



CORRIDALEGAL
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The General Clauses Act, 1897

Bare Act



Corrida Legal presents the Bare Act Series, sourced from official texts and supported with an executive summary designed to help readers grasp the essence of the law with ease.

NOTE: An Executive Summary of the General Clauses Act, 1897 is included towards the end of this document, right after the full bare act of the statute. This summary helps professionals, business owners, compliance officers, HR managers, legal practitioners, and students quickly understand the key provisions relating to common statutory definitions, general rules of construction, effect of repeal, commencement and operation of laws, succession of authorities, rule-making powers, service by post, recovery of fines, and application of the Act to Central laws, without having to read the entire text.

The General Clauses Act, 1897 Summary provides a clear, practical, and time-saving guide for anyone looking to interpret Central Acts with consistency, strengthen compliance processes, manage litigation risks, and stay aligned with statutory requirements under the General Clauses Act bare act.

THE GENERAL CLAUSES ACT, 1897

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THE GENERAL CLAUSES ACT, 1897

ACT NO. 10 OF 1897¹

[11th March, 1897.]

An Act to consolidate and extend the General Clauses Act, 1868 and 1887.

WHEREAS it is expedient to consolidate and extend the General Clauses Acts, 1868 (1 of 1868) and 1887 (1 of 1887); it is hereby enacted as follows:—

PRELIMINARY

1. Short title.—(1) This Act may be called the General Clauses Act, 1897; ^{2***}

3* * * *

2. [Repeal.] *Rep by the Repealing and Amending Act, 1903 (1 of 1903), s. 4 and the Third Schedule.*

GENERAL DEFINITIONS

⁴**[3. Definitions.**—In this Act, and in all Central Acts and Regulations made after the commencement of this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—

(1) “abet”, with its grammatical variations and cognate expressions, shall have the same meaning as in the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860);

(2) “act”, used with reference to an offence or a civil wrong, shall include a series of acts, and words which refer to acts done extend also to illegal omissions;

(3) “affidavit” shall include affirmation and declaration in the case of persons by law allowed to affirm or declare instead of swearing;

(4) “barrister” shall mean a barrister of England or Ireland, or a member of the Faculty of Advocates in Scotland;

(5) “British India” shall mean, as respects the period before the commencement of Part III of the Government of India Act, 1935, all territories and places within His Majesty’s dominions which were for the time being governed by His Majesty through the Governor General of India or through any Governor or Officer subordinate to the Governor General of India, and as respects any period after that date and before the date of the establishment of the Dominion of India means all territories for the time being comprised within the Governors’ Provinces and the Chief Commissioners’ Provinces, except that a reference to British India in an Indian law passed or made before the commencement of Part III of the Government of India Act, 1935, shall not include a reference to Berar;

1. For Report of the Select Committee, see Gazette of India, Pt. V, p.77, and for Proceedings in Council see Gazette of India, Pt.VI, pp. 35, 40, 56 and 76.

This Act has been declared to be in force in the Santhal Parganas by the Santhal Parganas Settlement Regulation, 1872 (3 of 1872), s. 3; in Panth Piploda by the Panth Piploda Laws Regulation, 1929 (1 of 1929), s. 2; in Khondmals District by the Khondmals Laws Regulation, 1936 (4 of 1936), s. 3 and the Schedule; and in the Angul District by the Angul Laws Regulation, 1936 (5 of 1936), s. 3 and the Schedule

The Act has been partially extended to Berar by the Berar Laws Act, 1941 (4 of 1941) and to the new Provinces and Merged States by the Merged States (Laws) Act, 1949 (59 of 1949).

The Act has been extended to—

Goa, Daman and Diu with modifications by Regulation 12 of 1962, s. 3 and the Schedule;

Dadra and Nagar Haveli by Regulation 6 of 1963, s. 2 and the First Schedule;

Pondicherry by Regulation 7 of 1963, s. 3 and the First Schedule; and

Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands by Regulation 8 of 1965, s. 3 and Schedule

Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Union territory of Ladakh by Act 34 of 2019, s. 95 and the fifth schedule (w.e.f. 31-10-2019).

It has been amended in Assam by the Assam Commissioners’ Powers Distribution Act, 1939 (Assam Act 1 of 1939).

2. The word “and” rep. by Act 10 of 1914, s. 3 and the Second Schedule.

3. Sub-section (2) rep. by s. 3 and the Second Schedule, *ibid*.

4. Subs. by the A.O. 1950, for section 3.

(6) “British possession” shall mean any part of Her Majesty’s dominions exclusive of the United Kingdom, and where parts of those dominions are under both a Central and a Local Legislature, all parts under the Central Legislature shall, for the purposes of this definition, be deemed to be one British possession;

(7) “Central Act” shall means an Act of Parliament, and shall include—

(a) an Act of the Dominion Legislature or of the Indian Legislature passed before the commencement of the Constitution, and

(b) an Act made before such commencement by the Governor General in Council or the Governor General, acting in a legislative capacity;

(8) “Central Government” shall,—

(a) in relation to anything done before the commencement of the Constitution, mean the Governor General or the Governor General in Council, as the case may be; and shall include,—

(i) in relation to functions entrusted under sub-section (1) of section 124 of the Government of India Act, 1935, to the Government of a Province, the Provincial Government acting within the scope of the authority given to it under that subsection; and

(ii) in relation to the administration of a Chief Commissioner’s Province, the Chief Commissioner acting within the scope of the authority given to him under sub-section (3) of section 94 of the said Act; and

(b) in relation to anything done or to be done after the commencement of the Constitution, mean the President; and shall include,—

(i) in relation to functions entrusted under clause (1) of article 258 of the Constitution, to the Government of a State, the State Government acting within the scope of the authority given to it under that clause; ^{1***}

(ii) in relation to the administration of a Part C State ²[before the commencement of the Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Act, 1956], the Chief Commissioner or the Lieutenant-Governor or the Government of a neighbouring State or other authority acting within the scope of the authority given to him or it under article 239 or article 243 of the Constitution, as the case may be; ²[and

(iii) in relation to the administration of a Union territory, the administrator thereof acting within the scope of the authority given to him under article 239 of the Constitution];

(9) “Chapter” shall mean a Chapter of the Act or Regulation in which the word occurs;

(10) “Chief Controlling Revenue Authority” or “Chief Revenue Authority” shall mean—

(a) in a State where there is a Board of Revenue, that Board;

(b) in a State where there is a Revenue Commissioner, that Commissioner;

(c) in Punjab, the Financial Commissioner; and

(d) elsewhere, such authority as, in relation to matters enumerated in List I in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, the Central Government, and in relation to other matters, the State Government, may by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint;

(11) “Collector” shall mean, in a Presidency-town, the Collector of Calcutta, Madras or Bombay, as the case may be, and elsewhere the chief officer-in-charge of the revenue-administration of a district;

(12) “Colony”—

(a) in any Central Act passed after the commencement of Part III of the Government of India Act, 1935, shall mean any part of His Majesty’s dominions exclusive of the British Islands, the

1. The word “and” omitted by the Adaptation of Laws (No. 1) Order, 1956.

2. Ins., *ibid*.

Dominions of India and Pakistan (and before the establishment of those Dominions, British India), any Dominions as defined in the Statute of Westminster, 1931, any Province or State forming part of any of the said Dominions, and British Burma; and

(b) in any Central Act passed before the commencement of Part III of the said Act, mean any part of His Majesty's dominions exclusive of the British Islands and of British India;

and in either case where parts of those dominions are under both a Central and Local Legislature, all parts under the Central Legislature shall, for the purposes of this definition, be deemed to be one colony.

(13) "Commencement" used with reference to an Act or Regulation, shall mean the day on which the Act or Regulation comes into force;

(14) "Commissioner" shall mean the chief officer-in-charge of the revenue administration of a division;

(15) "Constitution" shall mean the Constitution of India;

(16) "Consular officer" shall include consul-general, consul, vice-consul, consular agent, pro-consul and any person for the time being authorised to perform the duties of consul-general, consul, vice-consul or consular agent;

(17) "District Judge" shall mean the Judge of a principal Civil Court of original jurisdiction, but shall not include a High Court in the exercise of its ordinary or extraordinary original civil jurisdiction;

(18) "document" shall include any matter written, expressed or described upon any substance by means of letters, figures or marks, or by more than one of those means which is intended to be used, or which may be used, for the purpose of recording that matter;

(19) "enactment" shall include a Regulation (as hereinafter defined) and any Regulation of the Bengal, Madras or Bombay Code, and shall also include any provision contained in any Act or in any such Regulation as aforesaid;

(20) "father", in the case of any one whose personal law permits adoption, shall include an adoptive father;

(21) "financial year" shall mean the year commencing on the first day of April;

(22) a thing shall be deemed to be done in "good faith" where it is in fact done honestly, whether it is done negligently or not;

(23) "Government" or "the Government" shall include both the Central Government and any State Government;

(24) "Government securities" shall mean securities of the Central Government or of any State Government, but in any Act or Regulation made before the commencement of the Constitution shall not include securities of the Government of any Part B State;

(25) "High Court", used with reference to civil proceedings, shall mean the highest Civil Court of appeal (not including the Supreme Court) in the part of India in which the Act or Regulation containing the expression operates;

(26) "immovable property" shall include land, benefits to arise out of land, and things attached to the earth, or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth;

(27) "imprisonment" shall mean imprisonment of either description as defined in the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860);

(28) "India" shall mean,—

(a) as respects any period before the establishment of the Dominion of India, British India together with all territories of Indian Rulers then under the suzerainty of His Majesty, all territories under the suzerainty of such an Indian Ruler, and the tribal areas;

(b) as respects any period after the establishment of the Dominion of India and before the commencement of the Constitution, all territories for the time being included in that Dominion; and

(c) as respects any period after the commencement of the Constitution, all territories for the time being comprised in the territory of India;

(29) “Indian law” shall mean any Act, Ordinance, Regulation, rule, order, bye-law or other instrument which before the commencement of the Constitution, had the force of law in any Province of India or part thereof, or thereafter has the force of law in any Part A State or Part C State or Part thereof, but does not include any Act of Parliament of the United Kingdom or any Order in Council, rule or other instrument made under such Act;

(30) “Indian State” shall mean any territory which the Central Government recognised as such a State before the commencement of the Constitution, whether described as a State, an Estate, a *Jagir* or otherwise;

(31) “local authority” shall mean a municipal committee, district board, body of port Commissioners or other authority legally entitled to, or entrusted by the Government with, the control or management of a municipal or local fund;

(32) “Magistrate” shall include every person exercising all or any of the powers of a Magistrate under the Code of Criminal Procedure for the time being in force;

(33) “master”, used with reference to a ship, shall mean, any person (except a pilot or harbour-master) having for the time being control or charge of the ship;

(34) “merged territories” shall mean the territories which by virtue of an order made under section 290A of the Government of India Act, 1935, were immediately before the commencement of the Constitution being administered as if they formed part of a Governor's Province or as if they were a Chief Commissioner's Province;

(35) “month” shall mean a month reckoned according to the British calendar;

(36) “movable property” shall mean property of every description, except immovable property;

(37) “oath” shall include affirmation and declaration in the case of persons by law allowed to affirm or declare instead of swearing;

(38) “offence” shall mean any act or omission made punishable by any law for the time being in force;

(39) “official Gazette” or “Gazette” shall mean the Gazette of India or the Official Gazette of a State;

(40) “Part” shall mean a part of the Act or Regulation in which the word occurs;

(41) “Part A State” shall mean a State for the time being specified in Part A of the First Schedule to the Constitution, ¹[as in force before the Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Act, 1956,] “Part B State” shall mean a State for the time being specified in Part B of that Schedule and “Part C State” shall mean a State for the time being specified in Part C of that Schedule or a territory for the time being administered by the President under the provisions of article 243 of the Constitution;

(42) “person” shall include any company or association or body of individuals, whether incorporated or not;

(43) “Political Agent” shall mean,—

(a) in relation to any territory outside India, the Principal Officer, by whatever name called, representing the Central Government in such territory; and

(b) in relation to any territory within India to which the Act or Regulation containing the expression does not extend, any officer appointed by the Central Government to exercise all or any of the powers of a Political Agent under that Act or Regulation;

1. Ins. by the Adaptation of Laws (No. 1) Order, 1956.

(44) “Presidency-town” shall mean the local limits for the time being of the ordinary original civil jurisdiction of the High Court of Judicature at Calcutta, Madras or Bombay, as the case may be;

(45) “Province” shall mean a Presidency, a Governor’s Province, a Lieutenant Governor’s Province or a Chief Commissioner’s Province;

(46) “Provincial Act” shall mean an Act made by the Governor in Council, Lieutenant Governor in Council or Chief Commissioner in Council of a Province under any of the Indian Councils Acts or the Government of India Act, 1915, or an Act made by the Local Legislature or the Governor of a Province under the Government of India Act, or an Act made by the Provincial Legislature or Governor of a Province or the Coorg Legislative Council under the Government of India Act, 1935;

(47) “Provincial Government” shall mean, as respects anything done before the commencement of the Constitution, the authority or person authorised at the relevant date to administer executive Government in the Province in question;

(48) “public nuisance” shall mean a public nuisance as defined in the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860);

(49) “registered”, used with reference to a document, shall mean registered in ¹[India] under the law for the time being in force for the registration of documents;

(50) “Regulation” shall mean a Regulation made by the President ²[under article 240 of the Constitution and shall include a Regulation made by the President under article 243 thereof and] a Regulation made by the Central Government under the Government of India Act, 1870, or the Government of India Act, 1915, or the Government of India Act, 1935;

(51) “rule” shall mean a rule made in exercise of a power conferred by any enactment, and shall include a Regulation made as a rule under any enactment;

(52) “schedule” shall mean a schedule to the Act or Regulation in which the word occurs;

(53) “Scheduled District” shall mean a “Scheduled District” as defined in the Scheduled Districts Act, 1874;

(54) “section” shall mean a section of the Act or Regulation in which the word occurs;

(55) “ship” shall include every description of vessel used in navigation not exclusively propelled by oars;

(56) “sign”, with its grammatical variations and cognate expressions, shall, with reference to a person who is unable to write his name, include “mark”, with its grammatical variations and cognate expressions;

(57) “son”, in the case of any one whose personal law permits adoption, shall include an adopted son;

³[(58) “State”—

(a) as respects any period before the commencement of the Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Act, 1956, shall mean a Part A State, a Part B State or a Part C State; and

(b) as respects any period after such commencement, shall mean a State specified in the First Schedule to the Constitution and shall include a Union territory;]

(59) “State Act” shall mean an Act passed by the Legislature of a State established or continued by the Constitution;

(60) “State Government”,—

(a) as respects anything done before the commencement of the Constitution, shall mean, in a Part A State, the Provincial Government of the corresponding Province, in a Part B State, the

1. Subs. by the Adaptation of Laws (No. 1) Order, 1956 for “a Part A State or a Part C State”.

2. Subs., *ibid.*, for “under article 243 of the Constitution, and shall include”.

3. Subs., *ibid.*, for clause (58).

authority or person authorised at the relevant date to exercise executive government in the corresponding Acceding State, and in a Part C State, the Central Government; ^{1***}

(b) as respects anything done ²[after the commencement of the Constitution and before the commencement of the Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Act, 1956] , shall mean, in a Part A State, the Governor, in a Part B State, the Rajpramukh, and in a Part C State, the Central Government;

³[(c) as respects anything done or to be done after the commencement of the Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Act, 1956, shall mean, in a State, the Governor, and in a Union territory, the Central Government;

and shall, in relation to functions entrusted under article 258A of the Constitution to the Government of India, include the Central Government acting within the scope of the authority given to it under that article];

(61) “sub-section” shall mean a sub-section of the section in which the word occurs;

(62) “swear”, with its grammatical variations and cognate expressions, shall include affirming and declaring in the case of persons by law allowed to affirm or declare instead of swearing;

³[(62A) “Union territory” shall mean any Union territory specified in the First Schedule to the Constitution and shall include any other territory comprised within the territory of India but not specified in that Schedule;]

(63) “vessel” shall include any ship or boat or any other description of vessel used in navigation;

(64) “will” shall include a codicil and every writing making a voluntary posthumous disposition of property;

(65) expressions referring to “writing” shall be construed as including references to printing, lithography, photography and other modes of representing or reproducing words in a visible form; and

(66) “year” shall mean a year reckoned according to the British calendar.]

4. Application of foregoing definitions to previous enactments.—(1) The definitions in section 3 of the following words and expressions, that is to say, “affidavit”, “barrister”, ^{4***} “District Judge”, “father”, ^{5***}, ^{6***}, ^{7***} “immovable property”, “imprisonment”, ^{8***} “Magistrate”, “month”, “movable property”, “oath”, “person”, “section”, “son”, “swear”, “will”, and “year” apply also, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context, to all ⁹[Central Acts] made after the third day of January, 1868, and to all Regulations made on or after the fourteenth day of January, 1887.

(2) The definitions in the said section of the following words and expressions, that is to say, “abet”, “Chapter”, “commencement”, “financial year”, “local authority”, “master”, “offence”, “part”, “public nuisance”, “registered”, “schedule”, “ship”, “sign”, “sub-section” and “writing” apply also, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context, to all ⁹[Central Acts] and Regulations made on or after the fourteenth day of January, 1887.

1. The word “and” omitted by the Adaptation of Laws (No. 1) Order, 1956.

2. Subs., *ibid.*, for “or to be done after the commencement of the Constitution”.

3. Ins., *ibid.*

4. The words “British India” omitted by the A.O. 1937.

5. The words “Government of India” omitted, *ibid.*

6. The words “Her Majesty” or “the Queen” rep. by Act 18 of 1919, s. 3 and the Second Schedule.

7. The words “High Court” omitted by the A.O. 1937.

8. The words “Local Government” omitted, *ibid.*

9. Subs., *ibid.*, for “Acts of the Governor-General in Council”.

7. Revival of repealed enactments.—(1) In any ¹[Central Act] or Regulation made after the commencement of this Act, it shall be necessary, for the purpose of reviving, either wholly or partially, any enactment wholly or partially repealed, expressly to state that purpose.

(2) This section applies also to all ²[Central Acts] made after the third day of January, 1868, and to all Regulations made on or after the fourteenth day of January, 1887.

8. Construction of references to repealed enactments.—³[(1)] Where this Act, or any ¹[Central Act] or Regulation made after the commencement of this Act, repeals and re-enacts, with or without modification, any provision of a former enactment, then references in any other enactment or in any instrument to the provision so repealed shall, unless a different intention appears, be construed as references to the provision so re-enacted.

⁴[(2) ⁵[Where before the fifteenth day of August, 1947, any Act of Parliament of the United Kingdom repealed and re-enacted], with or without modification, any provision of a former enactment, then reference in any ¹[Central Act] or in any Regulation or instrument to the provision so repealed shall, unless a different intention appears, be construed as references to the provision so re-enacted.]

9. Commencement and termination of time.—(1) In any ¹[Central Act] or Regulation made after the commencement of this Act, it shall be sufficient, for the purpose of excluding the first in a series of days or any other period of time, to use the word “from”, and, for the purpose of including the last in a series of days or any other period of time, to use the word “to”.

(2) This section applies also to all ²[Central Acts] made after the third day of January, 1868, and to all Regulations made on or after the fourteenth day of January, 1887.

10. Computation of time.—(1) Where, by any ¹[Central Act] or Regulation made after the commencement of this Act, any act or proceeding is directed or allowed to be done or taken in any Court or office on a certain day or within a prescribed period, then, if the Court or office is closed on that day or the last day of the prescribed period, the act or proceeding shall be considered as done or taken in due time if it is done or taken on the next day afterwards on which the Court or office is open:

Provided that nothing in this section shall apply to any act or proceeding to which the ⁶Indian Limitation Act, 1877 (15 of 1877), applies.

(2) This section applies also to all ²[Central Acts] and Regulations made on or after the fourteenth day of January, 1887.

11. Measurement of distances.—In the measurement of any distance, for the purposes of any ¹[Central Act] or Regulation made after the commencement of this Act, that distance shall, unless a different intention appears, be measured in a straight line on a horizontal plane.

12. Duty to be taken pro rata in enactments.—Where, by any enactment now in force or hereafter to be in force, any duty of customs or excise, or in the nature thereof, is leviable on any given quantity, by weight, measure or value of any goods or merchandise, then a like duty is leviable according to the same rate on any greater or less quantity.

13. Gender and number.—In all ²[Central Acts] and Regulations, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—

(1) words importing the masculine gender shall be taken to include females; and

(2) words in the singular shall include the plural, and vice versa.

⁴13A. [*References to the Sovereign.*] *Rep. by the A.O. 1950.*

1. Subs. by the A.O. 1937, for “Acts of the Governor-General in Council”.

2. Subs., *ibid.*, for “Acts of the Governor-General in Council”.

3. Section 8 renumbered as sub-section (1) thereof by Act 18 of 1919, s. 2 and the First Schedule.

4. Ins. by s. 2 and the First Schedule, *ibid.*

5. Subs. by the A.O. 1950, for “Where any Act of Parliament repeals and re-enacts”.

6. See now the Limitation Act, 1963 (36 of 1963).

POWERS AND FUNCTIONARIES

14. Powers conferred to be exercisable from time to time.—(1) Where, by any ¹[Central Act] or Regulation made after the commencement of this Act, any power is conferred ^{2***}, then ³[unless a different intention appears] that power may be exercised from time to time as occasion requires.

(2) This section applies also to all ⁴[Central Acts] and Regulations made on or after the fourteenth day of January, 1887.

15. Power to appoint to include power to appoint *ex officio*.—Where, by any ¹[Central Act] or Regulation, a power to appoint any person to fill any office or execute any function is conferred, then, unless it is otherwise expressly provided, any such appointment, if it is made after the commencement of this Act, may be made either by name or by virtue of office.

16. Power to appoint to include power to suspend or dismiss.—Where, by any ¹[Central Act] or Regulation, a power to make any appointment is conferred, then, unless a different intention appears, the authority having ⁵[for the time being] power to make the appointment shall also have power to suspend or or dismiss any person appointed ⁶[whether by itself or any other authority] in exercise of that power.

17. Substitution of functionaries.—(1) In any ¹[Central Act] or Regulation made after the commencement of this Act, it shall be sufficient, for the purpose of indicating the application of a law to every person or number of persons for the time being executing the functions of an office, to mention the official title of the officer at present executing the functions, or that of the officer by whom the functions are commonly executed.

(2) This section applies also to all ⁴[Central Acts] made after the third day of January, 1868, and to all Regulations made on or after the fourteenth day of January, 1887.

18. Successors.—(1) In any ¹[Central Act] or Regulation made after the commencement of this Act, it shall be sufficient, for the purpose of indicating the relation of a law to the successors of any functionaries or of corporations having perpetual succession, to express its relation to the functionaries or corporations.

(2) This section applies also to all ⁴[Central Acts] made after the third day of January, 1868, and to all Regulations made on or after the fourteenth day of January, 1887.

19. Official chiefs and subordinates.—(1) In any ¹[Central Act] or Regulation made after the commencement of this Act, it shall be sufficient, for the purpose of expressing that a law relative to the chief or superior of an office shall apply to the deputies or subordinates lawfully performing the duties of that office in the place of their superior, to prescribe the duty of the superior.

(2) This section applies also to all ⁴[Central Acts] made after the third day of January, 1868, and to all Regulations made on or after the fourteenth day of January, 1887.

PROVISIONS AS TO ORDERS, RULES, ETC., MADE UNDER ENACTMENTS

20. Construction of orders, etc., issued under enactments.—Where, by any ¹[Central Act] or Regulation, a power to issue any ⁷[notification], order, scheme, rule, form, or bye-law is conferred, then expressions used in the ⁷[notification], order, scheme, rule, form or bye-law, if it is made after the commencement of this Act, shall, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context, have the same respective meanings as in the Act or Regulation conferring the power.

1. Subs. by the A.O. 1937, for “Act of the Governor General in Council”.

2. The words “on the Government” omitted by Act 18 of 1919, s. 2 and the First Schedule.

3. Ins. by s. 2 and the First Schedule, *ibid*.

4. Subs. by the A.O. 1937, for “Acts of the Governor General in Council”.

5. Ins. by Act 18 of 1928, s. 2 and the First Schedule.

6. Subs. by s. 2 and the First Schedule, *ibid.*, for “by it”.

7. Ins. by Act 1 of 1903, s. 3 and the Second Schedule.

21. Power to issue, to include power to add to, amend, vary or rescind notifications, orders, rules or bye-laws.—Where, by any ¹[Central Act] or Regulations a power to ²[issue notifications,] orders, rules or bye-laws is conferred, then that power includes a power, exercisable in the like manner and subject to the like sanction and conditions (if any), to add to, amend, vary or rescind any ³[notifications,] orders, rules or bye-laws so ⁴[issued].

22. Making of rules or bye-laws and issuing of orders between passing and commencement of enactment.—Where, by any ¹[Central Act] or Regulation which is not to come into force immediately, on the passing thereof, a power is conferred to make rules or bye-laws, or to issue orders with respect to the application of the Act or Regulation, or with respect to the establishment of any Court or office or the appointment of any Judge or officer thereunder, of with respect to the person by whom, or the time when, or the place where, or the manner in which, or the fees for which, anything is to be done under the Act or Regulation, then that power may be exercised at any time after the passing of the Act or Regulation; but rules, bye-laws or orders so made or issued shall not take effect till the commencement of the Act or Regulation.

23. Provisions applicable to making of rules or bye-laws after previous publication.—Where, by any ¹[Central Act] or Regulation, a power to make rules or bye-laws is expressed to be given subject to the condition of the rules or bye-laws being made after previous publication, then the following provisions shall apply, namely:—

(1) the authority having power to make the rules or bye-laws shall, before making them, publish a draft of the proposed rules or bye-laws for the information of persons likely to be affected thereby;

(2) the publication shall be made in such manner as that authority deems to be sufficient, or, if the condition with respect to previous publication so requires, in such manner as the ⁵[Government concerned] prescribes;

(3) there shall be published with the draft a notice specifying a date on or after which the draft will be taken into consideration;

(4) the authority having power to make the rules or bye-laws, and, where the rules or bye-laws are to be made with the sanction, approval or concurrence of another authority, that authority also, shall consider any objection or suggestion which may be received by the authority having power to make the rules or bye-laws from any person with respect to the draft before the date so specified;

(5) the publication in the ⁶[Official Gazette] of a rule or bye-law purporting to have been made in exercise of a power to make rules or bye-laws after previous publication shall be conclusive proof that the rule or bye-law has been duly made.

24. Continuation of orders, etc., issued under enactments repealed and re-enacted.—Where any ¹[Central Act] or Regulation, is, after the commencement of this Act, repealed and re-enacted with or without modification, then, unless it is otherwise expressly provided any ³[appointment notification,] order, scheme, rule, form or bye-law, ³[made or] issued under the repealed Act or Regulation, shall, so far as it is not inconsistent with the provisions re-enacted, continue in force, and be deemed to have been ³[made or] issued under the provisions so re-enacted, unless and until it is superseded by any ³[appointment notification,] order, scheme, rule, form or bye-law, ³[made or] issued under the provisions so re-enacted ⁷[and when any ¹[Central Act] or Regulation, which, by a notification under section 5 or 5A of the ⁸Scheduled Districts Act, 1874, (14 of 1874) or any like law, has been extended to any local area, has, by a subsequent notification, been withdrawn from the re-extended to such area or any part thereof, the provisions of such Act or Regulation shall be deemed to have been repealed and re-enacted in such area or part within the meaning of this section].

1. Subs. by the A.O. 1937, for “Act of the Governor General in Council”.

2. Subs. by Act 1 of 1903, s. 3 and the Second Schedule, for “make”.

3. Ins. by s. 3 and the Second Schedule, *ibid.*

4. Subs. by s. 3 and the Second Schedule, *ibid.*, for “made”.

5. Subs. by the A.O. 1950, for “Central Government or the Provincial Government”.

6. Subs. by the A.O. 1937, for “Gazette”.

7. Ins. by Act 17 of 1914, s. 2 and the First Schedule.

8. Rep. by the A.O. 1937.

MISCELLANEOUS

25. Recovery of fines.—Sections 63 to 70 of the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860) and the provisions of the ¹Code of Criminal Procedure for the time being in force in relation to the issue and the execution of warrants for the levy of fines shall apply to all fines imposed under any Act, Regulation, rule or bye-law, unless the Act, Regulation, rule or bye-law contains an express provision to the contrary.

26. Provision as to offences punishable under two or more enactments.—Where an act or omission constitutes an offence under two or more enactments, then the offender shall be liable to be prosecuted and punished under either or any of those enactments, but shall not be liable to be punished twice for the same offence.

27. Meaning of service by post.—Where any ²[Central Act] or Regulation made after the commencement of this Act authorizes or requires any document to be served by post, whether the expression “serve” or either of the expressions “give” or “send” or any other expression is used, then, unless a different intention appears, the service shall be deemed to be effected by properly addressing, pre-paying and posting by registered post, a letter containing the document, and, unless the contrary is proved, to have been effected at the time at which the letter would be delivered in the ordinary course of post.

28. Citation of enactments.—(1) In any ²[Central Act] or Regulation, and in any rule, bye-law, instrument or document, made under, or with reference to any such Act or Regulation, any enactment may be cited by reference to the title or short title (if any) conferred thereon or by reference to the number and year thereof, and any provision in an enactment may be cited by reference to the section or sub-section of the enactment in which the provision is contained.

(2) In this Act and in any ²[Central Act] or Regulation made after the commencement of this Act, a description or citation of a portion of another enactment shall, unless a different intention appears, be construed as including the word, section or other part mentioned or referred to as forming the beginning and as forming the end of the portion comprised in the description or citation.

29. Saving for previous enactments, rules and bye-laws.—The provisions of this Act respecting the construction of Acts, Regulations, rules or bye-laws made after the commencement of this Act shall not affect the construction of any Act, Regulation, rule or bye-law made before the commencement of this Act, although the Act, Regulation, rule or bye-law is continued or amended by an Act, Regulation, rule or bye-law made after the commencement of this Act.

³**[30. Application of Act to Ordinances.**—In this Act the expression ²[Central Act], wherever it occurs, except in section 5 and the word “Act” in ⁴[clauses (9), (13), (25), (40), (43), (52) and (54)] of section 3 and in section 25 shall be deemed to include an Ordinance made and promulgated by the Governor General under section 23 of the Indian Councils Act, 1861 ⁵[or section 72 of the Government of India Act, 1915,] ⁶[or section 42 ⁷*** of the Government of India Act, 1935] ⁸[and an Ordinance promulgated by the President under article 123 of the Constitution].]

30A. *[Application of Act to Acts made by the Governor-General.] Rep. by the A.O. 1937. Earlier Inserted by Act 11 of 1923, s. 2 and the First Schedule.*

1. See, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974).

2. Subs. by the A.O. 1937, for “Act of the Governor General in Council”.

3. Ins. by Act 17 of 1914, s. 2 and the First Schedule.

4. Subs. by the A.O. 1950, for “clauses (9), (12), (38), (48) and (50)”.

5. Ins. by Act 24 of 1917, s. 2 and the First Schedule.

6. Ins. by the A.O. 1937.

7. The words and figures “or section 43” omitted by the A.O. 1947.

8. Added by the A.O. 1950.

31. [*Construction of references to Local Government of a Province.*] Rep. by the A.O. 1937. Earlier Inserted by Act 31 of 1920, s. 2 and the First Schedule.

THE SCHEDULE.—[*Enactments repealed.*] Rep. by the Repealing and Amending Act, 1903 (1 of 1903), s. 4 and the Third Schedule.

The General Clauses Act, 1897 Bare Act – Executive Summary (Corrida Legal)

Introduction

The General Clauses Act, 1897 bare act is one of the most significant interpretative legislations in India's legal framework. Enacted to consolidate and extend earlier laws of 1868 and 1887, it serves as the foundation for understanding and applying statutory provisions across all Central Acts and Regulations. By laying down uniform definitions and construction rules, the Act ensures consistency, reduces ambiguity, and provides clarity whenever new laws are enacted or existing ones are repealed.

For legal practitioners, compliance officers, business managers, and students of law, the General Clauses Act bare act is indispensable because it acts as a guidebook for interpreting the true meaning of statutory language. Whether it is about the effect of repeals, computation of time, or the application of definitions, this Act forms the background against which all other statutes are read.

Key highlights of the General Clauses Act, 1897 include:

- Consolidation of definitions for commonly used legal terms such as “act,” “document,” “person,” and “offence.”
- General rules of construction covering commencement, repeal, revival, and continuity of laws.
- Provisions related to the powers of authorities, appointments, and delegation.
- Clarifications on procedural aspects such as service by post, recovery of fines, and citation of enactments.

For researchers and professionals, having access to the General Clauses Act, 1897 bare act PDF file is vital. It allows quick reference to definitions and interpretative principles that appear frequently in litigation, compliance reviews, and corporate advisory work. Corrida Legal provides this resource to ensure easy availability of statutory material in a single place.

In today's legal landscape, where multiple enactments interact, the General Clauses Act, 1897 bare act download becomes more than just a reference—it is a cornerstone for statutory interpretation and an essential tool for anyone seeking to understand Indian law with precision and clarity.

Purpose and Scope of the General Clauses Act, 1897

The General Clauses Act, 1897 was not drafted to introduce new offences or rights. Its aim was simpler: to bring together the earlier General Clauses Acts of 1868 and 1887 and to create a single, consolidated law. At the time, Indian legislation was expanding rapidly, and lawmakers realised that every statute was repeating the same basic definitions and rules. This Act was introduced to remove that duplication and provide one common reference point.

The **purpose** of the Act can be understood in three parts:

- It **consolidates definitions** so that words such as “document,” “person,” “month,” or “year” carry the same meaning across all Central Acts.
- It **lays down rules of construction**, ensuring that laws are read consistently — for example, how to interpret repeals, commencement dates, or time limits.
- It **creates continuity** in legislation by preserving accrued rights and pending proceedings even when laws are repealed or replaced.

The jurisdiction of the Act is similarly extensive. It covers all Central Acts and all Regulations enacted after its coming into force in 1897, and courts have had recourse to it time and again as a background law whenever there has been a problem of interpretation of statutes. Practically, this translates to a business

concerned with compliance, or a lawyer dealing with litigation, being unable to escape it. For all these reasons, the General Clauses Act bare act continues to be a focal point of statutory interpretation in India. The General Clauses Act, 1897 bare act PDF document provided on Corrida Legal's Resources page enables practitioners, students, and compliance officers to view the original text. Keeping the General Clauses Act, 1897 bare act download handy is not merely convenient — it is a necessary requirement for individuals working with Indian legislation daily.

Key Features of the General Clauses Act, 1897 Bare Act

The General Clauses Act, 1897 bare act is not a long statute, but its impact is felt across almost every Central Act. It was designed to make legislation easier to apply and to give courts and practitioners a steady set of rules when interpretation is in doubt.

Some of the key features include:

- **Applicability to Central Acts and Regulations**
The Act applies to all Central Acts and Regulations made after 1897. This means that the definitions and construction rules in the General Clauses Act automatically extend to later laws, unless the new statute specifically provides otherwise.
- **Impact on construction, repeal, and revival**
Provisions such as Section 5 (commencement), Section 6 (effect of repeal), and Section 7 (revival) are often relied on in litigation. They protect accrued rights, preserve liabilities, and clarify what happens when one statute replaces another. For example, courts have used Section 6 to confirm that pending cases survive even after the parent Act has been repealed.
- **Uniformity in statutory language**
By giving meaning to expressions commonly used — "person," "document," "month," "year" — the Act dispels uncertainty and makes the same words mean the same thing in all Central Acts. This rescues drafters from needing to repeat the definitions and provides practitioners with a point of reference.

In application, these are the reasons why the General Clauses Act bare act PDF document is constantly referred to by lawyers, compliance officers, as well as students. Having an authentic General Clauses Act, 1897 bare act download in Corrida Legal's Resources makes it easy to access the original text whenever questions about interpretation arise.

Definitions under Section 3 of the General Clauses Act, 1897

Section 3 of the General Clauses Act, 1897, is the core of the law. It has definitions that apply to all Central Acts and Regulations enacted after 1897. Parliament, instead of giving the same meanings in each law, placed them here once. They save repetition and provide uniformity.

Important among them are:

- **"Act"** – encompasses a course of acts and also illegal omissions.
- **"Affidavit"** – embraces affirmation or declaration by persons permitted to affirm rather than swear.
- **"Document"** – embraces any subject matter written on any material, be it in letters, figures, or marks, which conveys information.
- **"Offence"** – embraces any act or default made criminal by law in force.
- **"Person"** – embraces companies, associations, and even unincorporated bodies.
- **"Will"** – embraces codicils and voluntary posthumous dispositions of property.

These definitions are not only theoretical. They are used by courts whenever there is uncertainty as to how a word should be interpreted in an Act. Thus, whether a company is a "person" under an Act depends on the interpretation of Section 3 above.

The role of Section 3 is simple but important: it ensures that words used across Central Acts have the same meaning unless the context requires otherwise. This avoids conflicting interpretations and brings uniformity to the legal system.

That is why the General Clauses Act is still heavily relied on. Corrida Legal has made the General Clauses Act, 1897, a bare act PDF file available in its Resources section. Having the General Clauses Act, 1897, in bare act form provides lawyers, compliance officers, and students with easy access to the original text whenever definitions become crucial in interpretation.

General Rules of Construction

General Clauses Act, 1897 is used most for its rules of construction. These are the provisions that govern the reading of every other Central Act. They do not make rights but eliminate ambiguity when a statute is mum.

Some salient points:

- **Commencement and operation of legislation** – A statute becomes effective from the day on which it gets assent if no date is mentioned. An Act is presumed to come into operation at the end of the previous day unless the context otherwise indicates.
- **Repeal effect** – Section 6 is very important. Repeal does not reverse what has already been done. Rights that accrued, liabilities that were incurred, and proceedings already initiated are valid. Courts have consistently invoked this principle to maintain continuity when new laws replace old ones.
- **Calculation of time** – If a time limit expires on the day when the court or office is shut, the action may be performed on the succeeding working day. The Act also explains the interpretation of "from" and "to" in calculating days.
- **Measurement and gender/number rules** – Distances are measured in a straight-line fashion on a horizontal plane. Singular words include the plural, and masculine gender includes females unless otherwise required by context.

These provisions appear technical, but in reality, they determine the result of conflicts. For example, whether a case is time-barred may depend upon how time is calculated under this Act. That is why the General Clauses Act bare act remains vital in litigation and compliance practice. The General Clauses Act, 1897 bare act PDF document found in Corrida Legal's Resources section enables ready reference whenever such issues arise.

Powers and Functionaries under the General Clauses Act, 1897

The General Clauses Act, 1897 also deals with how powers given under Central Acts are to be exercised, and how authorities are treated when offices change hands. These provisions make sure administration of laws does not stop just because of a change in post or office.

Key points:

- **Exercise of powers** – When a statute gives power to an authority, it is understood that the power can be used from time to time as required, not just once.
- **Appointments** – The power to appoint also carries the power to appoint someone ex officio, or to suspend and dismiss where needed. This avoids gaps in administration.
- **Substitution and succession** – If one officer is replaced by another, the law continues to apply to the successor. Similarly, actions taken by subordinates are treated as valid when performed under lawful authority.

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- **Appointments** – The power to appoint also carries the power to appoint someone ex officio, or to suspend and dismiss where needed. This avoids gaps in administration.
- **Substitution and succession** – If one officer is replaced by another, the law continues to apply to the successor. Similarly, actions taken by subordinates are treated as valid when performed under lawful authority.
- **Orders and rules** – The Act confirms that when a power to issue orders, notifications, or rules is given, the same power includes the ability to add, amend, vary, or withdraw them later.

In practice, these provisions prevent technical challenges. For example, a rule or notification issued under an Act can be amended without passing a new law, since the power to issue it includes the power to change it.

This is another reason why the General Clauses Act bare act remains an essential reference. Corrida Legal makes the General Clauses Act, 1897 bare act PDF file available in its Resources section, and the General Clauses Act, 1897 bare act download helps lawyers, compliance officers, and students check these provisions directly from the authentic text.

Provisions on Powers and Functionaries

The General Clauses Act, 1897 sets out how powers given under a law are to be used, and what happens when officials change. These provisions look technical but are important in practice because they keep the administration of laws running smoothly.

Some key points:

- **Appointments** – When an Act gives power to appoint, it also implies the power to appoint someone ex officio. The same authority can suspend or remove the appointee, unless the statute says otherwise.
- **Substitution and succession** – If an office-holder is replaced, the law applies equally to the successor. The Act also allows subordinates lawfully performing duties to be treated as valid functionaries.
- **Continuity of powers** – Powers given under a statute are not exhausted after one use. They can be exercised from time to time as needed.
- **Orders and rules** – A power to make rules, notifications, or orders includes the power to amend, vary, or withdraw them. This avoids the need for fresh legislation whenever minor changes are required.

For lawyers and compliance officers, these clauses resolve common doubts about validity of appointments, or whether an amended notification can stand on the same authority as the original.

This is why the General Clauses Act bare act is frequently consulted in practice. Corrida Legal provides the General Clauses Act, 1897 bare act PDF file through the Resources section. The General Clauses Act, 1897 bare act download gives quick access to these provisions for professionals and students who need the authentic text.

Miscellaneous Provisions of the General Clauses Act, 1897

Apart from definitions and rules of construction, the General Clauses Act, 1897 also contains a few practical provisions that apply across Central Acts. These deal with service of documents, recovery of fines, and similar points that might look small but come up often in practice.

Main provisions include:

- **Service by post** – When a law allows service of a document by post, the Act clarifies that proper addressing, pre-payment, and posting is enough. The service is considered complete at the time the letter would be delivered in the ordinary course of post.
- **Recovery of fines** – Unless a law says otherwise, fines imposed under Central Acts can be recovered in the same way as fines under the Code of Criminal Procedure. This keeps procedure uniform.
- **Citation of enactments** – The Act provides rules on how statutes may be cited. This avoids confusion and gives a standard form of reference.
- **Application to Ordinances** – The same interpretative rules apply not only to Acts and Regulations but also to Ordinances.

These provisions prevent unnecessary disputes on technical grounds. For example, questions about whether postal service was complete are answered by this Act itself.

Key Takeaways from the General Clauses Act, 1897

The General Clauses Act, 1897 looks like a short and technical statute, but it carries wide influence. It sits quietly in the background of almost every Central Act and keeps interpretation consistent. Without it, each law would have to carry its own set of definitions and rules, which would create overlap and confusion.

Some of the main takeaways:

- **Purpose and scope** – the Act was introduced to consolidate earlier General Clauses Acts of 1868 and 1887. Its purpose is to provide common definitions and rules of interpretation that apply across Central Acts and Regulations.
- **Definitions under Section 3** – this section is the backbone. It gives fixed meanings to terms like “person,” “document,” “month,” “year,” and “will.” Courts use these definitions when laws are silent.
- **General rules of construction** – the Act deals with commencement, operation, repeal, and revival of laws. Section 6 on the effect of repeal is especially important. It preserves rights, liabilities, and pending cases even when an old law is repealed.
- **Powers and functionaries** – appointments, succession of office, and the exercise of powers are all covered. It clarifies that when an authority can issue orders or rules, the same power allows them to amend or withdraw those orders as well.
- **Miscellaneous provisions** – rules on service by post, recovery of fines, citation of enactments, and application to Ordinances make day-to-day administration easier.

The bigger point is that this Act ensures continuity. Courts rely on it to avoid breaks in the law. Lawyers refer to it when dealing with deadlines, repeal issues, or meanings of common words.

For quick access, Corrida Legal has placed the General Clauses Act bare act PDF file in the Resources section. The General Clauses Act, 1897 bare act download helps lawyers, compliance teams, and students reach the authentic text without relying on scattered copies.

Conclusion

The General Clauses Act, 1897 may not look like a major law at first glance, but it holds a central place in India's legal system. It provides the background rules that allow every other Central Act to function smoothly. Definitions, construction rules, repeal and continuity, powers of authorities, service by post, all of these are covered here in one short statute.

For lawyers, judges, compliance officers, and even students, the Act works as a guide whenever the meaning of a word or the effect of a repeal is in doubt. Courts continue to apply its provisions, especially Section 6, to protect rights and liabilities and to maintain continuity between old and new laws.