

THE FORGERY ACT

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

1. Short title.
2. Interpretation.
3. Definition of "forgery" and "false document".
4. Forgery of certain documents with intent to defraud.
5. Forgery of certain documents with intent to defraud or deceive.
6. Passports: forgery; untrue statements.
7. Forgery of other documents with intent to defraud or deceive.
8. Forgery of seals and dies.
9. Uttering.
10. Demanding property on forged documents, etc.
11. Possession of forged documents, seals and dies.
12. Making or having in possession paper or implements for forgery.
13. Purchasing or having in possession certain paper before it has been duly stamped and issued.
14. Imitation of currency notes.
15. Mutilating or defacing currency notes.
16. Punishments.
17. Criminal possession.
18. Search warrants.
Documents, etc., to be destroyed or otherwise disposed of.
19. Form of indictment and proof of intent.
20. Savings.

THE FORGERY ACT

[15th June, 1942.]

Cap. 135.
Laws
32 of 1960
S. 53.
15 of 1962
S. 35.
Act
12 of 1985
Sch.

1. This Act may be cited as the Forgery Act.

Short title.

2. In this Act—

Interpreta-
tion.

“bank note” includes any note or bill of exchange of the Bank of England, or of any other person, body corporate, or company carrying on the business of banking in any part of the world, and includes “bank bill”, “bank post bill”, “blank bank note”, “blank bank bill of exchange”, and “blank bank post bill”;

“currency note” includes any note issued as currency by or under the authority of the Currency Notes Law* or of the Bank of Jamaica Act, or of the Government of any Commonwealth country, or of any foreign state, or of any part or colony or dependency of any foreign state, and is legal tender in the country in which it was issued;

Cap. 88
(1953
Revised
Edn.).
32/1960
S. 53.

“die” includes any plate, type, tool, or implement whatsoever, and also any part of any die, plate, type, tool, or implement, and any stamp or impression thereof or any part of such stamp or impression;

“document of title to goods” includes any bill of lading, India warrant, dock warrant, warehouse keeper’s certificate, warrant, or order, for the delivery or transfer of any goods or valuable thing, bought or sold note, or any other document used in the ordinary course of business as proof of the possession or control of goods, or authorizing or purporting to authorize, either by endorsement or by delivery, the possessor of such docu-

* Repealed by Law 32/1960.

ment to transfer or receive any goods thereby represented or therein mentioned or referred to;

“document of title to lands” includes any Crown grant, certificate of title, deed, map, roll, register, or instrument in writing being or containing evidence of the title or any part of the title to any land or to any interest in or arising out of any land, or any authenticated copy thereof;

“revenue paper” means any paper provided by the proper authority for the purpose of being used for stamps, licences, permits, post office money orders, or postal orders, or for any purpose whatever connected with the public revenue;

“seal” includes any stamp or impression of a seal, or any stamp or impression made or apparently intended to resemble the stamp or impression of a seal, as well as the seal itself;

“stamp” includes a stamp impressed by means of a die as well as an adhesive stamp;

“treasury bill” includes Exchequer bill, Exchequer bond, Exchequer debenture, Treasury bond, and War bond;

“valuable security” includes any writing entitling or evidencing the title of any person to any share or interest in any public stock, annuity, fund, or debt of any Commonwealth country or of any foreign state, or in any stock, annuity, fund, or debt of any body corporate, company, or society, whether within or without any Commonwealth country, or to any deposit in any bank, and also includes any script, debenture, bill, note, warrant, order, or other security for the payment of money, or any authority or request for the payment of money or for the delivery or transfer of goods or chattels, or any accountable receipt, release, or discharge, or any receipt or other

instrument evidencing the payment of money, or the delivery of any chattel personal.

3.—(1) For the purposes of this Act, “forgery” is the making of a false document in order that it may be used as genuine, and, in the case of the seals and dies mentioned in this Act, the counterfeiting of a seal or die; and forgery with intent to defraud or deceive, as the case may be, is punishable as in this Act provided.

Definition of “forgery” and “false documents”.

(2) A document is false within the meaning of this Act if the whole or any material part thereof purports to be made by, or on behalf or on account of a person who did not make it nor authorize its making; or if, though made by, or on behalf or on account of, the person by whom or by whose authority it purports to have been made, the time or place of making, where either is material, or, in the case of a document identified by number or mark, the number or any distinguishing mark identifying the document, is falsely stated therein; and in particular a document is false—

- (a) if any material alteration, whether by addition, insertion, obliteration, erasure, removal, or otherwise, has been made therein; or
- (b) if the whole or some material part of it purports to be made by or on behalf of a fictitious or deceased person; or
- (c) if, though made in the name of an existing person, it is made by him or by his authority with the intention that it should pass as having been made by some person, real or fictitious, other than the person who made or authorized it:

Provided that a document may be a false document notwithstanding that it is not false in such manner as is in this subsection set out.

(3) For the purposes of this Act—

- (a) it is immaterial in what language a document is expressed or in what place within or without Her Majesty's dominions it is expressed to take effect;
- (b) forgery of a document may be complete even if the document when forged is incomplete, or is not or does not purport to be such a document as would be binding or sufficient in law;
- (c) the crossing on any cheque, draft on a banker, post office money order, postal order, coupon, or other document the crossing of which is authorized or recognized by law, shall be a material part of such cheque, draft, order, coupon, or document.

Forgery of certain documents with intent to defraud.

4.—(1) Forgery of the following documents, if committed with intent to defraud, shall be felony and punishable with imprisonment with hard labour for life—

- (a) any will, codicil, or other testamentary document, either of a dead or of a living person, or any probate or letters of administration, whether with or without the will annexed;
- (b) any deed or bond, or any assignment at law or in equity of any deed or bond, or any attestation of the execution of any deed or bond;
- (c) any bank note, or any endorsement on or assignment of any bank note;
- (d) any currency note.

(2) Forgery of the following documents, if committed with intent to defraud, shall be felony, and punishable with imprisonment with hard labour for any term not exceeding fourteen years—

- (a) any valuable security or assignment thereof or endorsement thereon, or, where the valuable

- security is a bill of exchange, any acceptance thereof;
- (b) any document of title to lands or any assignment thereof or endorsement thereon;
 - (c) any document of title to goods or any assignment thereof or endorsement thereon;
 - (d) any power of attorney or other authority to transfer any share or interest in any stock, annuity, or public fund of the United Kingdom or any Commonwealth country or of any foreign state or country, or to transfer any share or interest in the debt of any public body, company, or society, whether of any Commonwealth or foreign country, or in the capital stock of any such company or society, or to receive any dividend or money payable in respect of such share or interest, or any attestation of any such power of attorney or other authority;
 - (e) any entry in any book or register which is evidence of the title of any person to any share or interest hereinbefore mentioned or to any dividend or interest payable in respect thereof;
 - (f) any policy of insurance or any assignment thereof or endorsement thereon;
 - (g) any charter-party or any assignment thereof.

5.—(1) Forgery of the following documents, if committed with intent to defraud or deceive, shall be felony, and punishable with imprisonment with hard labour for life—

any document whatsoever having thereupon or affixed thereto the stamp or impression of the Board Seal of Jamaica, the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, Her Majesty's Privy Seal, any Privy Signet of Her Majesty, Her Majesty's Royal Sign Manual, any of

Forgery of certain documents with intent to defraud or deceive.

Her Majesty's Seals appointed by the twenty-fourth article of the Union between England and Scotland to be kept, used, and continued in Scotland, the Great Seal of Ireland, or the Privy Seal of Ireland.

(2) Forgery of the following documents, if committed with intent to defraud or deceive, shall be felony, and punishable with imprisonment with hard labour for any term not exceeding fourteen years—

- (a) any register or record of births, baptisms, namings, dedications, marriages, deaths, burials, or cremations, which now is, or hereafter may be, by law authorized or required to be kept in this Island, relating to any birth, baptism, naming, dedication, marriage, death, burial, or cremation, or any part of any such register, or any certified copy of any such register, or of any part thereof;
- (b) any copy of any register of births, baptisms, marriages, burials, or cremations, directed or required by law to be transmitted to any registrar or other officer;
- (c) any wrapper or label provided by or under the authority of the Government.

(3) Forgery of the following documents, if committed with intent to defraud or deceive, shall be felony, and punishable with imprisonment with hard labour for any term not exceeding seven years—

- (a) any official document whatsoever of or belonging to any Court of Justice, or made or issued by any Judge, Resident Magistrate, Justice, Officer, or clerk of any such Court;
- (b) any register or book kept under the provisions of any law in or under the authority of any Court of Justice;

- (c) any certificate, office copy, or certified copy of any such document, register, or book or of any part thereof;
- (d) any document which any person authorized to administer an oath is authorized or required by law to make or issue;
- (e) any document made or issued by any public officer or law officer of the Crown, or any document upon which, by the law or usage at the time in force, any Court of Justice or any officer might act;
- (f) any document or copy of a document used or intended to be used in evidence in any Court of Justice, or any document which is made evidence by law;
- (g) any certificate required by any law for the celebration of marriage;
- (h) any licence for the celebration of marriage which may be given by law;
- (i) any certificate, declaration or order, under any law relating to vaccination or to the registration of births or deaths;
- (j) any register book, builder's certificate, surveyor's certificate, certificate of registry, declaration, bill of sale, instrument of mortgage, or certificate of mortgage or sale under Part I of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894 (United Kingdom), or any entry or endorsement required by such Part of such Act to be made in or on any of those documents; 57 and 58
Vic. c. 60.
- (k) any permit, certificate, or similar document, made or granted by or under the authority of the Commissioner of Customs and Excise or the Accountant-General for the purpose of or in connection with Customs, Excise, or Internal Revenue. 12/1985
Sch.

Passports:
forgery;
untrue
statements.

6. The forgery of any passport, or the making by any person of a statement which is to his knowledge untrue for the purpose of procuring a passport, whether for himself or any other person, shall be a misdemeanour, and punishable with imprisonment with hard labour for any term not exceeding two years.

Forgery of
other docu-
ments with
intent to
defraud or
deceive.

7. Forgery of any document which is not made felony under this or any other enactment for the time being in force, if committed with intent to defraud or deceive, shall be a misdemeanour, and punishable with imprisonment with hard labour for any term not exceeding two years.

Forgery of
seals
and dies.

8.—(1) Forgery of the following seals, if committed with intent to defraud or deceive, shall be felony, and punishable with imprisonment with hard labour for life—

(a) the Broad Seal of Jamaica, the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, Her Majesty's Privy Seal, any Privy Signet of Her Majesty, Her Majesty's Royal Sign Manual, any of Her Majesty's Seals appointed by the twenty-fourth article of the Union between England and Scotland to be kept, used, and continued in Scotland, the Great Seal of Ireland, or the Privy Seal of Ireland;

(b) the Seal of the Supreme Court or of the Court of Appeal.

15/1962
S. 35.

(2) Forgery of the following seals, if committed with intent to defraud or deceive, shall be felony, and punishable with imprisonment with hard labour for any term not exceeding fourteen years—

(a) the seal of the Registrar-General or of the Registrar of Titles;

(b) the seal of any city, town or borough;

(c) the seal of any mayor or municipal corporation;

- (d) the seal of any Judge, consul, or notary public;
- (e) the seal of any Resident Magistrate's Court, or of any Coroner's Court.

(3) Forgery of the following dies, if committed with intent to defraud or deceive, shall be felony, and punishable with imprisonment with hard labour for any term not exceeding fourteen years—

- (a) any die provided, made, or used by the Commissioner of Customs and Excise or the Accountant-General for the purpose of or in connection with Customs, Excise, or Internal Revenue; 12/1985
Sch.
- (b) any stamp or die provided, made, or used, in pursuance of the Stamp Duty Act.

9.—(1) Every person who utters any forged document, seal, or die, shall be guilty of an offence of the like degree (whether felony or misdemeanour), and on conviction thereof shall be liable to the same punishment, as if he himself had forged the document, seal, or die. Uttering.

(2) A person utters a forged document, seal, or die, who, knowing it to be forged, and with either of the intents necessary to constitute the offence of forging the document, seal, or die, uses, offers, publishes, delivers, disposes of, tenders in payment or in exchange, exposes for sale or exchange, exchanges, tenders in evidence, or puts off such forged document, seal, or die.

10. Every person shall be guilty of felony, and on conviction thereof shall be liable to imprisonment with hard labour for any term not exceeding fourteen years, who, with intent to defraud, demands, receives, or obtains, or causes or procures to be delivered, paid, or transferred, to any person, or endeavours to receive or obtains or to cause or Demanding property on forged documents, etc.

procure to be delivered, paid, or transferred, to any person, any money, security for money, or other property, real or personal—

- (a) under, upon, or by virtue of, any forged instrument whatsoever, knowing it to be forged; or
- (b) under, upon, or by virtue of, any probate or letters of administration, knowing the will, testament, codicil, or testamentary writing, on which such probate or letters of administration has been obtained to have been forged, or knowing such probate or letters of administration to have been obtained by any false oath, affirmation, or affidavit.

Possession
of forged
documents,
seals and
dies.

11.—(1) Every person shall be guilty of felony, and on conviction thereof shall be liable to imprisonment with hard labour for any term not exceeding fourteen years, who, without lawful authority or excuse, the proof whereof shall lie on the accused, purchases or receives from any person, or has in his custody or possession, a forged bank note or a forged currency note, knowing it to be forged.

(2) Every person shall be guilty of felony, and on conviction thereof shall be liable to imprisonment with hard labour for any term not exceeding fourteen years, who, without lawful authority or excuse, the proof whereof shall lie on the accused, and knowing it to be forged, has in his custody or possession—

- (a) any forged die required or authorized by law to be used for the marking of gold or silver plate, or of gold or silver wares, or any ware of gold, silver, or base metal, bearing the impression of any such forged die;
- (b) any forged stamp or die resembling or intended to resemble either wholly or in part any stamp or die which at any time whatever has been or may

be provided, made, or used, in pursuance of the Stamp Duty Act;

- (c) any forged wrapper or label provided by or under the authority of the Government;
- (d) any forged seal, stamp or die the forgery of which with intent to defraud or deceive is made punishable by section 8.

12. Every person shall be guilty of felony, and on conviction thereof shall be liable to imprisonment with hard labour for any term not exceeding seven years, who, without lawful authority or excuse, the proof whereof shall lie on the accused—

Making or having in possession paper or implements for forgery.

- (a) makes, uses, or knowingly has in his custody or possession any paper intended to resemble and pass as—
 - (i) special paper such as is provided and used for making any bank note, currency note, treasury bill, or Government debenture bond;
 - (ii) revenue paper;
- (b) makes, uses, or knowingly has in his custody or possession, any frame, mould, or instrument for making such paper, or for producing in or on such paper any words, figures, letters, marks, lines, or devices peculiar to and used in or on any such paper;
- (c) engraves or in anywise makes upon any plate, wood, stone, or other material, any words, figures, letters, marks, lines, or devices, the print whereof resembles in whole or in part any words, figures, letters, marks, lines, or devices peculiar to and used in or on any bank note, or currency note, or Government debenture bond, or in or on any

document entitling or evidencing the title of any person to any share or interest in any public stock, annuity, fund, or debt of any Commonwealth country or of any foreign state, or in any stock, annuity, fund or debt of any body corporate, company, or society, whether within or without the Commonwealth;

- (d) uses or knowingly has in his custody or possession any plate, wood, stone, or other material, upon which any such words, figures, letters, marks, lines, or devices have been engraved or in anywise made as aforesaid;
- (e) uses or knowingly has in his custody or possession any paper upon which any such words, figures, letters, marks, lines, or devices have been printed or in anywise made as aforesaid;
- (f) makes, uses, or knowingly has in his custody or possession any unfinished or incomplete note purporting to be a currency note, or any paper with any word, figure, device, or distinction peculiar to and appearing in the substance of paper used for any currency note;
- (g) uses or knowingly has in his custody or possession any facsimile of the signature of any of the Commissioners of the Board of Commissioners of Currency or of any person who has held office as a Commissioner and whose signature appears on currency notes still in circulation.

Purchasing or having in possession certain paper before it has been duly stamped and issued.

13. Every person shall be guilty of a misdemeanour, and on conviction thereof shall be liable to imprisonment with hard labour for any term not exceeding two years, who, without lawful authority or excuse, the proof whereof shall lie on the accused, purchases, receives, or knowingly has in his custody or possession—

- (a) any special paper provided and used for making bank notes, currency notes, treasury bills, and Government debenture bonds, or any revenue paper before such paper has been duly stamped, signed, and issued for public use;
- (b) any die peculiarly used in the manufacture of any such paper.

14.—(1) If any person makes, or causes to be made, or has in his possession, or uses for any purpose whatsoever, or utters, any document purporting to be, or in any way resembling, or so nearly resembling as to be calculated to deceive, any currency or bank note, or any part thereof, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanour and shall be liable on conviction thereof to imprisonment with hard labour for any term not exceeding five years, and it shall be lawful for the Court dealing with the case to order the document in respect of which the offence was committed, and any copies of that document, or any plates, blocks, dies or other instruments used for, or capable of being used for, printing or reproducing any such document, which are in the possession of the offender to be destroyed.

Imitation of
currency
notes.

(2) If any person whose name appears on any document the making of which is an offence under this section refuses, without lawful excuse, to disclose to a police officer on being so required the name and address of the person by whom it was printed or otherwise made, he shall be liable on summary conviction before a Resident Magistrate to a fine not exceeding twenty dollars.

(3) Where the name of any person appears on any document in respect of which any person is charged with an offence under subsection (1), or on any other document used or distributed in connection with that document, it shall be *prima facie* evidence that that person caused the document to be made.

Mutilating
or defacing
currency
notes.

15. Every person who, without lawful authority or excuse, the proof whereof shall lie on the accused, mutilates, cuts, tears or perforates with holes any currency note, or in any way defaces such note by writing, printing, drawing or stamping thereon or by attaching or affixing thereto anything in the nature or form of an advertisement, shall be liable on summary conviction before a Resident Magistrate to a fine not exceeding twenty dollars.

Punishments.

16.—(1) On conviction of a misdemeanour punishable under this Act, the Court, instead of or in addition to any other punishment which may be lawfully imposed, may fine the offender.

(2) On conviction of a felony punishable under this Act, the Court, in addition to imposing a sentence of imprisonment, may require the offender to enter into his own recognizances, with or without sureties, for keeping the peace and being of good behaviour.

(3) On conviction of a misdemeanour punishable under this Act, the Court, instead of or in addition to any other punishment which may lawfully be imposed for the offence, may require the offender to enter into his own recognizances, with or without sureties, for keeping the peace and being of good behaviour.

(4) No person shall be imprisoned under this section for more than one year for not finding sureties.

Criminal
possession.

17.—(1) Where the having any document, seal, or die in the custody or possession of any person is in this Act expressed to be an offence, a person shall be deemed to have a document, seal, or die in his custody or possession if he—

- (a) has it in his personal custody or possession; or
- (b) knowingly and wilfully has it in the actual custody or possession of any other person, or in any build-

ing, lodging, apartment, field, or other place, whether open or enclosed, and whether occupied by himself or not.

(2) It is immaterial whether the document, matter or thing is had in such custody, possession, or place for the use of such person or for the use or benefit of another person.

18.—(1) If it is made to appear by information on oath before a Resident Magistrate or Justice that there is reasonable cause to believe that any person has in his custody or possession without lawful authority or excuse— Search warrants.

- (a) any bank note, currency note, treasury bill, or Government debenture bond; or
- (b) any implement for making paper or imitation of the paper used for bank notes, currency notes, treasury bills, or Government debenture bonds; or
- (c) any material having thereon any words, forms, devices, or characters capable of producing or intended to produce the impression of a bank note, currency note, treasury bill, or Government debenture bond; or
- (d) any forged document, seal, or die; or
- (e) any machinery, implement, utensil, or material used or intended to be used for the forgery of any document,

the Resident Magistrate or Justice may grant a warrant to search for it; and if it is found on search, it shall be lawful to seize it and carry it before the Resident Magistrate of the parish in which the warrant was issued to be by him disposed of according to law.

Documents,
etc., to be
destroyed
or otherwise
disposed of.

(2) (a) Where any forged document (including any forged bank note, currency note, treasury bill, or Government debenture bond), or any machinery, implement, utensil or material used or intended to be used for the forgery of any such document, is lawfully seized under a warrant granted in pursuance of subsection (1), or otherwise, the document, machinery, implement, utensil, or material, as the case may be, shall be delivered up to the Government or to any person authorized by the Government to receive it, by order of the Court before which the offender is tried or, if there is no trial, by order of a Resident Magistrate.

(b) Every other document, seal, or die lawfully seized under such warrant, or otherwise, shall be defaced and destroyed or otherwise disposed of—

- (i) by order of the Court before which the offender is tried; or
- (ii) if there be no trial, by order of a Resident Magistrate.

Form of
indictment
and proof
of intent.

19.—(1) In an indictment or information for an offence against this Act with reference to any document, seal, or die, it is sufficient to refer to the document, seal, or die by any name or designation by which it is usually known, or by its purport, without setting out any copy or facsimile of the whole or any part of the document, seal or die.

(2) Where an intent to defraud or an intent to deceive is one of the constituent elements of an offence punishable under this Act, or under any other enactment relating to forgery or any kindred offence for the time being in force, it shall not be necessary to allege in the indictment or to prove an intent to defraud or deceive any particular person; and it shall be sufficient to prove that the defendant did the act charged with intent to defraud or to deceive, as the case may require.

(3) If any person who is a member of any partnership, or is one of two or more beneficial owners of any property, forges any document, matter, or thing with *intent to defraud the partnership* or the other beneficial owners, he shall be liable to be dealt with, indicted, tried, and punished as if he had not been or was not a member of the partnership, nor one of such beneficial owners.

20.—(1) Where an offence against this Act also by virtue Savings. of some other enactment subjects the offender to any forfeiture or disqualification, or to any penalty other than imprisonment or fine, the liability of the offender to punishment under this Act shall be in addition to and not in substitution for his liability under such other enactment.

(2) Where an offence against this Act is by any other enactment, whether passed before or after the commencement of this Act, made punishable on summary conviction, proceedings may be taken either under such other enactment or under this Act.