

INDEPENDENT STATE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

CHAPTER NO. 51.

*Judicial Proceedings (Regulation of Reports).*

GENERAL ANNOTATION.

ADMINISTRATION.

As at 13 February 1976 (the date of gazettal of the most comprehensive allocation of responsibilities to Ministers and Departments at about the effective date), while the administration of this Chapter was not vested specifically in any Minister, it appears from the determination of the functions of Departments that it was the responsibility of the Department of Justice.

This Chapter does not refer to "the Minister", "the Departmental Head" or "the Department".

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*Judicial Proceedings (Regulation of Reports) Act.*

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS.

1. Interpretation—  
    "judicial proceedings"  
    "publisher".
2. Restriction on publication of reports of judicial proceedings.
3. Exemption of publication for certain purposes.
4. Prosecution of offences.



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*Judicial Proceedings (Regulation of Reports) Act.*

Being an Act relating to the publication of reports of judicial proceedings.

**1. Interpretation.**

In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears—

“judicial proceedings” includes proceedings before any court, tribunal or person having by law power to hear, receive and examine evidence;

“publisher” includes a proprietor, editor or master printer.

**2. Restriction on publication of reports of judicial proceedings.**

A publisher must not print or publish, or cause to be printed or published—

(a) in relation to any judicial proceedings—any indecent matter or indecent medical, surgical or physiological details the publication of which would be calculated to injure public morals; or

(b) in relation to any judicial proceedings for dissolution of marriage, nullity of marriage, judicial separation or restitution of conjugal rights—any particulars other than—

(i) the names, address and occupations of the parties and witnesses; and

(ii) a concise statement of the charges, defences and countercharges in support of which evidence has been given; and

(iii) submissions on a point of law arising in the course of the proceedings, and the decision of the court on the point of law; and

(iv) the summing-up of the Judge and the judgement of the court, and observations made by the Judge in giving judgement.

Penalty: A fine not exceeding K400.00, or imprisonment for a term not exceeding four months, or both.

**3. Exemption of publication for certain purposes.**

Nothing in this Act applies—

(a) to the printing or publishing of any pleading, transcript of evidence or other document for use in connexion with any judicial proceedings, or to the communication of the contents of any such pleading, transcript or document to a person concerned in the proceedings; or

(b) to the printing or publishing of a notice or report under the directions of a court or Judge; or

(c) to the printing or publishing of any matter in a separate volume or part of a bona fide series of law reports that does not form part of any other publication and consists solely of reports of proceedings in courts; or

(d) to the printing or publishing of any matter in a publication of a technical character bona fide intended for circulation among members of the legal or medical profession.

**4. Prosecution of offences.**

A prosecution for an offence under this Act shall not be commenced without the permission of the Public Prosecutor.

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APPENDIX.

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SOURCE OF THE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS (REGULATION OF REPORTS) ACT.

Part A.—Previous Legislation.

*Judicial Proceedings (Regulation of Reports) Act 1951 (No. 48 of 1951).*

Part B.—Cross References.

Section, etc., in Revised Edition.	Previous Reference. <sup>1</sup>
1	4
2	5
3	6
4	7

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<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise indicated, references are to the Act set out in Part A.

