

Law in 101 words

Snippets from *The Reduced Law Dictionary* by Roderick Ramage

Children at work

The main restrictions on work (SI 1998/276 with SI 2000/1333 and 2548) are:

- ▶ none under age 14, before 7am or after 7pm;
- ▶ when required to attend school, none before the close of school hours or more than two hours a day or twelve hours a week;
- ▶ not more than eight or, if under age 15, five hours a day or two on Sunday;
- ▶ not more than 35 or, if under age 15 years, 25 hours a week or more than four a day without a rest break of at one hour; and
- ▶ not during two consecutive weeks during a school holiday.

Chiltern Hundreds

A member of parliament cannot resign. Section 1 of the House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975 lists the grounds on which a person is disqualified from membership, one of which is that he holds any office described in Sch 1. By s4, the office of steward or bailiff of Her Majesty's three Chiltern Hundreds of Stoke, Desborough and Burnham, or of the Manor of Northstead, shall be treated as included among the offices described in Pt III of Sch 1. A member may apply to the Chancellor of the Exchequer for appointment to that office, and on appointment his membership ceases.

Church Commissioners

Queen Anne's Bounty was established by an eponymous act of 1703 to augment the maintenance of the poor clergy of the Church of England. The Church Building Commission,

established by the Church Building Act 1818, was, by the Church Building Commissioners (Transfer of Powers) Act 1856, absorbed by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, itself established by an eponymous act of 1836. By the Church Commissioners Measure 1947, the Corporation of the Governors of the Bounty of Queen Anne was united with the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England in a newly established body corporate by the name of the Church Commissioners for England.

Duty to report crime

There has been no general duty to report crime since the abolishment of the distinction between felonies and misdemeanour and, with them, misprision by the Criminal Law Act 1967. Misprision (not in terms) has re-entered English law by the back door with offence of failing to report:

- ▶ terrorism under the Terrorism Act 2000;
- ▶ accident etc under the Road Traffic Act 1988;
- ▶ offences if paid not to report them under the Criminal Law Act 1967;
- ▶ money laundering criminal behaviour under the Proceeds of Crime act 2002; and
- ▶ unlawful regulated activity of credit-related regulated activity under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

Employee shareholders

From 1 September 2013 employers may invite employees to relinquish employment protection rights, mainly the right not to be unfairly dismissed and to redundancy payments in exchange for not less than

£2,000 value of shares in the employer or its parent company. The first £2,000 value of shares is free of tax and there is no CGT on the first disposal of shares whose value on issue did not exceed £50,000. The employer must provide a written statement of the status of employee shareholders and the right of the shares and pay the employees reasonable costs for taking advice about them.

Joint & several

A joint promise is a single promise, eg to pay £100, by all the persons who made it, all of whom must be joined in proceedings to recover it. A several promise by more than one person consists of separate promises by each of them, so that the promisee may take proceedings against each promisor, but only on his separate promise. A joint and several promise is one joint promise to pay £100 but separate promises that the £100 will be paid by all or any of the promisors, so the promisee may take proceeding against all or any of them.

Public Schools Act 1868

This Act made Eton, Winchester, Westminster, Charterhouse, Harrow, Rugby and Shrewsbury independent from the government and the established church by the establishment of a "new governing body", as a body corporate, for each of them and provided for them to make new statutes with power to repeal or alter them. St Paul's School and Merchant Taylors' School, which had also been investigated by the Clarendon Commission, were excluded from the Act after arguing that they were "private" schools, whose constitutions could not be altered by statute. Independent schools are defined by the Education Act 1996, s463. Public schools are nowhere defined. **NLJ**

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