



Australian Capital Territory

Registration of Deeds Act 1957

A1957-13

Republication No 8

Effective: 7 November 2014 – 26 April 2016

Republication date: 7 November 2014

Last amendment made by [A2014-47](#)

Authorised by the ACT Parliamentary Counsel

About this republication

The republished law

This is a republication of the *Registration of Deeds Act 1957* (including any amendment made under the *Legislation Act 2001*, part 11.3 (Editorial changes)) as in force on 7 November 2014. It also includes any commencement, amendment, repeal or expiry affecting this republished law to 7 November 2014.

The legislation history and amendment history of the republished law are set out in endnotes 3 and 4.

Kinds of republications

The Parliamentary Counsel's Office prepares 2 kinds of republications of ACT laws (see the ACT legislation register at www.legislation.act.gov.au):

- authorised republications to which the *Legislation Act 2001* applies
- unauthorised republications.

The status of this republication appears on the bottom of each page.

Editorial changes

The *Legislation Act 2001*, part 11.3 authorises the Parliamentary Counsel to make editorial amendments and other changes of a formal nature when preparing a law for republication. Editorial changes do not change the effect of the law, but have effect as if they had been made by an Act commencing on the republication date (see *Legislation Act 2001*, s 115 and s 117). The changes are made if the Parliamentary Counsel considers they are desirable to bring the law into line, or more closely into line, with current legislative drafting practice.

This republication includes amendments made under part 11.3 (see endnote 1).

Uncommenced provisions and amendments

If a provision of the republished law has not commenced, the symbol **U** appears immediately before the provision heading. Any uncommenced amendments that affect this republished law are accessible on the ACT legislation register (www.legislation.act.gov.au). For more information, see the home page for this law on the register.

Modifications

If a provision of the republished law is affected by a current modification, the symbol **M** appears immediately before the provision heading. The text of the modifying provision appears in the endnotes. For the legal status of modifications, see the *Legislation Act 2001*, section 95.

Penalties

At the republication date, the value of a penalty unit for an offence against this law is \$150 for an individual and \$750 for a corporation (see *Legislation Act 2001*, s 133).



Australian Capital Territory

Registration of Deeds Act 1957

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R8
07/11/14

Registration of Deeds Act 1957
Effective: 07/11/14-26/04/16

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Australian Capital Territory

Registration of Deeds Act 1957

An Act providing for the registration of deeds and other documents

1 Name of Act

This Act is the *Registration of Deeds Act 1957*.

2 Dictionary

The dictionary at the end of this Act is part of this Act.

Note 1 The dictionary at the end of this Act defines certain terms used in this Act.

Note 2 A definition in the dictionary applies to the entire Act unless the definition, or another provision of the Act, provides otherwise or the contrary intention otherwise appears (see [Legislation Act](#), s 155 and s 156 (1)).

2A Notes

A note included in this Act is explanatory and is not part of this Act.

Note See the [Legislation Act](#), s 127 (1), (4) and (5) for the legal status of notes.

3 General register of deeds

The registrar-general must keep a register (the *general register of deeds*) in the form the Minister directs.

4 Registration of deeds

- (1) Subject to this section, a person may register a deed in the register—
- (a) by depositing the deed with the registrar-general; or
 - (b) by producing the deed to the registrar-general and depositing with the registrar-general a copy of the deed verified as a true copy by the statutory declaration of a person who has compared the copy with the original deed of which it purports to be a true copy; or

- (c) if the person is unable to produce the deed to the registrar-general by reason of the fact that the deed has been registered by, or filed or deposited with, an officer of a State or Territory under a law of that State or Territory—by depositing with the registrar-general a copy of the deed, being a copy of the deed certified as a true copy by the officer having the custody of the deed, or being a copy of the deed that is, by virtue of the law of the State or Territory under which the deed was so registered, filed or deposited, evidence of the contents of the deed in the State or Territory.

Note A fee may be determined under s 8 (Determination of fees) for this section.

- (2) A deed must not be registered under this Act by being deposited with the registrar-general unless the deed, in the opinion of the registrar-general—
 - (a) is legibly written; and
 - (b) is on paper of a size and standard approved by the registrar-general; and
 - (c) will, if entered on the register, be, and continue to be, easily readable.
- (3) The registrar-general may refuse to accept the deposit, under subsection (1) (b) or (c), of a copy of a deed if, in his or her opinion, the copy—
 - (a) is not legibly written; or
 - (b) is not on paper of a size and standard approved by him or her; or
 - (c) will not, if bound in the register, be, and continue to be, easily readable.

- (4) Where, in the copy of a deed, not being a copy which is, by virtue of the law of the State or Territory under which the deed was registered, filed or deposited, evidence of the contents of the deed in the State or Territory, there is an interlineation, alteration or erasure, the copy shall not be deposited with the registrar-general under subsection (1) (b) or (c) unless—
- (a) the interlineation or alteration, not being an alteration by erasure, is authenticated by the initials of the person verifying or certifying the copy as a true copy; and
 - (b) in the case of an erasure—the words or figures appearing, at the time the copy was verified or certified to be a true copy, to be written on the erasure are rewritten and signed or initialled in the margin of the copy by the person verifying or certifying it to be a true copy.
- (5) Upon registering a deed in the register, the registrar-general shall endorse on the registration copy of the deed a memorandum of the registration of the deed and of the date and time of registration and—
- (a) shall, if the original deed has been produced to him or her but has not been deposited with him or her, endorse such a memorandum on the deed; or
 - (b) shall, if a copy of the deed has been deposited with him or her under subsection (1) (c) and the person depositing the copy so requests and produces to the registrar-general a further copy of the deed duly verified to be a copy, endorse such a memorandum on the further copy.

4A Priority according to registration

- (1) All deeds affecting any land, estate or interest in land, or other property, in the Territory which are executed or made in good faith and for valuable consideration and are registered under this Act, shall have priority according to the sequence of their registration only.

Note The *Personal Property Securities Act 2009* (Cwlth) (*PPS Act*) regulates certain interests in personal property. This Act has no effect to the extent it is inconsistent with the *PPS Act*.

- (2) A deed registered under this Act shall not lose any priority to which it would otherwise be entitled by reason only of bad faith in the conveying party if the party beneficially taking under that deed acted in good faith and there was valuable consideration given.

4B Mistakes in registration

The registration of a deed under this Act shall not be defeated or made ineffectual by reason of any omission, misdescription or error if the identity of the deed is established and the requirements of this Act have been substantially complied with in relation to the registration of that deed.

5 Index

The registrar-general shall keep an index of deeds registered in, or forming part of, the register.

6 Searches

A person may search in the index kept by the registrar-general under section 5 and examine the registration copy of any deed registered in the register.

7 Certified copies

The registrar-general shall, upon receipt of an application specifying the particular deed, being a deed registered in the register, of which the person making the application desires to have issued to him or her a certified copy, issue to that person a copy of the registration copy of the deed certified by the registrar-general to be a true copy of the registration copy of the deed.

Note 1 A fee may be determined under s 8 (Determination of fees) for this section.

Note 2 If a form is approved under s 9 (Approved forms) for an application, the form must be used.

8 Determination of fees

- (1) The Minister may, in writing, determine fees for this Act.

Note The [Legislation Act 2001](#) contains provisions about the making of determinations and regulations relating to fees (see pt 6.3).

- (2) A determination is a disallowable instrument.

Note A disallowable instrument must be notified, and presented to the Legislative Assembly, under the [Legislation Act 2001](#).

9 Approved forms

- (1) The registrar-general may, in writing, approve forms for this Act.
- (2) If the registrar-general approves a form for a particular purpose, the approved form must be used for that purpose.
- (3) An approved form is a notifiable instrument.

Note A notifiable instrument must be notified under the [Legislation Act 2001](#).

Dictionary

(see s 2)

Note 1 The [Legislation Act](#) contains definitions and other provisions relevant to this Act.

Note 2 For example, the [Legislation Act](#), dict, pt 1 defines the following terms:

- land
- Minister (see s 162)
- person (see s 160)
- registrar-general.

deed includes any instrument or document, whether under seal or not, other than—

- (a) a will; or
- (b) an instrument (not being a lease, or a sublease, for a term of years not exceeding 3 years) that is in accordance with the provisions of the [Land Titles Act 1925](#) and purports to transfer or otherwise deal with or affect an estate or interest in land under the provisions of that Act; or
- (c) a document that evidences, or purports to evidence, a change of the name of a person.

the register means the general register of deeds.

registration copy means—

- (a) in relation to a deed that is deposited with the registrar-general upon the registration of the deed under this Act—the deed; and
- (b) in relation to any other deed—the copy of the deed deposited with the registrar-general upon the registration of the deed under this Act.

Endnotes

1 About the endnotes

Endnotes

1 About the endnotes

Amending and modifying laws are annotated in the legislation history and the amendment history. Current modifications are not included in the republished law but are set out in the endnotes.

Not all editorial amendments made under the *Legislation Act 2001*, part 11.3 are annotated in the amendment history. Full details of any amendments can be obtained from the Parliamentary Counsel's Office.

Uncommenced amending laws are not included in the republished law. The details of these laws are underlined in the legislation history. Uncommenced expiries are underlined in the legislation history and amendment history.

If all the provisions of the law have been renumbered, a table of renumbered provisions gives details of previous and current numbering.

The endnotes also include a table of earlier republications.

2 Abbreviation key

A = Act	NI = Notifiable instrument
AF = Approved form	o = order
am = amended	om = omitted/repealed
amdt = amendment	ord = ordinance
AR = Assembly resolution	orig = original
ch = chapter	par = paragraph/subparagraph
CN = Commencement notice	pres = present
def = definition	prev = previous
DI = Disallowable instrument	(prev...) = previously
dict = dictionary	pt = part
disallowed = disallowed by the Legislative Assembly	r = rule/subrule
div = division	reloc = relocated
exp = expires/expired	renum = renumbered
Gaz = gazette	R[X] = Republication No
hdg = heading	RI = reissue
IA = Interpretation Act 1967	s = section/subsection
ins = inserted/added	sch = schedule
LA = Legislation Act 2001	sdiv = subdivision
LR = legislation register	SL = Subordinate law
LRA = Legislation (Republication) Act 1996	sub = substituted
mod = modified/modification	<u>underlining</u> = whole or part not commenced or to be expired

3 Legislation history

This Act was originally a Commonwealth ordinance—the *Registration of Deeds Ordinance 1957* A1957-13 (Cwlth).

The *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988* (Cwlth), s 34 (4) converted most former Commonwealth ordinances in force in the ACT into ACT enactments. This allowed the ACT Legislative Assembly to amend and repeal the laws. This Act was converted into an ACT enactment on 11 May 1989 (self-government day).

As with most ordinances in force in the ACT, the name was changed from *Ordinance to Act* by the *Self-Government (Citation of Laws) Act 1989* A1989-21, s 5 on 11 May 1989 (self-government day).

Before 11 May 1989, ordinances commenced on their notification day unless otherwise stated (see *Seat of Government (Administration) Act 1910* (Cwlth), s 12).

Legislation before becoming Territory enactment

Registration of Deeds Act 1957 A1957-13

notified 21 November 1957

commenced 21 November 1957

as amended by

Ordinances Revision (Decimal Currency) Ordinance 1966 Ord1966-19

notified 23 December 1966

commenced 23 December 1966

Ordinances Revision (Administrative Arrangements) Ordinance 1977 Ord1977-18

notified 21 June 1977

commenced 21 June 1977

Registration of Deeds (Amendment) Ordinance 1977 Ord1977-49

notified 27 September 1977

commenced 3 October 1977

Registration of Deeds (Amendment) Ordinance 1978 Ord1978-25

notified 5 September 1978

commenced 3 October 1978

Endnotes

3 Legislation history

Registration of Deeds (Amendment) Ordinance 1980 Ord1980-14

notified 15 May 1980
commenced 1 July 1980

Registration of Deeds (Amendment) Ordinance 1982 Ord1982-79

notified 1 October 1982
commenced 1 October 1982

Registration of Deeds (Amendment) Ordinance 1983 Ord1983-40

notified 29 September 1983
commenced 1 October 1983

Registration of Deeds (Amendment) Ordinance 1985 Ord1985-22

notified 7 June 1985
commenced 7 June 1985

Legislation after becoming Territory enactment

Registrar-General (Consequential Provisions) Act 1993 A1993-64
sch 1

notified 6 September 1993 ([Gaz 1993 No S172](#))
s 1, s 2 commenced 6 September 1993 (s 2 (1))
sch 1 commenced 1 October 1993 (s 2 (2) and [Gaz 1993 No S207](#))

Land Titles (Consequential Amendments) Act 1995 A1995-54 sch pt 1

notified 20 December 1995 ([Gaz 1995 No S313](#))
sch pt 1 commenced 20 June 1996 (s 2)

Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration (Consequential Provisions) Act 1997 A1997-113 sch

notified 24 December 1997 ([Gaz 1997 No S420](#))
s 1, s 2 commenced 24 December 1997 (s 2 (1))
sch commenced 24 June 1998 (s 2 (2))

Legislation (Consequential Amendments) Act 2001 A2001-44 pt 327

notified 26 July 2001 ([Gaz 2001 No 30](#))
s 1, s 2 commenced 26 July 2001 (IA s 10B)
pt 327 commenced 12 September 2001 (s 2 and see [Gaz 2001 No S65](#))

Registration of Deeds Amendment Act 2003 A2003-39

notified LR 8 September 2003

s 1, s 2 commenced 8 September 2003 (LA s 75 (1))

remainder commenced 9 September 2003 (s 2)

Powers of Attorney Act 2006 A2006-50 sch 2 pt 2.4

notified LR 30 November 2006

s 1, s 2 commenced 30 November 2006 (LA s 75 (1))

sch 2 pt 2.4 commenced 30 May 2007 (s 2 and LA s 79)

Statute Law Amendment Act 2007 A2007-3 sch 3 pt 3.86

notified LR 22 March 2007

s 1, s 2 taken to have commenced 1 July 2006 (LA s 75 (2))

sch 3 pt 3.86 commenced 12 April 2007 (s 2 (1))

Personal Property Securities Act 2010 A2010-15 sch 3 pt 3.3

notified LR 1 April 2010

s 1, s 2 commenced 1 April 2010 (LA s 75 (1))

sch 3 pt 3.3 commenced 30 January 2012 (s 2 (2) (b))

Red Tape Reduction Legislation Amendment Act 2014 A2014-47 pt 12

notified LR 6 November 2014

s 1, s 2 commenced 6 November 2014 (LA s 75 (1))

pt 12 commenced 7 November 2014 (s 2)

Endnotes

4 Amendment history

4 Amendment history

Name of Act

s 1 sub [A2007-3](#) amdt 3.451

Dictionary

s 2 defs reloc to dict [A2007-3](#) amdt 3.452
sub [A2007-3](#) amdt 3.453
def **determined fee** ins [Ord1984-40](#) s 4
om [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.3604
def **the Registrar** om [A1993-64](#) sch 1

Notes

s 2A ins [A2007-3](#) amdt 3.453

General register of deeds

s 3 am [Ord1977-18](#); [A1993-64](#) sch 1
sub [A2006-50](#) amdt 2.20

Registration of deeds

s 4 am [Ord1966-19](#); [Ord1977-49](#); [Ord1978-25](#); [Ord1980-14](#);
[Ord1982-79](#); [Ord1983-40](#); [A1993-64](#) sch 1; [A2001-44](#)
amdt 1.3605, amdt 1.3606; [A2007-3](#) amdt 3.454; [A2014-47](#) s
20, s 21

Priority according to registration

s 4A ins [Ord1985-22](#)
am [A2010-15](#) amdt 3.3

Mistakes in registration

s 4B ins [Ord1985-22](#)

Index

s 5 am [A1993-64](#) sch 1

Searches

s 6 am [Ord1966-19](#); [Ord1977-49](#); [A1993-64](#) sch 1

Certified copies

s 7 am [Ord1966-19](#); [Ord1977-49](#); [Ord1983-40](#); [A1993-64](#) sch 1;
[A2001-44](#) amdts 1.3607-1.3610

Determination of fees

s 8 ins [Ord1983-40](#)
sub [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.3611

Approved forms

s 9 ins [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.3611

The Schedule

sch am [A1993-64](#) sch 1
om [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.3612

Dictionary
dict

ins [A2007-3](#) amdt 3.455
def **deed** am [A1993-64](#) sch 1; [A1995-54](#) sch pt 1; [A1997-113](#)
sch; [A2003-39](#) s 4
reloc from s 2 [A2007-3](#) amdt 3.452
def **the register** reloc from s 2 [A2007-3](#) amdt 3.452
def **registration copy** reloc from s 2 [A2007-3](#) amdt 3.452

Endnotes

5 Earlier republications

5 Earlier republications

Some earlier republications were not numbered. The number in column 1 refers to the publication order.

Since 12 September 2001 every authorised republication has been published in electronic pdf format on the ACT legislation register. A selection of authorised republications have also been published in printed format. These republications are marked with an asterisk (*) in column 1. Electronic and printed versions of an authorised republication are identical.

Republication No	Amendments to	Republication date
1	Ord1985-22	31 October 1990
2	A1997-113	31 January 1998
3	A2001-44	12 September 2001
4	A2003-39	9 September 2003
5	A2007-3	12 April 2007
6	A2006-50	30 May 2007
7	A2010-15	30 January 2012

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