



# Great Seal Act 1884

## 1884 CHAPTER 30

An Act to simplify the passing of Instruments under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom. [28th July 1884]

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

### **1 Short title.**

This Act may be cited as the Great Seal Act, 1884.

### **2 Authority for passing instrument under Great Seal.**

- (1) A warrant under Her Majesty's Royal Sign Manual, countersigned by the Lord Chancellor, or by one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, or by the Lord High Treasurer, or two of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, shall be a necessary and sufficient authority for passing any instrument under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, according to the tenor of such warrant; Provided that any instrument which may now be passed under the Great Seal by the fiat or under the authority or directions of the Lord Chancellor or otherwise without passing through any other office may continue to be passed as heretofore.
- (2) The Lord Chancellor may from time to time make, and when made revoke and vary, regulations respecting the passing of instruments under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, and respecting the warrants for that purpose, and the preparation of such instruments and warrants, and every such warrant shall be prepared by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery.
- (3) No person shall make or prepare any warrant for passing any instrument under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, or procure any instrument to be passed under that Seal otherwise than in manner provided by this Act or the Crown Office Act, 1877; and any person who acts in contravention of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

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*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).*

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### **3 Abolition of documents under Privy Seal.**

It shall not be necessary that any instrument shall after the passing of this Act be passed under the Privy Seal.

### **4 Definitions.**

In this Act—

The expression " Lord Chancellor " means the Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, and, if there is a Lord Keeper or Lords Commissioners of the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, this Act shall apply as if such Lord Keeper or Lords Commissioners were substituted for the Lord Chancellor, and a warrant may be countersigned by any two of such Lords Commissioners.

The expression " instrument " in this Act includes any letters patent, letters close, writ, commission, and grant, and any document requiring to be passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom.

### **5 Repeal.**

The enactments specified in the Schedule to this Act are hereby repealed.

Provided that such repeal shall not affect anything done or suffered before the passing of this Act.

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*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).*

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## SCHEDULE

### ACTS REPEALED

Session and Chapter.	Title.	Extent of Repeal.
27 Hen. 8. c. 11.	An Act concerning clerks of the Signet and Privy Seal.	The whole Act.
14 & 15 Vict. c. 82.	An Act to simplify the forms of appointments to certain offices and the manner of passing grants under the Great Seal.	The whole Act.
43 & 44 Vict. c. 10.	The Great Seal Act, 1880	Section 3.