



Administration of Estates Act 1925

1925 CHAPTER 23 15 and 16 Geo 5

PART V

SUPPLEMENTAL

55 Definitions.

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions have the meanings hereby assigned to them respectively, that is to say:—

- (1) (i) “Administration” means, with reference to the real and personal estate of a deceased person, letters of administration, whether general or limited, or with the will annexed or otherwise:
- (ii) “Administrator” means a person to whom administration is granted:
- (iii) “Conveyance” includes a mortgage, charge by way of legal mortgage, lease, assent, vesting, declaration, vesting instrument, disclaimer, release and every other assurance of property or of an interest therein by any instrument, except a will, and “convey” has a corresponding meaning, and “disposition” includes a “conveyance” also a devise bequest and an appointment of property contained in a will, and “dispose of” has a corresponding meaning:
- [^{F1}(iiiA) “the County Court limit”, in relation to any enactment contained in this Act, means the amount for the time being specified by an Order in Council under section 145 of the County Courts Act 1984 as the county court limit for the purposes of that enactment (or, where no such Order in Council has been made, the corresponding limit specified by Order in Council under section 192 of the County Courts Act 1959);]
- (iv) “the Court” means the High Court, and also the county court, where that court has jurisdiction,^{F2} . . .:
- (v) “Income” includes rents and profits:
- (vi) “Intestate” includes a person who leaves a will but dies intestate as to some beneficial interest in his real or personal estate:
- [^{F3}(via) “Land” has the same meaning as in the^{M1} Law of Property Act 1925;]

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- (vii) “Legal estates” mean the estates charges and interests in or over land (subsisting or created at law) which are by statute authorised to subsist or to be created at law; and “equitable interests” mean all other interests and charges in or over land ^{F4} . . . :
- ^{F5}(viii)
- (ix) “Pecuniary legacy” includes an annuity, a general legacy, a demonstrative legacy so far as it is not discharged out of the designated property, and any other general direction by a testator for the payment of money, including all death duties free from which any devise, bequest, or payment is made to take effect:
- [^{F6}(x) “Personal chattels” means tangible movable property, other than any such property which—
 - consists of money or securities for money, or
 - was used at the death of the intestate solely or mainly for business purposes, or
 - was held at the death of the intestate solely as an investment:]
- (xi) “Personal representative” means the executor, original or by representation, or administrator for the time being of a deceased person, and as regards any liability for the payment of death duties includes any person who takes possession of or intermeddles with the property of a deceased person without the authority of the personal representatives or the court, and “executor” includes a person deemed to be appointed executor as respects settled land:
- (xii) “Possession” includes the receipt of rents and profits or the right to receive the same, if any:
- (xiii) “Prescribed” means prescribed by rules of court ^{F7} . . . :
- (xiv) “Probate” means the probate of a will:
- ^{F8}(xv)
- ^{F9}(xvi)
- (xvii) “Property” includes a thing in action and any interest in real or personal property:
- (xviii) “Purchaser” means a lessee, mortgagee or other person who in good faith acquires an interest in property for valuable consideration, also an intending purchaser and “valuable consideration” includes marriage,^{F10} and formation of a civil partnership,] but does not include a nominal consideration in money:
- (xix) “Real estate” save as provided in Part IV of this Act means real estate, including chattels real, which by virtue of Part I of this Act devolves on the personal representative of a deceased person:
- (xx) “Representation” means the probate of a will and administration, and the expression “taking out representation” refers to the obtaining of the probate of a will or of the grant of administration:
- (xxi) “Rent” includes a rent service or a rentcharge, or other rent, toll, duty, or annual or periodical payment in money or money’s worth, issuing out of or charged upon land, but does not include mortgage interest; and “rentcharge” includes a fee farm rent:
- ^{F9}(xxii)
- (xxiii) “Securities” include stocks, funds, or shares:
- (xxiv) “Tenant for life,” “statutory owner,” ^{F11} . . . “settled land,” “settlement,” “trustees of the settlement,” “term of years absolute,” “death duties,” and “legal mortgage,” have the same meanings as in the ^{M2}Settled Land Act, 1925,

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and “entailed interest” and “charge by way of legal mortgage” have the same meanings as in the ^{M3}Law of Property Act, 1925:

(xxv) “Treasury solicitor” means the solicitor for the affairs of His Majesty’s Treasury, and includes the solicitor for the affairs of the Duchy of Lancaster:

(xxvi) “Trust corporation” means the public trustee or a corporation either appointed by the court in any particular case to be a trustee or entitled by rules made under subsection (3) of section four of the ^{M4}Public Trustee Act, 1906, to act as custodian trustee:

^{F12}(xxvii)

(xxviii) “Will” includes codicil.

(2) References to a child or issue living at the death of any person include a child or issue en ventre sa mere at the death.

(3) References to the estate of a deceased person include property over which the deceased exercises a general power of appointment (including the statutory power to dispose of entailed interests) by his will.

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 55(1)(iiiA) inserted by [County Courts Act 1984 \(c. 28, SIF 34\)](#), s. 148(1), **Sch. 2 Pt. III para. 15**
- F2** Words repealed by [Courts Act 1971 \(c. 23\)](#), **Sch. 11 Pt. II**
- F3** S. 55(1)(via) inserted (1.1.1997) by [1996 c. 47, s. 25\(1\)](#), **Sch. 3 para. 6(5)** (with ss. 24(2), 25(4)); S.I. 1996/2974, **art. 2**
- F4** Words in s. 55(1)(vii) repealed (1.1.1997) by [1996 c. 47, s. 25\(2\)](#), **Sch. 4** (with ss. 24(2), 25(4)); S.I. 1996/2974, **art. 2**
- F5** S. 55(1)(viii) repealed (1.10.2007) by [Mental Capacity Act 2005 \(c. 9\)](#), s. 68(1), Sch. 6 para. 5(3), **Sch. 7** (with ss. 27-29, 62); S.I. 2007/1897, art. 2(1)(d)
- F6** S. 55(1)(x) substituted (1.10.2014) by [Inheritance and Trustees' Powers Act 2014 \(c. 16\)](#), **ss. 3(1), 12(2)** (with ss. 3(2), 12(4)); S.I. 2014/2039, art. 2
- F7** Words repealed by [Supreme Court Act 1981 \(c. 54, SIF 37\)](#), s. 152(4), **Sch. 7**
- F8** S. 55(1)(xv) repealed (1.7.1995) by [1994 c. 36, s. 21\(1\)\(2\)](#), **Sch. 2**; S.I. 1995/1317, **art. 2**
- F9** S. 55(1)(xvi)(xxii) repealed by [Supreme Court Act 1981 \(c. 54, SIF 37\)](#), s. 152(4), **Sch. 7**
- F10** Words in s. 55(1)(xviii) inserted (5.12.2005) by [Civil Partnership Act 2004 \(c. 33\)](#), s. 263(2), **Sch. 4 para. 12**; S.I. 2005/3175, art. 2(1), Sch. 1
- F11** Word in s. 55(1)(xxiv) repealed (1.1.1997) by [1996 c. 47, s. 25\(2\)](#), **Sch. 4** (with ss. 24(2), 25(4)); S.I. 1996/2974, **art. 2**
- F12** S. 55(1)(xxvii) repealed (1.1.1997) by [1996 c. 47, s. 25\(2\)](#), **Sch. 4** (with ss. 24(2), 25(4)); S.I. 1996/2974, **art. 2**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 55(1) modified (31.10.2022) by [2011 c. 25, s. 334A\(2\)](#) (as inserted by [Charities Act 2022 \(c. 6\)](#), **ss. 32(1), 41(4)** (with s. 32(2)); S.I. 2022/1109, Sch. para. 7)
- C2** S. 55(1)(vi) applied (8.11.1995) by [1995 c. 41, s. 1\(5\)](#)
- C3** S. 55(1)(xxvi) extended by [Law of Property \(Amendment\) Act 1926 \(c. 11\)](#), s. 3, S.I. 1952/862 (1952 II, p. 2322) and [Clergy Pensions Measure 1961 \(No. 3\)](#), s. 31
- C4** S. 55(1)(xxvi): definition of "trust corporation" extended (1.9.1992) by [Charities Act 1960 \(c. 58\)](#), s. 21A(e) (as inserted (1.9.1992) by [Charities Act 1992 \(c. 41\)](#), s. 14(1); S.I. 1992/1900, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**)
S. 55(1)(xxvi): definition of "trust corporation" extended (retrospectively) by [1993 c. 10, ss. 35\(1\)\(d\), 99\(1\)](#).
- C5** S. 55(1)(xxvi): definition of "trust corporation" extended (retrospectively) by [Charities Act 2011 \(c. 25\)](#), **Sch. 7 para. 3** (with s. 20(2), Sch. 8)

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- C6** S. 55(1)(xxvi) modified by 2010 c. 32, s. 12(1A)(1B) (as inserted (1.2.2012) by [Education Act 2011](#) (c. 21), s. 82(3), **Sch. 14 para. 20(2)**; S.I. 2012/84, art. 3 (with art. 5))
- C7** S. 55(1)(xxvi) definition extended (coming into force in accordance with s. 53(3) of the amending Measure) by [Cathedrals Measure 2021](#) (No. 2), **Sch. 1 para. 7(d)** (with ss. 42(4), 48, 52(1))
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Marginal Citations

- M1** 1925 c. 20.
- M2** 1925 c. 18.
- M3** 1925 c. 20.
- M4** 1906 c. 55.

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