



Senior Courts Act 1981

1981 CHAPTER 54

PART VI

MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTARY

Supplementary

151 Interpretation of this Act, and rules of construction for other Acts and documents.

(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

“action” means any civil proceedings commenced by writ or in any other manner prescribed by rules of court;

“appeal”, in the context of appeals to the civil division of the Court of Appeal, includes—

- (a) an application for a new trial, and
- (b) an application to set aside a verdict, finding or judgment in any cause or matter in the High Court which has been tried, or in which any issue has been tried, by a jury;

[^{F1}“arbitration agreement” has the same meaning as it has in the [^{F2}Part I of the Arbitration Act 1996;]]

“cause” means any action or any criminal proceedings;

“Division”, where it appears with a capital letter, means a division of the High Court;

“judgment” includes a decree;

“jurisdiction” includes powers;

“matter” means any proceedings in court not in a cause;

“party”, in relation to any proceedings, includes any person who pursuant to or by virtue of rules of court or any other statutory provision has been served with notice of, or has intervened in, those proceedings;

“prescribed” means—

Status: Point in time view as at 26/04/1999. This version of this provision has been superseded.

Changes to legislation: Senior Courts Act 1981, Section 151 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 12 April 2024. 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)

- (a) except in relation to fees, prescribed by rules of court; and
 - (b) in relation to fees, prescribed by an order under section 130;
 - “senior judge”, where the reference is to the senior judge of a Division, means—
 - (a) in the case of the Chancery Division, the Vice-Chancellor;
 - (b) in any other case, the president of the Division in question;
 - “solicitor” means a solicitor of the Supreme Court;
 - “statutory provision” means any enactment, whenever passed, or any provision contained in subordinate legislation (as defined 0 in section 21(1) of the ^{M1}Interpretation Act 1978), whenever made;
 - “this or any other Act” includes an Act passed after this Act.
- (2) Section 128 contains definitions of expressions used in Part V and in the other provisions of this Act relating to probate causes and matters.
- (3) Any reference in this Act to rules of court under section 84 includes a reference to rules of court under any provision of this or any other Act which confers on the [^{F3}Civil Procedure Rule Committee] or the Crown Court Rule Committee power to make rules of court [^{F4}in relation to the Supreme Court].
- (4) Except where the context otherwise requires, in this or any other Act—
 - “Criminal Appeal Rules” means rules of court made by the Crown Court Rule Committee in relation to the criminal division of the Court of Appeal;
 - “Crown Court Rules” means rules of court made by the Crown Court Rule Committee in relation to the Crown Court;
 - “divisional court” (with or without capital letters) means a divisional court constituted under section 66;
 - “judge of the Supreme Court” means—
 - (a) a judge of the Court of Appeal other than an ex-officio judge within paragraph (b) or (c) of section 2(2), or
 - (b) a judge of the High Court,
 and accordingly does not include, as such, a judge of the Crown Court;
 - “official referees’ business” has the meaning given by section 68(6);
 - [^{F5}“Rules of the Supreme Court” means rules of court made by the Supreme Court Rules Committee.]
- (5) The provisions of Schedule 4 (construction of references to superseded courts and officers) shall have effect.

Extent Information

E1 S. 151: for extent of s. 151(1), see s. 135(5); s. 151(2) -(5) extends to E.W. only

Textual Amendments

- F1** Definition of "arbitration agreement" inserted (*I.4.1991*) by [Courts and Legal Services Act 1990](#) (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 125(3), [Sch. 18 para. 41.](#); S.I. 1991/608, [art. 2](#), [Sch.](#)
- F2** Words in definition of “arbitration agreement” in s. 151 substituted (31.1.1997) by 1996 c. 23, s. 107(2), [Sch. 3 para. 37\(3\)](#) (with s. 81(2)); S.I. 1996/3146, [art. 3](#) (with [Sch. 2 para. 1](#))
- F3** Words in s. 151(3) substituted (26.4.1999) by 1997 c. 12, s. 10, [Sch. 2 para. 1\(7\)\(a\)](#); S.I. 1999/1009, [art. 3\(e\)](#)

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- F4** Words in s. 151(3) inserted (26.4.1999) by 1997 c. 12, s. 10, **Sch. 2 para. 1(7)(a)**; S.I. 1999/1009, **art. 3(e)**
- F5** Definition of “Rules of the Supreme Court” in s. 151(4) omitted (26.4.1999) by virtue of 1997 c. 12, s. 10, **Sch. 2 para. 1(7)(b)**; S.I. 1999/1009, **art. 3(e)**

Marginal Citations

- M1** 1978 c. 30.

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