

## CHAPTER 289

### THE NATIONAL AWARDS ACT

#### Arrangement of Sections Section

1. Short title.
  2. Establishment of the Order of Antigua and Barbuda.
  3. Members of the Order.
  4. Constitution of the Order.
  5. Rules.
- SCHEDULE.

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#### NATIONAL AWARDS

AN ACT to establish a system of national awards for the purpose of according recognition to citizens of Antigua and Barbuda and other persons for distinguished or meritorious service or for gallantry.

(26th February, 1987.)

2/1987.

1. This Act may be cited as the National Awards Act. **Short title.**
2. There is established and constituted a society of honour to be known as the "Order of Antigua and Barbuda" (in this Act referred to as "the Order"). **Establishment of the Order of Antigua and Barbuda.**
3. The Order shall consist of the Governor-General of Antigua and Barbuda and such members as the Governor-General shall in accordance with the Constitution of the Order from time to time appoint. **Members of the Order.**

**Constitution of the Order.**

**4.** The Order shall be governed by the Constitution of the Order of Antigua and Barbuda set out in the Schedule.

**Rules.**

**5.** The Governor-General may make rules as may appear to him necessary and expedient for the better carrying out of the provisions or purposes of this Act.

## SCHEDULE

(Section 4)

## The Constitution of the Order of Antigua and Barbuda

**1.** (1) The Order of Antigua and Barbuda, hereafter referred to as "the Order" shall consist of the Governor-General of Antigua and Barbuda and the members and honorary members of the Order.

(2) Every citizen of Antigua and Barbuda to whom the Order of the Nation, the Order of Distinction, Order of Honour or the Order of Merit is awarded is a member of the Order.

(3) Every person other than a citizen of Antigua and Barbuda to whom the Order of Distinction, Order of Honour and the Order of Merit is awarded on an honorary basis is an Honorary Member of the Order.

**2.** The Governor-General of Antigua and Barbuda shall, by virtue of that office, be the Chancellor of the Order.

**3.** The Chancellor is charged with the administration of the Order.

**4.** The Senior Executive Officer to the Governor-General shall be secretary to the Order and shall maintain the records of the Order, arrange for investitures and perform such other functions in respect of the Order as the Governor-General may require him to perform.

**5.** The Governor-General may appoint such other officials for the Order as may be necessary.

**6.** (1) There shall be a National Awards Committee for the Order (hereinafter called "the Committee") comprising seven members appointed by the Prime Minister, so however, that one shall be a Senator nominated by the Senate and two shall be members of the House of Representatives nominated by the House, one of whom shall be a member of the opposition.

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(2) The appointment of a member to the National Awards Committee shall be for a period not exceeding three years, but a person whose appointment expires shall be eligible for reappointment.

(3) The Prime Minister shall appoint—

(a) a Chairman of the National Awards Committee from amongst the members thereof; and

(b) a secretary to the Committee.

(4) The quorum of the Committee shall be five members.

(5) Any expenses incurred by the Committee in the performance of its functions shall be paid out of funds provided for the purpose by Parliament.

7. The Committee shall:

(a) consider nominations of persons for national awards together with recommendations and supporting materials received by the Committee for awards of the Order of the Nation, the Order of Distinction, Order of Honour and Order of Merit;

(b) compile separate lists in respect of the Order of Antigua and Barbuda and of each medal of those nominees to whom an award may be made;

(c) forward to the Prime Minister the lists compiled pursuant to paragraph (b) together with its recommendations respecting awards;

(d) advise the Governor-General in respect of any other matters concerning the Order referred to it by the Governor-General for consideration.

8. A person shall not be a member or honorary member of the Order by reason only of the fact that he is a member of the Committee or an official of the Order.

9. Any person or organisation may submit to the Committee for its consideration a nomination of a citizen of Antigua and Barbuda for an award of the Order of the Nation, the Order of Distinction, the Order of Honour or the Order of Merit.

10. (1) Awards of the Order of the Nation, the Order of Distinction, the Order of Honour and the Order of Merit shall be made by Instrument signed by the Governor-General and sealed with the Seal of the Order and shall have effect from the date of the affixing of the Seal unless another effective date is specified in the Instrument.

(2) The power conferred on the Governor-General shall be exercised by him on the advice of the Prime Minister given after consideration of the recommendation of the National Awards Committee.

(3) Only citizens of Antigua and Barbuda are eligible for the Order of the Nation.

(4) Only persons other than citizens of Antigua and Barbuda are eligible for the award of the Order of Distinction, the Order of Honour or the Order of Merit on an honorary basis.

(5) Any distinguished citizen of a country other than Antigua and Barbuda whom Antigua and Barbuda desires to honour may be awarded the Order of Distinction, the Order of Honour or the Order of Merit on an honorary basis.

(6) Awards of the Order of Distinction, the Order of Honour and the Order of Merit to persons other than citizens of Antigua and Barbuda shall be made on the advice of the Prime Minister.

### **The Order of the Nation**

**11.** The Order of the Nation may be awarded in connection with the Order of Antigua and Barbuda to any person who has rendered heroic service to Antigua and Barbuda.

(2) The Order of the Nation may be awarded posthumously but a deceased recipient does not become a member of the Order.

(3) The Order of the Nation shall be awarded in gold.

(4) The Governor-General may award the Order of the Nation to a maximum of two persons in 1987 and one person in any year thereafter.

### **The Order of Distinction**

**12.** (1) The Order of Distinction may be awarded in connection with the Order of Antigua and Barbuda to any person who has rendered distinguished and outstanding service to Antigua and Barbuda.

(2) The Order of Distinction may be awarded posthumously but a deceased recipient does not become a member of the Order.

(3) The Order of Distinction shall be awarded in gold.

(4) The Governor-General may award the Order of Distinction to a maximum of five persons in 1987; and three persons in any year thereafter.

### **The Order of Honour**

**13.** (1) The Order of Honour may be awarded in connection with the Order of Antigua and Barbuda to any person who has rendered devoted and loyal beneficial

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service to Antigua and Barbuda in any field of human endeavour or for gallantry or other humane action.

(2) The Order of Honour may be awarded posthumously but a deceased recipient does not become a member of the Order.

(3) The Order of Honour shall be awarded in gold, silver or bronze in accordance with the Committee's assessment of the level of service rendered by the recipient.

(4) The Governor-General may award the Order of Honour to a maximum of eight persons in 1987; and four persons in any year thereafter.

### **The Order of Merit**

**14.** (1) The Order of Merit may be awarded in connection with the Order of Antigua and Barbuda to any person who has rendered meritorious service to Antigua and Barbuda.

(2) The Order of Merit may be awarded posthumously, but a deceased recipient does not become a member of the Order.

(3) The Order of Merit shall be awarded in gold, silver or bronze in accordance with the Committee's assessment of the level of service rendered by the recipient.

(4) The Governor-General may award the Order of Merit to a maximum of ten persons in 1987; and five persons in any year thereafter.

### **Termination of Membership in the Order**

**15.** A person ceases to be a member or honorary member of the Order upon—

(a) his death;

(b) his resignation from the Order, which must be in writing and which shall have effect on the date it is accepted by the Governor-General;

(c) the revocation of an award by the Governor-General on the advice of the Prime Minister.

### **Designations**

**16.** (1) A person to whom the Order of the Nation is awarded, is entitled—

(a) to have the letters "ON" placed after his name on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary; and

(b) wear as decoration the insignia prescribed by the Governor-General acting on the advice of the Cabinet for the recipient of the Order of the Nation.

(2) A person to whom the Order of Distinction is awarded is entitled—

(a) to have the letters "OD" placed after his name on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary; and

(b) to wear as a decoration the insignia prescribed by the Governor-General acting on the advice of the Cabinet for recipients of the Order of Distinction.

(3) A person to whom the Order of Honour is awarded is entitled—

(a) to have the letters "OH" placed after his name on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary; and

(b) to wear as a decoration the insignia prescribed by the Governor-General acting on the advice of the Cabinet for recipients of the Order of Honour.

(4) A person to whom the Order of Merit is awarded is entitled—

(a) to have the letters "OM" placed after his name on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary; and

(b) to wear as a decoration the insignia prescribed by the Governor-General acting on the advice of the Cabinet for recipients of the Order of Merit.

**17.** (1) When worn in Antigua and Barbuda the Order of the Nation shall be worn on the left breast and takes precedence over all other decorations.

(2) When worn in Antigua and Barbuda the Order of Distinction shall be worn on the left breast immediately after the Order of the Nation (moving from right to left) and in front of all other decorations.

(3) When worn in Antigua and Barbuda the Order of the Honour shall be worn on the left breast immediately after the Order of Distinction and in front of all other decorations.

(4) When worn in Antigua and Barbuda the Order of Merit shall be worn on the left breast immediately after the Order of Honour and in front of all other decorations.

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