgment schedule, even if such lodgment is made with or following a schedule of redemption:</p>	
(i) when the value does not exceed €465.87	11.65
(ii) when the value exceeds €465.87 the fee shall be increased by one <i>per centum</i> (1%) for every additional €100 or part thereof;	
<p>(b) For each schedule of set-off or redemption:</p>	
(i) when the value does not exceed €465.87	11.65
(ii) when the value exceeds €465.87 the fee shall be increased by one <i>per centum</i> (1%) for every additional €100 or part thereof.	
<p>These fees are inclusive of advice concerning the right to claim set-off or exercise redemption.</p>	
6. (a) For the drafting of a judicial letter, whether filed or not	23.29
(b) For the drafting of a judicial protest, whether filed or not	23.29
(c) For the drafting of an affidavit from	4.66
to	34.94
<p>Provided that any judicial letter filed under articles 166A and 253(b) and (e) of Chapter 12 where such judicial letter becomes an executive title, the fee shall be 40% of the amount fixed in article 13, however where a note of admission of the claim is filed such fee shall be reduced to 30%.</p>	
7. For the drafting of each hypothecary protest	23.29

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Provided that a fee shall be assessed for the perusal of entries of hypothec and of relative deeds, taking into consideration the number of entries and deeds perused, their importance and/or the amount involved	23.29
from	
to	69.88
<p>8. For every attendance, before a referee or before a judicial assistant and for every attendance at an inspection <i>in faciem loci</i>, whether ordered by the court or required by the client:</p>	
(i) if the attendance does not last more than one hour and a half	23.29
(ii) if it lasts more than one hour and a half, and provided this circumstance is expressly noted in a <i>procès-verbal</i> signed by the referee, the judicial assistant or the deputy registrar, as the case may be, the fee shall be increased by €23.29 in respect of each additional hour or part thereof.	
9. When the attendance referred to at paragraph 8 takes place outside Valletta, the fee shall be	27.95
<p>10. If the attendance referred to in the last preceding paragraph lasts more than one hour and a half, and provided this circumstance is expressly noted in a <i>procès-verbal</i> signed by the referee the judicial assistant or the deputy registrar, as the case may be, the fee shall be increased by €23.29 in respect of each additional hour or part thereof.</p>	
<p>11. (1) For drafting or perusal of a deed for publication by a notary public, which includes fees due for advice, research into liabilities and transfers, tracing of root of immovables, and attendance at publication:</p>	
if the value of the interest concerned -	
(i) does not exceed €465.87	
from	11.65
to	23.29
(ii) exceeds €465.87 but does not exceed €6,988.12 per €100 or part thereof	4.66
(iii) exceeds €6,988.12 but does not exceed €58,234.33 per €100 or part thereof in respect of such excess	2.33

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(2) When, in connection with the drafting or perusal of a deed to be published by a notary public, an advocate does not perform all the services referred to in sub-paragraph (1) of this paragraph, the fee therein established shall be assessed in proportion to the services performed unless the advocate assumes the professional responsibility for the deed, in which case the fee established in that sub-paragraph shall be due.

(3) If the value of the interest concerned exceeds €58,234.33 or if the value of the interest concerned is not expressed in money there shall be no Tariff.

12. To curators appointed to attend at publication of a deed on behalf of absentees or defaulters for attendance and for perusal of the deed, and to any person who in virtue of a right vested in him by the court in terms of the [Merchant Shipping Act](#), transfers any ship or share therein from 69.88
to 582.34

13. For each definitive judgment:

- (i) in respect of the first €1,164.69 or 46.59
part thereof minimum of
10%
whichever
is the
greater
- (ii) in respect of any value in excess of
the first €1,164.69 up to
€23,293.73 per €232.94 6.99
- (iii) in respect of any value in excess
of €23,293.73 per €232.94 2.33

Provided that in respect to the claims referred to in No. 7 (b) of Tariff A, the fee shall be taxed on one-half of the maximum fixed by law for the penalty contemplated therein.

14. When a declaration containing a decision of any point of law or of fact concerns a value indeterminate or determinable according to law or from the records of the proceedings, the fee in respect of that decision shall be taxed in accordance with paragraph 13, on the value so determined.

15. (a) For any other necessary declaration containing the decision of any point of law or of factfrom 23.29
to 232.94

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(b) For each definitive judgement in a cause for a remedy under Chapter IV of the [Constitution](#) or under Chapter 319 or where the annulment of an administrative act is demanded in terms of contestation of article 469A of Chapter 12, or for the contestation of a claim in terms of article 466 of Chapter 12, or for the contestation of a seizure under Chapter 37, or for the payment or refund of a tax, levy, or duty or for appeals filed in terms of articles 41 and 75 of the Environment and Development Planning Act (Cap. 504) from 46.59
to 698.81

16. In causes for the partition of property, independently of the number of demands contained in the application there shall be taxed only one fee *ad valorem* as in paragraph 13 on the greater sum between the assets and the liabilities of the property to be divided - provided that in causes of partition of property *causa mortis* such fee shall be taxed on the value established as above of each particular estate to be divided between the parties, saving that such fee shall in no case be less than 116.47

17. In causes for the partition of property where the partition of all property involved cannot be carried out except by way of licitation, provided that such a demand is made in the application and upheld in the final judgment, the fees due to each advocate in the cause shall be taxed at the rate of one *per centum* (1%) on the value of the property in licitation provided that in no case shall such fee be more than that assessed according to paragraph 13 or less than .. 116.47

18. In actions respecting the payment of annuities, allowances and the like, if the amounts be indeterminate, the fee shall be taxed as provided in paragraph 13 on the amount awarded in the final judgment, provided that in no case shall such fee be less than 116.47

19. In actions of maintenance, the fee shall be one half *per centum* (½%) on the amount of maintenance payable under the judgment for a period of ten years, provided that if the order refers to provisional maintenance the fee shall be from 11.65
to 34.94

20. In actions of filiation, in other actions concerning the status of individuals and in actions relating to the separation or divorce of married persons irrespective of the number of declarations involved, but saving the fee in respect of any decision on any point of law or of fact which concerns a value determinate or determinable, there shall be allowed a fee from 81.53

	€	
	to	174.70
21. In actions relating to the ranking of creditors, the minimum fee shall be		116.47
Provided that -		
(i) when there is contestation of the claim either as to the amount or as to ranking the fee shall be as at paragraph 13;		
(ii) where there is admission of the claim, but such claim does not result from a previous executive title, the fee shall be as at paragraphs 28, 29, 30 and 31, as the case may be.		
22. To the advocate of the party making the lodgment there shall be allowed the fee of		23.29
But if there be contestation as to the amount lodged, the provisions contained in paragraph 13 shall apply.		
23. In bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings, where there is no contestation concerning the proof of a claim, the fee in respect of that proof of a claim shall be that established for a declaration.		
24. In any other action of adjudication upon competing claims, referred to in article 428 of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure, there shall be taxed a fee as provided in paragraphs 13, 18 and 36.		
25. In causes concerning the validity of a redemption or the implementation of a promise of conveyance, the value in the cause for purposes of paragraph 13 shall be the value of the property redeemed or of which the conveyance was promised.		
26. For each decree in the cause from		11.65
to		116.47
27. In case of judgments of non-suit, if the judgment is given on pleas touching the principal merits of the cause, there shall be allowed to the advocate the fee established in paragraph 13; in any other case one-half of the fee aforesaid shall be allowed.		116.47
28. Where a cause is discontinued in first or in second instance:		
(i) after the application has been filed, there shall be allowed to the advocate of the plaintiff one-third of the fee established in paragraph 13 when the cause is taxable <i>ad valorem</i> ;		

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- (ii) after the statement of defence or the answer has been drafted, there shall be allowed to the advocate of the defendant one-third of the fee established at paragraph 13 when the cause is taxable *ad valorem*.

29. In case of compromise or discontinuance at any other stage of the proceedings subsequent to contestation but prior to the hearing of the cause, or in case of admission at any stage prior to the commencement of the hearing, there shall be allowed one-half of the fees established at paragraph 13 when the cause is taxable *ad valorem*.

30. If the compromise or discontinuance or admission takes place after the commencement of the hearing of the cause, two-thirds of the fee established in paragraph 13 shall be allowed when the cause is taxable *ad valorem*.

31. If the compromise or discontinuance or admission takes place after the cause has been adjourned for judgment, the whole fee established in paragraph 13 shall be allowed, when the cause is taxable *ad valorem*.

32. (a) If more than one advocate is briefed by the same party in the same action, each of the advocates shall be entitled to the whole of the established fee:

Provided that the party in whose favour the head of costs is decided, although he may have briefed more than one advocate, shall not be entitled to claim from the party cast more than one whole fee.

(b) Where there are two or more plaintiffs or two or more defendants to a suit, each of the parties is entitled to have his own advocate or advocates even if the merit is similar in respect of all the plaintiffs or in respect of all the defendants; and the party ordered to pay the costs shall be bound to pay the proper fees of all the advocates on the prevailing side so long as no one party claims costs in respect of more than one advocate.

33. If an advocate abandons or is abandoned by his client:

- (i) after the application or the answer has been filed, he shall be entitled to one-third of the normal fee;
- (ii) after the above stages but before the cause has been adjourned for judgment, he shall be entitled to two-thirds of the normal fee.

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34. The fee due to an advocate whose services have been engaged after the former one has been abandoned by or has abandoned his client before the cause is concluded shall be equal to the difference between the full fee and the fee taxed to the former advocate. The fee due to a third and subsequent advocate shall always be one-third of the full fee.

35. In every case covered by paragraphs 33 and 34, the party engaging the services of more than one advocate, one after the other, who happens to be on the prevailing side, cannot claim from the party cast more than one whole fee.

36. The fees due to advocates in connection with professional services requiring written pleadings, other than those referred to in paragraph 6, if such pleadings have been prepared but not filed shall be those established in paragraph 15.

37. In connection with professional services at paragraphs 13, 14, 27 to 31, 33 and 34 the minimum fee shall be €46.59.

38. On appeal the fees laid down in paragraphs 13 to 36 inclusive, shall be increased by one-third.

39. In regard to causes before the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) in its superior jurisdiction, there shall be taxed the same fees established in respect of causes before the superior courts and the provisions contained in paragraph 38 of this Tariff shall also apply.

40. Legal procurators shall receive one-third of the fees established by this Tariff for advocates as regards those judicial acts which bear their signature together with that of an advocate, and as regards services at paragraphs 7 and 8. No fees however are taxable to them for any of the services mentioned under the proviso to paragraph 3. For those judicial acts which do not require also the signature of an advocate and which are signed only by a legal procurator, the fee shall be as that due to an advocate.

41. (a) The fees of official curators shall be those established in this Tariff.

(b) Official curators when served with a copy of a judicial act, in connection with which they are not expected to file any written pleading, shall be entitled to the same fee due to an advocate and legal procurator for the same judicial act.

42. An additional fee of €58.23 shall be taxed for every attendance, when an advocate is required to appear before any superior court for any pleadings at an hour when the registry is ordinarily closed.

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43. Advocates and legal procurators, when required to appear before the Court of Magistrates (Malta), or before the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) in its inferior jurisdiction, shall be entitled to the following fees:

(a) For every decision of any point of law or of fact contained in a judgment:

Where the amount in issue does not exceed €1,164.69	46.59 or 10% whichever is the greater
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in respect of any value in excess of €1,164.69, per €100	3.00
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(b) Where the cause is admitted, compromised or discontinued at any stage of the proceedings the provisions of paragraphs 28 to 31 shall apply.

(c) For the drawing up of an application or notice, the filing of which has not taken place	23.29
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(d) For each subpoena and relative application	6.99
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(e) For every warrant, counter-warrant, application or note of consent	11.65
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(f) For each lodgment schedule:

where the value does not exceed €465.87	11.65
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where the value exceeds €465.87 but not €2,329.37 an additional fee of 1% of the excess shall be paid.

(g) For a note of registration of a judgment or of any other executive title	11.65
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(h) For each attendance before a referee or a judicial assistant and for each attendance <i>in faciem loci</i>	23.29
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(i) For each attendance before a court required for the hearing of a cause at an hour when the registry is ordinarily closed but not during an ordinary sitting, or on a Sunday or public holiday, in addition to the fees mentioned in this paragraph, an additional fee of €23.29 shall be taxed in respect of each attendance.

44. (a) Fees taxable to advocates who are appointed as legal referees for each opinion dealt with in the report shall be up to a maximum of €116.47 for each legal point decided. Any calculation or computation of an amount to be awarded as damages or compensation by the courts shall be deemed to be an opinion, and the maximum fee taxable for such an opinion shall be €232.94. The criterion shall be that of the work involved and never the amount assessed by the legal referee.

(b) The above fees shall also apply to advocates who are appointed to report to the Court of Voluntary Jurisdiction and for the revision of accounts rendered.

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45. For every copy required to be filed with the original, for service as laid down in sub-article (2) of article 174 of the [Code of Organization and Civil Procedure](#)

4.66

46. In every case where a fluctuating fee is indicated in this Tariff by a minimum and a maximum, the fee payable in a particular instance shall be established by the registrar, according to the criteria set out in the Code of Ethics and Conduct for Advocates:

Provided that in the taxation of fees due to any lawyer who has rendered professional services to a person admitted to the benefit of legal aid the fee shall always be assessed at the minimum:

Provided further that all such fees so assessed shall be subject to revision by the competent Court at the instance of any person interested in accordance with the provisions of article 64 of the [Code of Organization and Civil Procedure](#).

47. (a) The foregoing provisions of this Tariff shall not prohibit an Advocate or a Legal Procurator and his client, from agreeing on a fee, or the basis on which the fee is to be determined which is different from that established by this Tariff, and in any such case the agreed fee or basis for determining it, not being a basis prohibited by law, shall apply, subject to the provisions of the following sub-paragraphs:

Provided that in any case, an Advocate or a Legal Procurator shall inform his client of the applicable fee or the basis on which the fee is to be determined before the service is provided.

(b) Nothing contained in sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph shall affect the taxing of fees as between the parties to judicial acts or proceedings or in respect of any extra-judicial work by advocates or legal procurators to be paid by the other party, which shall be regulated exclusively in accordance with the foregoing paragraphs of this Tariff.

(c) Notwithstanding sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph it shall not be lawful for any advocate to fix by agreement his fees in an amount higher or lower than those fixed in this Tariff in respect of any matters arising under Chapter IV of the [Constitution](#), Book First of Cap. 16, Cap. 5, Cap. 255 and Cap. 319 of the Laws of Malta; and in respect of deeds for the transfer of immovable property where the value does not exceed €58,234.33.

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(d) A fee charged by an advocate under an agreement as is mentioned in sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph shall be subject to review by the Committee for Advocates and Legal Procurators established by the Commission for the Administration of Justice Act (Cap. 369) on the request of the client filed within one month from the date of the agreement.

(e) The said Committee may reduce the fee charged as aforesaid if, in the light of the relative criteria stipulated in the respective Codes of Ethics and Conduct for Advocates and for Legal Procurators, the Committee considers the fee to be unreasonable.

(f) For the purposes of this paragraph, an agreement concerning fees shall be in writing.

48. (a) A fee charged by an advocate or a legal procurator in respect of any matter not covered by this Tariff shall be subject to review by the Committee for Advocates and Legal Procurators on the request of the client filed within one month from the date of the agreement or, if there is no agreement, from the date of the advocate's or legal procurator's note of fees.

(b) The said Committee may reduce the fee charged as aforesaid if, in the light of the relative criteria stipulated in the respective Codes of Ethics and Conduct for Advocates and for Legal Procurators, the Committee considers the fee to be unreasonable.

TARIFF F

Fees allowed to Supplementary Judges and Supplementary Magistrates

(Deleted by [XXXI.2002.195.](#))

Amended by:
IV.1862.22;
IV.1905.7.
Substituted by:
L.N. 7 of 1968;
L.N. [102 of 1980.](#)
Amended by:
[XIII.1983.4.](#)
Substituted by:
L.N. [121 of 1996.](#)

TARIFF G

Fees payable to Accountants and other Referees

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Amended by:
VII.1856.8,9;
IV.1862.23;
XXXI.1934.82.
Substituted by:
L.N. 102 of 1980.
Amended by:
XIII.1983.4;
L.N. 407 of 2007.

1. The fee payable to accountants shall be taxed at one *per centum* (1%) on the amount of the subject matter of the references, subject to a minimum of €11.65 and a maximum of €2,329.37

2. To other experts, for any valuation:

on the first €1,164.69 or part thereof 11.65

on any further amount over €1,164.69, for every
€100 or part thereof 1.00

Provided that the fee shall in no case exceed
€1,164.69.

3. The fees prescribed in the preceding numbers of this Tariff shall include the remuneration for making the report, accounts and statements, for holding sittings, and for attendance in court and elsewhere where necessary, but they shall not include the expense necessary for carrying out the reference.

4. Where, owing to the special circumstances of the case, it appears to be just that, besides the fees above established, an additional fee be allowed to the referee or expert, it shall be in the power of the court, upon hearing the parties interested, to allow such additional fee at its discretion.

Any such additional fee may be determined beforehand by the court in the decree appointing the referee or expert or by separate decree, but in no case otherwise than by decree.

5. The taxation made by the registrar may be appealed against by any referee or party in the manner prescribed under article 667 of the [Code of Organization and Civil Procedure](#).

6. Fees due to taxing experts in the Court of Voluntary Jurisdiction shall be regulated in accordance with No. 13 of Tariff C.

Added by:
G.N. No. 549 of
1939.

Amended by:
G.N. No. 653 of
1942.

Substituted by:
L.N. 7 of 1968;
L.N. [102 of 1980](#).

Amended by:
[XIII.1983.4.](#)

Substituted by:
L.N. [121 of 1996](#);
L.N. [142 of 2000](#);
L.N. [407 of 2007](#);
L.N. [36 of 2015](#).

TARIFF J

**Fees payable in connection with Sea Protests or proceedings
concerning Average**

- 1 For the procedures required following the filing of any application regarding sea protests or for proceedings touching average up to the filing of the report: €
 - (i) registry fee €200
 - (ii) fee due to the advocate €240
 - (iii) fee due to the judge delegate €120
 - (iv) fee due to the deputy registrar €60
 - (v) fee due to the translator, if required €60
 - (vi) fee due to the clerk transcribing the protest and depositions, if required €50
 - (vii) fee due to the executive officer of the Court €35
- 2 When the sea protest is drawn up outside the edifice of the Law Courts the fees stated in paragraph 1 of this Tariff shall be increased by 25%

Provided that if the sea protest is drawn up on board a ship lying outside a harbour the fees stated in paragraph 1 of this Tariff shall be increased by 50%
- 3 Where the sea protest is drawn up at any time after 4.00pm and before 9.00am the fees set out in paragraph 1 of this Tariff shall be increased by 50%
- 4 (1) The sea-protest shall be drawn up in English.
(2) An interpreter shall be employed when the declaration is made or the evidence given in a language with which the judge is not conversant.

TARIFF K
Fees payable to Periti

1. Survey of Lands

(a) Survey without the submission of a plan showing boundaries only:

	Level Land	Terraced Land or Level Land with trees and/ or other obstacles	Terraced Land with trees and/ or obstacles
	€	€	€
If the area does not exceed 4496 sq. metres	9.32	11.65	13.98
If the area exceeds 4496 sq. metres but does not exceed 8992 sq. metres	16.31	20.96	23.29
If the area exceeds 8992 sq. metres but does not exceed 13488 sq. metres	23.29	30.28	37.27
If the area exceeds 13488 sq. metres but does not exceed 17984 sq. metres	34.94	41.93	51.25
If the area exceeds 17984 sq. metres but does not exceed 26976 sq. metres	46.59	53.58	69.88
If the area exceeds 26976 sq. metres, for each additional 1124 sq. metres or part thereof there shall be added	1.75	2.33	2.91

(b) Survey with detailed plan:

- (i) If the area does not exceed 8992sq. metres, the fees specified in subparagraph (a) shall be increased by €2.33 per 1124 sq. metres or part thereof.

Amended by:
G.N. No. 203 of 1920;
G.N. No. 78 of 1929.
Substituted by:
L.N. 7 of 1968.
Amended by:
XIII.1983.4;
L.N. 1 of 2000;
XVIII.2002.10;
XXXI.2002.196.
Substituted by:
L.N. 407 of 2007.
Amended by:
XXIII.2009.16;
L.N. 447 of 2010.

- (ii) If the area exceeds 8992 sq. metres, the fees specified in sub-paragraph (a) shall be increased by €2.33 per 1124 sq. metres in respect of the first 8992 sq. metres and by €1.16 in respect of each additional 1124 sq. metres or part thereof.

(c) Survey of streets including plans showing outlines:

In this sub-paragraph the word “street” means any street and includes any road, alley, square or other place of public passage.

For every 46 metres or part thereof of the length of the street shown in the plan €4.66

(d) Levels:

Where spot levels with or without contours are required the fees payable under sub-paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) shall be increased by:

150% if levels are taken at intervals of	1.5 metres
100% if levels are taken at intervals of	3 metres
90% if levels are taken at intervals of	6 metres
80% if levels are taken at intervals of	9 metres
70% if levels are taken at intervals of	12 metres
60% if levels are taken at intervals of	15 metres
50% if levels are taken at intervals of	18 metres
40% if levels are taken at intervals of	21.5 metres
30% if levels are taken at intervals of	24.5 metres
20% if levels are taken at intervals of	27.5 metres
10% if levels are taken at intervals of	30.5 metres

2. Survey and Plotting of Buildings

(a) Buildings of simple disposition and regular in plan:

- (i) if of not more than 6 areas €5.82
- (ii) if of more than 6 areas, the above fee shall be increased by €1.16 in respect of each additional area.

(b) Buildings with irregular walls:

The fees specified in sub-paragraph (a) shall be increased by fifty *per centum* (50%).

Note: The above fees shall be in respect of one floor only.

For the survey and plotting of each other floor the fees shall be reduced by fifty *per centum* (50%).

(c) Buildings of a special character:

For every 9 square metres or part thereof of the gross area	€0.58
---	-------

3. Plans of Building Sites and Relative Division into Building Plots

For surveying a building site, preparing detailed plans and dividing the site into building plots:

(i) if the area does not exceed 878 sq. metres	€11.65
(ii) if the area exceeds 878 sq. metres, for every additional 439 sq. metres or part thereof	€6.99

4. Measurements of Excavations and Embankments

Up to 14 cubic metres, per 3 cubic metres or part thereof	€1.40
Over 14 and up to 28.5 cubic metres, per 3 cubic metres or part thereof	€1.11
Over 28.5 cubic metres, per 3 cubic metres or part hereof	€0.82

5. Measurement of Works or Preparation of Bills of Quantities

(a) For measurement of work including pricing	2%
(b) For detailed bills of quantities by trade including pricing	2½%
(c) For measurement of works and pricing which require calculations other than the measurement of actually existing quantities and the assessment of the relative prices	3%

6. Valuations

(a) Rural property

If the value does not exceed €232.94	€6.99
If the value exceeds €232.94 but not €465.87	€9.08
If the value exceeds €465.87 but not €698.81	€11.88
If the value exceeds €698.81 but not €931.75	€13.98
If the value exceeds €931.75 but not €1,164.69	€16.07
If the value exceeds €1,164.69 but not €1,397.62 ..	€17.47
If the value exceeds €1,397.62 but not €1,630.56 ..	€18.87
If the value exceeds €1,630.56 but not €1,863.50 ..	€20.27
If the value exceeds €1,863.50 but not €2,096.44 ..	€21.66
If the value exceeds €2,096.44 but not €2,329.37 ..	€23.06

If the value exceeds €2,329.37 the fee shall be increased by €0.30c per €100 or part thereof.

(b) Urban property

If the value does not exceed €232.94	€6.99
If the value exceeds €232.94 but not €465.87.....	€7.57
If the value exceeds €465.87 but not €698.81	€8.39
If the value exceeds €698.81 but not €931.75	€9.43
If the value exceeds €931.75 but not €1,164.69	€10.48
If the value exceeds €1,164.69 but not €1,397.62 ..	€11.53
If the value exceeds €1,397.62 but not €1,630.56 ..	€12.58
If the value exceeds €1,630.56 but not €1,863.50 .	€13.63
If the value exceeds €1,863.50 but not €2,096.44 ..	€14.68
If the value exceeds €2,096.44 but not €2,329.37 ..	€15.84

If the value exceeds €2,329.37 the fee shall be increased by €0.30c per €100 or part thereof.

(c) Emphyteutical property and property subject to usufruct, burdens or easements.

The fee payable shall be assessed on the value of the property as free.

In the valuation of a *directum dominium* in perpetuity of any tenement or of any perpetual burden, the fee shall be assessed in accordance with paragraph 15.

(d) Usufruct

In the valuation of a usufruct the fee shall be assessed on the value of the property as freehold with the addition of a fee as provided under sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph 15.

(e) Portions of tenements

In the valuation of an undivided portion of a tenement, whether free or emphyteutical or subject to usufruct, easement or burden, the fee shall be assessed as laid down in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) of this paragraph or on the basis of four *per centum* (4%) on the value of the portion so valued, whichever is the lesser fee, provided that in no case the fee payable shall be less than €6.99.

Note: The fees specified in this paragraph include any fees for valuations and measurements which may be necessary to arrive at the final value.

7. Partition of Property

The fee payable shall be one-fourth of the fee established for the valuation but it shall not exceed €34.94 for every proposed scheme of partition of property.

8. *Assessing value of Dilapidations or Improvements*

For preparing schedule, with or without the assessment of the value, the fee shall be equal to five *per centum* (5%) on the assessed amount:

Provided that if only an assessment of the value is required, the fee shall be of two *per centum* (2%) of the estimated cost.

In no case shall the fee be less than €6.99

9. *Assessing Damage other than Dilapidations*

For preparing detailed schedule and settling the amount, the fee shall be equal to five *per centum* (5%) of the assessed amount:

Provided that the fee in respect of repeated works of an identical nature shall be reduced by sixty *per centum* (60%) for each work other than the first.

In no case shall the total fee be less than €6.99

10. *Design and Erection of Buildings*

For taking the client's instructions, preparing sketch designs, making approximate estimates of cost by cubic measurement or otherwise, submitting applications for building and/or other licences, preparing working drawings and specifications, giving general supervision, issuing certificates of payment and certifying accounts, the fee in respect of new works is to be assessed as follows:

If the cost of the executed work does not exceed €232.94	10% of the cost
If the cost of the executed work exceeds €232.94 but does not exceed €698.81	9% of the cost
If the cost of the executed work exceeds €698.81 but does not exceed €1,164.69	8% of the cost
If the cost of the executed work exceeds €1,164.69 but does not exceed €2,329.37	7% of the cost
If the cost of the executed work exceeds €2,329.37	6% of the cost

In the case of alterations to existing buildings, the percentage to be charged shall be increased by fifty *per centum* (50%) over the rate for new works.

Notes: (1) The fees specified in this paragraph shall not cover constant supervision of the work but only such supervision as may be required for the purpose of the professional responsibility of the perit under any relevant law at any time in force and as may be necessary to ensure that the works are being executed in general accordance with the contract.

(2) Such fees, however, shall cover the responsibility of the perit to ensure that no material deviation, alteration, addition to or omission from the approved design is made without the knowledge and consent of the client, and to inform the client if the total authorised expenditure is likely to be exceeded or if the contract period is likely to be varied.

(3) Where it is agreed between the perit and the client to retain the services of consultants, the fee of the perit shall be reduced by one-third of the fees on the cost of the works upon which the services of consultants are retained.

11. *Fees in cases when the Perit Abandons or is Abandoned by the Client or Works remain Unexecuted*

1. If a project referred to in paragraph 10 of this Tariff or part thereof is abandoned or if the perit abandons or is abandoned by the client:

- (a) after the perit has taken the client's instructions, prepared preliminary sketch designs sufficient to indicate the interpretation by the perit of the client's instructions and made an approximate estimate of the cost of the project, the fee shall amount to one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the fees specified in paragraph 10;
- (b) after the perit has taken the client's instructions, prepared sketch designs, made an approximate estimate of the cost, submitted applications for building and/or other licences, and prepared working drawings and specifications, the fee shall amount to two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the fees specified in paragraph 10.

2. The perit who has been engaged after a former one has been abandoned by, or has abandoned, his client as above shall be entitled to:

(a) five-sixths ($\frac{5}{6}$) of the fees specified in paragraph 10 in the case contemplated in sub-paragraph 1(a) of this paragraph;

(b) one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of the fees specified in paragraph 10 in the case contemplated in sub-paragraph 1(b) of this paragraph.

12. *Old Material or Material and Services provided by Client*

When building work has been executed wholly or in part with old material or where the material, labour and/or carriage is provided wholly or in part by the client, the fee of the perit shall be calculated as if the work had been executed throughout with new material and as if the material, labour and/or carriage had been paid for throughout at current cost.

13. *Services not included in Paragraph 10 and 11*

Additional fees shall be payable for:

- (a) surveying sites of buildings and taking levels;
- (b) altering drawings or preparing new drawings and for other services made necessary by variations or additions required by the client after the original drawings have been approved by him;
- (c) the assessment of compensation due for rendering party walls common;
- (d) measuring and pricing executed works.

14. *Statically Indeterminate Structures*

In cases involving the design of statically indeterminate structures or statically indeterminate structural members, a fee of two *per centum* (2%) on the cost of such structures or structural members shall be payable in addition to the fees chargeable under paragraph 10 hereof.

15. *Miscellaneous Fees*

- (a) For minor service not otherwise provided for €1.40
- (b) For important service not otherwise provided for €4.66
- (c) Time charges:
In cases where it is agreed between the perit and the client that the fee is to be on a time basis, the fee shall be of €3.49 per hour, but when the perit requires the help of an assistant, the fee shall be increased by €0.93c an hour.
- (d) Travelling allowance
From Malta to Gozo and vice versa or from Gozo to Malta and vice versa €6.99
- (e) Costs in connection with Court duties:

(i) transportation costs to a site inspection	€6.99
(ii) typing and printing minutes in the records of a case, per A4 sheet, for the first copy thereof	€0.70
and each additional copy thereof	€0.23
(iii) for the issue of each notice of a sitting or site inspection to lawyers and parties	€1.16

16. Fees payable to periti, who are appointed as Court referees, including periti who are appointed by the Land Arbitration Board according to article 25(3) of the Land Acquisition (Public Purposes) Ordinance, (Cap. 88), for each opinion dealt with in the report, shall be up to a maximum of €116.47 for each legal point decided. Any calculation or computation of an amount to be awarded as damages or compensation by the Courts shall be deemed to be an opinion, and the maximum fee taxable for such an opinion shall be €232.94. The criterion shall be that of the work involved and never the amount assessed by the Court referee:

Provided that in no case shall the fee payable for any one report exceed two thousand euro (€2000).

Fees payable to surveyors appointed by the Court shall be assessed in accordance with the following paragraphs provided that in no case shall the fee payable for any survey exceed four hundred and fifty euro (€450):

Provided that the Court may at the request, even verbal, of the perit or surveyor, or by the periti who are appointed by the Land Arbitration Board according to article 25(3) of the Land Acquisition (Public Purposes) Ordinance (Cap. 88), after hearing briefly all interested parties, allow the perit or surveyor any additional fee if the fee so assessed is considered too low when considering the work that has been executed:

Provided further that there shall be paid a fee to the periti above referred to, including periti who are appointed by the Land Arbitration Board according to article 25(3) of the Land Acquisition (Public Purposes) Ordinance (Cap. 88), appointed as a Court referees as follows:

(a) For each sitting held -	
(i) for the first hour or part thereof ...	€24
(ii) for each additional hour or part thereof	€24
(b) For each site inspection held -	
(i) for the first hour or part thereof ...	€32
(ii) for each additional hour or part thereof	€24

17. Periti, when ordered by a Court or required by a client to appear before any judicial assistant or a court referee, or for a site inspection shall be entitled to the following fees:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (i) for the first hour or part thereof ... | €35 |
| (ii) for each additional hour or part thereof | €32 |

18. The fees set forth in this Tariff shall, in all cases, be exclusive of the cost of copies of documents, travelling expenses and all other disbursements not already provided for.

19. The expert appointed by the court, including periti who are appointed by the Land Arbitration Board according to article 25(3) of the [Land Acquisition \(Public Purposes\) Ordinance](#) (Cap. 88), shall not be entitled to any fee for services in connection with the presentation of the report or the confirming of the same on oath, but if, after he has presented the report and confirmed the same on oath, he is required to attend in court, he shall be allowed a fee for attendance in accordance with item (f) of Schedule A to the [Witnesses \(Fees\) Ordinance](#).

20. (a) The foregoing provisions of this Tariff shall not prohibit a Perit and his client, from agreeing on a fee, or the basis on which the fee is to be determined which is different from that established by this Tariff, and in any such case the agreed fee or basis for determining it, not being a basis prohibited by law, shall apply, subject to the provisions of the following sub-paragraphs:

Provided that in any case, a Perit shall inform his client of the applicable fee or the basis on which the fee is to be determined before the service is provided.

(b) For the purposes of this paragraph, an agreement concerning fees shall be in writing.

SCHEDULE B

[ARTICLE 1007]

FORMS

Amended by:
 L.N. [153 of 1996](#).
 Substituted by:
 L.N. [407 of 2007](#).

No. 1
 Application of a minor
 to bring action through a curator.
 In (*here insert name of Court*)

.....

.....

versus

.....

.....

The application of the said

Respectfully sheweth: -

That, in the opinion of competent persons, he has good cause to bring an action against the said _____ for the purpose of _____, but, as he is a minor, he being only _____ years of age, he therefore humbly prays this Court that he may be allowed to bring the action through a curator appointed by this Court.

(*Decree of the Court*)

The Court,

Upon seeing the application of _____,

Appoints _____ to act as curator of _____ during his minority, in the action mentioned in the application.

This _____ day of _____
 (*Registrar's signature*)

No. 2
Application of a
third party for the appointment
of a curator to represent a minor.

Amended by:
L.N. [153 of 1996](#).
Substituted by:
L.N. [407 of 2007](#).

In (*here insert name of Court*)

.....
.....
versus
.....
.....

The application of

Respectfully sheweth: -

That, from information obtained, has
good cause to bring an action against ,
for the purpose of ,
but, as the said is a minor, he
being only years of age, the applicant, therefore, humbly prays
that this Court may appoint a curator for the purpose of bringing
the necessary action on behalf of the said minor.

(Decree of the Court)

The Court,
Upon seeing etc.,

This day of
(*Registrar's signature*)

Amended by:
 XVI.1922.5.
 Substituted by:
 L.N. 42 of 1982.
 Amended by:
 XIII.1983.5;
 L.N. 190 of 1995;
 L.N. 153 of 1996.
 Substituted by:
 L.N. 407 of 2007.

No. 3

Application to sue/defend
 with benefit of legal aid.

In the Civil Court First Hall

.....

.....

versus

.....

.....

The application of the said

Respectfully sheweth: -

That in the claim by/against for
 he qualifies for admission to sue/defend with the
 benefit of legal aid.

Wherefore applicant humbly prays this Court that he may be allowed to sue/defend with the benefit of legal aid, and the said applicant declares on oath that he believes that his aforesaid claim/defence is just, and that excluding the subject-matter of the proceedings, he does not possess property of any sort (not including wearing apparel) the net value whereof amounts to a sum of not more than .6,988.12 not including everyday household items that are considered reasonably necessary for the use by applicant and his family, and that his yearly income is not more than the national minimum wage established for persons of eighteen years and over; and that in calculating the said net asset value, no account has been taken of the principal residence of the applicant or any other property, immovable or movable, which forms the subject matter of court proceedings, even though such other property is not the subject matter of the proceedings in respect of which legal aid is being applied for; and that in calculating the income, the period of computation has been calculated at the twelve months' period prior to the demand for the benefit of legal aid.

(Decree of the Court)

The Court

Upon seeing etc.,

Orders that this application be referred to the Advocate for Legal Aid to examine and report whether the applicant has a good cause of action.

This day of

(Registrar's signature)

0.23 cents

No. 4
Application for order
in connection with competition
proceedings.

Amended by:
L.N. [153 of 1996](#).
Substituted by:
L.N. [407 of 2007](#).

In (*here insert name of Court*)

The application of
for competition proceedings amongst the creditors of

Respectfully sheweth: -

That in the Registry of this Court there is lodged the sum of
by schedule filed by on the day of
.

That the applicant as creditor of the said claims
that amount, but he is unable to obtain the same, as it is claimed by
other parties (or other parties claim to have an interest therein)
so that competition proceedings on the said deposit amongst the
creditors of the said are now competent.

Wherefore the applicant humbly prays that this Court may order
the publication of the notice relative to such competition
proceedings.

(Decree of the Court)

The Court,

Allows the application, and appoints the day of
for the appearance of the parties interested at the
hearing of the cause, and directs the Registrar to publish the notice
referred to in article 416 of the Code of Organization and Civil
Procedure.

This day of
(*Registrar's signature*)

Amended by:
L.N. [190 of 1995](#);
L.N. [153 of 1996](#).
Substituted by:
L.N. [407 of 2007](#).

No. 5

Notice in compliance with
the preceding Order.

NOTICE

Registry of
This day of

It is hereby notified to whom it may concern that, in the Registry of the (*name of Court*) , there is the sum of lodged by schedule filed by on the day of in favour of , and that by a decree of the day of , on the application of , the Court has ordered that competition proceedings be instituted on the said deposit, and has appointed the day of for the appearance of the parties interested and the hearing of the cause.

Wherefore any person, claiming to have an interest in the matter, is requested to exercise his rights on the deposit aforesaid, by an application within days from the aforementioned date, for the purposes of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure.

(*Registrar's signature*)

Form No. 6 - Writ of summons

Revoked by [XXII.2005.76](#)

Amended by:
XXXI.1934.83;
L.N. 46 of 1965.
Substituted by:
XXII.1976.2;
L.N. 95 of 1979.
Amended by:
L.N. [190 of 1995](#)
L.N. [153 of 1996](#).

Amended by:
L.N. 46 of 1965.
Substituted by:
XXII.1976.2.
Amended by:
L.N. 190 of 1995;
L.N. 153 of 1996.
Substituted by:
L.N. 407 of 2007.

No. 7

Notice of hearing
of cause.

REPUBLIC OF MALTA

To

Marshal of the Courts

WHEREAS in a cause the pleadings whereof have been closed in
the (*name of Court*)

between

the Court has appointed the

for the hearing of the said cause.

Wherefore you are ordered that by the delivery of a copy hereof
both to the said Plaintiff and Defendant
or their agent, according to law, you summon them
to appear at o'clock on the before
this Court, on which day the cause will be heard and determined.

You are further ordered to warn in the same manner the aforesaid
Plaintiff and Defendant that, should they fail to appear on the day,
and at the place and time aforesaid, the Court will proceed in their
default to deliver judgment, according to justice, at the suit of the
said on the same day, or on any subsequent day, as may
be determined by the said Court.

And after execution, or upon your meeting with any obstacle in
the execution hereof, you shall forthwith report to this Court.

Given by the (*name of Court*),

and witnessed by

Doctor of Laws,
of the said Court.

This, day of 20

No. 8
Subpoena *Ad Testificandum*
and/or *Duces Tecum* before the
Court/referee.
In (*here insert name of Court*)

In the cause

.....

.....

versus

.....

.....

Application of

Respectfully requests the issue of a summons of a witness in the
above-stated cause against the person mentioned hereunder to
attend for the sitting and at the time stated hereunder, and/or to
bring with him the documents referred to hereunder.

Name and address of the person summoned to attend as a witness:

Documents to be brought by him:

Date, time and place where he is to attend:

Advocate

Legal Procurator

This, day of 20

Filed by

(*Registrar's signature*)

Amended by:
L.N. 46 of 1965.
Substituted by:
XXII.1976.2;
L.N. 96 of 1981.
Amended by:
XXIV.1995.358;
L.N. 190 of 1995;
L.N. 153 of 1996.
Substituted by:
L.N. 407 of 2007.

No. 8

Subpoena *Ad Testificandum*
and/or *Duces Tecum*
before the Court/referee.

REPUBLIC OF MALTA

COURT SUMMONS

To

Marshal of the Courts

WHEREAS pursuant to the above application in the abovestated cause pending in this Court the evidence of the afore mentioned person is required;

You are, therefore, ordered to summon the said person to attend on the day and at the time mentioned, and so on any other day and at any other time to which the said cause may be put off to give evidence in that cause and/or to bring with him the documents indicated.

You will also warn the said person that in case of disobedience to this summons, he shall be liable to the penalties established for contempt of Court, and he may be compelled to attend by a warrant of escort or of arrest, and he shall be liable to all other consequences to which, according to the provisions of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure, he may be liable for such disobedience.

And after execution, by delivery of a copy hereof to the said person or to his agent, according to law, or upon your meeting with any obstacle in the said service, you shall forthwith report to this Court.

Given by the (*name of Court*),

and witnessed by

Doctor of Laws,
of the said Court.

This, day of 20

No. 9
Warrant of seizure for fine
(*ammenda* or *multa*) or of arrest
against person failing to attend
on subpoena *Ad Testificandum*
and/or *Duces Tecum*.

Amended by:
L.N. 46 of 1965;
XIII.1983.4;
L.N. 190 of 1995;
L.N. 18 of 1996;
L.N. 153 of 1996.
Substituted by:
L.N. 407 of 2007.

REPUBLIC OF MALTA

To Marshal of the Courts

WHEREAS by a decree given by the (*name of Court*) on the
day of , was condemned to pay a fine
(*ammenda* or *multa*) of € (or was sentenced to detention or
imprisonment for) for having failed to attend as
witness in the cause *versus*

Wherefore you are ordered to seize, without any delay, from the
possession of the said a pledge equivalent to the
aforesaid amount and to the costs of this warrant, or, in the absence
of things liable to seizure, to convey the said
to the prison appointed for persons condemned to detention (or
imprisonment) to be kept therein for the aforesaid period of
in default of payment of said amount.

And after execution, etc., (*as in Form No.8*).

Amended by:
L.N. 46 of 1965.
Substituted by:
XXII.1976.2.
Amended by:
L.N. 190 of 1995;
L.N. 153 of 1996.
Substituted by:
L.N. 407 of 2007.

No. 10
Warrant of Escort
against person failing to
attend on subpoena
Ad Testificandum and/or *Duces Tecum*.

REPUBLIC OF MALTA

To Marshal of the Courts

WHEREAS the (*name of Court*) has by a decree given on the ordered that , having failed to attend as a witness before this Court in the cause pending between and , be brought before this Court to give h evidence and/or to bring documents at the sitting of

Wherefore you are ordered to bring before this Court the said and to keep h until shall have given h evidence, and/or brought the documents or until this Court shall order h discharge.

And after execution, or upon your meeting with any obstacle in the execution hereof, you shall forthwith report to this Court.

Given by the (*name of Court*),
and witnessed by Doctor of Laws,
of the said Court.

This, day of 20

No. 11

Bond of surety
in cases prescribed
by law in respect
of certain warrants.

Amended by:
L.N. [190 of 1995](#);
L.N. [153 of 1996](#).
Substituted by:
L.N. [407 of 2007](#).

I, the undersigned, do hereby stand surety *in solidum* with
for any amount to which he may be condemned by way of penalty,
or for any other cause, according to law, in consequence of the
execution of the warrant sought by him, and I declare on oath that I
consider myself sufficient for the fulfilment of this my bond.

0.23 cents

Amended by:
 XIII.1925.6;
 L.N. 46 of 1965.
 Substituted by:
 XXII.1976.2;
 L.N. 96 of 1981.
 Amended by:
 L.N. 190 of 1995;
 L.N. 153 of 1996.
 Substituted by:
 L.N. 407 of 2007.

No. 12

Garnishee Order.

In (*here insert name of Court*)

(Creditor)

.....

versus

(Debtor)

.....

Application of

Respectfully requests: -

That this Court orders the issue of a garnishee order to be executed on the garnishee or garnishees as hereinafter mentioned, against the debtor for the debt herein mentioned and for the costs of this procedure, as precaution against the debt hereinafter indicated/ by virtue of the executive title herein mentioned/as confirmed on oath hereunder.-

Debt:	{	Amount
		Interest
		Costs

Title/Executive title:

Garnishee/s

Advocate

Legal Procurator

This, day of 20

Confirmed on oath before me, after I have read to him the contents, and in the presence of witness to identity, and filed by

(Registrar's signature)

No. 12

Garnishee Order.

REPUBLIC OF MALTA

COURT WARRANT

To

Marshal of the Courts

WHEREAS the above application has been filed and it contains the elements required according to law for the issue of the orders herein contained;

You are, therefore, on the said application, hereby ordered that, by delivering a copy of this Order, in the first place, to the aforesaid garnishees and subsequently to the debtor, you shall enjoin the said garnishees to retain in their possession as sequestered until the expiration of the time for which this warrant shall remain in force according to law or until further orders, or otherwise to deposit in the Registry of this Court, so much of the things or moneys in their possession appertaining to the said debtor as may be sufficient to satisfy the aforementioned claim of the said creditor together with the costs hereof under penalty of the payment of damages and interest, in case of disobedience.

And after execution, or upon your meeting with any obstacle in the execution hereof, you shall forthwith report to this Court.

Given by the (*name of Court*),

and witnessed by

Doctor of Laws,
of the said Court.

This, day of 20

Amended by:
L.N. 46 of 1965.
Substituted by:
XXII.1976.2.
Amended by:
L.N. 190 of 1995;
L.N. 153 of 1996.
Substituted by:
L.N. 407 of 2007.

No. 13

Order for depositing
after service of Garnishee
Order.

REPUBLIC OF MALTA

To

Marshal of the Courts

WHEREAS in virtue of a garnishee order made by the (*name of Court*) and executed on _____ it was ordered that so much of the things (or moneys) in the possession of _____ and belonging to _____ as may be sufficient to satisfy the claim of _____ against _____ be attached;

And whereas it has been represented by the said _____ that the time for the delivery of the things (or moneys) attached as aforesaid has expired;

And whereas an application has now been made for an order that the said _____ be enjoined to deposit in the Registry of this Court the things (or moneys) so attached;

You are, therefore, ordered to enjoin the said _____ to deposit in the Registry of this Court, within two days from the date of service hereof, the things (or moneys) attached as aforesaid and to warn the said _____ that in default of such deposit, within the aforesaid time, proceedings will be taken against him, according to law.

And after execution, by delivery of a copy hereof to the said _____ or _____ agent, according to law, or upon your meeting with any obstacle in the said execution, you shall forthwith report to this Court.

Given by the (*name of Court*)

and witnessed by

Doctor of Laws,
_____ of this Court.

This, _____ day of _____ 20____

No. 14
 Warrant of Impediment
 of Departure of a Vessel.
 In (*here insert name of Court*)

(Applicant)

.....

versus

(Respondent)

.....

Application of

Respectfully sheweth and confirms on oath:

That the applicant seeks to safeguard the credit herein mentioned
 against the said respondent/vessel;

That by the departure of such vessel from Malta applicant's
 credit may be evaded;

Wherefore, the applicant respectfully requests that this Court
 orders the issue of a warrant of impediment of departure against the
 said vessel for the herein mentioned credit and for the costs of this
 procedure.

Credit:

Title/Executive Title:-

Advocate

Legal Procurator

This, day of 20

Confirmed on oath before me, after I have read to him the
 contents, and in the presence of
 witness to identity, and filed by

(Registrar's signature)

Amended by:
L.N. 46 of 1965.
Substituted by:
XXII.1976.2;
L.N. 96 of 1981.
Amended by
L.N. 190 of 1995;
L.N. 153 of 1996.
Substituted by:
L.N. 407 of 2007.

No. 14

Warrant of Impediment of
Departure of a Vessel.

REPUBLIC OF MALTA

COURT WARRANT NO. ,

To

Marshal of the Courts

WHEREAS the attached application has been filed and it contains the elements required according to law for the issue of the orders herein contained;

You are, therefore, on the said application, hereby ordered to detain the vessel therein mentioned, until further orders, and to adopt such measures as may be necessary for the said purpose.

You are further ordered to enjoin, by the delivery of a copy hereof, the Master of the said vessel not to cause the ship to proceed on her voyage, and the Comptroller of Customs not to deliver the clearance papers of the said vessel, and, if such clearance papers have already been delivered, to withdraw them, under penalty of the payment of damages and interest to the said applicant.

Lastly, you are notified that this warrant shall, in default of further orders of this Court, cease to have effect in six months' time from this day.

And after execution, or upon meeting with any obstacle in the execution hereof, you shall forthwith report to this Court.

Given by the (*name of Court*)

and witnessed by

Doctor of Laws,
of the said Court,

This, day of 20

No. 15
 Warrant of Seizure.
 In (*here insert name of Court*)

Amended by:
L.N. 46 of 1965.
Substituted by:
XXII.1976.2;
L.N. 96 of 1981.
Amended by:
L.N. 190 of 1995;
L.N. 153 of 1996.
Substituted by:
L.N. 407 of 2007.

(Creditor)

.....

versus

(Debtor)

.....

Application of

Respectfully requests and confirms on oath: -

That this Court orders the issue of a warrant of seizure against the said debtor for the amounts/objects hereinafter mentioned and for the costs of this procedure, as precaution for the credit mentioned below/in execution of the executive title mentioned below.

Debt: { Amount
 Interest
 Costs

Title/Executive Title: -

Advocate

Legal Procurator

This, day of 20

Confirmed on oath before me, after I have read to him the contents, and in the presence of witness to identity, and filed by

(*Registrar's signature*)

No. 15

Warrant of Seizure.

REPUBLIC OF MALTA

COURT WARRANT

To

Marshal of the Courts

WHEREAS the above application has been filed and it contains the elements required according to law for the issue of the orders herein contained;

You are, therefore, on the said application, hereby ordered to seize without delay from the debtor herein mentioned a pledge equivalent to the debt/objects mentioned in the application together with the costs of this warrant should he fail to pay or deposit in the Registry of this Court the objects/amount mentioned as debts.

And after execution, or upon your meeting with any obstacle in the execution hereof, you shall forthwith report to this Court.

Given by the (*name of Court*)

and witnessed by

Doctor of Laws,
of the said Court.

This, day of 20

No. 16
Warrant *in factum*.

REPUBLIC OF MALTA

To _____ Marshal of the Courts
WHEREAS by a judgment delivered by the (*name of Court*) on
the _____ day of _____ 20_____,
was condemned to _____ in favour of _____

And whereas the said _____ has represented to this
Court that the said _____ has made default in
carrying out the said judgment;

You are, therefore, hereby ordered to convey, without delay, the
said _____ to the prison of _____ to be detained
therein until further orders of this Court.

And after service by delivery of a copy hereof to the said
or _____ agent, according to law, or upon your meeting with
any obstacle in the said service, you shall forthwith report to this
Court.

Given by the (*name of Court*) _____
and witnessed by _____ Doctor of Laws,
_____ of this Court.

This, _____ day of _____ 20_____,

Amended by:
L.N. 46 of 1965.
Substituted by:
XXII.1976.2.
Amended by:
L.N. 190 of 1995;
L.N. 153 of 1996.
Substituted by:
L.N. 407 of 2007.

Amended by:
 L.N. 46 of 1965.
 Substituted by:
 XXII.1976.2;
 L.N. [96 of 1981](#).
 Amended by:
 L.N. [190 of 1995](#);
 L.N. [153 of 1996](#).
 Substituted by:
 L.N. [407 of 2007](#).

No. 17

Warrant of Ejectment.

In (*here insert name of Court*)

(Applicant).....

.....

versus

(Respondent).....

.....

Application of

Respectfully requests: -

That this Court orders the issue of a warrant of ejectment against the respondent (from the herein mentioned tenement) in execution of the judgment herein mentioned, whereas the respondent has so far failed so to do.

Tenement:

Judgment:

Advocate

Legal Procurator

This, day of 20

Filed by

(Registrar's signature)

No. 17

Warrant of Ejectment.

REPUBLIC OF MALTA

COURT WARRANT

To

Marshal of the Courts

WHEREAS by a judgment delivered by the (*name of Court*), as stated in the aforementioned application, respondent was condemned to quit the said tenement, and whereas the said respondent has so far failed to do so;

You are, therefore, on the said application, ordered to cause the respondent to be actually ejected from the tenement mentioned in the application, leaving the same free in favour of the said applicant, enjoining further the said respondent by delivering a copy of the warrant, not to disturb the aforesaid applicant in the free enjoyment of the said tenement, under the penalties established for contempt of Court.

And after execution, or upon your meeting with any obstacle in the execution hereof, you shall forthwith report to this Court.

Given by the (*name of Court*)

and witnessed by

Doctor of Laws,
of the said Court.

This, day of 20

No. 18

Warrant of Description
issued on the application
of the State Advocate in case of any
vacant succession.

To Marshal of the Courts

and witnessed by _____ Doctor of Laws,
_____ of the said Court.

This, day of 20

No. 19
Counter-Warrant.

In (*here insert name of Court*)

Amended by:
L.N. 46 of 1965.
Substituted by:
XXII.1976.2;
L.N. 96 of 1981.
Amended by:
L.N. 190 of 1995;
L.N. 153 of 1996.
Substituted by:
L.N. 407 of 2007.

Following the warrant of

.....

..... No.....
issued on the
in the names:-

.....

.....

versus

.....

.....

Application of

Respectfully requests:-

That this Court orders the issue of the opportune counter-warrant
on the grounds herein mentioned.

Grounds:-

Advocate

Legal Procurator

This, day of 20

Filed by

(Registrar's signature)

No. 19

Counter-Warrant.

REPUBLIC OF MALTA

COURT WARRANT

To

Marshal of the Courts

WHEREAS, after the execution of the warrant referred to in the above application, there are grounds according to law for which the same warrant should not remain in force;

You are, therefore, ordered immediately to cause the effects of the aforesaid warrant to be stayed by serving copies hereof on all persons served with the preceding warrant.

And after execution, or upon your meeting with any obstacle in the execution hereof, you shall forthwith report to this Court.

Given by the (*name of Court*)

and witnessed by

Doctor of Laws,
of the said Court.

This, day of 20

No.20

Warrant of Description.

In (*here insert name of Court*)

(Applicant)

.....

versus

(Respondent)

.....

Application of

Respectfully sheweth and confirms on oath -

That the applicant seeks to safeguard against the respondent over the hereunder mentioned movable things for the exercise of which rights he has an interest that such movable things remain in their actual place and condition;

Wherefore, the applicant respectfully requests that this Court orders the issue of a warrant of description of (*here insert the movable things to be described and the place where situated*).

Advocate

Legal Procurator

This, day of 20

Confirmed on oath before me, after I have read to him the contents, and in the presence of witness to identity, and filed by

*(Registrar's Signature)**Added by:**L.N. [190 of 1995](#);**Amended by:**L.N. [153 of 1996](#).**Substituted by:**L.N. [407 of 2007](#).*

No. 20

Warrant of Description.

REPUBLIC OF MALTA

COURT WARRANT

To

Marshal of the Courts

WHEREAS the attached application has been filed and it contains the elements required according to law for the issue of the orders herein contained;

You are, therefore, on the said application, hereby ordered to proceed to the place mentioned in the application and that, by delivering a copy of this warrant to the said respondent, you shall describe all the movable things in detail stating the number and quality thereof;

You are further ordered to enjoin the respondent to continue to keep in his custody the movable property so described and to warn him that he is responsible for their safe keeping, under the penalties established for contempt of Court;

And, after execution, or upon meeting any obstacle in the execution hereof, you shall forthwith report to the Court.

Given by the (*name of Court*)

and witnessed by

Doctor of Laws,
of this Court.

This, day of 20

No. 21

Warrant of Prohibitory Injunction.

In (*here insert the name of Court*)

(Applicant)

.....

versus

(Respondent)

.....

Application of

Respectfully sheweth and confirms on oath:

That the applicant has an interest that his rights be secured;

That the applicant, in order to secure his rights, desires to restrain respondent from (*here insert the acts to be restrained*)

That the applicant would be prejudiced if respondent is not so restrained;

Wherefore, the applicant respectfully requests that this Court orders the issue of a warrant of prohibitory injunction restraining him from the acts above-mentioned.

Advocate

Legal Procurator

This, day of 20

Confirmed on oath before me, after I have read to him the contents, and in the presence of witness to identity, and filed by

*(Registrar's signature)**Added by:**L.N. [190 of 1995](#).**Amended by:**L.N. [153 of 1996](#).**Substituted by:**L.N. [407 of 2007](#).*

No. 21

Warrant of Prohibitory Injunction.

REPUBLIC OF MALTA

COURT WARRANT

To

Marshal of the Courts

WHEREAS the attached application has been filed and it contains the elements required according to law for the issue of the orders herein contained;

You are, therefore, on the said application, hereby ordered that, by delivering a copy of this warrant to the said respondent, you shall restrain the respondent from carrying out those things mentioned in the said application which are prejudicial to the applicant, under the penalties established for contempt of Court;

And, after execution, or upon meeting any obstacle in the execution hereof, you shall forthwith report to the Court.

Given by the (*name of Court*)

and witnessed by

Doctor of Laws,
of this Court.

This, day of 20

No. 22

Warrant of Prohibitory
Injunction in cases of personal
separation restraining the other
spouse.

Added by:
L.N. [190 of 1995](#).
Amended by:
L.N. [153 of 1996](#).
Substituted by:
L.N. [407 of 2007](#).

In (*here insert name of Court*)

(Applicant)

.....

versus

(Respondent)

.....

Application of

Respectfully sheweth and confirms on oath: -

That the applicant (*here insert "has brought" or "intends to bring"*) before the court of contentious jurisdiction a suit for personal separation;

That in order to secure his rights the applicant desires the court to issue a warrant of prohibitory injunction against the respondent:

- (a) restraining the said respondent from selling, alienating, transferring or disposing *inter vivos* whether by onerous or gratuitous title any shareholding in any commercial partnership if such shareholding is comprised in the community of acquets, and in particular (*here insert particulars of the commercial partnership/s*); and
- (b) restraining the respondent from contracting any debt or suretyship which is a charge on the community of acquets; Wherefore, the applicant respectfully requests that this Court orders the issue of the relative warrant of prohibitory injunction against the respondent.

Advocate

Legal Procurator

This, day of 20

Confirmed on oath before me, after I have read to him the
contents, and in the presence of witness to identity,
and filed by

(Registrar's signature)

No. 22

Warrant of Prohibitory
Injunction in cases of personal
separation restraining the other spouse.

REPUBLIC OF MALTA

COURT WARRANT

To

Marshal of the Courts

WHEREAS the attached application has been filed and it contains the elements required according to law for the issue of the orders herein contained;

You are, therefore, on the said application, hereby ordered that, by delivering a copy of this warrant to respondent, you shall restrain such respondent from selling, alienating, transferring or disposing *inter vivos* by onerous or gratuitous title any shareholding in any commercial partnership if such shareholding is comprised in the community of acquests, and from contracting any debt or suretyship which is a charge on the community of acquests;

You are enjoined to notify the respondent that this warrant does not apply to the constitution of any right on, or alienation or transfer of, any property made pursuant to a court order;

You are further ordered to execute this warrant forthwith and to restrain the respondent from carrying out those things mentioned in the said application which are prejudicial to the applicant, under the penalties established for contempt of Court;

And, after execution, or upon meeting any obstacle in the execution hereof, you shall forthwith report to the Court.

Given by the name (*name of Court*)

and witnessed by

Doctor of Laws,
of this Court.

This, day of 20

No. 22A

Added by:
L.N. [372 of 2011](#).

Warrant of Prohibitory
Injunction in cases of divorce
restraining the other spouse.

In (*here insert name of Court*)

(Applicant)

.....

versus

(Respondent)

.....

Application of

Respectfully sheweth and confirms on oath: -

That the applicant (*here insert "has brought" or "intends to bring"*) before the court of contentious jurisdiction a suit for divorce;

That in order to secure his rights the applicant desires the court to issue a warrant of prohibitory injunction against the respondent:

- (a) restraining the said respondent from selling, alienating, transferring or disposing *inter vivos* whether by onerous or gratuitous title any shareholding in any commercial partnership if such shareholding is comprised in the community of acquets, and in particular (*here insert particulars of the commercial partnership/s*); and
- (b) restraining the respondent from contracting any debt or suretyship which is a charge on the community of acquets; Wherefore, the applicant respectfully requests that this Court orders the issue of the relative warrant of prohibitory injunction against the respondent.

Advocate

Legal Procurator

This, day of 20

Confirmed on oath before me, after I have read to him the contents, and in the presence of witness to identity, and filed by

(Registrar's signature)

No. 22A

Warrant of Prohibitory
Injunction in cases of divorce
restraining the other spouse.

REPUBLIC OF MALTA

COURT WARRANT

To

Marshal of the Courts

WHEREAS the attached application has been filed and it contains the elements required according to law for the issue of the orders herein contained;

You are, therefore, on the said application, hereby ordered that, by delivering a copy of this warrant to respondent, you shall restrain such respondent from selling, alienating, transferring or disposing *inter vivos* by onerous or gratuitous title any shareholding in any commercial partnership if such shareholding is comprised in the community of acquests, and from contracting any debt or suretyship which is a charge on the community of acquests;

You are enjoined to notify the respondent that this warrant does not apply to the constitution of any right on, or alienation or transfer of, any property made pursuant to a court order;

You are further ordered to execute this warrant forthwith and to restrain the respondent from carrying out those things mentioned in the said application which are prejudicial to the applicant, under the penalties established for contempt of Court;

And, after execution, or upon meeting any obstacle in the execution hereof, you shall forthwith report to the Court.

Given by the name (*name of Court*)

and witnessed by

Doctor of Laws,
of this Court.

This, day of 20

No. 23

Warrant of Prohibitory
Injunction in cases of
personal separation restraining
a commercial partnership.

Added by:
L.N. [190 of 1995](#).
Amended by:
L.N. [153 of 1996](#).
Substituted by:
L.N. [407 of 2007](#).

In (*here insert name of Court*)

(Applicant)

.....

versus

(Respondent)

.....

Application of

Respectfully sheweth and confirms on oath:

That the applicant (*insert here "has brought" or "intends to bring"*) before the court of contentious jurisdiction a suit for personal separation;

That the respondent has a majority shareholding, pertaining to the community of acquests in the commercial partnership/s (*here insert particulars of the commercial partnership/s*);

That in order to secure his rights, the applicant desires the Court to issue against the said commercial partnership/s a warrant of prohibitory injunction restraining it/them from selling, alienating, transferring or otherwise disposing by onerous or gratuitous title, any immovable property or rights annexed thereto owned by the commercial partnership/s, and in particular (*here insert particulars of immovables as required by the [Public Registry Act](#)*)

Wherefore, the applicant respectfully requests that this Court orders the issue of a warrant of prohibitory injunction against the said commercial partnership/s.

Advocate

Legal Procurator

This, day of 20

Confirmed on oath before me, after I have read to him the contents, and in the presence of witness to identity, and filed by

(Registrar's signature)

No. 23

Warrant of Prohibitory
Injunction in cases of personal
separation restraining a
commercial partnership.

REPUBLIC OF MALTA

COURT WARRANT

To

Marshal of the Courts

WHEREAS the attached application has been filed and it contains the elements required according to law for the issue of the orders herein contained;

You are, therefore, in the said application, hereby ordered that, by delivering a copy of this warrant to (*here insert particulars of the commercial partnership/s*), you shall restrain the said commercial partnership/s from selling, alienating, transferring or otherwise disposing by onerous or gratuitous title, any immovable property or rights annexed thereto owned by the said commercial partnership/s;

You are enjoined to notify the respondent that this warrant does not apply to the constitution of any right on, or alienation or transfer of any property made pursuant to a court order;

You are further ordered to execute this warrant forthwith and to restrain the said commercial partnership/s from carrying out those things mentioned in the said application which are prejudicial to the applicant, under the penalties established for contempt of Court;

And, after execution, or upon meeting any obstacle in the execution hereof, you shall forthwith report to the Court.

Given by the (*name of Court*)

and witnessed by

Doctor of Laws,
of this Court

This, day of 20

No. 23A

Added by:
L.N. [372 of 2011](#).

Warrant of Prohibitory
Injunction in cases of
divorce restraining
a commercial partnership.

In (*here insert name of Court*)

(Applicant)

.....

versus

(Respondent)

.....

Application of

Respectfully sheweth and confirms on oath:

That the applicant (*insert here "has brought" or "intends to bring"*) before the court of contentious jurisdiction a suit for divorce;

That the respondent has a majority shareholding, pertaining to the community of acquests in the commercial partnership/s (*here insert particulars of the commercial partnership/s*);

That in order to secure his rights, the applicant desires the Court to issue against the said commercial partnership/s a warrant of prohibitory injunction restraining it/them from selling, alienating, transferring or otherwise disposing by onerous or gratuitous title, any immovable property or rights annexed thereto owned by the commercial partnership/s, and in particular (*here insert particulars of immovables as required by the Public Registry Act*)

Wherefore, the applicant respectfully requests that this Court orders the issue of a warrant of prohibitory injunction against the said commercial partnership/s.

Advocate

Legal Procurator

This, day of 20

Confirmed on oath before me, after I have read to him the contents, and in the presence of witness to identity, and filed by

(Registrar's signature)

No. 23A

Warrant of Prohibitory
Injunction in cases of divorce
restraining a commercial partnership.

REPUBLIC OF MALTA

COURT WARRANT

To

Marshal of the Courts

WHEREAS the attached application has been filed and it contains the elements required according to law for the issue of the orders herein contained;

You are, therefore, in the said application, hereby ordered that, by delivering a copy of this warrant to (*here insert particulars of the commercial partnership/s*), you shall restrain the said commercial partnership/s from selling, alienating, transferring or otherwise disposing by onerous or gratuitous title, any immovable property or rights annexed thereto owned by the said commercial partnership/s;

You are enjoined to notify the respondent that this warrant does not apply to the constitution of any right on, or alienation or transfer of any property made pursuant to a court order;

You are further ordered to execute this warrant forthwith and to restrain the said commercial partnership/s from carrying out those things mentioned in the said application which are prejudicial to the applicant, under the penalties established for contempt of Court;

And, after execution, or upon meeting any obstacle in the execution hereof, you shall forthwith report to the Court.

Given by the (*name of Court*)

and witnessed by

Doctor of Laws,
of this Court

This, day of 20

No. 24

Warrant of Prohibitory
Injunction restraining a
person from taking a minor
outside Malta.

Added by:
L.N. [190 of 1995](#).
Amended by:
L.N. [153 of 1996](#).
Substituted by:
L.N. [407 of 2007](#).

In (*here insert name of Court*)

(Applicant)

.....

versus

(Respondent)

.....

Application of

Respectfully sheweth and confirms on oath: -

That the applicant has an interest that the minor, hereinafter
indicated, be not taken outside Malta;

That the respondent/s is/are the persons having, or who might
have, the legal or actual custody of the said minor;

Wherefore, the applicant respectfully requests that this Court
orders the issue of a warrant of prohibitory injunction against the
respondent/s enjoining him/them not to take, or allow anybody to
take, the said minor out of Malta;

Particulars of the minor: (*here insert the name and surname of
the minor and any other particulars, including the date and place
of birth and the names of the parents for establishing the identity of
the minor*)

Advocate

Legal Procurator

This, day of 20

Confirmed on oath before me, after I have read to him the
contents, and in the presence of witness to identity, and
filed by

(Registrar's signature)

No. 24

Warrant of Prohibitory
Injunction restraining a
person from taking a minor
outside Malta.

REPUBLIC OF MALTA

COURT WARRANT

To

Marshal of the Courts

WHEREAS the attached application has been filed and it contains the elements required according to law for the issue of the orders herein contained;

You are, therefore, on the said application, hereby ordered that, by delivery a copy of this warrant to the respondent/s, you shall restrain the respondent/s not to take, or allow anyone to take, the said minor out of Malta, under the penalties for contempt of Court;

You are further ordered to enjoin, by the delivery of a copy hereof, the officer entrusted with the delivery of passports not to issue or deliver any passport in respect of the said minor and not to include the name of the minor in the passport of the minor's legal representatives or in the passport of any other person, and, if before the service of this warrant on the officer charged with the issue of passports, a passport in respect of the minor has already been issued or the name of the minor has already been included in the passport of another person, to enjoin such officer to take the necessary steps to withdraw the passport in respect of the minor, and of any other passport which includes the name of the minor, and to delete the name of the minor from such passport, under the said penalty, and to enjoin, by delivery of another copy hereof, the Commissioner of Police not allow the said minor to leave Malta, under the said penalty;

Lastly, you are notified that this warrant shall, in default of further orders of this Court, cease to have effect in one year's time from this day;

And, after execution, or upon meeting any obstacle in the execution hereof, you shall forthwith report to the Court.

Given by the (*name of Court*)

and witnessed by

Doctor of Laws,
of this Court.

This, day of 20

No. 25
 Warrant of Prohibitory
 Injunction (claim exceeding
 €11,646.86).
 In (*here insert name of Court*)

Added by:
L.N. 190 of 1995.
Amended by:
L.N. 153 of 1996.
Substituted by:
L.N. 407 of 2007.

(Applicant)

.....

versus

(Respondent)

.....

Application of

Respectfully sheweth and confirms on oath:-

That the applicant, in order to secure his credit mentioned against the respondent, respectfully requests that this Court orders the issue of a warrant of prohibitory injunction against respondent restraining him from selling, alienating, transferring or disposing *inter vivos* whether by onerous or gratuitous title any property and in particular (*here insert particulars of immovables as required by the [Public Registry Act](#)*)

Wherefore, the applicant respectfully requests that this Court orders the issue of the relative warrant of prohibitory injunction against the respondent.

Credit:

Title:

Advocate

Legal Procurator

This, day of 20

Confirmed on oath before me, after I have read to him the contents, and in the presence of witness to identity, and filed by

(Registrar's signature)

No. 25

Warrant of Prohibitory
Injunction (claim exceeding
€11,646.86).

REPUBLIC OF MALTA

COURT WARRANT

To

Marshal of the Courts

WHEREAS the attached application has been filed and it contains the elements required according to law for the issue of the orders herein contained;

You are, therefore, on the said application, hereby ordered that, by delivering a copy of this warrant to the respondent, you shall restrain such respondent from selling, alienating, transferring or disposing *inter vivos* by onerous or gratuitous title any property;

You are enjoined to notify the respondent that this warrant does not apply to the constitution of any right on, or alienation or transfer of any property made pursuant to a court order;

You are further ordered to execute this warrant forthwith and to restrain the respondent from carrying out those things mentioned in the said application which are prejudicial to the applicant, under the penalties established for contempt of Court;

And, after execution, or upon meeting any obstacle in the execution thereof, you shall forthwith report to the Court.

Given by the (*name of Court*)

and witnessed by

Doctor of Laws,
of this Court.

This, day of 20

No.26
Court order to perform
the function of Judicial Assistant.

Added by:
L.N. [122 of 1996](#).
Amended by:
L.N. [153 of 1996](#).
Substituted by:
L.N. [407 of 2007](#).

REPUBLIC OF MALTA

To Doctor of LawsJudicial Assistant.
Whereas it is required that in a cause before the (*insert name of Court*) Summons No
between plaintiff
and defendant
it is necessary to appoint a Judicial Assistant therein and in particular to:

*(a) ascertain and establish the issues of fact or of law involved in the cause, as well as the issues of fact or of law on which the parties agree, and to endeavour to induce the parties to reach an agreement on the issues involved in the cause, and to make a report thereof to the said Court;

*(b) take the testimony of any person that is produced as a witness;

*(c) take any affidavit on any matter;

*(d) receive documents produced with any testimony, affidavit or declaration, including in particular a testimony, affidavit or declaration as is referred to in the [Code of Organization and Civil Procedure](#);

*(e)

You are, therefore, hereby ordered that in terms of the provisions of article 97A of the [Code of Organization and Civil Procedure](#), you will perform the functions of Judicial Assistant in the aforementioned cause with all the powers given to you by law, and in such manner that a first sitting should be held on the day of 20 at a.m/p.m. at and that you will thereafter file before this Court your report and the evidence received, if any, by not later than the date of the first sitting before this same Court.

.....
Judge of the said Court

This day of 20

0.23 cents

Added by:
L.N. [122 of 1996](#).
Amended by:
L.N. [153 of 1996](#).
Substituted by:
L.N. [407 of 2007](#).

No. 27

Notice of hearing of
proceedings/evidence
before a Judicial Assistant.

REPUBLIC OF MALTA

To

Marshall of the Courts.

Whereas in a cause before the (*insert name of Court*)
..... Summons No
between plaintiff
and defendant
the Court has appointed Doctor of Laws.....
to perform the functions of a Judicial Assistant therein and in particular
to:

*(a) ascertain and establish the issues of fact or of law involved in
the cause, as well as the issues of fact or of law on which the parties
agree, and to endeavour to induce the parties to reach an agreement on
the issues involved in the cause, and to make a report thereof to the said
Court;

*(b) take the testimony of any person that is produced as a witness;

*(c) take any affidavit on any matter;

*(d) receive documents produced with any testimony, affidavit or
declaration, including in particular a testimony, affidavit or declaration
as is referred to in the [Code of Organization and Civil Procedure](#);

*(e)
.....

And whereas the said Court has appointed the
day of20 ata.m/p.m.
for the hearing of proceedings/evidence at
before the above stated Judicial Assistant;

Wherefore you are ordered that by the delivery of a copy hereof
both to the aforesaid plaintiff and defendant or their agent, according to
law, you summon them to appear on the day and at the place and time
aforesaid before the above stated Judicial Assistant, on which day the
proceedings/evidence will be heard and a report thereon made to the
Court.

You are further ordered to warn in the same manner the aforesaid
plaintiff and defendant that, should they fail to appear on the day, at the
place and time aforesaid, or on any subsequent day as may be
determined by the said Judicial Assistant, a report thereof shall be made
to the said court which shall take such action thereon according to law.

And after execution, or upon your meeting with any obstacle in the
said service, you shall report forthwith to the above mentioned Judicial
Assistant.

.....

Doctor of Laws
Judicial Assistant
of the said Court.

This day of 20

0.23 cents

No. 28
A Summons Order
given by a
Judicial Assistant.

Added by:
L.N. [122 of 1996](#).
Amended by:
L.N. [153 of 1996](#).
Substituted by:
L.N. [407 of 2007](#).

REPUBLIC OF MALTA

In (*here insert name of Court*)

Summons No.....
pending before Doctor of Laws
.....
a Judicial Assistant, in the cause:
.....
.....

vs.

.....
.....

To the witness:

Address:

By virtue of the powers given to me by sub-article (4) of article 97A of the [Code of Organization and Civil Procedure](#), you are hereby being ordered to appear before me on the day and at the place and time hereunder mentioned to give evidence in the aforementioned cause:

Date and time:

Place where to attend:

Documents to be produced:

You are hereby warned that should you fail to appear on the day and at the time and place hereabove mentioned, you may be liable to the penalties established for contempt of court, and you may be compelled to appear before me by an order of escort or of arrest, and you shall be liable to all the other consequences to which, according to the [Code of Organization and Civil Procedure](#), you may be liable for such disobedience.

.....
Doctor of Laws
Judicial Assistant
of the said Court

Thisday of 20

Added by:
 L.N. [122 of 1996](#).
 Amended by:
 L.N. [153 of 1996](#).
 Substituted by:
 L.N. [407 of 2007](#).

No. 29

A Subpoena order
Ad Testificandum and
Duces Tecum before a
 Judicial Assistant.

In (*here insert name of Court*)

Summons No.....
 pending before Doctor of Laws

 a Judicial Assistant, in the cause:

vs.

Application of.....

Respectfully requests the issue of a subpoena order in the above
 stated cause against the person mentioned hereunder to attend for
 the sitting and at the time stated hereunder, and to bring with him
 the documents hereunder mentioned:

Person summoned to attend as witness:
 Address:.....
 Date, time and place where witness is to attend:
 Documents to be brought by witness:.....

Advocate:
 Legal Procurator:

This day of 20.....

Filed by.....

(*Registrar's signature*)

REPUBLIC OF MALTA
AN ORDER MADE BY THE JUDICIAL ASSISTANT

*Substituted by:
L.N. [407 of 2007](#).*

To the witness/witnesses whose name/s appear/s in the application

By virtue of the powers given to me by sub-article (4) of article 97A of the [Code of Organization and Civil Procedure](#), I am hereby ordering each person whose name appears as a witness in the application to appear before me on the day and at the place and time mentioned therein to give evidence in the cause mentioned therein.

Each witness is hereby being warned that should he fail to appear on the day and at the time and place mentioned therein, he may be compelled to appear before me by an order of escort or of arrest, and he shall be liable to all the other consequences to which, according to the [Code of Organization and Civil Procedure](#), he may be liable for such disobedience.

.....
Doctor of Laws
Judicial Assistant

This day of 20

Added by:
 L.N. [122 of 1996](#).
 Amended by:
 L.N. [153 of 1996](#).
 Substituted by:
 L.N. [407 of 2007](#).

No. 30

Escort Order issued by
 a Judicial Assistant against
 a person failing to attend
 on subpoena.

REPUBLIC OF MALTA
AN ORDER MADE BY A JUDICIAL ASSISTANT

In (*here insert name of Court*)

Summons No.....
 pending before Doctor of Laws

 a Judicial Assistant, in the cause:

vs.

.....

To Marshal of the Courts.

Whereas it had been ordered by me on the
 that should attend before me
 as a witness on the day and at the place mentioned in the order;

And whereas the same person has failed to attend as ordered;

Wherefore, after having seen the provisions of sub-article (4) of
 article 97A of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure, I am
 hereby ordering you to bring before me the said person, and to keep
 him/her until he/she shall give his/her evidence, at the place and
 time mentioned hereunder, or until I shall give you another order.

Date and time:

Place where witness is to attend:

.....

Documents to be brought by witness

.....

.....
 Doctor of Laws
 Judicial Assistant

This day of 20

Address of witness:

0.23 cents

Form No. 31

Application No.:

Issue:

This

Service:

Filled by:

Copy:

Added by:
L.N. 383 of 2003.
Amended by:
L.N. 68 of 2006.

Registrar

COURT OF MAGISTRATES (MALTA)

COURT OF MAGISTRATES (GOZO)

--

NOTICE

You are hereby requested to appear before the above-mentioned
Court on

at in order to answer why

and to state why you should not be condemned

and, should you fail to appear on the date and at the time above-
mentioned, the Court shall decide the case in terms of law.

Issued on

Registrar

Added by:
L.N. 36 of 2009.
Amended by:
XV.2009.49.
Substituted by:
XXXI.2019.11.

Form No. 32
Warrant of Arrest of Sea Vessels
over ten (10) metres in length (Precautionary)

In Warrant No.
Applicant.....
.....
.....
vs
Respondent
.....
.....

Application of

It is being respectfully submitted and confirmed on oath by:-

That the applicant seeks to safeguard a debt or a claim, whether *in personam* or *in rem*, which could be frustrated by the departure of the sea vessel indicated in this application;

That the debt or claim is the following:-

That the details of the said sea vessel of which the arrest is being requested, are the following:-

- Name:-

- Identification details of the sea vessel:

1.

2.

3.

4.

- Place where the said vessel is to be found

- Authority: Authority for Transport in Malta

That the details of the person being indicated by the applicant to effect service of a copy of this warrant in accordance to sub-article (3) of article 856 are the following:-

Full name of individual or company name:

Identity card number or company registration number:

Address:

.....

That the applicant confirms that the above-mentioned person has accepted to effect the said service.

That by the departure of the said sea vessel from Malta, the debt or claim of the applicant may be evaded;

Therefore, the applicant respectfully requests that this Honourable Court orders the issue of a Warrant of Arrest of Sea Vessels against the said sea vessel for the herein mentioned credit and with the costs of this procedure.

Advocate
Procurator

Legal

Confirmed on oath before me after having read to him or her the contents.

Filed by:-

Deputy Registrar

No. 32

Warrant of Arrest of Seagoing Vessels over ten (10) metres in length (Precautionary)

**Court Order
Republic of Malta**

Warrant No.

Whereas the attached said application has been filed and there exist sufficient grounds according to law for the issuance of the Warrant of Arrest of Seagoing Vessels;

This Court thus:-

Orders the Authority for Transport in Malta or any other authority so designated by the Minister in accordance with article 857 of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure (Cap. 12), which has in its hands or under its control the seagoing vessel against which such warrant of arrest is being issued, to seize the vessel and not release such sea vessel or allow the debtor to divest himself in any way from the same vessel, in whole or in part, or to give or surrender to any person any rights on the same;

Orders the same authority to take all necessary measures to display the court order for the general attention of third parties;

Orders the Executive Officer to execute this warrant by serving it forthwith on the authority which has in its hands or under its control the seagoing vessel against which such warrant of arrest is being issued, and on the person indicated by the applicant to effect service of a copy of the warrant in accordance to sub-article (3) of article 856 unless the person is not the same Executive Officer who is executing this warrant;

Orders that person indicated by the applicant to effect service of a copy of the warrant in accordance to sub-article (3) of article 856 on the person whose ship or vessel is arrested, the master or other person in charge of such ship or vessel, and to elevate the appropriate documentation and certification from on board the ship or vessel, which documentation and certification shall within one (1) working day, be handed over to the Registrar, Civil Courts and Tribunals, by the person indicated by the applicant.

Given by the *(name of Court)*

and witnessed by

Doctor of Laws,
of the above-mentioned Court.

Today, day of 20

Form No. 33

Added by:
L.N. 36 of 2009.
Amended by:
XL2009.49.
Substituted by:
XXXI.2019.11.

Executive Warrant of Arrest of Sea Vessels
over ten (10) metres in length

Before Warrant No.

Applicant

.....

.....

vs

Respondent

.....

.....

Application of

It is being respectfully submitted:-

That the applicant is in possession of an executive title and wishes to enforce same on the sea vessel hereunder indicated, the execution of which title could be frustrated by the departure of the sea vessel indicated in this application;

That the executive title is the following:-

That the details of the said sea vessel of which the arrest is being requested, are the following:-

- Name:-

- Identification details of the sea vessel:-

1.

2.

3.

4.

- Place where the said vessel is to be found

- Authority: Authority for Transport in Malta

That the details of the person being indicated by the applicant to effect service of a copy of this warrant in accordance to sub-article

(3) of article 856 are the following:-

Full name of individual or company name:

Identity card number or company registration number:

Address:

.....

That the applicant confirms that the above-mentioned person has accepted to effect the said service.

Therefore, the applicant respectfully requests that this Honourable Court orders the issue of an Executive Warrant of Arrest of Sea Vessels against the said sea vessel for the herein mentioned credit and for the costs of this procedure and (1) order the sale of the said vessel or (2) fix a time-limit within which the respondent shall pay the amount due as this Court deems appropriate.

Advocate
Procurator

Legal

Filed by:-

Registrar

Deputy

No. 33

Executive Warrant of Arrest of Sea Vessels
over ten (10) metres in length
(Order for Payment)

Court Order
Republic of Malta

Warrant No.

Whereas the attached said application has been filed and there exist sufficient grounds according to law for the issuance of the order herein contained;

This Court thus:-

Orders the respondent to pay the amount due as requested within days, and the present warrant shall remain in force definitively until payment of the full amount is effected;

Orders the Authority for Transport in Malta or any other authority so designated by the Minister and which has in its hands or under its control the seagoing vessel against which such warrant of arrest is being issued, to seize the vessel and not release such sea vessel or allow the debtor to divest himself in any way from the same vessel, in whole or in part, or to give or surrender to any person any rights on the same;

Orders the same authority to take all necessary measures to display the court order for the general attention of third parties;

Orders the Executive Officer to execute this warrant by serving it forthwith on the authority which has in its hands or under its control the seagoing vessel against which such warrant of arrest is being issued, and on the person indicated by the applicant to effect service of a copy of the warrant in accordance to sub-article (3) of article 856 unless this person is not the same Executive Officer who is executing this warrant;

Orders that person indicated by the applicant to effect service of a copy of the warrant in accordance to sub-article (3) of article 856 on the person whose ship or vessel is arrested, the master or other person in charge of such ship or vessel, and to elevate the appropriate documentation and certification from on board the ship or vessel, which documentation and certification shall within one (1) working day, be handed over to the Registrar, Civil Courts and Tribunals, by the person indicated by the applicant.

Given by the (*name of Court*)

and witnessed by _____ Doctor of Laws,
 of the above-mentioned
 Court.

Today, day of 20

No. 33

Executive Warrant of Arrest of Sea Vessels
 over ten (10) metres in length
 (Order of Judicial sale, by auction -
 given after issuance of an Order for Payment)

Court Order
Republic of Malta

Warrant No.

Whereas the attached said application has been filed and there exist
 sufficient grounds according to law for the issuance of the order
 herein contained;

This Court thus:-

Orders the sale by judicial auction of the said vessel as indicated in
 the primary application;

Orders the Registrar to appoint experts in terms of article 89 of the
 Code of Organization and Civil Procedure (Cap. 12) as may be
 required;

Sets the day, time and place of the judicial sale of the vessel as
 being the following:-

Orders the Executive Officer to execute this warrant by notifying
 forthwith this warrant to the authority which has in its hands or
 under its control the seagoing vessel against which such warrant of
 arrest is being issued, and to the person indicated by the applicant
 in accordance with sub-article (3) of article 856 unless this person
 is not the same Executive Officer who is executing this warrant;

Orders that person indicated by the applicant to effect service of a
 copy of this warrant in accordance to sub-article (3) of article 856
 on the person whose ship or vessel is arrested, the master or other
 person in charge of such ship or vessel following which he shall
 personally inform the Registrar, Civil Courts and Tribunals, of his
 endeavours.

Given by the *(name of Court)*

and witnessed by _____ Doctor of Laws,
of the above-mentioned
Court.

Today, day of 20

No. 33

Executive Warrant of Arrest of Sea Vessels
over ten (10) metres in length
(Order of Judicial sale, by auction -
given without the issuance of an Order for Payment)

**Court Order
Republic of Malta**

Warrant No.

Whereas the attached said application has been filed and there exist
sufficient grounds according to law for the issuance of the order
herein contained;

This Court thus:-

Orders the sale by judicial auction of the said vessel as indicated in
the primary application;

Orders the Registrar to appoint experts in terms of article 89 of the
Code of Organization and Civil Procedure (Cap. 12) as may be
required;

Orders that the appraisals of the expert/s shall be filed within
days;

Orders the Authority for Transport in Malta or any other authority
so designated by the Minister and which has in its hands or under
its control the seagoing vessel against which such warrant of arrest
is being issued, to seize the vessel and not release such sea vessel
or allow the debtor to divest himself in any way from the same
vessel, in whole or in part, or to give or surrender to any person any
rights on the same;

Orders the same authority to take all necessary measures to display
the court order for the general attention of third parties;

Orders the Executive Officer to execute this warrant by serving it
forthwith on the authority which has in its hands or under its
control the seagoing vessel against which such warrant of arrest is
being issued, and on the person indicated by the applicant to effect

service of a copy of the warrant in accordance to sub-article (3) of article 856 unless this person is not the same Executive Officer who is executing this warrant;

Orders that person indicated by the applicant to effect service of a copy of the warrant in accordance to sub-article (3) of article 856 on the person whose ship or vessel is arrested, the master or other person in charge of such ship or vessel, and to elevate the appropriate documentation and certification from on board the ship or vessel, which documentation and certification shall within one (1) working day, be handed over to the Registrar, Civil Courts and Tribunals, by the person indicated by the applicant;

Sets the day, time and place of the judicial sale of the vessel as being the following:-

Given by the *(name of Court)*

and witnessed by	Doctor of Laws,
Court.	of the above-mentioned

Today, day of 20.

Form No. 34
 Warrant of Arrest of an Aircraft
 in security of a debt or any other claim
 amounting to not less than seven thousand euro
 (PRECAUTIONARY)

Added by:
 L.N. [158 of 2012](#).

Before Warrant No.
 Applicant

 vs
 Respondent

Application of

It is being respectfully submitted and confirmed on oath by

.....:-

That the applicant seeks to safeguard a debt or a claim, whether
 in personam or in rem, which could be frustrated by the departure
 of the aircraft indicated in this warrant;

That the claim or debt is the following:-

That the details of the said aircraft are the following:-

- Name:-
- Identification details of the aircraft
 1.
 2.
 3.
 4.
- Place where the said aircraft is to be found
- Authority: Authority for Transport in Malta

That by the departure of the said aircraft from Malta, the debt or
 claim of the applicant may be evaded;

Therefore, the applicant respectfully requests that this Court
 orders the issue of a Warrant of Arrest of an Aircraft against the
 said aircraft for the herein mentioned credit and for the costs of this
 procedure.

.....
 Advocate Legal Procurator

Confirmed on oath before me after having read to him/her the
 contents, and filed by:-

Form No. 34
Warrant of Arrest of an Aircraft
in security of a debt or any other claim
amounting to not less than seven thousand euro
(PRECAUTIONARY)

Court Order

Republic of Malta

Warrant No

Whereas the attached application has been filed and there exist sufficient grounds according to law for the issuance of the Warrant of Arrest of an Aircraft;

The Court thus:-

Orders the Authority for Transport in Malta or any other authority so designated by the Minister and which has in its hands or under its control the aircraft against which such warrant is being issued, to seize the aircraft and not release such aircraft or allow the debtor to divest himself in any way of the same in whole or in part or to give or surrender to any person any rights on the same;

Orders the same authority to take all necessary measures to display the court order for the general attention of third parties;

Orders the Executive Officer to execute this warrant by serving it on the executive officer of the authority which has in its hands or under its control the aircraft against which such warrant is being issued;

Orders the Executive Officer to serve a copy of the warrant on the person whose aircraft is arrested, the commander or other person in charge of such aircraft or the agent of such aircraft;

Orders the Executive Officer to take all necessary actions to ensure the execution of this warrant, including the seizure and removal of all travel documentation of the same aircraft.

Given by the Court

Today

Form No. 35
EXECUTIVE WARRANT of Arrest of an Aircraft
in security of a debt or any other claim
amounting to not less than seven thousand euro

Added by:
L.N. [158 of 2012](#).

Before Warrant No.

Applicant

.....
.....

vs

Respondent

.....
.....

Application of

It is being respectfully submitted and confirmed on oath by

.....:-

That the applicant is in possession of an executive title and wishes to enforce same on the aircraft hereunder indicated, the execution of which title could be frustrated by the departure of the aircraft indicated in this warrant;

That the executive title is the following:-

That the details of the said aircraft are the following:-

- Name:-

- Identification details of the aircraft

1.

2.

3.

4.

- Place where the said aircraft is to be found

- Authority: Authority for Transport in Malta

- Place where the said aircraft is to be found

- Authority: Authority for Transport in Malta

Therefore, the applicant respectfully requests that this Court orders the issue of an Executive Warrant of Arrest of an Aircraft against the said aircraft for the herein mentioned credit and for the costs of this procedure and (1) order the sale of the said aircraft or (2) fix a time-limit within which the debtor is to pay the amount due.

.....

Advocate

Legal Procurator

Confirmed on oath before me after having read to him/her the contents, and filed by:-

Form No. 35

EXECUTIVE WARRANT of Arrest of an Aircraft
in security of a debt or any other claim
amounting to not less than seven thousand euro

(Order for payment)

Court Order

Republic of Malta

Warrant No.

Whereas the attached application has been filed and there exist
sufficient grounds according to law for the issuance of the order
herein contained;

The Court thus:-

Orders the debtor to pay the amount due as requested within
..... days, and that the present warrant shall remain in
force definitively until payment of the full amount is effected;

Orders the Authority for Transport in Malta or any other
authority so designated by the Minister and which has in its hands
or under its control the aircraft against which such warrant is being
issued, to seize the aircraft and not release such aircraft or allow
the debtor to divest himself in any way of the same in whole or in
part or to give or surrender to any person any rights on the same;

Orders the same authority to take all necessary measures to
display the court order for the general attention of third parties;

Orders the Executive Officer to execute this warrant by serving it
on the executive officer of the authority which has in its hands or
under its control the aircraft against which such warrant is being
issued;

Orders the Executive Officer to serve a copy of the warrant on
the person whose aircraft is arrested, the commander or other
person in charge of such aircraft or the agent of such aircraft;

Orders the Executive Officer to take all necessary actions to
ensure the execution of this warrant, including the seizure and
removal of all travel documentation of the same aircraft.

Given by the Court

Today

Form No. 35
EXECUTIVE WARRANT of Arrest of an Aircraft
in security of a debt or any other claim
amounting to not less than seven thousand euro

*(Order of Judicial sale -
given after issuance of an Order for payment)*

Court Order

Republic of Malta

Warrant No

Whereas the attached application has been filed and there exist
sufficient grounds according to law for the issuance of the order
herein contained;

The Court thus:-

Orders the sale by judicial auction of the said aircraft as
indicated in the application;

Orders the Registrar to appoint experts in terms of article 89 of
the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure (Cap. 12) as may be
required;

Sets the day, time and place of the judicial sale as being the
following:-

Orders the Registrar to notify this decree to the Authority for
Transport in Malta or any other authority so designated by the
Minister and which has in its hands or under its control the aircraft
against which such warrant is being issued as well as on the person
whose aircraft is arrested, the commander or other person in charge
of the aircraft or the agent of such aircraft.

Given by the Court

Today

Form No. 35

EXECUTIVE WARRANT of Arrest of an Aircraft
in security of a debt or any other claim
amounting to not less than seven thousand euro

*(Order of Judicial sale -
without the issuance of an Order for payment)*

Court Order

Republic of Malta

Warrant No

Whereas the attached application has been filed and there exist
sufficient grounds according to law for the issuance of the order
herein contained;

The Court thus:-

Orders the sale by judicial auction of the said aircraft as
indicated in the application;

Orders the Registrar to appoint experts in terms of article 89 of
the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure (Cap. 12) as may be
required;

Orders that the appraisals of the expert/s are to be filed within
..... days;

Orders the Authority for Transport in Malta or any other
authority so designated by the Minister and which has in its hands
or under its control the aircraft against which such warrant is being
issued, to seize the aircraft and not release such aircraft or allow
the debtor to divest himself in any way of the same in whole or in
part or to give or surrender to any person any rights on the same;

Orders the same authority to take all necessary measures to
display the court order for the general attention of third parties;

Orders the Executive Officer to execute this warrant by serving it
on the executive officer of the authority which has in its hands or
under its control the aircraft against which such warrant is being
issued;

Orders the Executive Officer to take all necessary actions to
ensure the execution of this warrant, including the seizure and
removal of all travel documentation of the same aircraft.

Sets the day, time and place of the judicial sale as being the
following:-

Orders the Registrar to notify this decree to the Authority for
Transport in Malta or any other authority so designated by the
Minister and which has in its hands or under its control the aircraft
against which such warrant is being issued as well as to the person
whose aircraft is arrested, the commander or other person in charge
of such aircraft or the agent of such aircraft.

Given by the Court

Today

Form No. 36
 Warrant of Arrest of an Aircraft
 in security of a debt or any other claim
 amounting to not less than one million euro
 (PRECAUTIONARY)

Added by:
L.N. 158 of 2012.

Before Warrant No.

Applicant

.....

vs

Respondent

.....

Application of

It is being respectfully submitted and confirmed on oath by

.....:-

That the applicant seeks to safeguard a debt or a claim, whether
 in personam or in rem, which could be frustrated by the departure
 of the aircraft indicated in this warrant;

That the claim or debt is the following:-

That the details of the said aircraft are the following:-

- Name:-

- Identification details of the aircraft

1.

2.

3.

4.

- Place where the said aircraft is to be found

- Authority: Authority for Transport in Malta

That by the departure of the said aircraft from Malta, the debt or
 claim of the applicant may be evaded;

Therefore, the applicant respectfully requests that this Court
 orders the issue of a Warrant of Arrest of an Aircraft against the
 said aircraft for the herein mentioned credit and for the costs of this
 procedure.

.....
 Advocate Legal Procurator

Confirmed on oath before me after having read to him/her the
 contents, and filed by:-

Form No. 36
Warrant of Arrest of an Aircraft
in security of a debt or any other claim
amounting to not less than one million euro
(PRECAUTIONARY)

Court Order

Republic of Malta

Warrant No

Whereas the attached application has been filed and there exist sufficient grounds according to law for the issuance of the Warrant of Arrest of an Aircraft;

The Court thus:-

Orders the Authority for Transport in Malta or any other authority so designated by the Minister and which has in its hands or under its control the aircraft against which such warrant is being issued, to seize the aircraft and not release such aircraft or allow the debtor to divest himself in any way of the same in whole or in part or to give or surrender to any person any rights on the same;

Orders the same authority to take all necessary measures to display the court order for the general attention of third parties;

Orders the Executive Officer to execute this warrant by serving it on the executive officer of the authority which has in its hands or under its control the aircraft against which such warrant is being issued;

Orders the Executive Officer serve a copy of the warrant on the person whose aircraft is arrested, the commander or other person in charge of such aircraft or the agent of such aircraft;

Orders the Executive Officer to take all necessary actions to ensure the execution of this warrant, including the seizure and removal of all travel documentation of the same aircraft.

Given by the Court

Today

Form No. 37
 EXECUTIVE WARRANT of Arrest of an Aircraft
 in security of a debt or any other claim
 amounting to not less than one million euro

Added by:
 L.N. [158 of 2012](#).

Before Warrant No.

Applicant

.....

vs

Respondent

.....

Application of

It is being respectfully submitted and confirmed on oath by

.....:-

That the applicant is in possession of an executive title and wishes to enforce same on the aircraft hereunder indicated, the execution of which title could be frustrated by the departure of the aircraft indicated in this warrant;

That the executive title is the following:-

That the details of the said aircraft are the following:-

- Name:-

- Identification details of the aircraft

1.

2.

3.

4.

- Place where the said aircraft is to be found

- Authority: Authority for Transport in Malta

Therefore, the applicant respectfully requests that this Court orders the issue of an Executive Warrant of Arrest of an Aircraft against the said aircraft for the herein mentioned credit and for the costs of this procedure and (1) order the sale of the said aircraft or (2) fix a time-limit within which the debtor is to pay the amount due.

..... Advocate Legal Procurator

Confirmed on oath before me after having read to him/her the contents, and filed by:-

Form No. 37

EXECUTIVE WARRANT of Arrest of an Aircraft
in security of a debt or any other claim
amounting to not less than one million euro

(Order for payment)

Court Order

Republic of Malta

Warrant No.

Whereas the attached application has been filed and there exist
sufficient grounds according to law for the issuance of the order
herein contained;

The Court thus:-

Orders the debtor to pay the amount due as requested within
..... days, and the present warrant shall remain in
force definitively until payment of the full amount is effected;

Orders the Authority for Transport in Malta or any other
authority so designated by the Minister and which has in its hands
or under its control the aircraft against which such warrant is being
issued, to seize the aircraft and not release such aircraft or allow
the debtor to divest himself in any way from the same in whole or
in part or to give or surrender to any person any rights on the same;

Orders the same authority to take all necessary measures to
display the court order for the general attention of third parties;

Orders the Executive Officer to execute this warrant by serving it
on the executive officer of the authority which has in its hands or
under its control the aircraft against which such warrant is being
issued;

Orders the Executive Officer serve a copy of the warrant on the
person whose aircraft is arrested, the commander or other person in
charge of such aircraft or the agent of such aircraft;

Orders the Executive Officer to take all necessary actions to
ensure the execution of this warrant, including the seizure and
removal of all travel documentation of the same aircraft.

Given by the Court

Today

Form No. 37
EXECUTIVE WARRANT of Arrest of an Aircraft
in security of a debt or any other claim
amounting to not less than one million euro

*(Order of Judicial sale -
given after issuance of an Order for payment)*

Court Order

Republic of Malta

Warrant No

Whereas the attached application has been filed and there exist
sufficient grounds according to law for the issuance of the order
herein contained;

The Court thus:-

Orders the sale by judicial auction of the said aircraft as
indicated in the application;

Orders the Registrar to appoint experts in terms of article 89 of
the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure (Cap. 12) as may be
required;

Sets the day, time and place of the judicial sale as being the
following:-

Orders the Registrar to notify this decree to the Authority for
Transport in Malta or any other authority so designated by the
Minister and which has in its hands or under its control the aircraft
against which such warrant is being issued as well as to the person
whose aircraft is arrested, the commander or other person in charge
of such aircraft or the agent of such aircraft.

Given by the Court

Today

Form No. 37
EXECUTIVE WARRANT of Arrest of an Aircraft
in security of a debt or any other claim
amounting to not less than one million euro

*(Order of Judicial sale -
without the issuance of an Order for payment)*

Court Order

Republic of Malta

Warrant No

Whereas the attached application has been filed and there exist sufficient grounds according to law for the issuance of the order herein contained;

The Court thus:-

Orders the sale by judicial auction of the said aircraft as indicated in the application;

Orders the Registrar to appoint experts in terms of article 89 of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure (Cap. 12) as may be required;

Orders that the appraisals of the expert/s are to be filed within days;

Orders the Authority for Transport in Malta or any other authority so designated by the Minister and which has in its hands or under its control the aircraft against which such warrant is being issued, to seize the aircraft and not release such aircraft or allow the debtor to divest himself in any way from the same in whole or in part or to give or surrender to any person any rights on the same;

Orders the same authority to take all necessary measures to display the court order for the general attention of third parties;

Orders the Executive Officer to execute this warrant by serving it on the executive officer of the authority which has in its hands or under its control the aircraft against which such warrant is being issued;

Orders the Executive Officer to take all necessary actions to ensure the execution of this warrant, including the seizure and removal of all travel documentation of the same aircraft.

Sets the day, time and place of the judicial sale as being the following:-

Orders the Registrar to notify this decree to the Authority for Transport in Malta or any other authority so designated by the Minister and which has in its hands or under its control the aircraft against which such warrant is being issued as well as to the person whose aircraft is arrested, the commander or other person in charge of such aircraft or the agent of such aircraft.

Given by the Court

Today

Form No. 38

Warrant of Ejectment or Expulsion from Sea Vessels or Aircraft.

In (here insert name of Court)

(Applicant).....

Versus

(Respondent).....

Application of

Respectfully requests:-

That this Court orders the issue of a warrant of ejectment or expulsion against the respondent, including any operator, lessee or other occupants, including any members of their staff (from the herein mentioned aircraft or sea vessel) in execution of the notice of termination herein mentioned, whereas the respondent has so far failed so to do.

Details of the Aircraft or Sea Vessel:

Details Notice of Termination:

Place where the said aircraft or sea vessel is to be found:

Authority: Authority for Transport in Malta

Advocate:

Legal Procurator:

This, day of 20

Filed by

(Registrar's signature)

No. 38

Warrant of Ejectment or Expulsion from Sea Vessels or Aircraft.

Court Warrant

Republic of Malta

To Marshal of the Courts

WHEREAS by a notice of the termination of the lease, as stated in the aforementioned application, respondent was condemned to quit the said Aircraft or Sea Vessel, and whereas the said respondent has so far failed to do so;

You are, therefore, on the said application, ordered to cause the respondent to be actually ejected from the aircraft or sea vessel mentioned in the application, leaving the same free in favour of the said applicant, enjoining further the said respondent by delivering a copy of the warrant, not to disturb the aforesaid applicant in the free enjoyment of the said aircraft or sea vessel, under the penalties established for contempt of court.

And after execution, or upon your meeting with any obstacle in the execution hereof, you shall forthwith report to this Court.

Given by the (name of Court)

and witnessed by Doctor of Laws of the said
Court.

This, day of 20

SCHEDULE C

[ARTICLE 249]

Added by:
[XXIV.1995](#). 359.
 Substituted by:
 L.N. [407 of 2007](#).

(1)Bank Ltd.
 stands surety *in solidum* with appellant (2).....
 for the costs of the appeal entered in the case (3)
 up to the amount of (4).....
 euro (€) and this for the purpose and in terms of article 249 of
 the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure, Cap. 12.

This suretyship shall remain in force up to six months from the
 date on which the said appeal is decided, withdrawn or deemed
 deserted and consequently it will lapse if no written demand arising
 from this suretyship is made within the said period of six months.

Before effecting any payment under this suretyship, the Bank
 may require the production of the Registrar's declaration stating
 the date on which the appeal has been decided, withdrawn or
 deserted as well as of the necessary documentation in support of the
 claim for payment.

Today the day of 20

(5)

for Bank Ltd.

(1) Name of Bank

(2) Details of application

(3) Details of appealed case

(4) Amount of surety

(5) Signatory of Bank
