

## RECIPROCAL ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGMENTS ORDINANCE 1925.\*

An Ordinance to facilitate the reciprocal enforcement of judgments and awards in the Northern Territory of Australia and the United Kingdom and other parts of His Majesty's Dominions.

**Short title.**

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the *Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments Ordinance 1925*.\*

**Interpretation.**

2. In this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise requires—

“ judgment ” means any judgment or order given or made by a court in any civil proceedings, whether before or after the passing of this Ordinance, whereby any sum of money is made payable and includes an award in proceedings on an arbitration if the award has in pursuance of the law in force in the place where it was made become enforceable in the same manner as a judgment given by a court in that place;

“ original court ” in relation to any judgment means the court by which the judgment was given;

“ registering court ” in relation to any judgment means the court by which the judgment was registered;

“ judgment creditor ” means the person by whom the judgment was obtained and includes the successors and assigns of that person;

“ judgment debtor ” means the person against whom the judgment was given and includes any person against whom the judgment is enforceable in the place where it was given.

3.—(1.) Where a judgment has been obtained in the High Court in England or Ireland or in the Court of Session in Scotland the judgment creditor may apply to Supreme Court of the Northern Territory at any time within twelve months after the date of the judgment or such longer period as may be allowed by the Supreme Court to have the judgment registered in the Supreme Court and on any such application the Supreme Court may if in all the circumstances of the case it thinks it just and convenient that the judgment should be enforced in the Northern Territory and subject to the provisions of this section order the judgment to be registered accordingly.

Enforcement of judgments obtained in High Court in England, &c.

\* No. 2, 1925; notified in *Commonwealth Gazette* and commenced on 12th February, 1925.

(2.) No judgment shall be ordered to be registered under this section if—

- (a) the original court acted without jurisdiction; or
- (b) the judgment debtor being a person who was neither carrying on business nor ordinarily resident within the jurisdiction of the original court did not voluntarily appear or otherwise submit or agree to submit to the jurisdiction of that court; or
- (c) the judgment debtor being the defendant in the proceedings was not duly served with the process of the original court and did not appear notwithstanding that he was ordinarily resident or was carrying on business within the jurisdiction of that court or agreed to submit to the jurisdiction of that court; or
- (d) the judgment was obtained by fraud; or
- (e) the judgment debtor satisfies the registering court either that an appeal is pending or that he is entitled and intends to appeal against the judgment; or
- (f) the judgment was in respect of a cause of action which for reasons of public policy or for some other similar reason could not have been entertained by the registering court.

(3.) Where a judgment is registered under this section—

- (a) the judgment shall as from the date of registration be of the same force and effect and proceedings may be taken thereon as if it had been a judgment originally obtained or entered up on the date of registration in the registering court;
- (b) the registering court shall have the same control and jurisdiction over the judgment as it has over similar judgments given by itself but in so far only as relates to executions under this section;
- (c) the reasonable costs of and incidental to the registration of the judgment (including the costs of obtaining a certified copy thereof from the original court and the application for registration) shall be recoverable in like manner as if they were sums payable under the judgment.

4. In any action brought in the Supreme Court on any judgment which might be ordered to be registered under the last preceding section the plaintiff shall not be entitled to recover

No costs of action in certain cases.

any costs of the action unless an application to register the judgment under that section has previously been refused or unless the court otherwise orders.

Issue of certificate of judgment obtained in Territory.

5. Where a judgment has been obtained in the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory against any person the Supreme Court shall on an application made by the judgment creditor and on proof that the judgment debtor is resident in the United Kingdom issue to the judgment creditor a certified copy of the judgment.

Power to make rules.

6.—(1.) The Judge or Acting Judge of the Northern Territory may make rules of court for regulating the practice and procedure (including scales of fees and evidence) in respect of proceedings of any kind under this Ordinance and such rules of court shall (*inter alia*) provide—

- (a) for service on the judgment debtor of notice of the registration of a judgment under this section; and
- (b) for enabling the registering court on an application by the judgment debtor to set aside the registration of a judgment under this section on such terms as the court thinks fit; and
- (c) for suspending the execution of a judgment registered under this section until the expiration of the period during which the judgment debtor may apply to have the registration set aside.

(2.) All rules of court made in pursuance of this section shall be published or notified in the *Gazette*, and copies thereof shall be forwarded to the Minister after the making thereof.

(3.) The Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, disallow any rule of court, and thereupon the rule so disallowed shall cease to have effect.

Power to extend provisions of Ordinance.

7.—(1.) Where the Governor-General is satisfied that reciprocal provisions have been made by the legislature of any other part of His Majesty's Dominions outside the United Kingdom for the enforcement within that part of His Majesty's Dominions of judgments obtained in the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory the Governor-General may by Proclamation declare that this Ordinance shall extend to judgments obtained in a Superior Court in that part of His Majesty's Dominions in like manner as it extends to judgments obtained in a Superior Court in the United Kingdom and on any such order being made this Ordinance shall extend accordingly.

(2.) For the purposes of this section the expression "that part of His Majesty's Dominions outside the United Kingdom" shall be deemed to include any territory which is under His Majesty's protection or in respect of which a mandate is being exercised by the Government of any part of His Majesty's Dominions.

(3.) A Proclamation under this section may be varied or revoked by a subsequent Proclamation.