Queensland



CHILDRENS COURT ACT 1992

Reprinted as in force on 3 March 2000 (includes amendments up to Act No. 19 of 1999)

Warning—see last endnote for uncommenced amendments

Reprint No. 3

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Information about this reprint

This Act is reprinted as at 3 March 2000. The reprint—

- shows the law as amended by all amendments that commenced on or before that day (Reprints Act 1992 s 5(c))
- incorporates all necessary consequential amendments, whether of punctuation, numbering or another kind (Reprints Act 1992 s 5(d)).

The reprint includes a reference to the law by which each amendment was made—see list of legislation and list of annotations in endnotes.

This page is specific to this reprint. See previous reprints for information about earlier changes made under the Reprints Act 1992. A table of earlier reprints is included in the endnotes.

Also see endnotes for information about—

- when provisions commenced
- provisions that have not commenced and are not incorporated in the reprint
- editorial changes made in earlier reprints.

Queensland



CHILDRENS COURT ACT 1992

TABLE OF PROVISIONS

Section	on F	age		
	PART 1—PRELIMINARY			
1	Short title	. 3		
3	Definitions	. 3		
	PART 2—THE CHILDRENS COURT OF QUEENSLAND			
4	Childrens Court established etc.	4		
5	Members and constitution of the Childrens Court	4		
6	Jurisdiction	. 5		
7	Rules of court	. 5		
8	Directions	. 5		
	PART 3—APPOINTMENT OF JUDICIAL OFFICERS			
	Division 1—The president			
9	Childrens Court president	6		
10	Functions of president	6		
	Division 2—Childrens Court judges			
11	Childrens Court judge	. 7		
12	Acting judge	. 7		
13	Termination of office	. 7		
Division 3—Childrens Court magistrates				
14	Childrens Court magistrates	. 8		
15	Termination of office	. 8		
16	Acting magistrate	. 8		
	Division 4—Miscellaneous			
17	Jurisdiction not affected by vacancies	8		

	PART 4—SITTINGS OF THE COURT			
18	Where court may be constituted	9		
19	Separation of court's proceedings	9		
20	Who may be present at a proceeding	9		
21	Court sitting times	11		
	PART 4A—APPEALS			
21A	Application of pt 4A	11		
21B	Who may appeal	11		
21C	How to start an appeal	11		
21D	Stay of operation of decisions	12		
21E	Hearing procedures	12		
21F	Powers of appellate court	12		
	PART 5—GENERAL			
22	Annual report	13		
23	Ordinary privileges, protection and immunity allowed	13		
24	Contempt			
25	Court officials	14		
26	Court records	15		
27	Judicial notice	15		
28	References to Childrens Court	15		
29	Regulation making power	15		
	ENDNOTES			
	1 Index to endnotes	17		
	2 Date to which amendments incorporated	17		
	3 Key	18		
	4 Table of earlier reprints	18		
	5 List of legislation	18		
	6 List of annotations	19		
	Provisions that have not commenced and are not incorporated into reprint	21		

CHILDRENS COURT ACT 1992

[as amended by all amendments that commenced on or before 3 March 2000]

An Act to establish the Childrens Court of Queensland and for related purposes

PART 1—PRELIMINARY

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the *Childrens Court Act 1992*.

Definitions

- 3. In this Act—
- "appellate court", for an order made by the Childrens Court, means—
 - (a) if the order was made by the Childrens Court constituted by a Childrens Court judge—the Court of Appeal; or
 - (b) if the order was made by the Childrens Court constituted by a Childrens Court magistrate, a stipendiary magistrate or justices—the Childrens Court constituted by a Childrens Court judge.
- "Childrens Court judge" means a District Court judge appointed to the Childrens Court.
- "Childrens Court magistrate" means a magistrate appointed to the Childrens Court.
- "court" means the Childrens Court.
- "judge" means a Childrens Court judge.
- "president" means the president of the Childrens Court.

PART 2—THE CHILDRENS COURT OF QUEENSLAND

Childrens Court established etc.

- **4.**(1) The Childrens Court of Queensland is established.
- (2) The court is a court of record.
- (3) The court is to have a seal, which must be judicially noticed.

Members and constitution of the Childrens Court

- **5.(1)** The members of the Childrens Court are the judicial officers mentioned in subsections (2) and (3).
- (2) The Childrens Court must be constituted by a Childrens Court judge if that is expressly required by an Act.
- (3) If the Childrens Court is not required to be constituted by a Childrens Court judge, it may be constituted by—
 - (a) a Childrens Court magistrate; or
 - (b) if a Childrens Court magistrate is not available—any stipendiary magistrate; or
 - (c) if neither a Childrens Court magistrate nor other stipendiary magistrate is available—2 justices of the peace.
- (4) Subsection (3)(c) does not affect the limitations placed on justices of the peace under the *Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations Act 1991* or another Act.

[&]quot;procedure" includes practice.

[&]quot;rules" means the Childrens Court Rules.

Jurisdiction

6. The Childrens Court has the jurisdiction conferred on it by any Act.

Rules of court

- **7.**(1) The procedure of the Childrens Court is governed by the Childrens Court Rules.
- (2) The Governor in Council may, with the president's agreement, make rules of court (the "Childrens Court Rules") under this Act.
 - (3) A rule may make provision about any matter—
 - (a) that is required or permitted to be prescribed under a law giving jurisdiction to the Childrens Court; or
 - (b) that is necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to a law giving jurisdiction to the Childrens Court.
- (4) In particular, a rule may make provision about the procedure of the Childrens Court, including the matters that may be dealt with in chambers or by a court official.

Directions

- **8.(1)** To the extent that any matter relating to Childrens Court procedure is not provided for by the rules, the matter may be dealt with by directions under this section.
- (2) The president may issue directions of general application with respect to the procedure of the court.
- (3) A Childrens Court judge may issue directions in relation to a particular case before the court when constituted by the judge.
- (4) A Childrens Court magistrate, stipendiary magistrate or justices may issue directions in relation to a particular case before the court when constituted by the Childrens Court magistrate, stipendiary magistrate or justices, as the case may be.

PART 3—APPOINTMENT OF JUDICIAL OFFICERS

Division 1—The president

Childrens Court president

- **9.(1)** There is to be a president of the court.
- (2) The Governor in Council may appoint a Childrens Court judge to be the president of the court.
- (3) The president may resign office by written resignation given to the Governor.
- (4) The resignation does not affect the appointment or powers of the president as a Childrens Court judge.
 - (5) If—
 - (a) the office of president is vacant; or
 - (b) the president is on leave or otherwise absent or is, for another reason, unable to perform all the ordinary functions of the president's office;

the Governor in Council may, on the recommendation of the Attorney-General, appoint a Childrens Court judge to be the acting president.

Functions of president

- 10. The president's functions are—
 - (a) to ensure the orderly and expeditious exercise of the jurisdiction of the court when constituted by a Childrens Court judge; and
 - (b) to discharge other functions conferred on the president by this Act or any other Act.

Division 2—Childrens Court judges

Childrens Court judge

- **11.(1)** The Governor in Council may, on the recommendation of the Attorney-General, appoint 1 or more District Court judges as Childrens Court judges.
- (2) In choosing a District Court judge to be recommended as a Childrens Court judge, the Attorney-General must have regard to the appointee's particular interest and expertise in jurisdiction over matters relating to children.
- (3) The appointment of a person as a Childrens Court judge does not affect the person's appointment as a District Court judge or the person's powers as a District Court judge.

Acting judge

12. The Governor in Council may, on the recommendation of the Attorney-General, appoint a District Court judge to act as a Childrens Court judge if, in the Governor in Council's opinion, the conduct of the business of the court requires it.

Termination of office

- **13.(1)** A Childrens Court judge ceases to hold the office if the judge ceases to hold office as a District Court judge.
- (2) A Childrens Court judge may resign office by written resignation given to the Governor.
- (3) The resignation does not affect the appointment or powers of the judge as a District Court judge.

Division 3—Childrens Court magistrates

Childrens Court magistrates

- **14.(1)** The Governor in Council may, on the recommendation of the Attorney-General, appoint 1 or more stipendiary magistrates as Childrens Court magistrates.
- (2) The appointment of a person as a Childrens Court magistrate does not affect the person's appointment as a stipendiary magistrate or powers as a stipendiary magistrate.
- (3) For the purpose of the *Stipendiary Magistrates Act 1991*, the duties of a stipendiary magistrate include those performed as a Childrens Court magistrate if the stipendiary magistrate is a Childrens Court magistrate.

Termination of office

- **15.(1)** A Childrens Court magistrate ceases to hold the office if the person ceases to hold office as a stipendiary magistrate.
- (2) A Childrens Court magistrate may resign office by written resignation given to the Attorney-General.
- (3) The resignation does not affect the appointment or powers of the magistrate as a stipendiary magistrate.

Acting magistrate

16. The Governor in Council may, on the recommendation of the Attorney-General, appoint a stipendiary magistrate to act in the office of a Childrens Court magistrate if, in the Governor in Council's opinion, the business of the Court requires it.

Division 4—Miscellaneous

Jurisdiction not affected by vacancies

17. The jurisdiction of the court is not affected by a vacancy in any office in the court.

PART 4—SITTINGS OF THE COURT

Where court may be constituted

- **18.**(1) The court may be constituted—
 - (a) if it is constituted by a judge—at a place where a Magistrates Court or the District Court may be held; or
 - (b) if it is constituted by a Childrens Court magistrate, stipendiary magistrate or justices—at a place where a Magistrates Court may be held.
- (2) Subject to subsection (1), the court as constituted by any of its members—
 - (a) may exercise jurisdiction throughout Queensland; and
 - (b) may sit in more than 1 place at the same time.

Separation of court's proceedings

19. The hearing of a matter before the court must be held at a time when the business of another court is not being conducted in the same room.

Who may be present at a proceeding

- **20.(1)** In a proceeding before the court in relation to a child, the court must exclude from the room in which the court is sitting a person who is not—
 - (a) the child; or
 - (b) a parent or other adult member of the child's family; or
 - (c) a witness giving evidence; or
 - (d) if a witness is a complainant within the meaning of the *Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 1978*—a person whose presence will provide emotional support to the witness; or
 - (e) a party or person representing a party to the proceeding, including for example a police officer or other person in charge of a case against a child in relation to an offence; or

- (f) a representative of the chief executive of the department; or
- (g) if the child is an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person—a representative of an organisation whose principal purpose is the provision of welfare services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families; or
- (h) a person mentioned in subsection (2) whom the court permits to be present.
- (2) The court may permit to be present—
 - (a) a person who is engaged in—
 - (i) a course of professional study relevant to the operation of the court; or
 - (ii) research approved by the chief executive of the department; or
 - (b) a person who, in the court's opinion, will assist the court;
 - (c) in a proceeding, other than a proceeding under the *Children's Services Act 1965*, part 6 or 71—a representative of mass media.
- (3) Subsection (1) applies subject to any order made by the court under the *Evidence Act 1977*, section 21A²—
 - (a) excluding any person (including a defendant) from the place in which the court is sitting; or
 - (b) permitting any person to be present while a special witness within the meaning of that section is giving evidence.
- (4) Subsection (1) applies even though the court's jurisdiction is being exercised conjointly with other jurisdiction.
- (5) Subsection (1) does not apply to the court when constituted by a judge exercising jurisdiction to hear and determine a charge on indictment.
- (6) Subsection (1) does not prevent an infant or young child in the care of an adult being present in court with the adult.

¹ Children's Services Act 1965, part 6 (Children in need of care and protection), part 7 (Children in need of care and control)

² Evidence Act 1977, section 21A (Evidence of special witnesses)

Court sitting times

- **21.** Subject to the rules and the president's directions, proceedings before the court—
 - (a) when constituted by a judge—may be held at any time; or
 - (b) when constituted by a Childrens Court magistrate, magistrate or justices—must be held at special times fixed in advance by the proper officer of the court.

PART 4A—APPEALS

Application of pt 4A

21A. This part applies to appeals from orders of the Childrens Court made under the *Children's Services Act 1965*, parts 6 and 7.3

Who may appeal

- **21B.** The following persons may appeal to the appellate court against an order for a child—
 - (a) if the child is 12 or over—the child;
 - (b) if the child is under 12—a separate legal representative for the child;
 - (c) another party to the proceeding.

How to start an appeal

- **21C.(1)** An appeal is started by filing a written notice of appeal with the registrar of the appellate court.
 - (2) The registrar must give the decision-maker a copy of the notice.

³ Children's Services Act 1965, part 6 (Children in need of care and protection), part 7 (Children in need of care and control)

- (3) The appellant must serve a copy of the notice on each other party to the proceeding.
- (4) The notice of appeal must be filed within 28 days after the decision is made.
- (5) The court may at any time extend the period for filing the notice of appeal.
- (6) The notice of appeal must state fully the grounds of the appeal and the facts relied on.

Stay of operation of decisions

- **21D.(1)** The appellate court may stay a decision appealed against to secure the effectiveness of the appeal.
 - (2) A stay—
 - (a) may be given on the reasonable conditions the court considers appropriate; and
 - (b) operates for the period fixed by the court; and
 - (c) may be revoked or amended by the court.
- (3) However, the period of a stay must not extend past the time when the court decides the appeal.
- (4) An appeal against a decision affects the decision, or carrying out of the decision, only if the decision is stayed.

Hearing procedures

- **21E.(1)** An appeal must be decided on the evidence and proceedings before the Childrens Court.
- (2) However, if the appellate court is the Childrens Court constituted by a judge, it may order that the appeal be heard afresh, in whole or part.

Powers of appellate court

- 21F. In deciding an appeal, the appellate court may—
 - (a) confirm the decision appealed against; or

- (b) vary the decision appealed against; or
- (c) set aside the decision and substitute another decision.

PART 5—GENERAL

Annual report

- **22.(1)** As soon as practicable after the end of each financial year, but no later than 3 months after the end of the financial year, the president must give to the Attorney-General a report of the administration and operation of the Childrens Court during the year.
- (2) The Attorney-General must cause a copy of the report to be laid before the Legislative Assembly within 14 days of receiving it.
- (3) If, at the time the Attorney-General would otherwise be required to lay the report before the Legislative Assembly, the Legislative Assembly is not sitting, the Attorney-General must give a copy of the report to the Clerk of the Parliament.
- (4) The clerk must cause a copy of the report to be laid before the Legislative Assembly on its next sitting day.
- (5) For the purposes of its printing and publication, the report is taken to be laid before the Legislative Assembly, and to have been ordered printed by the Legislative Assembly, when it is given to the clerk.
- (6) The first report must cover the period from the commencement of section 4 until the end of the first full financial year of the court's operation.

Ordinary privileges, protection and immunity allowed

23.(1) In this section—

"court of concurrent jurisdiction" means—

- (a) in relation to the Childrens Court when constituted by a judge—the District Court; or
- (b) in relation to the Childrens Court when constituted by a Childrens

Court magistrate, stipendiary magistrate or justices—a Magistrates Court.

"proceeding" means a proceeding in the Childrens Court.

- (2) A person who is—
 - (a) a judicial officer presiding over a proceeding; or
 - (b) a legal practitioner appearing in a proceeding; or
 - (c) a witness attending in a proceeding;

has the same privileges, protection or immunity as the person would have if the proceeding were in the court of concurrent jurisdiction.

Contempt

- **24.(1)** A judge has the same power to punish a person for contempt of the court as the judge has to punish a person for contempt of the District Court.
- (2) The *District Courts Act 1967*, section 1054 applies in relation to the Childrens Court when constituted by a judge in the same way as it applies in relation to the District Court.
- (3) In the performance of duties in relation to the Childrens Court, a Childrens Court magistrate, stipendiary magistrate or justices have the same power to punish for contempt as a stipendiary magistrate has or justices have, as the case may be, to punish for contempt of a Magistrates Court.
- (4) The *Justices Act 1886*, section 40⁵ applies in relation to the court when constituted by a Childrens Court magistrate, stipendiary magistrate or justices in the same way as it applies in relation to a Magistrates Court.

Court officials

25.(1) Every person holding office as the clerk, registrar or other court official of a Magistrates Court held at a place is taken to hold the same office

⁴ Section 105 was renumbered as section 129 (Contempt of court) under the *District Courts Act 1967*, s 112.

⁵ Justices Act 1886, section 40 (Penalty for insulting or interrupting justices)

in relation to the Childrens Court constituted by a Childrens Court magistrate, stipendiary magistrate or justices held at the place.

(2) Every person holding office as a registrar, deputy registrar, sheriff or other court official of the District Court held at a place is taken to hold the same office in relation to the Childrens Court constituted by a judge held at the place.

Court records

26. The records of the court held at a place must be kept in the custody of the registrar or clerk of the court at the place.

Judicial notice

27. All courts and persons acting judicially must take judicial notice of the appointment and signature of every person holding office under this Act.

References to Childrens Court

- **28.(1)** A reference in another Act to the Childrens Court or a Childrens Court (whether the expression 'the Childrens Court', 'a Children's Court' or 'a Childrens Court' or another expression is used) is, in relation to anything done, or proposed to be done, after the commencement of section 4, taken to be a reference to the Childrens Court established under this Act.
- (2) Subsection (1) applies to a reference in an Act passed before the commencement of section 4 despite the reference being expressly to the Childrens Court or a Childrens Court constituted under an Act other than this Act.

Regulation making power

29. The Governor in Council may make regulations under this Act.

Transitional provision for Courts Reform Amendment Act 1997

30.(1) This section applies if, before the commencement of the Courts

Reform Amendment Act 1997, section 96—

- (a) a person aggrieved by an order of the Childrens Court under the Children's Services Act 1965, part 6 or 7,7 started an appeal under the Children's Services Act 1965, section 52A or 68A,8 as in force immediately before the commencement; and
- (b) the appeal has not been finally decided.
- (2) The appeal may be dealt with as if the Courts Reform Amendment Act 1997, sections 6 and 629 had not been enacted.
 - (3) This section expires 2 years after it commences. 10

⁶ Courts Reform Amendment Act 1997, section 9 (Amendment of s 52A (Appeals))

⁷ Children's Services Act 1965, part 6 (Children in need of care and protection), part 7 (Children in need of care and control)

⁸ Children's Services Act, section 52A (Appeals), section 68A (Appeals)

⁹ Courts Reform Amendment Act 1997, section 6 (Insertion of new pt 4A), section 62 (Amendment of s 222 (Appeal to a single judge))

This provision has expired and is included in this reprint for informational purposes only. It will be omitted in the next reprint.

ENDNOTES

1 Index to endnotes

	P	age
2	Date to which amendments incorporated	. 17
3	Key	. 18
4	Table of earlier reprints	. 18
5	List of legislation	. 18
6	List of annotations	. 19
7	Provisions that have not commenced and are not incorporated into reprint	21

2 Date to which amendments incorporated

This is the reprint date mentioned in the Reprints Act 1992, section 5(c). Accordingly, this reprint includes all amendments that commenced operation on or before 3 March 2000. Future amendments of the Childrens Court Act 1992 may be made in accordance with this reprint under the Reprints Act 1992, section 49.

3 Key

Key to abbreviations in list of legislation and annotations

AIA	=	Acts Interpretation Act 1954	(prev)	=	previously
amd	=	amended	proc	=	proclamation
amdt	=	amendment	prov	=	provision
ch	=	chapter	pt	=	part
def	=	definition	pubd	=	published
div	=	division	R[X]	=	Reprint No.[X]
exp	=	expires/expired	RA	=	Reprints Act 1992
gaz	=	gazette	reloc	=	relocated
hdg	=	heading	renum	=	renumbered
ins	=	inserted	rep	=	repealed
lap	=	lapsed	S	=	section
notfd	=	notified	sch	=	schedule
o in c	=	order in council	sdiv	=	subdivision
om	=	omitted	SIA	=	Statutory Instruments Act 1992
orig	=	original	SIR	=	Statutory Instruments
p	=	page			Regulation 1992
para	=	paragraph	\mathbf{SL}	=	subordinate legislation
prec	=	preceding	sub	=	substituted
pres	=	present	unnum	=	unnumbered
prev	=	previous			

4 Table of earlier reprints

TABLE OF EARLIER REPRINTS

[If a reprint number includes an arabic letter, the reprint was released in unauthorised, electronic form only]

Reprint No.	Amendments included	Reprint date
1	to Act No. 68 of 1992	24 August 1993
2	to Act No. 57 of 1995	8 December 1995
2A	to Act No. 22 of 1996	18 September 1996
2B	to Act No. 38 of 1997	5 September 1997

5 List of legislation

Childrens Court Act 1992 No. 41

date of assent 19 August 1992 ss 1–2 commenced on date of assent remaining provisions commenced 1 September 1993 (1993 SL No. 312) as amended by—

Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (No. 2) 1992 No. 68 ss 1-3 sch 1

date of assent 7 December 1992 commenced on date of assent

Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (No. 2) 1993 No. 76 ss 1–3 sch 1

date of assent 14 December 1993 commenced on date of assent

Statute Law (Minor Amendments) Act 1995 No. 50 ss 1, 3 sch

date of assent 22 November 1995 commenced on date of assent

Statute Law Revision Act 1995 No. 57 ss 1-2, 4 sch 1

date of assent 28 November 1995 commenced on date of assent

Juvenile Justice Legislation Amendment Act 1996 No. 22 pts 1, 5

date of assent 15 August 1996 commenced on date of assent

Justice and Other Legislation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1997 No. 9 ss 1, 2(5) pt 5

date of assent 15 May 1997 ss 1, 2(5) commenced on date of assent remaining provisions commenced 20 June 1997 (1997 SL No. 155)

Courts Reform Amendment Act 1997 No. 38 ss 1–2 pt 2

date of assent 18 July 1997 ss 1–2 commenced on date of assent remaining provisions commenced 1 August 1997 (1997 SL No. 235)

Child Protection Act 1999 No. 10 ss 1, 2(2), 205 sch 3

date of assent 30 March 1999 ss 1–2 commenced on date of assent remaining provisions not yet proclaimed into force

Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999 No. 19 ss 1-3 sch

date of assent 30 April 1999 commenced on date of assent

6 List of annotations

Commencement

s 2 om R2 (see RA s 37)

Definitions

s 3 def "appellate court" ins 1997 No. 38 s 5 om 1999 No. 10 s 205 sch 3

Rules of court

s 7 amd 1995 No. 57 s 4 sch 1

Where court may be constituted

s 18 amd 1999 No. 19 s 3 sch

Separation of court's proceedings

s 19 amd 1993 No. 76 s 3 sch 1

Who may be present at a proceeding

s 20 amd 1996 No. 22 s 107; 1997 No. 9 s 18; <u>1999 No. 10 s 205 sch 3</u>

Court sitting times

s 21 sub 1993 No. 76 s 3 sch 1

PART 4A—APPEALS

pt hdg ins 1997 No. 38 s 6

om 1999 No. 10 s 205 sch 3

Application of pt 4A

s 21A ins 1997 No. 38 s 6

om 1999 No. 10 s 205 sch 3

Who may appeal

s 21B ins 1997 No. 38 s 6

om 1999 No. 10 s 205 sch 3

How to start an appeal

s 21C ins 1997 No. 38 s 6

om 1999 No. 10 s 205 sch 3

Stay of operation of decisions

s 21D ins 1997 No. 38 s 6

om 1999 No. 10 s 205 sch 3

Hearing procedures

s 21E ins 1997 No. 38 s 6

om 1999 No. 10 s 205 sch 3

Powers of appellate court

s 21F ins 1997 No. 38 s 6

om 1999 No. 10 s 205 sch 3

Ordinary privileges, protection and immunity allowed

s 23 amd 1999 No. 19 s 3 sch

Contempt

s 24 amd 1999 No. 19 s 3 sch

Court officials

s 25 amd 1999 No. 19 s 3 sch

References to Childrens Court

s 28 prev s 28 renum as s 29 1992 No. 68 s 3 sch 1

pres s 28 ins 1992 No. 68 s 3 sch 1

Regulation making power

s 29 (prev s 28) renum 1992 No. 68 s 3 sch 1

sub 1995 No. 57 s 4 sch 1

Transitional provision for Courts Reform Amendment Act 1997

s 30 prev s 30 ins 1995 No. 50 s 3 sch exp 22 November 1996 (see s 30(3)) pres s 30 ins 1997 No. 38 s 7 exp 1 August 1999 (see s 30(3))

Transitional provision for Child Protection Act 1999

s 31 ins 1999 No. 10 s 205 sch 3

SCHEDULE—TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

om 1995 No. 57 s 4 sch 1

7 Provisions that have not commenced and are not incorporated into reprint

The following provisions are not incorporated in this reprint because they had not commenced before the reprint date (see Reprints Act 1992, s 5(c)).

Child Protection Act 1999, No. 10 s 205 sch 3 reads as follows—

1. Section 3, definition "appellate court"—

omit.

2. Section 20(1)(g)—

omit, insert—

- '(g) if the child is an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander—
 - (i) a representative of an entity whose principal purpose is to provide welfare services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families; or
 - (ii) a representative of the recognised Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander agency for the child under the *Child Protection Act* 1999; or'.

3. Section 20(2)(c), 'Children's Services Act 1965, part 6 or 7'—

omit, insert—

'Child Protection Act 1999'.

4. Part 4A—

omit.

5. After section 30—

insert—

'Transitional provision for Child Protection Act 1999

- **'31.(1)** This section applies if, before the commencement of the *Child Protection Act 1999*, chapter 3, part 411—
 - (a) a person appealed, under part 4A, against a supervision order or care order; and
 - (b) the appeal has not been finally decided.
 - '(2) The appeal may be dealt with under the *Child Protection Act 1999*.
 - '(3) In this section—
- "care order" means an order under the *Children's Services Act 1965*, section 49(4)(a)(iii) or section 61(4)(a)(iii).
- "supervision order" means an order under the *Children's Services Act* 1965, section 49(4)(a)(ii) or section 61(4)(a)(ii)."

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¹¹ Chapter 3 (Childrens court proceedings), part 4 (Court appeals)