

CHAPTER 291

THE NEWSPAPERS REGISTRATION ACT

Arrangement of Sections

Section

1. Short title.
 2. Interpretation.
 3. No paper to be published before declaration filed in Registrar's Office.
 4. Any person editing, printing or publishing newspaper before declaration made and signed liable to a fine of \$1,500 per day.
 5. Declaration to be filed in Registrar's Office.
 6. Book to be kept containing the registration required by this Act which shall be open for inspection on payment of 24cts. fee.
 7. Printer to deliver to Registrar a copy of every newspaper.
 8. Imprint to be at the end of every newspaper, &c.
 9. Recovery and application of penalties.
 10. No fees payable on making declaration.
 11. Non-application.
- SCHEDULE.
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NEWSPAPERS REGISTRATION

(6th March, 1883.)

2/1883.
Ord. 1711899.
Fed. Act.
1011916.
811971.
911975.
1311976.

1. This Act may be cited as the Newspapers Registration Act. **Short title.**

2. In this Act the word "newspaper" shall have the same meaning as defined in section 2 of the Newspaper Surety Act. **Interpretation.**

Cap. 292.

3. (1) No person shall edit, print or publish or cause to be printed or published, any newspaper before there shall be delivered to the Registrar of the High Court at his office in St. John's a declaration in writing in the form of the declaration set forth in the Schedule, containing the correct title of the newspaper to which the same shall relate, and the true description of the house or building wherein such newspaper is intended to be printed, and also of the house or building where such newspaper is intended to be published by or for or on behalf of the proprietor thereof, the true name, place of abode and occupation of the editor, and also the true name, occupation, and place of abode of every person who is intended to be the printer or to conduct such newspaper, and of every person who is intended to be the publisher thereof, and of every person who shall be a proprietor or joint proprietor of such newspaper who shall be resident out of Antigua and Barbuda, and also of every person resident in Antigua and Barbuda who shall be a proprietor or joint proprietor of the same. **No paper published to be declared free in Registrar's Office. (Ord. 17/1899) Schedule.**

(2) Every such declaration shall be made and signed by every person named therein as editor, printer or publisher of the newspaper to which such declaration shall relate, and by such of the said persons named therein as proprietors as shall be resident within Antigua and Barbuda, and a declaration of the like import shall be made, signed and delivered in like manner whenever and so often as any share, interest or property soever in any newspaper named in any

such declaration shall be assigned, transferred, divided, or changed by act of the parties or by operation of law, and also whenever and so often as any editor, printer, publisher or proprietor, named in any such declaration shall be changed or shall change his place of abode, and also whenever and so often as the title of any such newspaper or the printing office or the place of publication thereof, shall be changed, and also whenever in any case or on any occasion or for any purpose the said Registrar shall require such declaration to be made, signed and delivered, and shall cause notice in writing for that purpose to be served upon any person or to be left or posted at any place mentioned in the last preceding declaration delivered as aforesaid as being a printer, publisher, editor or proprietor of such newspaper, or as being the place of printing or publishing such newspaper respectively.

(3) Every such declaration shall be made before the said Registrar, and such Registrar is hereby authorised to take and receive such declaration as aforesaid.

(4) If any person shall knowingly and wilfully sign and make any such declaration in which shall be inserted or set forth the name, occupation or place of abode of any person as a proprietor, editor, publisher or printer of any newspaper to which such declaration shall relate who shall not be a proprietor, editor, publisher or printer thereof, or from which shall be omitted the name, occupation or place of abode of any proprietor, editor, publisher or printer of such newspaper contrary to the true meaning of this Act, or in which any matter or thing by this Act required to be set forth shall be set forth otherwise than according to the truth, or from which any matter or thing required by this Act to be truly set forth shall be omitted, every such offender shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanour and being convicted thereof shall be imprisoned for any period not exceeding twelve calendar months.

Any person editing, printing or publishing newspaper before declaration made and signed liable to a fine of \$1500 per day.

4. If any person shall knowingly and wilfully edit, print or publish, or shall cause to be printed or published, or either as a proprietor or otherwise sell or deliver any newspaper relating to which such declaration as aforesaid containing such matters and things as are required by this

Act to be therein contained shall not have been duly signed and made and delivered when and so often as by this Act is required, every person in any such case offending shall forfeit for every such act done the sum of fifteen hundred dollars for every day on which such newspaper shall be printed or published, sold or delivered before or until such declaration shall be signed and made and delivered as by this Act is directed.

**Ords. 8/1883,
and 17/1899.**

5. (1) All such declarations as aforesaid shall be filed and kept in the office of the Registrar in Antigua and Barbuda for the safe custody thereof, and copies thereof certified by the said Registrar to be true copies as by this Act is directed shall respectively be admitted in all proceedings, civil and criminal, touching any newspaper mentioned in any such declaration or touching any publication, matter or thing, contained in any such newspaper as conclusive evidence of the truth of all such matters set forth in such declaration as are herein required to be therein set forth and of their continuance respectively in the same condition down to the time in question against every person who shall have signed such declaration unless it shall be proved that previous to such time such person became a lunatic or that previous to the publication in question on such trial such person did duly sign and make a declaration that such person had ceased to be a printer, publisher, editor, or proprietor of such newspaper and did duly deliver the same to the said Registrar or unless it shall be proved that previous to such occasion as aforesaid a new declaration of the same or a similar nature respectively was duly signed and made and delivered as aforesaid respecting the same newspaper in which the person sought to be affected in such trial did not join.

**Declaration to
be filed in
Registrar's
Office.
Ord. 17/1899.**

(2) The said Registrar by whom any such declaration shall be kept according to the directions of this Act shall, upon application in writing made to him by any person requiring a copy certified according to this Act of any such declaration as aforesaid, deliver such certified copy or cause the same to be delivered to the person applying for the same upon payment of the sum of twenty-four cents and no more.

(3) In all proceedings, civil or criminal, a copy of any such declaration certified to be a true copy under the hand of the said Registrar shall be received in evidence against

any and every person named in such declaration as a person making or signing the same as sufficient proof of such declaration and that the same was duly signed and made according to this Act and of the contents thereof, and every such copy so produced and certified shall have the same effect for the purposes of evidence against any and every such person named therein as aforesaid to all intents whatsoever as if the original declaration had been produced in evidence and been proved to have been duly signed and made by the person appearing by such copy to have signed and made the same as aforesaid.

(4) Whenever a certified copy of any such declaration shall have been produced in evidence as aforesaid and a newspaper shall afterwards be produced in evidence intitled in the same manner as the newspaper mentioned in such declaration is intitled and wherein the name of the proprietor, editor, printer and publisher and the place of printing shall be the same as the name of the proprietor, editor, printer and publisher and the place of printing mentioned in such declaration or shall purport to be the same whether such title, name and place printed upon such newspaper shall be set forth in the same form of words as is contained in the said declaration or in any form of words varying therefrom it shall not be necessary for the plaintiff, informant or prosecutor in any action, prosecution or other proceeding, to prove that the newspaper to which such action, prosecution or other proceeding may relate was purchased of the defendant or at any house, shop or office belonging to or occupied by the defendant or by his servants or workmen, or where he may usually carry on the business of printing or publishing such newspaper or where the same may be usually sold.

(5) If any person not being the said Registrar shall give any certificate purporting to be such certificate as aforesaid, or shall presume to certify any of the matters or things by this Act directed to be certified by such Registrar or which such Registrar is hereby empowered or entrusted to certify, or if any such Registrar shall knowingly and wilfully falsely certify under his hand that any such declaration as is required to be made by this Act was duly signed and made before him the same not having been so signed and made, or shall knowingly and wilfully falsely certify that any copy of any

declaration is a true copy of the declaration of which the same is certified to be such copy the same not being such true copy, such Registrar and every person so offending shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanour, and being convicted thereof shall be imprisoned for any period of time not exceeding twelve calendar months.

6. The said Registrar shall cause to be entered in a book to be kept at his said office the title of every newspaper registered at the said office and also the names of the editors, printers and publishers thereof as the same appear in the declarations required by this Act to be made relating to such newspapers respectively; and all persons shall have free liberty to search and inspect the said book from time to time during the hours of business at the said office on payment of the fee of twenty-four cents.

Book to be kept containing the registration required by this Act which shall be open for inspection on payment of 24cts. fee Ord. 17/1899.

7. (1) The printer or publisher of every newspaper printed or published in Antigua and Barbuda shall upon every day on which such newspaper shall be published or on the day next following, which shall not be a holiday, between the hours of ten and three on each day, deliver or cause to be delivered to the Registrar at his said office one copy of every such newspaper and of every second or other varied edition or impression thereof so printed or published, with the name and place of abode of the printer or publisher thereof signed and written thereon after the same shall be printed by his proper hand and in his accustomed manner of signing or by some person appointed and authorised by him for that purpose and of whose appointment and authority notice in writing signed by such printer or publisher in the presence of and attested by the said Registrar shall be given to the said Registrar.

Printer to deliver to Registrar a copy of every newspaper. Ord. 17/1899.

(2) The same copies shall be carefully kept by the said Registrar in the office and all copies so delivered as aforesaid shall be evidence against every printer, publisher, editor and proprietor of every such newspaper respectively in all proceedings, civil or criminal, to be commenced and carried on as well touching such newspaper as any matter or thing therein contained and touching any other newspaper and any matter or thing therein contained which shall be of the same title, purport, or effect.

Imprint to be at the end of every newspaper. & c. Ord. 17/1899.

8. (1) At the end of every newspaper and of any and every supplement, sheet, pamphlet or piece of printed paper shall be printed the christian name and the surname, occupation and place of abode of the editor, printer and publisher of the same, and also a true description of the house or building wherein the same is actually printed and published respectively, and the day of the week, month and year on which the same is published.

(2) If any person shall knowingly and wilfully edit, print or publish or cause to be printed or published any newspaper or supplement thereto or any pamphlet or piece of printed paper whereon the several particulars aforesaid shall not be printed or whereon there shall be printed any false name, occupation, place or day or whereon there shall be printed any description of the place of printing or publishing such newspaper which shall be different in any respect from the description of the house or building mentioned in the declaration required by this Act to be made relating to newspapers as the house or building wherein a newspaper is intended to be printed or published, every such person shall for any and every such offence forfeit the sum of five hundred dollars.

(3) The provisions of this section shall only apply to newspapers, supplements, sheets, pamphlets or pieces of printed paper intended for publication.

Recovery and application of penalties.

9. All pecuniary penalties under this Act may be sued or prosecuted for and recovered for the use of Her Majesty in the name of the Attorney-General by action of debt or information in the High Court, and all pecuniary penalties imposed by or incurred under this Act shall go and be applied to the use of Her Majesty and shall be deemed to be and shall be accounted for as part of the revenue of Antigua and Barbuda.

No fees payable on making declaration. Ord. 17/1899.

10. No fee for the making of any declaration required by this Act shall be payable.

NO^-application.

11. This Act does not apply to any newspaper that is published by—

(a) the pupils or staff of any scholastic establishment,

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- (b) a *bona fide* religious organisation,
 - (c) a non-profit making voluntary organisation,
 - (d) a youth organisation, or
 - (e) a business or company for distribution to its employees,

if the items of news, comment, or any other matter or thing contained in such newspaper consists wholly or mainly of matters concerning or principally of interest to such group.

SCHEDULE

S. 3.

I, A.B. of Antigua and Barbuda, do hereby declare that I am the proprietor (or where the person *making* the declaration is not the proprietor) that

is the proprietor of the _____ newspaper (here insert the correct title) printed and published (or intended to be published) by or on behalf of

(name proprietor) at

in _____ Street, in the (city) of (St. John's)

in Antigua and Barbuda on the day of the week (insert day of publication) and I also declare that

and _____

are respectively the editor, printer and publisher of the said newspaper, whose respective residences are at _____ in _____
