

Uganda

Illiterates Protection Act Chapter 288

Legislation as at 31 December 2023

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Illiterates Protection Act (Chapter 288)
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Uganda

Illiterates Protection Act Chapter 288

Commenced on 30 September 1918

[This is the version of this document at 31 December 2023.]

[Note: This legislation was revised and consolidated as at 31 December 2000 and 31 December 2023 by the Law Reform Commission of Uganda. All subsequent amendments have been researched and applied by Laws.Africa for ULII.]

An Act for the protection of illiterate persons.

[Cap. 73 (Revised Edition, 1964); Cap. 78 (Revised Edition, 2000); Act 17/2023]

1. Interpretation

In this Act—

“**currency point**” has the value assigned to it in Schedule 1 to this Act;

“**document**” means any print or writing capable of being used as evidence of any fact or thing as against the person by, for or at the request, or on behalf or in the name of whom the same purports to be written or signed in any way;

“**illiterate**” means, in relation to any document, a person who is unable to read and understand the script or language in which the document is written or printed.

2. Verification of signature of illiterates

No person shall write the name of an illiterate by way of signature to any document unless such illiterate shall have first appended his or her mark to it; and any person who so writes the name of the illiterate shall also write on the document his or her own true and full name and address as witness, and his or her so doing shall imply a statement that he or she wrote the name of the illiterate by way of signature after the illiterate had appended his or her mark, and that he or she was instructed so to write by the illiterate and that prior to the illiterate appending his or her mark, the document was read over and explained to the illiterate.

3. Verification of documents written for illiterates

Any person who writes any document for or at the request, on behalf or in the name of any illiterate shall also write on the document his or her own true and full name as the writer of the document and his or her true and full address, and his or her so doing shall imply a statement that he or she was instructed to write the document by the person for whom it purports to have been written and that it fully and correctly represents his or her instructions and was read over and explained to him or her.

4. Offence and penalty

If the writer of or witness to the signature on any document fails to write on the document his or her true and full name and address as provided in section 2 or 3, or if he or she has done so and the statement which under this Act is implied by the writing is untrue in any particular, then and in every such case the person commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding one hundred fifty currency points, or in default of payment to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months, but without prejudice to any criminal or civil liability which he or she may have incurred in the circumstances by reason of fraud, forgery, misrepresentation or otherwise.

5. Saving as to certain documents

Nothing in this Act shall apply to documents of the classes specified in Schedule 2 to this Act.

6. Power to amend Schedules

- (1) The Minister may, by statutory instrument, with the approval of Cabinet, amend Schedule 1 to this Act.
- (2) The Minister may, by statutory instrument, amend Schedule 2 to this Act.

Schedule 1 (Sections 1, 6(1))**Currency point**

A currency point is equivalent to twenty thousand shillings.

Schedule 2 (Sections 5, 6(2))**Exempted documents**

1. Receipts for taxes.
2. Receipts for money paid by a Government officer on behalf of the Treasury.