



# Settled Land Act 1925

1925 CHAPTER 18 15 and 16 Geo 5

## PART I

### GENERAL PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

#### *Tenants for Life and Persons with Powers of Tenant for Life*

#### **19 Who is tenant for life.**

- (1) The person of full age who is for the time being beneficially entitled under a settlement to possession of settled land for his life is for the purposes of this Act the tenant for life of that land and the tenant for life under that settlement.
- (2) If in any case there are two or more persons of full age so entitled as joint tenants, they together constitute the tenant for life for the purposes of this Act.
- (3) If in any case there are two or more persons so entitled as joint tenants and they are not all of full age, such one or more of them as is or are for the time being of full age is or (if more than one) together constitute the tenant for life for the purposes of this Act, but this subsection does not affect the beneficial interests of such of them as are not for the time being of full age.
- (4) A person being tenant for life within the foregoing definitions shall be deemed to be such notwithstanding that, under the settlement or otherwise, the settled land, or his estate or interest therein, is incumbered or charged in any manner or to any extent, and notwithstanding any assignment by operation of law or otherwise of his estate or interest under the settlement, whether before or after it came into possession, other than an assurance which extinguishes that estate or interest.

#### **20 Other limited owners having powers of tenant for life.**

- (1) Each of the following persons being of full age shall, when his estate or interest is in possession, have the powers of a tenant for life under this Act, (namely):—

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/02/1991.*

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- (i) A tenant in tail, including a tenant in tail after possibility of issue extinct, and a tenant in tail who is by Act of Parliament restrained from barring or defeating his estate tail, and although the reversion is in the Crown, but not including such a tenant in tail where the land in respect whereof he is so restrained was purchased with money provided by Parliament in consideration of public services;
- (ii) A person entitled to land for an estate in fee simple or for a term of years absolute with or subject to, in any of such cases, an executory limitation, gift, or disposition over on failure of his issue or in any other event;
- (iii) A person entitled to a base or determinable fee, although the reversion or right of reverter is in the Crown, or to any corresponding interest in leasehold land;
- (iv) A tenant for years determinable on life, not holding merely under a lease at a rent;
- (v) A tenant for the life of another, not holding merely under a lease at a rent;
- (vi) A tenant for his own or any other life, or for years determinable on life, whose estate is liable to cease in any event during that life, whether by expiration of the estate, or by conditional limitation, or otherwise, or to be defeated by an executory limitation, gift, or disposition over, or is subject to a trust for accumulation of income for any purpose;
- (vii) A tenant by the curtesy;
- (viii) A person entitled to the income of land under a trust or direction for payment thereof to him during his own or any other life, whether or not subject to expenses of management or to a trust for accumulation of income for any purpose, or until sale of the land, or until forfeiture, cesser or determination by any means of his interest therein, unless the land is subject to an immediate binding trust for sale;
- (ix) A person beneficially entitled to land for an estate in fee simple or for a term of years absolute subject to any estates, interests, charges, or powers of charging, subsisting or capable of being exercised under a settlement;
- (x) ..... <sup>F1</sup>

- (2) In every such case as is mentioned in subsection (1) of this section, the provisions of this Act referring to a tenant for life, either as conferring powers on him or otherwise, shall extend to each of the persons aforesaid, and any reference in this Act to death as regards a tenant for life shall, where necessary, be deemed to refer to the determination by death or otherwise of the estate or interest of the person on whom the powers of a tenant for life are conferred by this section.
- (3) For the purposes of this Act the estate or interest of a tenant by the curtesy shall be deemed to be an estate or interest arising under a settlement made by his wife.
- (4) Where the reversion or right of reverter or other reversionary right is in the Crown, the exercise by a person on whom the powers of a tenant for life are conferred by this section of his powers under this Act, binds the Crown.

**Textual Amendments**

**F1** Ss. 1(1)(iv), 20(1)(x), 25(2) repealed by [Married Women \(Restraint upon Anticipation\) Act 1949 \(c. 78\)](#), s. 1, [Sch. 2](#)

**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

**C1** S. 20(1)(i) restricted by [Trafalgar Estates Act 1947 \(c. 34\)](#), s. 2(2)

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**C2** S. 20(1)(ix) excluded by Law of Property (Amendment) Act 1926 (c. 11), s. 1(1)

## **21 Absolute owners subject to certain interests to have the powers of tenant for life.**

- (1) Where a person of full age is beneficially entitled in possession to a legal estate subject to any equitable interests or powers, then, for the purpose of overreaching such interests or powers, he may, notwithstanding any stipulation to the contrary, by deed (which shall have effect as a principal vesting deed within the meaning of this Act) declare that the legal estate is vested in him on trust to give effect to all equitable interests and powers affecting the legal estate, and that deed shall be executed by two or more individuals approved or appointed by the court or a trust corporation, who shall be stated to be the trustees of the settlement for the purposes of this Act.

Thereupon so long as any of the equitable interests and powers are subsisting the following provisions shall have effect:—

- (a) The person so entitled as aforesaid and each of his successors in title being an estate owner shall have the powers of a tenant for life and the land shall be deemed to be settled land;
- (b) The instrument (if any) under which his estate arises or is acquired, and the instrument (if any) under which the equitable interests or powers are subsisting or capable of taking effect shall be deemed to be the trust instrument:

Provided that where there is no such instrument as last aforesaid then a deed (which shall take effect as a trust instrument) shall be executed contemporaneously with the vesting deed, and shall declare the trusts affecting the land;

- (c) The persons stated in the principal vesting deed to be the trustees of the settlement for the purposes of this Act shall also be the trustees of the trust instrument for those purposes; and
  - (d) Capital money arising on any disposition of the land shall be paid to or by the direction of the trustees of the settlement or into court, and shall be applicable towards discharging or providing for payment in due order of any principal money payable in respect of such interests or charges as are overreached by such disposition, and until so applied shall be invested or applied as capital money under the trust instrument, and the income thereof shall be applied as the income of such capital money, and be liable for keeping down in due order any annual or periodical sum which may be overreached by the disposition.
- (2) The following equitable interests and powers are excepted from the operation of subsection (1) of this section, namely—
- (i) an equitable interest protected by a deposit of documents relating to the legal estate affected;
  - (ii) the benefit of a covenant or agreement restrictive of the user of land;
  - (iii) an easement, liberty or privilege over or affecting land and being merely an equitable interest;
  - (iv) the benefit of a contract to convey or create a legal estate, including a contract conferring either expressly or by statutory implication a valid option of purchase, a right of pre-emption, or any other like right;
  - (v) any equitable interest protected by registration under the <sup>M1</sup>Land Charges Act, 1925, other than—
    - (a) an innuity within the meaning of Part II. of that Act;

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- (b) a limited owner's charge or a general equitable charge within the meaning of that Act.
- (3) Subject to the powers conferred by this Act on a tenant for life, nothing contained in this section shall deprive an equitable chargee of any of his rights or of his remedies for enforcing those rights.

**Marginal Citations**

**M1** 1925 c. 22.

**22 Provisions applicable where interest in settled land is restored.**

- (1) Where by a disentailing assurance settled land is expressed to be limited (whether subject or not to any estates, interests, charges or powers expressly created or conferred thereby) upon the trusts subsisting with respect thereto immediately before the execution of such disentailing assurance, or any of such trusts, then, for the purposes of this Act and otherwise, a person entitled to any estate or interest in the settled land under any such previously subsisting trust is entitled thereto after the execution of such disentailing assurance as of his former estate or interest.
- (2) Where by a resettlement of settled land any estate or interest therein is expressed to be limited to any person (whether subject or not to any estate, interest, charge or power expressly created or conferred by the resettlement) in restoration or confirmation of his estate or interest under a prior settlement, then, for the purposes of this Act and otherwise, that person is entitled to the estate or interest so restored or confirmed as of his former estate or interest, and in addition to the powers exercisable by him in respect of his former estate or interest, he is capable of exercising all such further powers as he could have exercised by virtue of the resettlement, if his estate or interest under the prior settlement had not been so restored or confirmed, but he had been entitled under the resettlement only.

**23 Powers of trustees, &c. when there is no tenant for life.**

- (1) Where under a settlement there is no tenant for life nor, independently of this section, a person having by virtue of this Act the powers of a tenant for life then—
- (a) any person of full age on whom such powers are by the settlement expressed to be conferred; and
  - (b) in any other case the trustees of the settlement;
- shall have the powers of a tenant for life under this Act.
- (2) This section applies to trustees of settlements of land purchased with money provided by Parliament in consideration of public services where the tenant in tail is restrained from barring or defeating his estate tail, except that, if the tenant in tail is of full age and capacity, the powers shall not be exercised without his consent, but a purchaser shall not be concerned to see or inquire whether such consent has been given.

**24 As to a tenant for life who has parted with his interest.**

- (1) If it is shown to the satisfaction of the court that a tenant for life, who has by reason of bankruptcy, assignment, incumbrance, or otherwise ceased in the opinion of the court to have a substantial interest in his estate or interest in the settled land or any part

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thereof, has unreasonably refused to exercise any of the powers conferred on him by this Act, or consents to an order under this section, the court may, on the application of any person interested in the settled land or the part thereof affected, make an order authorising the trustees of the settlement, to exercise in the name and on behalf of the tenant for life, any of the powers of a tenant for life under this Act, in relation to the settled land or the part thereof affected, either generally and in such manner and for such period as the court may think fit, or in a particular instance, and the court may by the order direct that any documents of title in the possession of the tenant for life relating to the settled land be delivered to the trustees of the settlement.

- (2) While any such order is in force, the tenant for life shall not, in relation to the settled land or the part thereof affected, exercise any of the powers thereby authorised to be exercised in his name and on his behalf, but no person dealing with the tenant for life shall be affected by any such order, unless the order is for the time being registered as an order affecting land.
- (3) An order may be made under this section at any time after the estate or interest of the tenant for life under the settlement has taken effect in possession, and notwithstanding that he disposed thereof when it was an estate or interest in remainder or reversion.

## 25 Married woman, how to be affected.

- (1) The foregoing provisions of this Act apply to a married woman of full age, whether or not she is entitled to her estate or interest for her separate use or as her separate property, and she, without her husband, may exercise the powers of a tenant for life under this Act.
- (2) .....

F2

### Textual Amendments

F2 Ss. 1(1)(iv), 20(1)(x), 25(2) repealed by [Married Women \(Restraint upon Anticipation\) Act 1949](#) (c. 78), s. 1, [Sch. 2](#)

## 26 Infants, how to be affected.

- (1) Where an infant is beneficially entitled in possession to land for an estate in fee simple or for a term of years absolute or would if of full age be a tenant for life of or have the powers of a tenant for life over settled land, then, during the minority of the infant—
  - (a) if the settled land is vested in a personal representative, the personal representative, until a principal vesting instrument has been executed pursuant to the provisions of this Act; and
  - (b) in every other case, the trustees of the settlement;shall have, in reference to the settled land and capital money, all the powers conferred by this Act and the settlement on a tenant for life, and on the trustees of the settlement.
- (2) If the settled land is vested in a personal representative, then, if and when during the minority the infant, if of full age, would have been entitled to have the legal estate in the settled land conveyed to or otherwise vested in him pursuant to the provisions of this Act, a principal vesting instrument shall, if the trustees of the settlement so require, be executed, at the cost of the trust estate, for vesting the legal estate in themselves, and in the meantime the personal representatives shall, during the minority, give effect

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to the directions of the trustees of the settlement, and shall not be concerned with the propriety of any conveyance directed to be made by those trustees if the conveyance appears to be a proper conveyance under the powers conferred by this Act or by the settlement, and the capital money, if any, arising under the conveyance is paid to or by the direction of the trustees of the settlement or into court, but a purchaser dealing with the personal representative and paying the capital money, if any, to him shall not be concerned to see that the money is paid to trustees of the settlement or into court, or to inquire whether the personal representative is liable to give effect to any such directions, or whether any such directions have been given.

- (3) Subsection (2) of this section applies whether the infant becomes entitled before or after the commencement of this Act, and has effect during successive minorities until a person of full age becomes entitled to require the settled land to be vested in him.
- (4) This section does not apply where an infant is beneficially entitled in possession to land for an estate in fee simple or for a term of years absolute jointly with a person of full age (for which case provision is made in the <sup>M2</sup>Law of Property Act, 1925), but it applies to two or more infants entitled as aforesaid jointly, until one of them attains full age.
- (5) This section does not apply where an infant would, if of full age, constitute the tenant for life or have the powers of a tenant for life together with another person of full age, but it applies to two or more infants who would, if all of them were of full age, together constitute the tenant for life or have the powers of a tenant for life, until one of them attains full age.
- (6) Nothing in this section affects prejudicially any beneficial interest of an infant.

**Marginal Citations**  
M2 1925 c. 20.

**27 Effect of conveying legal estate to infant.**

- (1) A conveyance of a legal estate in land to an infant alone, or to two or more persons jointly, both or all of whom are infants, for his or their own benefit shall operate only as an agreement for valuable consideration to execute a settlement by means of a principal vesting deed and a trust instrument in favour of the infant or infants, and in the meantime to hold the land in trust for the infant or infants.
- (2) Nothing in this Act prevents an equitable interest in settled land being vested in or transferred to an infant.
- (3) ..... F3

**Textual Amendments**  
F3 S. 27(3) repealed by Family Law Reform Act 1969 (c. 46), s. 11

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### Textual Amendments

**F4** S. 28 repealed by [Mental Health Act 1959 \(c. 72\)](#), [Sch. 8 Pt. I](#)

## 29 Charitable and public trusts.

- (1) For the purposes of this section, all land vested or to be vested in trustees on or for charitable, ecclesiastical, or public trusts or purposes shall be deemed to be settled land, and the trustees shall, without constituting them statutory owners, have in reference to the land, all the powers which are by this Act conferred on a tenant for life and on the trustees of a settlement.

In connexion only with the exercise of those powers, and not so as to impose any obligation in respect of or to affect—

- (a) the mode of creation or the administration of such trusts; or
- (b) the appointment or number of trustees of such trusts;

the statute or other instrument creating the trust or under which it is administered shall be deemed the settlement, and the trustees shall be deemed the trustees of the settlement, and, save where the trust is created by a will coming into operation after the commencement of this Act, a separate instrument shall not be necessary for giving effect to the settlement.

Any conveyance of land held on charitable, ecclesiastical or public trusts shall state that the land is held on such trusts, and, where a purchaser has notice that the land is held on charitable, ecclesiastical, or public trusts, he shall be bound to see that any consents or orders requisite for authorising the transaction have been obtained.

- (2) The said powers shall be exercisable subject to such consents or orders, if any, being obtained as would, if this Act had not been passed, have been requisite if the transaction were being effected under an express power conferred by the instrument creating the trust, and where the land is vested in . . . <sup>F5</sup> persons having no powers of management, the said powers shall be exercisable by the managing trustees or committee of management, and the . . . <sup>F5</sup> persons aforesaid shall not be liable for giving effect to directions given by the managing trustees or committee of management:

Provided that where—

- (a) a disposition or dealing is to be effected for a nominal price or rent, or for less than the best price or rent that can be reasonably obtained or gratuitously; or
- (b) any interest in land is to be acquired; the like consent or order (if any) shall be required in reference to the disposition, dealing or acquisition, as would have been requisite if the intended transaction were a sale.

- (3) Nothing in this section affects the jurisdiction of the court, Charity Commissioners, Board of Education, or other competent authority, in regard to the administration of charitable, ecclesiastical, or public trusts.

- (4) . . . . . <sup>F6</sup>

- (5) Where any trustees or the majority of any set of trustees have power to transfer or create any legal estate, that estate shall be transferred or created by them in the names and on behalf of the persons . . . <sup>F5</sup> in whom the legal estate is vested.

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- (6) This section applies (save as otherwise provided) whether the trust was created before or after the commencement of this Act, but does not apply to land to which the <sup>M3</sup>Universities and College Estates Act, 1925, applies.

#### Textual Amendments

- F5** Words repealed by [Charities Act 1960 \(c. 58\)](#), **Sch. 7 Pt. I**  
**F6** [S. 29\(4\)](#) repealed by [Charities Act 1960 \(c. 58\)](#), **Sch. 7 Pt. II**

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C3** [S. 29\(1\)](#) applied by [Chequers Estate Act 1917 \(c. 55\)](#), **Sch.** clauses 8A, 15A as now inserted by [Chequers Estate Act 1958 \(c. 60\)](#), Sch. paras. 10, **14**  
**C4** [S. 29\(1\)](#) excluded (1. 1. 1993) by [Charities Act 1992 \(c. 41\)](#), **ss. 33(6)**, 35(5); S.I. 1992/1900, art. 4(1), **Sch.3**.  
[S. 29\(1\)](#) excluded (1.8.1993) by 1993 c. 10, **ss. 37(6)**, 39(5), 99(1)  
**C5** Functions of Board of Education now exercisable by Secretary of State for Education and Science: [Education Act 1944 \(c. 31\)](#), **s. 2(1)** and S.I. 1964/490

#### Marginal Citations

- M3** 1925 c. 24.



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