



Fraudulent Mediums Act 1951

1951 CHAPTER 33 14 and 15 Geo 6

An Act to repeal the Witchcraft Act 1735, and to make, in substitution for certain provisions of section four of the Vagrancy Act 1824, express provision for the punishment of persons who fraudulently purport to act as spiritualistic mediums or to exercise powers of telepathy, clairvoyance or other similar powers. [22nd June 1951]

1 Punishment of fraudulent mediums, &c.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, any person who—
 - (a) with intent to deceive purports to act as a spiritualistic medium or to exercise any powers of telepathy, clairvoyance or other similar powers, or
 - (b) in purporting to act as a spiritualistic medium or to exercise such powers as aforesaid, uses any fraudulent device,shall be guilty of an offence.
- (2) A person shall not be convicted of an offence under the foregoing subsection unless it is proved that he acted for reward; and for the purposes of this section a person shall be deemed to act for reward if any money is paid, or other valuable thing given, in respect of what he does, whether to him or to any other person.
- (3) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding four months or to both such fine and such imprisonment, or on conviction on indictment to a fine not exceeding five hundred pounds or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to both such fine and such imprisonment.
- (4) No proceedings for an offence under this section shall be brought in England or Wales except by or with the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions.
- (5) Nothing in subsection (1) of this section shall apply to anything done solely for the purpose of entertainment.

2 Repeals.

The following enactments are hereby repealed, that is to say—

Status: Point in time view as at 01/02/1991.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Fraudulent Mediums Act 1951 (repealed). (See end of Document for details)

- (a) the Witchcraft Act, 1735 ^{M1}, so far as still in force, and
- (b) section four of the Vagrancy Act, 1824 ^{M2}, so far as it extends to persons purporting to act as spiritualistic mediums or to exercise any powers of telepathy, clairvoyance or other similar powers, or to persons who, in purporting so to act or to exercise such powers, use fraudulent devices.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** The text of s. 2 is in the form in which it was originally enacted: it was not reproduced in Statutes in Force and does not reflect any amendments or repeals which may have been made prior to 1.2.1991.
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Marginal Citations

- M1** 9 Geo. 2. c. 5.
M2 5 Geo. 4. c. 83.

3 Short title and extent.

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Fraudulent Mediums Act 1951.
- (2) This Act shall not extend to Northern Ireland.

Status:

Point in time view as at 01/02/1991.

Changes to legislation:

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