

**CHAPTER 40**

**INTERMEDDLERS WITH SUITORS**

Ordinances Nos.11 of 1894, 35 of 1917.

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF INTERMEDDLERS WITH SUITORS IN COURTS OF JUSTICE.

[5th December, 1894.]

Short title.

**1.** This Ordinance may be cited as the Intermeddlers with Suitors Ordinance.

this Ordinance has been committed within the territorial jurisdiction of such court, when such court shall proceed with the inquiry as provided in Chapter XV of the Code of Criminal Procedure Act, and shall in due course forward the proceedings taken in the case to the Attorney-General, whereupon the Attorney-General may, in his discretion, direct the accused to be either discharged or committed for trial before the High Court having jurisdiction, or may make any other order as provided in Chapter XXXIII of the Code of Criminal Procedure Act.

Offences under this Ordinance.

- 2.** Any person who—
- (a) solicits or receives from any legal practitioner any gratification in consideration of procuring or having procured him employment as such legal practitioner ;
  - (b) retains any gratification, or withholds without just cause a portion, out of remuneration entrusted to be paid to any legal practitioner for such employment ;
  - (c) not being authorized under any law to practise in any court, solicits or receives from any person any gratification in consideration of procuring or having procured the employment of a legal practitioner as such.;
  - (c) being a legal practitioner, tenders or gives any gratification, or consents to the retention of any gratification, for procuring or having procured the employment as such practitioner of himself or any other legal practitioner,

**5.** Any person who, without proper excuse, the proof whereof shall lie on him, accosts, or attempts by words, signs, or otherwise to meddle with, any suitor or other person having business, actual or prospective, in any court, with respect to his suit or business, shall be guilty of an offence, and be liable on conviction to be punished with a fine not exceeding one hundred rupees.

Accosting without proper excuse persons having business actual or prospective in courts an offence.

**6.** Any person charged with any offence under this Ordinance may, if he thinks fit, tender himself to be examined on his own behalf, and thereupon may give evidence in the same manner and with the like effect and consequences as any other witness.

Accused may give evidence on his own behalf.

shall be guilty of an offence, and shall on conviction be punished with a fine not exceeding five hundred rupees.

**7.** In this Ordinance, unless there be something repugnant in the subject or context—

Interpretation.

Legal practitioner convicted under this Ordinance liable to be removed from office.

**3.** Any legal practitioner who shall be convicted of any offence under this Ordinance shall be liable to be removed or suspended from office by the Judges of the Supreme Court, on the motion of the Attorney-General or Solicitor-General,

" court " means the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal, the High Court, any District Court, Magistrate's Court, or Court of a Municipal Magistrate, or any Primary Court ;

Proceedings in court in regard to offences.

**4.** It shall be competent to any person to prefer to a Magistrate's Court a complaint or report that an offence under section 2 of

" legal practitioner " means an attorney-at-law or any person authorized by any law for the time being to practise in any court of Sri Lanka.