# Version as at 28 October 2021



## **Administration Act 1969**

Public Act 1969 No 52
Date of assent 2 October 1969
Commencement see section 1(2)

#### **Contents**

		Page
	Title	4
1	Short Title and commencement	5
2	Interpretation	5
3	Act to bind Crown	8
4	Application of Parts 1, 2, and 4	8
4A	Age of majority	8
4B	Application of Trusts Act 2019	8
	Part 1	
	Administration by administrator	
	Grant of administration	
5	Probate jurisdiction of High Court	8
5A	Killer not competent to be granted administration	9
6	Discretion of court as to person to whom administration is granted	9
7	Administration pending legal proceedings	10
8	Grant of special administration where administrator is out of New	11
	Zealand	
9	Administration during minority of executor	11

#### Note

The Parliamentary Counsel Office has made editorial and format changes to this version using the powers under subpart 2 of Part 3 of the Legislation Act 2019.

Note 4 at the end of this version provides a list of the amendments included in it.

This Act is administered by the Ministry of Justice.

## **Administration Act 1969**

9A	Grant of administration to holder of enduring power of attorney	12
9B	Further provisions relating to grant of administration to holder of enduring power of attorney	13
10	Administration with will annexed	14
11	Cesser of right of executor to prove	14
12	Withdrawal of renunciation	15
13	Executor of executor represents original testator	15
14	Notice to be sent to Public Trustee of applications for	16
17	administration [Repealed]	10
15	Administration bond [Repealed]	16
16	Proceedings if condition of bond broken [Repealed]	16
17	Administration as evidence	16
18	Certificates of administration	16
19	Proceedings where executor neglects to prove will	17
20	When powers, etc, of Public Trust or Māori Trustee to pass to executor	18
21	Discharge or removal of administrator	19
	The administering of estates	
22	Interim vesting of estate where no executor appointed	20
23	Executor not to act while another administrator is in office	20
24	Estate to vest in administrator	20
25	How estate to be held by administrator	21
26	Estate to be assets for payment of debts, etc	21
27	Power of sale on intestacy	21
28	Method of sale or lease	22
29	Administrator to represent real estate	22
30	Rights and duties of administrator as to real estate	22
31	Payment of claims where estate insufficient	22
32	Administration suits	22
33	Debts under deeds and simple contracts to stand in equal degree	23
34	Charges on property of deceased to be paid primarily out of the property charged	23
35	Articles held under hire purchase agreement	24
36	Application of sections 34 and 35	25
36A	Direction for payment of duty on dutiable estate [Repealed]	25
37	Liability of specific devise or bequest where estate primarily liable is insufficient	25
38	Proving executors may exercise powers	25
39	Interest on legacies and annuities	25
40	No right of retainer by administrator	26
41	Rights and liabilities of administrator	26
42	Liability of agent of administrator	26
43	Administrator's right to distrain [Repealed]	27
44	Administrator may be required to exhibit inventory	27

Version as at
28 October 2021

## **Administration Act 1969**

45	Protection of persons acting on administration	27
46	Interpretation of sections 47 to 50	28
47	Protection of administrator against certain claims	28
48	Notices and distributions	29
49	Following of assets, etc	30
50	Freedom to exercise remedies	32
51	Restriction on following assets	33
52	Liability of person fraudulently obtaining or retaining estate of deceased	33
	Powers and procedure of court	
53	Direction to executor to prove or renounce, etc	33
54	Production of instruments purporting to be testamentary	34
55	Continuance of legal proceedings after revocation of temporary administration	34
56	Question of fact may be tried by a jury	34
57	Practice of court in its administration jurisdiction	35
58	Form of order to Public Trust or Māori Trustee	35
59	Power to make rules	35
	Caveats	
60	Caveat may be lodged	36
61	Where a caveat lodged, court may grant order nisi	36
	Miscellaneous provisions	
62	Succession to, capacity of, and construction of wills of, married women and minors in certain cases	38
63	Administration not to be granted to companies other than trustee companies	39
64	Devolution of loan stock without administration	39
64A	Vesting of shares or debentures without administration	40
65	Payment without administration	41
66	Saving	44
67	Other Acts providing for payment without administration not affected	44
68	Bondsmen and sureties deemed to be trustees	45
	Part 1A	
	Nominations of accounts	
68A	Interpretation	45
68B	Application of Part	45
68C	Effect of nominations	46
68D	Revocation of nomination	46
	Part 2	
	Administration granted out of New Zealand	
69	Interpretation	47

#### **Administration Act 1969**

70	Estate of person dying abroad not to vest without administration	47
	obtained in New Zealand	
71	Resealing of probate, etc	47
72	Seal not to be affixed till fees are paid and administration bond is	48
	entered into	
73	No probate, etc, granted out of New Zealand to be evidence unless	49
	resealed	
74	Effect of sections 70 and 73	49
	Part 3	
	Distribution of intestate estates	
75	Application of this Part	49
76	Abolition of escheat	49
77	Succession to real and personal estate on intestacy	49
77A	Effect on succession on intestacy of separation order	52
77B	Restrictions on succession on intestacy by certain de facto partners	52
77C	Succession on intestacy if intestate partner dies leaving husband,	53
	wife, or civil union partner and 1 or more de facto partners	
78	Statutory trusts in favour of issue and other classes of relatives of	53
	intestate	
79	Application to cases of partial intestacy	55
80	Construction of documents	56
	Part 4	
	Miscellaneous provisions	
81	Right of successor on intestacy to disclaim	57
82	Effect of bankruptcy on disclaimer on intestacy or under a will and	58
	right of administrator to distribute	
82A	Regulations relating to prescribed amounts	59
83	Consequential amendment	60
84	Repeals and savings	60
	Schedule 1	61
	Certificate of administration	
	Schedule 2	62
	Order to Public Trust or Māori Trustee to administer	
	Schedule 3	63
	Enactments repealed	
	Schedule 4	65
	Enactments declared not to have effect in New Zealand	03

An Act to consolidate and amend certain enactments relating to the administration of the estates of deceased persons

#### 1 Short Title and commencement

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Administration Act 1969.
- (2) This Act shall come into force on 1 January 1971.

#### 2 Interpretation

(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

**administration** means probate of the will of a deceased person, and includes letters of administration of the estate of a deceased person, granted with or without a will annexed, for general, special, or limited purposes, and in the case of a trustee corporation includes an order to administer and an election to administer

**administrator** means any person to whom administration is granted; and includes a trustee corporation in any case where it is deemed to be an executor or administrator by reason of having filed an election to administer

**Commonwealth** means the Commonwealth of Nations; and includes every territory for whose international relations the Government of any country of the Commonwealth is responsible

**Commonwealth country** means a country that is a member of the Commonwealth; and includes every territory for whose international relations the Government of that country is responsible

court means the High Court; and includes a Judge of that court

**de facto relationship** has the meaning given to it by section 2 of the Property (Relationships) Act 1976

estate means real and personal property of every kind, including things in action

full age means 18 years or older

**goods** has the same meaning as in the Credit Contracts and Consumer Finance Act 2003

hire purchase agreement means an agreement under which goods are let or hired with an option to purchase and an agreement for the purchase of goods by instalment payments (whether the agreement describes the payments as rent or hire or otherwise) under which the person who agrees to purchase the goods is given possession of them before the total amount payable has been paid; and—

- (a) includes—
  - (i) any agreement to sell goods under which the buyer grants security over the goods to the seller for the whole or part of the purchase price and the property in the goods passes to the buyer subject to that security (in which case the agreement is a hire purchase agreement made at the time the sale is made); and