New South Wales.



ANNO SEXAGESIMO TERTIO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

Act No. 39, 1899.

An Act to consolidate the law relating to the custody of infants and the settlement of the property of infants. [Assented to, 22nd December, 1899.]

BE it enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the "Infants' Custody and Settle-Short title. ments Act of 1899," and is divided into Parts, as follows:—

PART I.—Custody of infants—ss. 5-11.

PART II.—Infants' marriage settlements—ss. 12-15.

PART III.—The settlement of damages recovered on behalf of children—s. 16.

A

Repeal of Acts.

2. The Acts mentioned in the Schedule to this Act are, to the extent therein expressed, hereby repealed.

Interpretation.

3. In this Act, unless the context or subject matter otherwise 57 Vic. No. 10, s. 7. indicates or requires,-

"Parent" of a child includes the father and mother and any person at law liable to maintain such child or entitled to his custody.

"Person" includes any school or institution.

"Court" means the Supreme Court, and includes any Judge thereof sitting in chambers.

4. The Judges of the Supreme Court, or any three of them, may make such general rules and orders as from time to time seem necessary for better carrying the provisions and objects of this Act into effect, and for regulating the practice and procedure under this Act.

PART I.

Custody of infants.

Equity Court may

39 Vic. No. 16, s. 1.

5. The Supreme Court, in its equitable jurisdiction, upon the order mother to have application of the mother of any infant under sixteen years of age may order that the applicant shall have access to such infant at such times and subject to such regulations as the said Court shall deem proper, or may order that such infant shall be delivered to the mother and remain in or under her custody and control, or shall, if already in her custody or under her control, remain therein until such infant attains such age, not exceeding sixteen, as the said Court directs, and further may order that such custody or control shall be subject to such regulations as regards access by the father or guardian of such infant, and otherwise as the said Court deems proper.

Power of Court as to production of child. 57 Vic. No. 10, s. 1.

6. Where the parent of a child applies to the Supreme Court for a writ or order for the production of the child, or for any order under the last preceding section, and the Court is of opinion—

(a) that the parent has abandoned or deserted or neglected the

- (b) that the parent has otherwise so conducted himself that the Court should refuse to enforce his right to the custody of the child; or
- (c) that the tender age of the child or its state of health render it expedient that it should remain with its mother or some other person

the Court may decline to issue the writ or make the order.

7. If at the time of the application for a writ or order for the production of the child the child is being brought up by another person, or is boarded out by any State board or other board, the Court may, in its

Power to Court to order repayment of costs of bringing up child. Ibid. s. 2.

its discretion, if it orders the child to be given up to the parent, further order as a condition precedent or upon such terms as it may think fit that the parent shall pay to such person, or board, the whole of the costs properly incurred in bringing up the child, or such portion of the said costs as shall seem to the Court to be just and reasonable, having regard to all the circumstances of the case.

8. Where a parent has-

(a) abandoned or deserted or neglected his child; or

(b) allowed his child to be brought up by another person at that 57 Vic. No. 10, s. 3. person's expense, or at the expense of any State board or other board, for such a length of time and under such circumstances as to satisfy the Court that the parent neglected his

parental duties;

the Court shall not make an order for the delivery of the child to the parent, unless the parent has satisfied the Court that, having regard to the welfare of the child, he is a fit person to have the custody of the child.

9. (1) Upon any application by the parent for the production or Power of Court as to custody of a child, if the Court is of opinion that the parent ought not child's religious to have the custody of the child, and that the child is being brought to have the custody of the child, and that the child is being brought to have the custody of the child, and that the child is being brought to have the custody of the child, and that the child is being brought to have the custody of the child, and that the child is being brought to have the custody of the child, and that the child is being brought to have the custody of the child, and that the child is being brought to have the custody of the child, and that the child is being brought to have the custody of the child, and that the child is being brought to have the custody of the child, and that the child is being brought to have the custody of the child, and that the child is being brought to have the custody of the child, and that the child is being brought to have the custody of the child, and that the child is being brought to have the custody of the child, and the child is the ch up in a different religion from that in which the parent has a legal right to require that the child should be brought up, the Court may make such order as it may think fit to secure that the child shall be brought up in the religion in which the parent has a legal right to require that the child should be brought up.

(2) Nothing in this Act contained shall interfere with or affect the power of the Court to consult the wishes of the child in considering what order ought to be made, or diminish the right which

any child now possesses to the exercise of its own free choice.

10. Whenever the Court is satisfied that the parent or person Court may order having the custody of a child is unfit to continue to have such custody custody of children in certain cases. by reason of cruelty or neglect to the child the Court may order that Ibid. s. 5. such child shall be given up to the custody of some near relative or other person willing to accept such custody, and may by such order impose terms for the child's maintenance chargeable upon the parent.

(2) Such order may be varied or revoked from time to time at

the discretion of the Court.

11. No agreement contained in any separation deed made Agreement to give between the father and mother of any infants shall be held to be invalid. invalid by reason only of its providing that the father of such infants 39 Vic. No. 16, s. 2. shall give up the custody or control thereof to the mother:

Provided always that no Court shall enforce any such agreement if it is of opinion that it will not be for the benefit of the infants

to give effect thereto.

Court in making order to have regard to conduct of parent.

PART II.

Infants' marriage settlements.

Marriage settlements with consent of Equity Court. 20 Vic. No. 2, s. 1.

12. (1) Every infant, upon or in contemplation of his marriage, may, with the sanction of the Supreme Court in its equitable jurisdiction, make a valid and binding settlement or contract for a settlement of all or any part of his property or property over which he has any power of appointment, whether real or personal, and whether in possession, reversion, remainder, or expectancy, and every conveyance, appointment, and assignment of such real or personal estate, or contract to make a conveyance, appointment, or assignment thereof, executed by such infant with the approbation of the said Court for the purpose of giving effect to such settlement shall be as valid and effectual as if the person executing the same were of the full age of twenty-one years.

(2) This section shall not extend to powers of which it is expressly declared that they shall not be exercised by an infant.

If infant tenant in tail die under age, appointment, &c., to be void.

Ibid. s. 2.

The sanction of the Supreme Court to be given upon petition. *Ibid.* s. 3.

Not to apply to males under twenty or females under seventeen years of

Ibid. s. 4.

13. If any appointment under a power of appointment or any disentailing assurance has been executed by any infant tenant in tail under the provisions of this Act or of any Act hereby repealed, and such infant afterwards dies under age, such appointment or disentailing assurance shall thereupon become absolutely void.

14. The sanction of the said Court to any such settlement or contract for a settlement may be given upon petition presented by the infant or his guardian, and if there is no guardian the Court may require a guardian to be appointed, and the Court also may require that any person interested or appearing to be interested in the property shall be served with notice of such petition.

15. Nothing in this part of this Act contained shall apply to any male infant under the age of twenty years or to any female infant under the age of seventeen years.

PART III.

Settlement of damages recovered on behalf of children.

Court may appoint trustees for settlements for the benefit of children in certain by its next friend, the Court may order that a settlement of the same cases.

57 Vic. No. 10, s. 6.

16. (1) Whenever a verdict is recovered or a judgment entered and any action of tort brought by any child by its next friend, the Court may order that a settlement of the same cases.

58 Shall be made for the benefit of such child, and may appoint a trustee or trustees for such settlement.

(2)

- (2) The terms of such settlement shall be fixed by the Court, or subject to its approval by some officer of the Court appointed so to do.
- (3) This power shall extend to the District Court as well as the Supreme Court.

SCHEDULE.

Act.	Title of Act.	Extent of repeal.
20 Vic. No. 2	An Act to enable Infants, with the approbation of the Supreme Court in its Equitable Jurisdiction, to make binding settlements of their real and personal property.	The whole Act.
39 Vic. No. 16	An Act to amend the law as to the Custody of Infants.	The whole Act.
57 Vic. No. 10	The Custody of Children and Children's Settlements Act of 1891.	The whole Act.

By Authority: William Applegate Gullick, Government Printer, Sydney, 1900. [6d.]

the Superior Court. I Certify that this Public Bill, which originated in the Legislative Council, has finally passed the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales.

Legislative Council Chamber, Sydney, 20th December, 1899.

JOHN J. CALVERT, Clerk of the Parliaments.

New South Wales.



ANNO SEXAGESIMO TERTIO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

Act No. 39, 1899.

An Act to consolidate the law relating to the custody of infants and the settlement of the property of infants. [Assented to, 22nd December, 1899.]

BE it enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the "Infants' Custody and Settle- short title.

ments Act of 1899," and is divided into Parts, as follows:-

PART I.—Custody of infants—ss. 5-11.

PART II.—Infants' marriage settlements—ss. 12-15.

PART III.—The settlement of damages recovered on behalf of children—s. 16.

Repeal of Acts.

2. The Acts mentioned in the Schedule to this Act are, to the extent therein expressed, hereby repealed.

Interpretation.

3. In this Act, unless the context or subject matter otherwise 57 Vic. No. 10, s. 7. indicates or requires,-

"Parent" of a child includes the father and mother and any person at law liable to maintain such child or entitled to his custody.

"Person" includes any school or institution.

"Court" means the Supreme Court, and includes any Judge thereof sitting in chambers.

4. The Judges of the Supreme Court, or any three of them, may make such general rules and orders as from time to time seem necessary for better carrying the provisions and objects of this Act into effect, and for regulating the practice and procedure under this Act.

PART I.

Custody of infants.

Equity Court may access to infant.

39 Vic. No. 16, s. 1.

5. The Supreme Court, in its equitable jurisdiction, upon the order mother to have application of the mother of any infant under sixteen years of age may order that the applicant shall have access to such infant at such times and subject to such regulations as the said Court shall deem proper, or may order that such infant shall be delivered to the mother and remain in or under her custody and control, or shall, if already in her custody or under her control, remain therein until such infant attains such age, not exceeding sixteen, as the said Court directs, and further may order that such custody or control shall be subject to such regulations as regards access by the father or guardian of such infant, and otherwise as the said Court deems proper.

Power of Court as to production of child. 57 Vic. No. 10, s. 1.

6. Where the parent of a child applies to the Supreme Court for a writ or order for the production of the child, or for any order under the last preceding section, and the Court is of opinion—

(a) that the parent has abandoned or deserted or neglected the child; or

(b) that the parent has otherwise so conducted himself that the Court should refuse to enforce his right to the custody of the

(c) that the tender age of the child or its state of health render it expedient that it should remain with its mother or some other person

the Court may decline to issue the writ or make the order.

7. If at the time of the application for a writ or order for the production of the child the child is being brought up by another person, or is boarded out by any State board or other board, the Court may, in its

Power to Court to order repayment of costs of bringing up child.

Ibid. s. 2.

its discretion, if it orders the child to be given up to the parent, further order as a condition precedent or upon such terms as it may think fit that the parent shall pay to such person, or board, the whole of the costs properly incurred in bringing up the child, or such portion of the said costs as shall seem to the Court to be just and reasonable, having regard to all the circumstances of the case.

8. Where a parent has—

(a) abandoned or deserted or neglected his child; or
(b) allowed his child to be brought up by another person at that 57 Vic. No. 10, s. 3. person's expense, or at the expense of any State board or other board, for such a length of time and under such circumstances as to satisfy the Court that the parent neglected his parental duties;

the Court shall not make an order for the delivery of the child to the parent, unless the parent has satisfied the Court that, having regard to the welfare of the child, he is a fit person to have the custody of the

9. (1) Upon any application by the parent for the production or Power of Court as to custody of a child, if the Court is of opinion that the parent ought not child's religious to have the custody of the child, and that the child is being brought Ibid. s. 4. up in a different religion from that in which the parent has a legal right to require that the child should be brought up, the Court may make such order as it may think fit to secure that the child shall be brought up in the religion in which the parent has a legal right to require that the child should be brought up.

(2) Nothing in this Act contained shall interfere with or affect the power of the Court to consult the wishes of the child in considering what order ought to be made, or diminish the right which

any child now possesses to the exercise of its own free choice.

10. Whenever the Court is satisfied that the parent or person Court may order having the custody of a child is unfit to continue to have such custody custody of children in certain cases. by reason of cruelty or neglect to the child the Court may order that Ibid. s. 5. such child shall be given up to the custody of some near relative or other person willing to accept such custody, and may by such order impose terms for the child's maintenance chargeable upon the parent.

(2) Such order may be varied or revoked from time to time at

the discretion of the Court.

11. No agreement contained in any separation deed made Agreement to give between the father and mother of any infants shall be held to be up children not to be invalid. invalid by reason only of its providing that the father of such infants 39 Vic. No. 16, s. 2. shall give up the custody or control thereof to the mother:

Provided always that no Court shall enforce any such agreement if it is of opinion that it will not be for the benefit of the infants

to give effect thereto.

Court in making

PART II.

Infants' marriage settlements.

Marriage settlements with consent of Equity Court. 20 Vic. No. 2, s. 1.

12. (1) Every infant, upon or in contemplation of his marriage, may, with the sanction of the Supreme Court in its equitable jurisdiction, make a valid and binding settlement or contract for a settlement of all or any part of his property or property over which he has any power of appointment, whether real or personal, and whether in possession, reversion, remainder, or expectancy, and every conveyance, appointment, and assignment of such real or personal estate, or contract to make a conveyance, appointment, or assignment thereof, executed by such infant with the approbation of the said Court for the purpose of giving effect to such settlement shall be as valid and effectual as if the person executing the same were of the full age of twenty-one years.

(2) This section shall not extend to powers of which it is expressly declared that they shall not be exercised by an infant.

If infant tenant in tail die under age, appointment, &c., to be void.

Ibid. s. 2.

The sanction of the Ibid. s. 3.

Supreme Court to be given upon petition.

Not to apply to males under twenty or females under seventeen years of age.

Ibid. s. 4.

13. If any appointment under a power of appointment or any disentailing assurance has been executed by any infant tenant in tail under the provisions of this Act or of any Act hereby repealed, and such infant afterwards dies under age, such appointment or disentailing assurance shall thereupon become absolutely void.

14. The sanction of the said Court to any such settlement or contract for a settlement may be given upon petition presented by the infant or his guardian, and if there is no guardian the Court may require a guardian to be appointed, and the Court also may require that any person interested or appearing to be interested in the property shall be served with notice of such petition.

15. Nothing in this part of this Act contained shall apply to any male infant under the age of twenty years or to any female infant under the age of seventeen years.

PART III.

Settlement of damages recovered on behalf of children.

Court may appoint 57 Vic. No. 10, s. 6.

16. (1) Whenever a verdict is recovered or a judgment entered trustees for settlements for the benefit for any amount as damages in any action of tort brought by any child of children in certain by its next friend, the Court may order that a settlement of the same shall be made for the benefit of such child, and may appoint a trustee or trustees for such settlement.

- (2) The terms of such settlement shall be fixed by the Court, or subject to its approval by some officer of the Court appointed so to do.
- (3) This power shall extend to the District Court as well as the Supreme Court.

SCHEDULE.

Act.	Title of Act.	Extent of repeal.
	An Act to enable Infants, with the approbation of the Supreme Court in its Equitable Jurisdiction, to make binding settlements of their real and personal property.	
	An Act to amend the law as to the Custody of Infants.	
57 Vic. No. 10	The Custody of Children and Children's Settlements Act of 1891.	The whole Act.

In the name and on the behalf of Her Majesty I assent to this Act.

BEAUCHAMP, Governor.

Government House, Sydney, 22nd December, 1899.

Memo. and Certificate to accompany the Infants' Custody and Settlements Bill.

This Bill consolidates the three following Acts:-

20 Vic. No. 2;

39 Vic. No. 16;

57 Vic. No. 10.

Sec. 5 of 20 Vic. No. 2 is omitted as unnecessary since 44 Vic. No. 18, ss. 1 and 2. The section was probably originally inserted in consequence of an old decision by Mr. Justice Therry that he had not, as Primary Judge, any jurisdiction over infants. And see the preamble to 11 Vic. No. 27.

Clause 4. See 4 Vic. No. 22, sec. 23; 44 Vic. No. 18, sec. 80; and C.L.P. Act of 1853, sec. 174. This clause is inserted to remove any doubt.

Clause 5. The original section required the application to be made by petition. These applications, which are very few, are nearly all made by very poor women, and the simpler the form of application the cheaper to them. The words "by her next friend" are omitted as unnecessary since the Married Woman's Property Act.

The word "child" is used in some of the Acts instead of "infants." It has been left unaltered, as the change might suggest a more extended jurisdiction than was intended.

Some verbal changes have been made here and there which do not affect the sense.

I certify that, except as aforesaid, this Bill solely consolidates, and in no way alters, adds to, or amends the law contained in the Acts thereby consolidated.

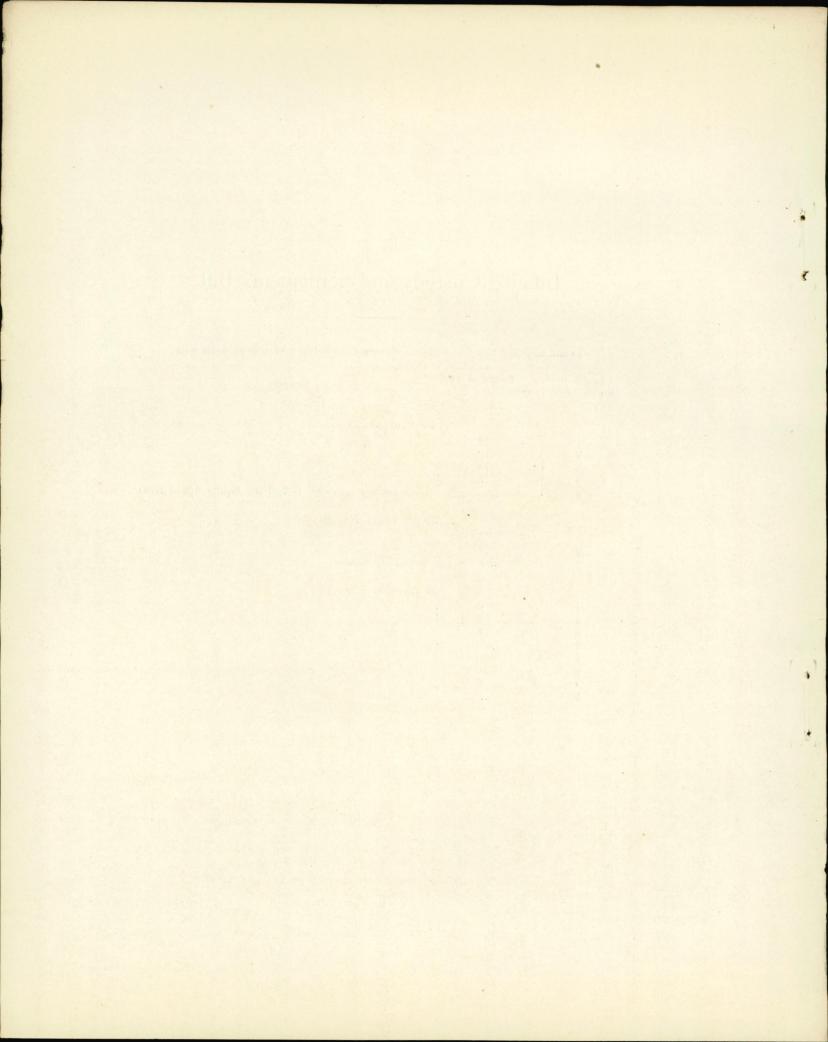
CHAS. G. HEYDON,

Commissioner for the Consolidation of the Statute Law.

.

TABLE showing how the sections of Acts consolidated have been dealt with.

Section of Repealed Acts.	Section of Consolidated Act.	Remarks.
		20 VICTORIA No. 2.
1 1	12	1
2	13	
3	14	
4	15	
1 2 3 4 5		Unnecessary. See ss. 1, 2 of the Equity Act of 1880
		39 VICTORIA No. 16.
1	5	
$\frac{1}{2}$	11	
3		Repealing section.
		57 VICTORIA No. 10.
	· · ·	1
9	6 7 8 9	
2 2	Q	
4	9	
5	10	
6	16	
7	3	
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8		Short title.



This Public Bill originated in the Legislative Council, and, having this day passed, is now ready for presentation to the Legislative Assembly for its concurrence.

Legislative Council Chamber, Sydney, 2nd August, 1899. JOHN J. CALVERT, Clerk of the Parliaments.

New South Wales.



ANNO SEXAGESIMO TERTIO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

Act No. , 1899.

An Act to consolidate the law relating to the custody of infants and the settlement of the property of infants.

BE it enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the "Infants' Custody and Settle-short title.

ments Act of 1899," and is divided into Parts, as follows:-

PART I.—Custody of infants—ss. 5-11.

PART II.—Infants' marriage settlements—ss. 12-15.

PART III.—The settlement of damages recovered on behalf of children—s. 16.

c 16-A

2. The Acts mentioned in the Schedule to this Act are, to the Repeal of Acts. extent therein expressed, hereby repealed.

3. In this Act, unless the context or subject matter otherwise Interpretation.
indicates or requires,—

57 Vic. No. 10, s. 7

"Parent" of a child includes the father and mother and any person at law liable to maintain such child or entitled to his custody.

"Person" includes any school or institution.

"Court" means the Supreme Court, and includes any Judge thereof sitting in chambers.

4. The Judges of the Supreme Court, or any three of them, may make such general rules and orders as from time to time seem necessary for better carrying the provisions and objects of this Act into effect, and for regulating the practice and procedure under this Act.

PART I.

Custody of infants.

5. The Supreme Court, in its equitable jurisdiction, upon the Equity Court may application of the mother of any infant under sixteen years of age may order mother to have order that the applicant shall have access to such infant at such times 39 Vic. No. 16, s. 1. and subject to such regulations as the said Court shall deem proper, or may order that such infant shall be delivered to the mother and remain in or under her custody and control, or shall, if already in her custody or under her control, remain therein until such infant attains such age, not exceeding sixteen, as the said Court directs, and further may order that such custody or control shall be subject to such regulations as regards access by the father or guardian of such infant, and otherwise as the said Court deems proper.

6. Where the parent of a child applies to the Supreme Court Power of Court as to for a writ or order for the production of the child, or for any order production of child, under the last preceding section, and the Court is of opinion—

6. Where the parent of a child applies to the Supreme Court Power of Court as to for a writ or order production of child, or for any order production of child, under the last preceding section, and the Court is of opinion—

(a) that the parent has abandoned or deserted or neglected the child; or

(b) that the parent has otherwise so conducted himself that the Court should refuse to enforce his right to the custody of the child; or

(c) that the tender age of the child or its state of health render it expedient that it should remain with its mother or some other person

the Court may decline to issue the writ or make the order.

7. If at the time of the application for a writ or order for the Power to Court to production of the child the child is being brought up by another person, order repayment of or is boarded out by any State board or other board, the Court may, in child.

its Ibid. s. 2.

its discretion, if it orders the child to be given up to the parent, further order as a condition precedent or upon such terms as it may think fit that the parent shall pay to such person, or board, the whole of the costs properly incurred in bringing up the child, or such portion of the said costs as shall seem to the Court to be just and reasonable, having regard to all the circumstances of the case.

8. Where a parent has—

(a) abandoned or deserted or neglected his child; or

Court in making order to have regard to conduct of parent.

(b) allowed his child to be brought up by another person at that 57 Vic. No. 10, s. 3. person's expense, or at the expense of any State board or other board, for such a length of time and under such circumstances as to satisfy the Court that the parent neglected his parental duties:

the Court shall not make an order for the delivery of the child to the parent, unless the parent has satisfied the Court that, having regard to the welfare of the child, he is a fit person to have the custody of the

child.

9. (1) Upon any application by the parent for the production or Power of Court as to custody of a child, if the Court is of opinion that the parent ought not child's religious to have the custody of the child, and that the child is being brought Ibid. s. 4. up in a different religion from that in which the parent has a legal right to require that the child should be brought up, the Court may make such order as it may think fit to secure that the child shall be brought up in the religion in which the parent has a legal right to require that the child should be brought up.

(2) Nothing in this Act contained shall interfere with or affect the power of the Court to consult the wishes of the child in considering what order ought to be made, or diminish the right which

any child now possesses to the exercise of its own free choice.

10. Whenever the Court is satisfied that the parent or person Court may order having the custody of a child is unfit to continue to have such custody custody of children in certain cases. by reason of cruelty or neglect to the child the Court may order that Ibid. s. 5. such child shall be given up to the custody of some near relative or other person willing to accept such custody, and may by such order impose terms for the child's maintenance chargeable upon the parent.

(2) Such order may be varied or revoked from time to time at

the discretion of the Court.

11. No agreement contained in any separation deed made Agreement to give between the father and mother of any infants shall be held to be invalid. invalid by reason only of its providing that the father of such infants 39 Vic. No. 16, s. 2. shall give up the custody or control thereof to the mother;

Provided always that no Court shall enforce any such agreement if it is of opinion that it will not be for the benefit of the infants

to give effect thereto.

PART II.

Infants' marriage settlements.

12. (1) Every infant, upon or in contemplation of his marriage, Marriage settlements may, with the sanction of the Supreme Court in its equitable jurisdic- with consent of Equity Court. tion, make a valid and binding settlement or contract for a settlement 20 Vic. No. 2, s. 1. of all or any part of his property or property over which he has any power of appointment, whether real or personal, and whether in possession, reversion, remainder, or expectancy, and every conveyance, appointment, and assignment of such real or personal estate, or contract to make a conveyance, appointment, or assignment thereof, executed by such infant with the approbation of the said Court for the purpose of giving effect to such settlement shall be as valid and effectual as if the person executing the same were of the full age of twenty-one years.

(2) This section shall not extend to powers of which it is expressly declared that they shall not be exercised by an infant.

13. If any appointment under a power of appointment or any If infant tenant in disentailing assurance has been executed by any infant tenant in tail die under age, appointment, &c., to under the provisions of this Act or of any Act hereby repealed, and such be void. infant afterwards dies under age, such appointment or disentailing Ibid. s. 2. assurance shall thereupon become absolutely void.

14. The sanction of the said Court to any such settlement or The sanction of the contract for a settlement may be given upon petition presented by the Supreme Court to be given upon petition. infant or his guardian, and if there is no guardian the Court may Ibid. s. 3. require a guardian to be appointed, and the Court also may require that any person interested or appearing to be interested in the property shall be served with notice of such petition.

15. Nothing in this part of this Act contained shall apply to Not to apply to males any male infant under the age of twenty years or to any female infant females under under the age of seventeen years.

seventeen years of

Ibid. s. 4.

PART III.

Settlement of damages recovered on behalf of children.

16. (1) Whenever a verdict is recovered or a judgment entered Court may appoint for any amount as damages in any action of tort brought by any child trustees for settlements for the benefit by its next friend, the Court may order that a settlement of the same of children in certain shall be made for the benefit of such child, and may appoint a trustee cases. 57 Vic. No. 10, s. 6. or trustees for such settlement.

- (2) The terms of such settlement shall be fixed by the Court, or subject to its approval by some officer of the Court appointed so to do.
- (3) This power shall extend to the District Court as well as the Supreme Court.

SCHEDULE.

Act.	Title of Act.	Extent of repeal.
	An Act to enable Infants, with the approbation of the Supreme Court in its Equitable Jurisdiction, to make binding settlements of their real and personal property.	
39 Vic. No. 16	real and personal property. An Act to amend the law as to the Custody of Infants.	The whole Act.
57 Vic. No. 10	The Custody of Children and Children's Settlements Act of 1891.	The whole Act.

Sydney: William Applegate Gullick, Government Printer.—1899.

[9d.]

Infrate Custody and Settlements:

(2) The terms of such settlement had be fixed by the Court opposited of the Court opposited so to do.

(5) This power shall extend to the District Court as well as seems Court.

the second of the second secon

the stand message principal of ampearing to be intended by the peoperly.

The billing specificity solice of back network.

The billing is the standard of the part of the standard shall stand to be

1-810

for five amount to demand the many antique of host leadings. The last section of the section of

or the same for such settlement.

Memo. and Certificate to accompany the Infants' Custody and Settlements Bill.

THIS Bill consolidates the three following Acts:-

20 Vic. No. 2;

39 Vic. No. 16;

57 Vic. No. 10.

Sec. 5 of 20 Vic. No. 2 is omitted as unnecessary since 44 Vic. No. 18, ss. 1 and 2. The section was probably originally inserted in consequence of an old decision by Mr. Justice Therry that he had not, as Primary Judge, any jurisdiction over infants. And see the preamble to 11 Vic. No. 27.

Clause 4. See 4 Vic. No. 22, sec. 23; 44 Vic. No. 18, sec. 80; and C.L.P. Act of 1853, sec. 174. This clause is inserted to remove any doubt.

Clause 5. The original section required the application to be made by petition. These applications, which are very few, are nearly all made by very poor women, and the simpler the form of application the cheaper to them. The words "by her next friend" are omitted as unnecessary since the Married Woman's Property Act.

The word "child" is used in some of the Acts instead of "infants." It has been left unaltered, as the change might suggest a more extended jurisdiction than was intended.

Some verbal changes have been made here and there which do not affect the sense.

I certify that, except as aforesaid, this Bill solely consolidates, and in no way alters, adds to, or amends the law contained in the Acts thereby consolidated.

CHAS. G. HEYDON,

Commissioner for the Consolidation of the Statute Law.

guardes of grant to have a selected by the second of the s

and supplied the control of the cont

TABLE showing how the sections of Acts consolidated have been dealt with.

Section of Repealed Acts.	Section of Consolidated Act.	Remarks.
		20 VICTORIA No. 2.
1 1	12	
2	13	
3	14	
4	15	
1 2 3 4 5		Unnecessary. See ss. 1, 2 of the Equity Act of 1880.
		condecedary. See as: 1, 2 of the Equity fiet of 1080.
		39 VICTORIA No. 16.
1 1	5	
1 2 3	11	
3		Repealing section.
		ET Vermon. No. 10
		57 VICTORIA No. 10.
1	6 7 8 9	
2	7	
3	8	
4		
5	10	
6	16	
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	3	
8	************	Short title.

Infants Costedy and Settlements Bill,

That a store in the sections of A de consultated have been dealt with

regulation of the section of a regulation of the best of			
		de kentaki Capadidana Arka	by moderals a
Security of the second of the first tenders and			
	21 Victoria No. 2.		
		P)	
		I A LANGE	
and he to A vengul edgly a	Unaccessary, Becase, I		No.
DOT TO SOME AND A TO THE		The second second	
	W Prorpasa Ngoliga		Harris
	Repealing section.	Transpirence .	8
	7 Victoria No. 10.		
		1 . 7	10 Bar 30
		A STATE OF	
			8

Tegislative Conncil.

No. , 1899.

A BILL

To consolidate the law relating to the custody of infants and the settlement of the property of infants.

[MR. HUGHES;—27 July, 1899.]

BE it enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the "Infants' Custody and Settle-Short title.

ments Act of 1899," and is divided into Parts, as follows:-

PART I.—Custody of infants—ss. 5-11.

PART II.—Infants' marriage settlements—ss. 12-15.

PART III.—The settlement of damages recovered on behalf of children—s. 16.

· c 16-A

2.

Repeal of Acts.

2. The Acts mentioned in the Schedule to this Act are, to the extent therein expressed, hereby repealed.

Interpretation.

- 3. In this Act, unless the context or subject matter otherwise 57 Vic. No. 10, s. 7. indicates or requires,—
 - "Parent" of a child includes the father and mother and any person at law liable to maintain such child or entitled to his custody.

"Person" includes any school or institution.

"Court" means the Supreme Court, and includes any Judge thereof sitting in chambers.

4. The Judges of the Supreme Court, or any three of them, may make such general rules and orders as from time to time seem necessary for better carrying the provisions and objects of this Act into effect, and for regulating the practice and procedure under this Act.

PART I.

Custody of infants.

Equity Court may order mother to have access to infant.

5. The Supreme Court, in its equitable jurisdiction, upon the application of the mother of any infant under sixteen years of age may 39 Vic. No. 16, s. 1. order that the applicant shall have access to such infant at such times and subject to such regulations as the said Court shall deem proper, or may order that such infant shall be delivered to the mother and remain in or under her custody and control, or shall, if already in her custody or under her control, remain therein until such infant attains such age, not exceeding sixteen, as the said Court directs, and further may order that such custody or control shall be subject to such regulations as regards access by the father or guardian of such infant, and otherwise as the said Court deems proper.

Power of Court as to production of child. 57 Vic. No. 10, s. 1.

6. Where the parent of a child applies to the Supreme Court for a writ or order for the production of the child, or for any order under the last preceding section, and the Court is of opinion-

(a) that the parent has abandoned or deserted or neglected the child; or

- (b) that the parent has otherwise so conducted himself that the Court should refuse to enforce his right to the custody of the child; or
- (c) that the tender age of the child or its state of health render it expedient that it should remain with its mother or some other person

the Court may decline to issue the writ or make the order.

7. If at the time of the application for a writ or order for the production of the child the child is being brought up by another person, or is boarded out by any State board or other board, the Court may, in

Power to Court to order repayment of costs of bringing up child. Ibid. s. 2.

its discretion, if it orders the child to be given up to the parent, further order as a condition precedent or upon such terms as it may think fit that the parent shall pay to such person, or board, the whole of the costs properly incurred in bringing up the child, or such portion of the said costs as shall seem to the Court to be just and reasonable, having regard to all the circumstances of the case.

8. Where a parent has—

(a) abandoned or deserted or neglected his child; or

(b) allowed his child to be brought up by another person at that 57 Vic. No 10, s. 3. person's expense, or at the expense of any State board or other board, for such a length of time and under such circumstances as to satisfy the Court that the parent neglected his parental duties;

the Court shall not make an order for the delivery of the child to the parent, unless the parent has satisfied the Court that, having regard to the welfare of the child, he is a fit person to have the custody of the

child.

9. (1) Upon-any application by the parent for the production or Power of Court as to custody of a child, if the Court is of opinion that the parent ought not child's religious to have the custody of the child, and that the child is being brought thid s. 4. up in a different religion from that in which the parent has a legal right to require that the child should be brought up, the Court may make such order as it may think fit to secure that the child shall be brought up in the religion in which the parent has a legal right to require that the child should be brought up.

(2) Nothing in this Act contained shall interfere with or affect the power of the Court to consult the wishes of the child in considering what order ought to be made, or diminish the right which

any child now possesses to the exercise of its own free choice.

10. Whenever the Court is satisfied that the parent or person Court may order having the custody of a child is unfit to continue to have such custody custody of children by reason of cruelty or neglect to the child the Count may order that in certain cases. by reason of cruelty or neglect to the child the Court may order that Ibid. s. 5. such child shall be given up to the custody of some near relative or other person willing to accept such custody, and may by such order impose terms for the child's maintenance chargeable upon the parent.

(2) Such order may be varied or revoked from time to time at

the discretion of the Court.

11. No agreement contained in any separation deed made Agreement to give between the father and mother of any infants shall be held to be up children not to be invalid by reason only of its providing that the father of invalid by reason only of its providing that the father of such infants 39 Vic. No. 16, s. 2. shall give up the custody or control thereof to the mother:

Provided always that no Court shall enforce any such agreement if it is of opinion that it will not be for the benefit of the infants

to give effect thereto.

Court in making order to have regard to conduct of parent.

PART

PART II.

Infants' marriage settlements.

Infants may execute marriage settlements with consent of Equity Court. 20 Vic. No. 2, s. 1.

12. (1) Every infant, upon or in contemplation of his marriage, may, with the sanction of the Supreme Court in its equitable jurisdiction, make a valid and binding settlement or contract for a settlement of all or any part of his property or property over which he has any power of appointment, whether real or personal, and whether in possession, reversion, remainder, or expectancy, and every conveyance, appointment, and assignment of such real or personal estate, or contract to make a conveyance, appointment, or assignment thereof, executed by such infant with the approbation of the said Court for the purpose of giving effect to such settlement shall be as valid and effectual as if the person executing the same were of the full age of twenty-one years.

(2) This section shall not extend to powers of which it is expressly declared that they shall not be exercised by an infant.

If infant tenant in tail die under age, appointment, &c., to be void.

Ibid. s. 2.

The sanction of the

Supreme Court to be Ibid. s. 3.

given upon petition.

Not to apply to males

under twenty or

females under

seventeen years of Ibid. s. 4.

13. If any appointment under a power of appointment or any disentailing assurance has been executed by any infant tenant in tail under the provisions of this Act or of any Act hereby repealed, and such infant afterwards dies under age, such appointment or disentailing assurance shall thereupon become absolutely void.

14. The sanction of the said Court to any such settlement or contract for a settlement may be given upon petition presented by the infant or his guardian, and if there is no guardian the Court may require a guardian to be appointed, and the Court also may require that any person interested or appearing to be interested in the property shall be served with notice of such petition.

15. Nothing in this part of this Act contained shall apply to any male infant under the age of twenty years or to any female infant under the age of seventeen years.

PART III.

Settlement of damages recovered on behalf of children.

Court may appoint

16. (1) Whenever a verdict is recovered or a judgment entered trustees for settlements for the benefit for any amount as damages in any action of tort brought by any child of children in certain by its next friend, the Court may order that a settlement of the same cases. 57 Vic. No. 10, s. 6. shall be made for the benefit of such child, and may appoint a trustee or trustees for such settlement.

(2)

- (2) The terms of such settlement shall be fixed by the Court, or subject to its approval by some officer of the Court appointed so to do.
- (3) This power shall extend to the District Court as well as the Supreme Court.

SCHEDULE.

Act.	Title of Act.	Extent of repeal.
20 Vic. No. 2	An Act to enable Infants, with the approbation of the Supreme Court in its Equitable Jurisdiction, to make binding settlements of their real and personal property.	The whole Act.
39 Vic. No. 16	An Act to amend the law as to the Custody of Infants.	The whole Act.
57 Vic. No. 10	The Custody of Children and Children's Settlements Act of 1891.	The whole Act.

Sydney: William Applegate Gullick, Government Printer .- 1899.

[9d.]