

CYPRUS

BETTING HOUSES, GAMING HOUSES,  
AND GAMBLING

CHAPTER 151 OF THE LAWS

1959 EDITION

PRINTED BY

C. F. ROWORTH LIMITED, 54, GRAFTON WAY, LONDON, W.1.

*[Appointed by the Government of Cyprus the Government Printer of this Edition  
of Laws within the meaning of the Evidence (Colonial Statutes) Act, 1907.]*

1959

## CHAPTER 151.

Sch. Part I of  
14/56.BETTING HOUSES, GAMING HOUSES AND  
GAMBLING.

## ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS.

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A LAW TO CONSOLIDATE AND AMEND THE LAWS RELATING  
TO BETTING HOUSES GAMING HOUSES AND GAMBLING.1949  
Cap. 48  
14 of 56.

[24th July, 1947.]

Short title.  
16 of 14/56.  
Schedule  
Part I.  
Interpreta-  
tion.

1. This Law may be cited as the Betting Houses, Gaming Houses and Gambling Prevention Law.

2. In this Law—

“ betting house ” means any place which is used—

(a) for the purpose of bets being made therein between persons resorting to the place and—

(i) the owner, occupier or keeper of the place or any person using the place ; or

(ii) any person procured or employed by, or acting for or on behalf of, any such owner, occupier or keeper or person using the place ; or

(iii) any person having the care or management or in any manner conducting the business of the place ; or

(b) for the purpose of any money or other property being paid or received therein by or on behalf of the owner, occupier or keeper or person using the place, as, or in consideration—

(i) for an assurance, undertaking, promise or agreement, express or implied, to pay or give thereafter any money or other property on any event or contingency of, or relating to, any horse race or other race, fight, game, sport or exercise ; or

(ii) for securing the paying or giving by some other person of any money or other property on any such event or contingency ;

“gamble,” with its grammatical variations and cognate expressions, means to play at, or engage in, any game of chance or of mixed chance and skill, for money or money’s worth ;

Provided that the playing at, or engaging in, any such game shall not be deemed to be gambling if the person playing at, or engaging in, the same proves to the satisfaction of the Court trying the offence that, having regard to the circumstances including the stakes, he was playing at, or engaging in, such game for social amusement and recreation and not for gain ;

“gaming house” includes any place kept or used for gambling and a place shall be deemed to be used for gambling if it is used for gambling even on one occasion only ;

“place” includes any house, office, room or building and any place or spot, whether open or enclosed and includes any vehicle and any ship, boat or other vessel whether afloat or not but shall not include a street ;

“street” includes any road, square, pathway, blind-alley, footway, pavement, public garden and any other open space to which the public has free access.

Offences relating to betting houses, etc.

3. (1) Any person who—

- (a) being the owner or occupier of any place or having the use temporarily or otherwise thereof, keeps or uses such place as a betting house or a gaming house or for playing at any of the games to which section 6 of this Law applies ; or
- (b) permits a place of which he is the owner or occupier or of which he has the use temporarily or otherwise to be used as a betting house or a gaming house or for playing at any of the games to which section 6 of this Law applies ; or
- (c) has the care or management of, or in any manner assists or is engaged in the management of, a place kept or used as a betting house or a gaming house or for playing at any of the games to which section 6 of this Law applies,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to imprisonment not exceeding one year or to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds or to both such imprisonment and fine.

(2) Any person who appears, acts or behaves as master or as the person having the care or management of any place kept or used as in subsection (1) of this section provided shall, for the purposes of this section, be deemed to be the keeper thereof, whether he is or is not the real keeper.

(3) No prosecution relating to the carrying on of a lottery under this section shall be instituted except by or with the consent of the Attorney-General.

Gambling in gaming house.

4. Any persons gambling or assembled together for the purpose of gambling in a gaming house shall be guilty of an offence under this Law.

Gambling in street.

5. Any persons gambling or assembled together for the purpose of gambling in any street shall be guilty of an offence under this Law.

Provisions relating to certain specific games.

6. (1) Any person, wherever found, playing at any of the games commonly known as "cholo," "kazandi," "zari" or "roulette" or any other similar game which in the opinion of the Court trying the offence is a variation of any of such games or assembled together for the purpose of playing at any such game or any variation thereof as hereinbefore provided, shall be guilty of an offence and

shall be liable to imprisonment not exceeding one year or to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds or to both such imprisonment and fine.

(2) The Governor in Council may, by Order, declare any game to be a game for the purposes of subsection (1) of this section in addition to the games specified therein and thereupon the provisions of subsection (1) of this section shall apply to such game as they apply to the games specified in such subsection.

(3) Any person who, in any street, club, coffee-shop, hotel or khan or a place licensed for the sale of intoxicating liquors by retail or a place of public resort or public entertainment, is in possession of any instruments or appliances used or appearing or intended to be used or to have been used for the playing of any of the games to which this section applies, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to imprisonment not exceeding one year or to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds or to both such imprisonment and fine.

7. Any member of a District Court or the senior officer in charge of the police in the district, on being satisfied, upon written information upon oath, that there is reasonable ground for believing that any place is kept or used as a betting house, a gaming house or for playing at any of the games to which section 6 of this Law applies may, by warrant, authorise any police officer with such assistance and by such force as may be necessary by day or by night to enter or go to such place and to search the same and all persons found therein and to seize all instruments and all money, securities for money and other articles used or appearing or intended to be used or to have been used for betting, gambling or for playing at any of the games to which section 6 of this Law applies which may be found in such place or in the possession of any person found therein or escaping therefrom and also to detain all such persons until they and the place shall have been searched.

8. (1) Notwithstanding anything in this or any other law contained, it shall be lawful for any member of the Police Force in charge of a station and for any police officer of or above the rank of sergeant, whether in uniform or not, with such assistance and by such force as may be necessary, by day or by night, without warrant, to enter and search any place which he has reasonable ground for believing is kept or used as a betting house or a gaming

Warrants.

Entry  
without  
warrant.

house or for playing at any of the games to which section 6 of this Law applies, in each of the following cases, that is to say—

- (a) if the place proposed to be entered and searched is a club, coffee-shop, hotel or khan or a place licensed for the sale of intoxicating liquors by retail or a place of public resort or public entertainment ;
- (b) if the owner, occupier, keeper or manager of the place proposed to be entered has, within the preceding twelve months, been convicted under provisions of this Law.

(2) Every officer acting under the provisions of subsection (1) of this section shall, upon entry, have the same powers of search detention and seizure as may be exercised by a police officer authorised by warrant under section 7 of this Law.

Power of  
arrest,  
without  
warrant, etc.

9. Any police officer, whether in uniform or not, may arrest without warrant any person whom he finds committing an offence under section 5 or 6 of this Law and may seize any money or other thing used as stakes and any instruments used or appearing or intended to be used or to have been used in the commission of the offence.

Obstruction  
of police  
officers.

10. Any person who wilfully prevents, obstructs or delays any police officer or any of his assistants exercising any of the powers conferred under this Law or who uses any means or contrivance whatsoever for preventing, obstructing or delaying any such officer or any of his assistants in the exercise of any such powers, shall be guilty of an offence under this Law.

Instigating,  
etc., offences  
under this  
Law.

11. Any person who—

- (a) instigates or promotes the commission of an offence punishable under this Law ;
- (b) keeps watch in order to warn, or warns, of risk of detection, persons committing an offence punishable under this Law,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to the same punishment as if he had himself committed the offence in respect of which he did any of the acts hereinbefore set out.

12. (1) Every place entered under the provisions of this Law, in so far as they relate to a gaming house, shall be presumed, until the contrary is proved, to be a gaming house and to be kept or used by the owner, occupier or manager thereof as a gaming house, in any of the following cases, that is to say—

Presump-  
tions.

- (a) if any instruments or appliances for gambling are found therein or upon any person found therein or escaping therefrom ;
- (b) if any police officer acting under the provisions of this Law or any of his assistants is wilfully prevented from, or obstructed or delayed in, entering, or approaching the same or any part thereof ;
- (c) if any passage or staircase or means of access to any part thereof is unusually narrow or steep or otherwise difficult to pass or any part thereof is provided with unusual or unusually numerous means of preventing, obstructing or delaying an entry or with any contrivance for enabling persons therein to see or ascertain the approach or entry of persons or for giving the alarm or for facilitating escape therefrom ; or
- (d) if any persons are seen or heard escaping therefrom.

(2) Any person found in, or escaping from, a gaming house on the occasion of its being entered under the provisions of this Law, shall be presumed, until the contrary be proved, to be or to have been gambling therein.

(3) The presumptions in subsections (1) and (2) of this section shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to any place entered in connection with the playing of any of the games to which section 6 of this Law applies and to any person found therein or escaping therefrom, as they apply to a gaming house and to persons gambling therein.

13. (1) Whenever two or more persons are charged with any offence under this Law, the Court trying the offence may, notwithstanding anything in any other Law contained, upon a request made by or with the consent in writing of a Law Officer, require one or more of such persons to give evidence, as witness or witnesses for the prosecution and any such person who refuses to be sworn or to answer any lawful question shall be guilty of an offence under this Law.

Offenders as  
witnesses for  
prosecution.

(2) Any person so required to give evidence, who shall in the opinion of the Court make true and full discovery of all things as to which he is lawfully examined, shall be entitled to receive a certificate to that effect under the hand of the Judge trying the offence and such certificate shall be a bar to all legal proceedings against him in respect of all such things as aforesaid.

General  
penalty.

14. Every person who is guilty of an offence under this Law, in respect of which no specific punishment has been provided, shall be liable to imprisonment not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds or to both such imprisonment and fine.

Forfeiture of  
things seized.

15. In addition to any punishment for any contravention of this Law, upon conviction of the offender, anything seized by any police officer, acting under the provisions of this Law, which in the opinion of the Court was used or appeared or was intended to be used for, or in connection with, the offence of which the offender was convicted, shall be adjudged by the Court to be forfeited.

Reward to  
informers.

16. A reward not exceeding one-half of the fine levied may, at the discretion and by the direction of the Court trying the offence, be awarded to any person or persons who shall have given information which led to the apprehension and conviction of the offender.