



Administration of Justice (Language) Act (Ireland) 1737

1737 CHAPTER 6 11 Geo 2

- [I.] All proceedings in courts of justice, patents, charters, pardons, commissions, &c. shall be in English. and in legible character, not in court-hand, and with usual abbreviations in English, and figures. Penalty £20 to prosecutor.**

To remedy those great mischiefs, and to protect the lives and fortunes of the subjects of this kingdom more effectually than heretofore from the peril of being ensnared, and brought into danger, by forms and proceedings in courts of justice in an unknown language, . . . ^{F1} all writs, process, and returns thereof, and proceedings thereon, and all pleadings, rules, orders, indictments, informations, inquisitions, presentments, verdicts, prohibitions, certificates, and all patents, charters, pardons, commissions, records, judgments, statutes, recognizances, bonds, rolls, entries, fines, and recoveries, and all proceedings relating thereunto, and all proceedings of courts-leet, courts-baron, and customary-courts, and all copies thereof, and all proceedings whatsoever in any courts of justice within this kingdom, and which concern the law and administration of justice, shall be in the English tongue and language, and not in Latin or French, or any other tongue or language whatsoever, and shall be written or printed in a common legible hand and character, and not in any hand commonly called Court-hand, with the like way of writing or printing, and with such abbreviations, as are now commonly used in the English language, and with the like manner of expressing numbers by figures as have been heretofore or are now commonly used in the said courts respectively; any law, custom, or usage, heretofore to the contrary thereof notwithstanding; and all and every person and persons, who shall write or print any of the proceedings, or other the matters or things above mentioned, in any hand commonly called Court-hand, or in any language except the English language, shall for every such offence forfeit and pay the sum of twenty pounds . . . ^{F2}

Textual Amendments

F1 Words repealed by [Statute Law Revision Act \(Northern Ireland\) 1953 \(c. 1\)](#)

F2 Words repealed by [Common Informers Act \(Northern Ireland\) 1954 \(c. 11\)](#), **Sch.**

Changes to legislation: Administration of Justice (Language) Act (Ireland) 1737 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 26 May 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1 S. 1 amended as to proceedings for penalty or forfeiture by [Common Informers Act \(Northern Ireland\) 1954 \(c. 11\), s. 1\(1\)](#)

II But names of writs, process or technical words, may be expressed as commonly used, so as not in court-hand. Prosecutions to be in three months.

Provided nevertheless, That such penalty shall not be extended to the expressing the proper or known names of writs, or other process, or technical words, in the same language as hath been commonly used, so as the same be written or printed in a common legible hand and character, and not in any hand commonly called Court-hand; and that all prosecutions for offences against this act shall be commenced within three calendar months, after the same shall be committed.

III, IV. F3

Textual Amendments

- F3 Ss. 3, 4 repealed by [Statute Law Revision \(Ireland\) Act 1878 \(c. 57\)](#)

V Commissions and proceedings in admiralty may be certified in Latin.

Provided always, That nothing in this act contained shall extend to certifying beyond the seas any case or proceedings in the court of admiralty; but that in such cases the commissions and proceedings may be certified in Latin, as formerly they have been.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C2 Functions of court of admiralty now exercisable by Queen's Bench Division of High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland: [Supreme Court of Judicature Act \(Ireland\) 1877 \(c. 57\), s. 9](#), [Supreme Court of Judicature \(Ireland\) \(No. 2\) Act 1897 \(c. 66\), s. 6](#), [Government of Ireland Act 1920 \(c. 67\), ss. 38, 40, 41](#), S.R. & O. 1921/1802 (Rev. XVI, p. 954: 1921, p. 1332), arts. 2, 7 and 1921/1804 (Rev. XVI, p. 967: 1921, p. 422), art. 5

VI F4

Textual Amendments

- F4 S. 6 repealed by [Statute Law Revision Act 1950 \(c. 6\)](#)

VII, VIII. F5

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Textual Amendments

F5 Ss. 7, 8 repealed by [Statute Law Revision \(Ireland\) Act 1878 \(c. 57\)](#)

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

- Act repealed by [2022 c. 45 s. 4](#)