

## CHAPTER 254

### THE LOCAL CONSTABLES ACT

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## LOCAL CONSTABLES

(25th February, 1921.)

611921.  
1711955.  
S.R.O. 2211956.  
18/1989.

- 1.** This Act may be cited as the Local Constables Act. **Short title.**
- 2.** In this Act "local constable" means a constable appointed and acting under this Act. **Interpretation.**
- 3.** Every male person who is—
- (a) over 18 and under 55 years of age;
  - (b) able bodied; and
  - (c) of good character
- shall be deemed to be qualified for appointment as a local constable. **Qualifications for appointment.**
- 4.** (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act the Governor-General may appoint any qualified person residing within Antigua and Barbuda at the time of such appointment to be a local constable for Antigua and Barbuda. **Appointment of local constables.**
- (2) Any local constable in Antigua and Barbuda who, on the first day of July, 1956, had already been duly appointed a local constable, shall continue to hold such appointment and be deemed to have been appointed a local constable in accordance with the provisions of subsection (1).
- 5.** On appointing any person to be a local constable the Governor-General shall— **Precept and oath of local constables.**
- (a) deliver to him a precept in the form contained in the Schedule authorizing him to act as a local constable;
  - (b) administer to him the following oath of office—
- "I, A.B. do swear that I will well and truly serve Our Sovereign Lady the Queen in the office of local constable for Antigua and Barbuda without favour or affection, malice or ill-will, and that I will, to the best of my ability, cause the peace to be preserved, and prevent all offences

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against the persons and property of Her Majesty's subjects."

**Precept and oath constitute appointment.**

**6.** On receiving the precept and taking the oath the person so appointed shall be a local constable, and shall and may act as constable generally throughout Antigua and Barbuda.

**Equipment.**

**7.** Every local constable shall be provided by the Commissioner of Police with a staff, a whistle, a note-book, an instruction book and an armlet bearing the letters "L.C." and such armlet shall be evidence of the office of every such local constable. The cost of these articles of equipment shall be defrayed at the public expense.

**Powers, privileges and immunities of local constables.**

**8.** Every local constable shall have all the powers and shall be entitled to all the immunities conferred by any law or Act for the time being in force upon any police constable or upon any rural or other constable.

**Local constables subject to orders of officers of police.**

**9.** Every local constable shall be subject to orders issued by the Commissioner of Police or any police officer in charge of any police station in Antigua and Barbuda in relation to police duty.

**May be ordered on public service.**

**10.** The Governor-General may, in case of emergency, on the application of any police officer in charge of any police station, order on the public service for a period not exceeding at any one time, twenty-four hours, any number of local constables.

**Remuneration of local constables.**

**11.** (1) The Commissioner of Police may from time to time, grant to a local constable a certificate for payment out of the Treasury of Antigua and Barbuda of such sum as may be authorized in accordance with the rates fixed in Antigua and Barbuda for the performance of duty under the provisions of this Act.

(2) Every such payment shall be made from such moneys as may be provided for the purpose by Parliament.

**Riot or disturbance.**

**12.** The Governor-General may, in case of riot or disturbance, order on the public service any number of local constables for such period as he shall deem expedient.

**13.** Any person who shall assault or resist any local constable in the execution of his duty, or who shall aid or incite any person so to assault or resist, shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars.

**Penalty for assaulting or resisting local constable.**

**14.** A local constable shall be at liberty to resign his appointment on giving one month's notice in writing of his intention to so resign to the Commissioner of Police.

**Resignation of local constable.**

**15.** (1) Every local constable shall in the months of January and July in every year, appear personally before the Commissioner of Police, or the police officer in charge of the police station which is the nearest to the place of residence of such local constable, and state his occupation and place of residence; and no local constable shall change his residence as stated, unless he has given notice of his intention so to do to any such police officer.

**Residence of local constables.**

(2) Any local constable who is about to leave Antigua and Barbuda shall report his intended departure to the Commissioner of Police.

(3) A local constable who ceases to reside in Antigua and Barbuda shall be deemed to have resigned his appointment.

**16.** The Governor-General may at any time dismiss any local constable from his office:

**Dismissal of constable.**

Provided that such dismissal shall not preclude any remedy at law which the party aggrieved by the offence of such constable might have had if such dismissal had not taken place.

**17.** (1) When any local constable attains the age of 60 years or resigns or is dismissed from his office all powers and authorities vested in him and all immunities to which he is entitled as such local constable shall immediately cease and determine, and he shall on demand deliver over to the Commissioner of Police his precept of appointment and any equipment which may have been supplied to him for the execution of his office.

**Cessation of powers and extension of age limit of local constable.**

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(2) Notwithstanding the attainment by a local constable of the age mentioned in subsection (1) the Governor-General may in his discretion permit such constable to retain his office for such period beyond the said age as the Governor-General may deem expedient.

Offences of local constables.

18. If any local constable—

(a) refuses or neglects to obey any lawful order given to him, or

(b) is guilty of any violation or neglect of duty, he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars.

Application of section 81 of the Police Act. Cap. 330.

19. The provisions of section 81 of the Police Act shall apply to local constables appointed under this Act as it applies to police officers.

SCHEDULE

Form of Precept to Constable

Local Constables Act

To of

I, Governor-General of Antigua and Barbuda, do under and by virtue of the power and authority in me vested by the Local Constables Act, hereby appoint you to be a local constable, and I do issue to you this precept authorizing you to act as a local constable throughout Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated this day of 19

..... Governor-General