



THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

MAINTENANCE OF PARENTS ACT

(CHAPTER 167B)

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Maintenance of Parents Act

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An Act to make provision for the maintenance of parents by their children and for matters connected therewith.

[1st June 1996]

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Maintenance of Parents Act.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“applicant” includes a person in whose favour a maintenance order has been made under this Act;

“approved person or organisation” means a person or an organisation that has been approved by the Minister in writing for the purposes of this Act;

“child” includes an illegitimate or adopted child and a step-child;

“Commissioner” means the Commissioner for the Maintenance of Parents appointed under section 12(1) and includes a Deputy Commissioner and an Assistant Commissioner for the Maintenance of Parents;

“respondent” includes a person against whom a maintenance order has been made under this Act;

“Tribunal” means the Tribunal for the Maintenance of Parents established under section 13.

Applications for maintenance orders

3.—(1) Any person domiciled and resident in Singapore who is of or above 60 years of age and who is unable to maintain himself adequately (referred to in this section as the parent) may apply to the Tribunal for an order that one or more of his children pay him a monthly allowance or any other periodical payment or a lump sum for his maintenance.

(2) An approved person or organisation in whose care a parent resides may apply to the Tribunal for an order that one or more of his children pay the approved person or organisation a monthly allowance or any other periodical payment or a lump sum for the purpose of defraying the costs and expenses of maintaining the parent.

(2A) Where any person wishes to make an application under this section, whether on his own behalf or on behalf of a parent, in respect of any claim for which no application had previously been made under this section, he shall, before making the application, refer the claim to the Commissioner for review under section 12(5).

[37/2010 wef 15/03/2011]

(3) Where the parent ceases to be in the care of the approved person or organisation, any part of the monthly allowance, other periodical payment or lump sum remaining, after deducting the reasonable costs and expenses of maintaining the parent, shall be held in trust for the parent.

(4) For the purposes of this section, a parent is unable to maintain himself if his total or expected income and other financial resources are inadequate to provide him with basic amenities and basic physical needs including (but not limited to) shelter, food, medical costs and clothing.

[37/2010 wef 15/03/2011]

(5) Notwithstanding that a person is below the minimum age specified in subsection (1), this Act shall apply to that person if the Tribunal is satisfied that he is suffering from infirmity of mind or body which prevents him from maintaining or makes it difficult for him to maintain himself or that there is any other special reason.

(6) The President or a deputy President of the Tribunal may dismiss any application made under this section, if he is of the opinion that the application is frivolous or vexatious, or if the applicant has failed to comply with subsection (2A), and give the reasons for the dismissal.

[37/2010 wef 15/03/2011]

(7) An applicant who is aggrieved by any decision made under subsection (6) may, within 14 days of the decision, appeal in writing to the Tribunal.

[37/2010 wef 15/03/2011]

(8) The President or deputy President, as the case may be, who made the decision under subsection (6) that is under appeal shall not participate in the proceedings or determination of the appeal.

[37/2010 wef 15/03/2011]

Joinder of respondents

4. A respondent may serve notice in the prescribed form on other persons liable to maintain the applicant joining them as respondents in the action.

Maintenance orders

5.—(1) The Tribunal may make a maintenance order if it considers that it is just and equitable that the respondent should maintain the applicant and that —

- (a) the respondent is able to provide maintenance to the applicant after his own requirements and those of his spouse and his children have been supplied; and
- (b) the applicant is unable, in spite of efforts on his part, to maintain himself through work or from his property or from any other source.

(2) When ordering maintenance for the benefit of an applicant, the Tribunal shall have regard to all the circumstances of the case including (but not limited to) the following matters:

- (a) the financial needs of the applicant, taking into account reasonable expenses for housing and medical costs;
- (b) the income, earning capacity, property and other financial resources of the applicant and the manner in which an applicant has spent his savings or dissipated his financial resources;
- (c) any physical or mental disability of the applicant;
- (d) the income, earning capacity, property and other financial resources of the respondent;
- (e) the expenses incurred by the respondent in supporting his spouse or children;
- (f) the contributions and provisions, whether financial or otherwise, which the respondent has made for the maintenance of the applicant.

(2A) Without prejudice to the Tribunal's powers under the Act, the President or a deputy President of the Tribunal may, with the consent of the applicant and the respondent, make a maintenance order reflecting the terms of any agreement reached between the parties in respect of a claim, and such order shall be deemed to be a maintenance order made by the Tribunal under this Act and enforceable in accordance with its terms.

[37/2010 wef 15/03/2011]

(3) If the Tribunal is satisfied upon due proof that the applicant abandoned, abused or neglected the respondent, it may dismiss the application or may reduce the quantum of maintenance ordered by such amount as may be just.

(4) The onus of proving abandonment, abuse or neglect shall be on the respondent alleging it.

(5) Where there is more than one respondent, the Tribunal may apportion the maintenance among the various respondents in such manner as may be just.

(6) The Tribunal shall, before hearing an application under this section, refer the differences between the parties to a conciliation officer for mediation between the parties.

Power of Tribunal to order security for maintenance

6.—(1) A maintenance order may provide for the payment of a lump sum, or a monthly allowance or periodical payment for such period as the Tribunal may determine.

(2) The Tribunal may, in its discretion, when awarding maintenance, order the respondent to secure the whole or any part of it by vesting any property in trustees upon trust to pay the maintenance or part thereof out of the income from that property.

(3) The Tribunal may, in awarding maintenance, order the applicant to —

- (a) deposit such minimum sum as the Tribunal may determine with a bank; or
- (b) purchase an annuity with an insurer with such minimum sum.

(4) The Tribunal may, in awarding maintenance, give directions as to the manner or method of payment.

Duration of orders for maintenance

7.—(1) Except where an order for maintenance is expressed to be for any shorter period or where any such order has been rescinded, a maintenance order shall expire —

- (a) if the maintenance was unsecured, on the death of the applicant or the respondent, whichever is the earlier;
- (b) if the maintenance was secured, on the death of the applicant.

(2) Where a maintenance order was made against more than one respondent, the death of a respondent does not affect the liability of the others to continue paying maintenance to the applicant.

(3) The applicant may apply to the Tribunal to re-apportion the liability among the surviving respondents on the death of a respondent.

Power of Tribunal to vary orders for maintenance

8.—(1) The Tribunal may vary or rescind any subsisting order for maintenance, whether secured or unsecured, where it is satisfied that the order was based on any misrepresentation or mistake of fact or where there has been any material change in the circumstances of the applicant or respondents or where another person is joined as a respondent, or for other good cause shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal.

[37/2010 wef 15/03/2011]

(2) An application for variation of a maintenance order may be made by —

- (a) the applicant;
- (b) a respondent;
- (c) the Commissioner;
- (d) an approved person or organisation referred to in section 3(2); or

(e) in respect of secured maintenance, the legal personal representatives of a respondent.

(3) Where a maintenance order was made against more than one respondent or another respondent is joined, the Tribunal may re-apportion in such manner as it considers just the maintenance upon an application to vary the maintenance order.

(4) The Tribunal may, before hearing an application under this section and where it considers it necessary or desirable to do so, refer the differences between the parties to a conciliation officer for mediation.

[37/2010 wef 15/03/2011]

Maintenance payable under order of Tribunal to be inalienable

9. Maintenance payable to any person under this Act shall not be assignable or transferable or liable to be attached, sequestered or levied upon for, or in respect of, any debt or claim whatsoever.

Enforcement of maintenance orders

10.—(1) Maintenance orders made under this Act shall be deemed to be orders made by a Family Court and may be enforced in the same manner as maintenance orders for wives and children are enforced under the Women’s Charter [Cap. 353], and the provisions of that Act shall apply, with the necessary modifications, to enforcement of orders made under this Act.

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the Family Court may adopt such measures as it deems relevant or appropriate for the enforcement of maintenance orders made under this Act.

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

[37/2010 wef 15/03/2011]

Applications on behalf of incapacitated applicants

11.—(1) Where an applicant is unable to make an application under this Act (whether by reason of physical or mental infirmity or for any other reason), such application may be made on his behalf by —

(a) any member of his family;

- (b) any person in whose care he resides; or
- (c) any other person whom the applicant has authorised to make such application.

[Act 27 of 2018 wef 19/12/2018]

(2) Without prejudice to subsection (1), if an applicant mentioned in that subsection is a vulnerable adult in respect of whom —

- (a) there is an order made by a court under section 14 or 15 of the Vulnerable Adults Act 2018; or
- (b) the Director-General of Social Welfare or a protector has exercised any power under Division 1 or 2 of Part 2 of that Act,

the application may be made on the applicant's behalf by the Director-General of Social Welfare or a protector.

[Act 27 of 2018 wef 19/12/2018]

[Act 30 of 2019 wef 01/07/2020]

(3) In this section —

[Deleted by Act 30 of 2019 wef 01/07/2020]

“protector” means a protector appointed under section 3(2) of the Vulnerable Adults Act 2018;

“vulnerable adult” has the meaning given by section 2 of the Vulnerable Adults Act 2018.

[Act 27 of 2018 wef 19/12/2018]

Appointment of and applications by Commissioner for the Maintenance of Parents

12.—(1) The Minister may appoint —

- (a) a Commissioner for the Maintenance of Parents; and
- (b) such number of Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners for the Maintenance of Parents as he may consider necessary,

on such terms and conditions as the Minister may determine.

(2) The Commissioner may make an application under this Act on behalf of an applicant of or above 60 years of age (whether or not the

applicant is able to do so) or represent such applicant in any proceedings or appeal under this Act.

(3) The Commissioner may consult, or direct a Deputy Commissioner or an Assistant Commissioner or such other person as he thinks fit to consult, with the parents and children concerned in order to assist them to reach agreement by conciliation.

[37/2010 wef 15/03/2011]

(4) Notwithstanding that a person is below the minimum age specified in subsection (2), the Commissioner may, in his discretion, make an application on his behalf or represent him if the Commissioner is satisfied that he is suffering from infirmity of mind or body which prevents him from maintaining or makes it difficult for him to maintain himself or if there is any other special reason.

(5) Where a claim of a parent has been referred to the Commissioner under section 3(2A), the Commissioner shall review the claim and may do all or any of the following:

- (a) refer the parent to any relevant Government or other agency for assistance;
- (b) refer the differences between the parent and his children for conciliation;
- (c) take such other measure as he thinks fit.

[37/2010 wef 15/03/2011]

(6) If a claim has not been settled after referral to the relevant Government or other agency or for conciliation or any other measure taken under subsection (5), an application may be made to the Tribunal under section 3.

[37/2010 wef 15/03/2011]

(7) The Commissioner may, by notice in writing, require any person to appear at any reasonable time and at any convenient place for the purposes of conciliation under subsection (5)(b), and any failure by the person to appear as required may be taken into consideration by the Tribunal when hearing and determining the relevant application for maintenance, in such manner as to the Tribunal seems proper.

[37/2010 wef 15/03/2011]

(8) The Commissioner may generally do all such things as may be incidental to or consequential upon the discharge of his functions or the exercise of his powers under this Act.

[37/2010 wef 15/03/2011]

Establishment of Tribunal for the Maintenance of Parents

13.—(1) For the purposes of this Act, there shall be established a Tribunal for the Maintenance of Parents consisting of a President, up to 4 deputy Presidents, and such number of members, not being less than 2, as the Minister may think fit.

[37/2010 wef 15/03/2011]

(2) The President, every deputy President and every member of the Tribunal shall be appointed by the Minister and upon appointment the names of the President, every deputy President and every member of the Tribunal shall be published in the *Gazette*.

[37/2010 wef 15/03/2011]

(3) The President and every deputy President of the Tribunal shall possess the qualifications required for a District Judge under section 9(3) of the State Courts Act or be a District Judge appointed under section 9(1) of that Act [Cap. 321].

[37/2010 wef 15/03/2011]

[Act 5 of 2014 wef 07/03/2014]

(3A) A deputy President of the Tribunal shall have and may exercise and perform all the powers, duties and functions of the President of the Tribunal conferred by this Act, subject to such limitations as the President may think fit to impose.

[37/2010 wef 15/03/2011]

(4) Three members of the Tribunal, of whom the President or a deputy President shall be one, shall form a quorum, and the opinion of the majority of the Tribunal present shall be decisive upon any matter, except that in the case of an equality the President or a deputy President shall decide which opinion shall prevail.

[37/2010 wef 15/03/2011]

(5) The President, every deputy President and every member of the Tribunal shall hold office for a period of 3 years or for such shorter period as the Minister may determine and shall be eligible for reappointment.

[37/2010 wef 15/03/2011]

(6) The President, a deputy President or a member of the Tribunal shall vacate his office where —

- (a) he resigns; or
- (b) the Minister has revoked his appointment on the ground of his unfitness to continue in office or incapacity to perform the duties thereof.

[37/2010 wef 15/03/2011]

(7) Where a person ceases to be the President, a deputy President or a member of the Tribunal, the Minister shall, as soon as is reasonably practicable, take steps to fill the vacancy but the existence of any vacancy in the Tribunal shall not invalidate the acts of the Tribunal.

[37/2010 wef 15/03/2011]

(8) If the President, a deputy President or any member of the Tribunal is for the time being unable to perform the duties of his office, either generally or in relation to any particular proceedings, the Minister may appoint some other person to discharge the duties of the President, a deputy President or that member for any period, not exceeding 6 months at one time, or, as the case may be, in relation to those proceedings; and a person so appointed shall, during that period or in relation to those proceedings, have the same powers as the person in whose place he is appointed.

[37/2010 wef 15/03/2011]

(9) The President, every deputy President and every member of the Tribunal shall be deemed to be a public servant within the meaning of the Penal Code [Cap. 224] and the proceedings of the Tribunal shall be deemed to be judicial proceedings.

[37/2010 wef 15/03/2011]

(10) There shall be paid to the President, every deputy President and the members of the Tribunal such salaries, fees and allowances as the Minister may determine.

[37/2010 wef 15/03/2011]

(11) The Minister may appoint a Secretary to the Tribunal, conciliation officers and such other officers and employees of the Tribunal as may be necessary.

(12) The exercise of the powers of the Tribunal shall not be affected by any vacancy in the membership of the Tribunal if a quorum is present at the commencement of the proceedings.

Tribunal to hear and determine claims

14.—(1) The Tribunal shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine in accordance with this Act all applications made under this Act.

(2) Sittings of the Tribunal shall be held at such places and times as the President of the Tribunal may determine.

(3) Any interested party may be represented before the Tribunal —

- (a) by an agent acting without fee, gain, reward or any expectation thereof, in any case in which the Tribunal may at the request of that party and for good reason permit;
- (b) if he is an applicant, by the Commissioner;
- (c) if he or it is an approved person or organisation, by an employee or officer of the approved person or organisation.

(4) No party to any proceedings before the Tribunal may be represented by an advocate and solicitor of the Supreme Court except that the Commissioner may represent the applicant before the Tribunal although he may be an advocate and solicitor.

(5) Every summons and notice issued under the hand of the Secretary to the Tribunal to any person shall be deemed to be issued by the Tribunal and may be served on that person —

- (a) by delivering the summons or notice to the person or to some adult member of his family at his last known place of residence;
- (b) by leaving the summons or notice at his usual or last known place of residence or business in an envelope addressed to the person;
- (c) by sending the summons or notice by registered post addressed to the person at his usual or last known place of residence or business; or

- (d) where the person is a body of persons or a company —
- (i) by delivering the summons or notice to the secretary or other like officer of the body of persons or company at its registered office or principal place of business; or
 - (ii) by sending the summons or notice by registered post addressed to the body of persons or company at its registered office or principal place of business.

(6) Any summons or notice sent by registered post to any person in accordance with subsection (5) shall be deemed to be duly served on the person to whom the letter is addressed at the time when the letter would in the ordinary course of post be delivered and in proving service of the summons or notice, it shall be sufficient to prove that the envelope containing the summons or notice was properly addressed, stamped and posted by registered post.

(7) The Tribunal shall have the following powers:

- (a) to dismiss frivolous or vexatious claims at a preliminary stage on the basis of the affidavits and other documentary evidence;
- (b) to summon any person to appear before a conciliation officer for the purpose of mediation;
- (c) to summon any person whom it may consider able to give evidence to attend at the hearing of an application;
- (d) to examine such person as a witness either on oath or otherwise and to require such person to produce such records, documents or articles as the Tribunal may think necessary for the purposes of the proceedings;
- (e) to allow any person, attending the proceedings any reasonable expenses necessarily incurred by him in so attending to be paid by such party as the Tribunal may determine;
- (f) to make an order by consent of the parties; and

- (g) all the powers of a Family Court with regard to the enforcement of attendance of witnesses and hearing evidence on oath.

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

[37/2010 wef 15/03/2011]

(8) Every person examined as a witness by or before the Tribunal, whether on oath or otherwise, shall be legally bound to state the truth and to produce such records, documents or articles as the Tribunal may require.

(9) The Tribunal shall not be bound by the strict rules of evidence and shall determine the conduct of its proceedings.

Information required by Tribunal or Commissioner

14A.—(1) The Tribunal or the Commissioner may, in discharging its or his functions under this Act, obtain any information, record, document or article from any officer of such Government agency or statutory body as the Minister may from time to time prescribe by notification in the *Gazette*, as the Tribunal or the Commissioner, as the case may be, may consider necessary or desirable for the purposes set out in subsection (2).

(2) Any information, record, document or article obtained under subsection (1) may be used by the Tribunal or the Commissioner, as the case may be, for any of the following purposes:

- (a) identifying and locating the children of the parent;
- (b) assessing the veracity of or supplementing the information provided by the parent, applicant, respondent or children of the parent; and
- (c) assessing the ability of the parent to maintain himself and each of the children of the parent to maintain him, including but not limited to their respective incomes, earning capacity, property and other financial resources, expenses and liabilities.

(3) Each member of the Tribunal and the Commissioner shall, in respect of any information, record, document or article obtained under subsection (1) and which has been disclosed to him —

- (a) take reasonable steps to ensure that such information, record, document or article is kept confidential to the Tribunal or the Commissioner, as the case may be;
- (b) not use the information, record, document or article for any purposes other than those stated in subsection (2); and
- (c) disclose such information, record, document or article only —
 - (i) as between the Commissioner and the Tribunal and any officer of the Tribunal, or any person acting for or under the direction of the Tribunal, for the purposes stated in subsection (2);
 - (ii) with the written permission of the relevant Government agency or statutory body as the Minister may from time to time prescribe by notification in the *Gazette*, which provided such information, record, document or article to the Tribunal or the Commissioner, as the case may be;
 - (iii) when required to do so by any court or under any written law;
 - (iv) for the purposes of any criminal proceedings or for any other purpose the disclosure of which is required or authorised by or under any written law.

[37/2010 wef 15/03/2011]

Contempt of Tribunal

15.—(1) Any person who —

- (a) assaults, wilfully insults or obstructs the President, a deputy President, a member or an officer of the Tribunal or any witness during a sitting of the Tribunal or while the President, deputy President, member, witness or officer is on his way to or from such a sitting;
- (b) assaults or wilfully insults or obstructs any person in attendance at a sitting of the Tribunal;

[37/2010 wef 15/03/2011]

- (c) wilfully interrupts or otherwise misbehaves at a sitting of the Tribunal; or
- (d) without lawful excuse disobeys any order or direction of the Tribunal during a sitting of the Tribunal,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months.

(2) A Tribunal may by oral order exclude from a sitting of the Tribunal any person whose behaviour in the opinion of the President constitutes an offence under subsection (1) whether or not the person is charged with the offence, and the member or officer under the President's control or any police officer may take such steps as are reasonably necessary to enforce such exclusion.

Power of Tribunal to state special case for decision of General Division of High Court

16.—(1) The Tribunal may, at any stage of any application or proceeding before it, reserve for the consideration of the General Division of the High Court any question of law arising in the application or proceeding in the form of a special case which shall be —

- (a) drawn up by the President and shall set out shortly the facts on which the law is to be applied and the question or questions of law to be determined;
- (b) sent by the President to the registrar of the Family Justice Courts; and

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

- (c) set down for argument in such manner as the General Division of the High Court directs.

[Act 40 of 2019 wef 02/01/2021]

(2) The General Division of the High Court shall hear and determine the question or questions of law arising on the special case and shall thereupon remit the matter to the President with the opinion of the General Division of the High Court thereon and that opinion shall be binding on the Tribunal.

[Act 40 of 2019 wef 02/01/2021]

(3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the Tribunal from determining any question of law arising in the application or proceeding before it.

General Division of High Court may call for proceedings of Tribunal

17.—(1) The General Division of the High Court, either on its own motion or on the application within 14 days of any party aggrieved by a decision of the Tribunal on the ground that it is wrong in law, may call for the proceedings and the grounds of the award and give such order thereon, either by directing a fresh hearing or otherwise, as seems necessary to secure that substantial justice is done.

[Act 40 of 2019 wef 02/01/2021]

(2) The powers of revision conferred upon the General Division of the High Court in this section shall not extend to a decision of the Tribunal as to the quantum of maintenance awarded or apportioned under this Act.

[Act 40 of 2019 wef 02/01/2021]

Appeals to General Division of High Court

18.—(1) Except as provided in this section and sections 16 and 17, the decision of the Tribunal shall be final.

(2) The applicant, the Commissioner on behalf of the applicant, a respondent, an approved person or organisation or any other affected party may appeal to the General Division of the High Court from the decision of the Tribunal upon any question of law or of mixed law and fact except in any case where the Tribunal has made the order with the consent of the parties, including a maintenance order made by the President or deputy President and deemed to be a maintenance order made by the Tribunal under section 5(2A), unless it is alleged that the consent was obtained by means of fraud, duress, threat or misrepresentation.

[37/2010 wef 15/03/2011]

[Act 40 of 2019 wef 02/01/2021]

(3) The procedure governing any such appeal to the General Division of the High Court shall be as provided for in the Family Justice Rules.

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/01/2015]

[Act 40 of 2019 wef 02/01/2021]

(4) The General Division of the High Court shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine any such appeal and may confirm, vary or annul the decision of the Tribunal on appeal and make such further or other order on such appeal, whether as to costs or otherwise, as the General Division of the High Court may consider fit.

[Act 40 of 2019 wef 02/01/2021]

(5) An appeal against the decision of the General Division of the High Court on an appeal under subsection (2) may only be brought with the leave of the General Division of the High Court, and leave must not be granted unless —

- (a) a question of law of public interest has arisen in the appeal under subsection (2); and
- (b) the determination of the question by the General Division of the High Court has affected the outcome of the appeal under subsection (2).

[Act 40 of 2019 wef 02/01/2021]

Proceedings in camera

19.—(1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), all proceedings under this Act are to be heard in camera.

(2) In any proceeding under this Act, the Tribunal or court hearing the proceeding may direct that the proceeding be heard in public despite any objections from any other party to the proceeding.

(3) The Tribunal or court may, if it considers that any proceeding heard in camera by it ought to be reported, publish or authorise the publication of the facts, arguments and decision in the proceedings without disclosing the identities of the party concerned.

[Act 40 of 2019 wef 02/01/2021]

Costs

20.—(1) Subject to subsection (2), the costs of —

- (a) an application under this Act shall be in the discretion of the Tribunal;
- (b) an appeal shall be in the discretion of the court hearing the appeal;

[Act 40 of 2019 wef 02/01/2021]

- (c) any proceedings in the General Division of the High Court on a case stated shall be in the discretion of the General Division of the High Court and may be dealt with by the order of the General Division of the High Court.

[Act 40 of 2019 wef 02/01/2021]

(2) In all proceedings under this Act including a case stated and an appeal from the decision of the Tribunal or the General Division of the High Court, as the case may be —

- (a) the remuneration a solicitor is entitled to receive in respect of such proceedings shall not exceed the maximum amount prescribed in rules made under section 21 and any agreement for costs which exceeds the maximum amount so prescribed shall be null and void;
- (b) the costs of the Commissioner shall be at the discretion of the Tribunal or the court, as the case may be, but the Commissioner shall not be ordered to pay the costs of any of the other parties; and

[Act 40 of 2019 wef 02/01/2021]

- (c) no member of the Tribunal shall be personally liable to any costs in respect of a case stated or an appeal from the decision of the Tribunal.

[Act 40 of 2019 wef 02/01/2021]

Protection from personal liability

20A. No suit or other legal proceedings shall lie against the President or any deputy President or member of the Tribunal, or the Commissioner, for anything which is done with reasonable care and

in good faith in the discharge or purported discharge of his functions or duties under this Act.

[37/2010 wef 15/03/2011]

Rules

21.—(1) The Minister may make rules generally for carrying out the provisions of this Act and for prescribing anything which may be prescribed under this Act.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), such rules may make provisions for —

- (a) regulating and prescribing the procedure to be followed for applications and the conduct of proceedings under this Act;
- (b) regulating the means by which particular facts may be proved, and the mode in which evidence thereof may be given including but not limited to affidavits;
- (c) the manner in which frivolous or vexatious claims may be dismissed at a preliminary stage on the basis of the affidavits and other documentary evidence;
- (d) the discovery of documents and other evidence and public records;
- (e) the manner and method of payment of maintenance awarded under this Act; and
- (f) the costs of any proceedings under this Act.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY
MAINTENANCE OF PARENTS ACT
(CHAPTER 167B)

This Legislative History is provided for the convenience of users of the Maintenance of Parents Act. It is not part of the Act.

1. Act 35 of 1995 — Maintenance of Parents Act 1995

Date of First Reading	:	23 May 1994 (Bill No. 13/94 published on 24 May 1994)
Dates of Second Reading	:	25 July 1994 to 27 July 1994
Referred to Select Committee	:	Parl 2 of 1995 presented to Parliament on 20 October 1995
Date of Third Reading	:	2 November 1995
Date of commencement	:	24 November 1995 (Publication date)

2. 1996 Revised Edition — Maintenance of Parents Act

Date of operation	:	30 April 1996
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3. Act 35 of 1995 — Maintenance of Parents Act 1995

Date of First Reading	:	23 May 1994 (Bill No. 13/94 published on 24 May 1994)
Dates of Second Reading	:	25 July 1994 to 27 July 1994
Referred to Select Committee	:	Parl 2 of 1995 presented to Parliament on 20 October 1995
Date of Third Reading	:	2 November 1995
Date of commencement	:	1 June 1996

4. Act 37 of 2010 — Maintenance of Parents (Amendment) Act 2010

Date of First Reading	:	18 October 2010 (Bill No. 32/2010) published on 18 October 2010
Date of Second and Third Readings	:	23 November 2010
Date of commencement	:	15 March 2011

5. Act 2 of 2012 — Statutes (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2012

Date of First Reading	: 21 November 2011 (Bill No. 22/2011 published on 22 November 2011)
Date of Second and Third Readings	: 18 January 2012
Date of commencement	: 1 March 2012 (except sections 26 and 29)

6. Act 5 of 2014 — Subordinate Courts (Amendment) Act 2014

(Consequential amendments made to Act by)

Date of First Reading	: 11 November 2013 (Bill No. 26/2013 published on 11 November 2013)
Date of Second and Third Readings	: 21 January 2014
Date of commencement	: 7 March 2014

7. Act 27 of 2014 — Family Justice Act 2014

(Consequential amendments made to Act by)

Date of First Reading	: 8 July 2014 (Bill No. 21/2014 published on 8 July 2014)
Date of Second and Third Readings	: 4 August 2014
Date of commencement	: 1 October 2014

8. Act 27 of 2014 — Family Justice Act 2014

(Consequential amendments made by)

Date of First Reading	: 8 July 2014 (Bill No. 21/2014 published on 8 July 2014)
Date of Second and Third Readings	: 4 August 2014
Date of commencement	: 1 January 2015

9. Act 27 of 2018 — Vulnerable Adults Act 2018

Date of First Reading	: 20 March 2018 (Bill No. 20/2018 published on 20 March 2018)
Date of Second and Third Readings	: 18 May 2018
Date of commencement	: 19 December 2018

10. Act 30 of 2019 — Children and Young Persons (Amendment) Act 2019

Date of First Reading : 5 August 2019 (Bill No. 22/2019
published on 5 August 2019)

Date of Second and Third Readings : 4 September 2019

Date of commencement : 1 July 2020

11. Act 40 of 2019 — Supreme Court of Judicature (Amendment) Act 2019

Date of First Reading : 7 October 2019
(Bill No. 32/2019)

Date of Second and Third Readings : 5 November 2019

Date of commencement : 2 January 2021