

## CHAPTER 401

## THE SIGNATURES TO PETITIONS ACT

## Arrangement of Sections

## Section

1. Short title.
2. Prohibition against appending another's name to petition, &c., without consent.
3. Certificate by person appending another's name to petition, &c.
4. Signature of Justice of the Peace or Notary Public equivalent to certificate.
5. Saving as to application of Act.
6. Penalty.
7. Procedure where charge appears to be one proper for indictment.

## SIGNATURES TO PETITIONS

*(1st December, 1916.)*5/1916.  
18/1989.

**1.** This Act may be cited as the Signatures to Petitions Act. Short title.

**2.** Any person who appends to any petition or letter or similar document the name or mark of any other person without his knowledge and consent shall be guilty of an offence against this Act. Prohibition against appending another's name to petition, &c., without consent.

**3.** Where the name or mark of any person is appended to any petition or letter or similar document at his request, the scribe who writes the name or makes the mark on the Certificate by person appending another's name to petition, &c.

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document shall certify under this hand on the document that the document was read and explained to the person whose name or mark is so appended and that the person appeared to understand its contents and approved of them and that the person's name or mark was appended at his request, and in the certificate the scribe shall state his full name and his occupation and usual place of abode. Any person who fails to append such a certificate or appends a certificate which is untrue in any particular shall be guilty of an offence against this Act.

**Signature of Justice of the Peace or Notary Public equivalent to certificate.**

**4.** If the scribe is a Justice of the Peace or a Notary Public his signature appended to the document shall be deemed to be equivalent to the certificate hereinbefore required.

**Saving as to application of Act.**

**5.** Nothing in this Act shall apply to any petition or other document addressed to any Court of law, or to be filed or lodged in any proceeding in any Court of law, which has been prepared or drawn by a duly authorized legal practitioner.

**Penalty.**

**6.** Anyone who contravenes the provisions of this Act shall be guilty of an offence against this Act and shall be liable on summary conviction to a penalty not exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars or to be imprisoned for a period not exceeding two months.

**Procedure where charge appears to be one proper for indictment.**

**7.** If on the hearing of any complaint for an offence under this Act it appears to the Magistrate that the case ought to be tried as an indictable offence before the High Court, or if the Director of Public Prosecutions intimates to the Magistrate his opinion in writing to that effect, all further proceedings thereon as for a summary offence shall be stayed, and depositions shall be taken and the case shall in all other respects be dealt with, as if the complaint had been originally one for an indictable offence, or the Magistrate shall adjourn the case to enable proceedings for an indictable offence to be taken.

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