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THE PUNJAB COURT OF WARDS ACT, 1903

[PUNJAB ACT II OF 1903]

[2nd June 1903; 25th June, 1903]

1	2	3	4
Year	No.	Short Title	Whether repealed or otherwise affected by legislation
1903 ...	II	The Punjab Court of Wards Act, 1903.	Amended in part, Government of India (Aaptation of Indian Laws) Order, 1937 Ammended by Punjab Act, II of 1944 ² Amended by East Punjab Act XXXIV of 1948 ³ Ammended by Adaptation of Laws order, 1950 Amended by Adaptation of Laws (Third Amendment) Order, 1951

An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to the Court of Wards in ⁴[Punjab].

WHEREAS it is expedient to consolidate and amend the law relating to the Court of Wards in ⁴[Punjab]; it is hereby enacted as follows:--

CHAPTER I Preliminary

1. Title, extent and commencement.

(1) This Act may be called the Punjab Court of Wards Act, 1903.

(2) It extends to the whole of ⁵[Punjab], and Union territory of Delhi.

1. For Statement of Objects and Reasons, *See Punjab Gazette*, 1902 Part V, page 114; for Report of the Select Committee, *see ibid.*, 1903 page 21; for Proceedings in Council, *see ibid.*, 1902 page 128; *ibid.*, 1903, page 35.

2. For Statement of Objects and Reasons, *see Punjab Government Gazette* (Extraordinary), dated 6th November, 1942 page 262; for proceedings in the Assembly *see Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates*, Vol. XXI, p.622, and Vol. XXII, p.813.

3. For Statement of Objects and Reasons, *see East Punjab Government Gazette* (Extraordinary) 1948, p.488; for proceedings in Assembly *see East Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates*, Vol. III, pp.88-89

4. Substituted for the words "East Punjab" (Which had been substituted for the words "the Punjab" by the Indian Independence (Adaptation of Bengal and Punjab Acts), Order, 1948 by the Adaptation of Laws (Third Amendment) Order 1951.

5. Substituted for the words "East Punjab" by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950.

2. Repeal.

(1) The enactments specified in the schedule are hereby repealed to the extent mentioned in the third column thereof.

(2) But all rules and appointments made, notifications and orders issued, authorities and powers conferred, farms and leases granted, rights acquired, liabilities incurred and other things done under any of those enactments shall, so far as may be, be deemed to have been respectively made, issued, conferred, granted, acquired, incurred and done under this Act.

(3) Any enactment or document referring to any of those enactments shall, so far as may be, be construed to refer to this Act or the corresponding portion thereof.

3. Definitions.

In this Act, unless there be something repugnant in the subject or context, the expression--

- (a) "immovable property" shall include land, benefits to arise out of land, and things attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything which is attached to the earth, but shall not include growing crops or grass;
- (b) "land-holder," shall mean a person who possesses any interest in land, whether as proprietor, assignee of the land-revenue, lessee of waste lands or otherwise;
- (c) IX of 1875: "minor" shall mean person who has not, within the meaning of the ¹Indian Majority Act, 1875, attained his majority; and
- (d) "ward" shall mean any person in respect of whose person or the whole or any part of whose property, or of whose person, and property, the Court of Wards by this Act constituted for the time being has assumed superintendence, but shall not include a joint proprietor the superintendence of whose property has been assumed by the Court of Wards under section 8.

CHAPTER II**The Court Of Wards And Its Jurisdiction****4. Constitution of the Court of Wards and its Jurisdiction**

(1) The [Financial Commissioner]² shall be the Court of Wards for ³Punjab.

(2) The Court of Wards may exercise all or any of the powers conferred on it by this Act either direct or through the Commissioner of the Division or the Deputy Commissioner of the District within the limits of which any ward may at any time reside or any part of the property of any ward may be situate, or through any other person whom it may at any time, in respect of any ward or the whole any part of the property of any ward, appoint in that behalf.

(3) The Court of Wards may, with the sanction of the ⁴[State] Government, from

1. Unrepealed Central Acts, Vol.II

2. References to the words "Financial Commissioner" and "Commissioner" be construed as reference to the "State Government of Delhi" vide Section 3 and Schedule B of the Delhi Laws Act, 1912.

3. Substituted for the words "East Punjab" by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950.

4. Substituted for the word "Provincial" by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950 (Adaptation of Indian Laws) Order, 1937.

time to time, by general or special order, or by rule made under this Act ¹delegate any of its powers to any Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner or other person as aforesaid, and may at any time, with the like sanction, revoke any such delegation.

(4) The powers and authority by this Act vested in the Court of Wards shall be exercised by it, subject to the control of the ²[State] Government.

5. Power of State Government to make order, in certain cases directing the Court of Wards to assume superintendence of properties of land-holders.

(1) Any land-holder may apply to the ²[State] Government to make an order directing that his property be placed under the superintendence of the Court of Wards and, upon receiving any such application, the ²[State] Government, may if it considers it expedient in the public interest so to do, make an order accordingly.

(2) When it appears to the ²[State] Government that any land-holder is--

- (a) by reason of being a female; or
- (b) owing to any physical or mental defect or infirmity; or
- (c) owing to his having been convicted of a non-bailable offence and to his vicious habits or bad character; or
- (d) owing to his having entered upon a course of wasteful extravagance likely to dissipate his property;

incapable of managing or unfitted to manage his affairs, the ²[State] Government may make an order directing that the property of such land-holder be placed under the superintendence of the Court of Wards:

Provided that such an order shall not be made on the ground stated in clause (c) or on the ground stated in clause (d) unless such land-holder belongs to a family of political or social importance and the ³[State] Government is satisfied that it is desirable, on grounds of public policy or general interest, to make such order.

(3) Every order made by the ²[State] Government under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) shall be final and shall not be called in question in any Court of Law.

6. Power of Court of Wards, of its own motion, to assume superintendence.

When any land-holder is a minor or a person adjudged by a competent Court to be of unsound mind and incapable of managing his affairs, the Court of Wards may make an order assuming the superintendence of the property of such land-holder.

³[6-A. Power to assume superintendence of properties of certain persons who are not land-holders.

(1) The ²[State] Government may in the case of any person whose property was before the 15th of August 1947, under the superintendence of the ⁴[Court of Wards

1. For such delegation see notification No.253, dated 30th November 1908, *Punjab Gazette* 1908, Part III, page 1401, as amended by No.237, dated 25th October 1910, *Punjab Gazette* 1910, Part III, page 1086 and No. 126, dated 6th July, 1914, *Punjab Gazette*, 1914, Part III, page 1026.

2. Substituted for the word "Provincial" by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950 (Adaptation of Indian Laws) Order, 1937.

3. Inserted by East Punjab Act XXXIV of 1948, section 2.

4. Inserted by Adaptation of Laws (Third amendment) Order of 1951.

for the undivided Punjab], make an order directing that the whole or such part of the movable property as may be specified in the order of such person in or transferred to the ¹[State] of ²[Punjab] be placed under the superintendence of the Court of Wards, notwithstanding that such person is not a land-holder in the ¹[State] of ²[Punjab].

(2) An order made by the ¹[State] Government under sub-section(1) shall be final and shall not be called in question in any court of law.

(3) When in respect of any person an order is made by the ¹[State] Government, under sub-section (1), the Court of Wards shall assume the superintendence of the property specified in the order under sub-section (1) of such person.

(4) The provisions of the Punjab Court of Wards Act, 1903, so far as may be, shall apply to superintendence assumed by the Court of Wards under sub-section (3).]

7. Court of Wards shall assume superintendence in cases in which an order is made under section 5 and may do so when Collector is appointed guardian under Act VIII of 1890.

(1) When, in respect of any land-holder an order is made by the ¹[State] Government under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) of section 5, the Court of Wards shall assume the superintendence of the property of such land-holder, and may in its discretion also assume the superintendence of his person.

(2) When the Deputy Commissioner is appointed or declared to be guardian of the person or property, or both, of a minor, under the provisions of section 18 of the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890 (VIII of 1890) he shall intimate the fact to the Court of Wards, and the Court of Wards may thereupon, in its discretion, either assume, or refrain from assuming, the superintendence of the person or property, or both (as the case may be), of such minor, and the provisions of this Act shall, if such superintendence be so assumed, apply to the person or property, or both (as the case may be), of such minor,.

8. Properties of which there are more proprietors than one.

When there are two or more proprietors of any property and the shares of several proprietors have not been separated off, and the Court of Wards, acting under section 6 or section 7, assumes the superintendence of the property of one or more, but not all, of such proprietors, the Court of Wards may assume the superintendence also of the shares of such joint-proprietor or joint-proprietors as is or are not disqualified, paying any such proprietor the surplus income accruing from his share of the property. The superintendence assumed under this section shall extend only to the management of the share of the joint proprietor in such joint property and shall not as regards such share include the power to sell or mortgage the same or any part thereof or to grant a lease thereof for a period exceeding 20 years or to create any charge thereon or interest therein.

9. Notification of assumption of superintendence.

Whenever the Court of Wards assumes the superintendence of the person or

1. Substituted for the word "Province" by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950.

2. Substituted for the words "East Punjab" by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950.

property of any person under any of the provisions of this Act, the order of assumption shall be notified in the 'Official Gazette, and shall specify the district the Deputy Commissioner of which shall be put in charge on behalf of the Court of Wards.

10. Operation and finality of orders made under sections 6,7 and 8.

Every order made by the Court of Wards assuming, under sections 6, 7 and 8 respectively, the superintendence of the person or property, or both, of any person, shall take effect from the date fixed in this behalf in the notification published under section 9, and shall be final and shall not be called in question in any Court of Law.

CHAPTER III

Inquiry And Action Preceding Assumption Of Superintendence.

11. Inquiry by Deputy Commissioner in order to satisfy himself as to whether action should be taken under the Act.

(1) For the purpose of satisfying himself as to whether, in respect of any land-holder--

(a) the ²[State] Government should be moved to make an order under sub-section (2) of section 5, or

(b) the Court of Wards should be moved to make an order under section 6, or for the purpose of making any report which may be called for in connection with any application of a land-holder under sub-section (1) of section 5, the Deputy Commissioner may make such inquiry into the circumstances of such land-holder as he may deem necessary, and, pending the taking of any such action, may issue such orders for the temporary custody and protection of the person or property, or both, of such land-holder, as he thinks fit.

(2) If the land-holder be a minor, the Deputy Commissioner may direct that the person, if any, then having the custody of the minor, shall produce him, or cause him to be produced, at such place and time as the Deputy Commissioner appoints, and may make such orders for the future custody, of the minor, pending the orders of the Court of Wards, as he thinks proper.

(3) If the minor is a female who ought not to be compelled to appear in public, the direction under sub-section (2) shall require her to be produced in accordance with the manners and customs of the country.

(4) If the land-holder is alleged to be or is of unsound mind, the Deputy Commissioner shall make application to a competent Court in view to an inquiry whether such person is or is not of unsound mind and incapable of managing his affairs.

12. Procedure in inquiries.

(1) For the purposes of every inquiry to be made, or direction to be given, in pursuance of any of the provisions of this Act, the Deputy Commissioner may exercise

1. Substituted for the word "Gazette" by the Government of India (Adaptation of Indian Laws) Order, 1937.

2. Substituted for the word "Provincial" by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950.

all or any of the powers of a Civil Court under the ¹Code of Civil Procedure, (IV of 1882).

(2) For the purpose of protecting the property, or any part thereof, of any landholder, pending an inquiry under sub-section (1) of section 11, the Deputy Commissioner may, subject to the direction and control of the Court of Ward, take possession thereof and appoint a manager and such care-takers in respect thereto as he may deem fit.

CHAPTER IV Wardship And Its Consequences

13. Vesting of property of ward in the Court of Wards.

(1) Upon the publication of a notification under section 9, in respect of the property of any person, the whole of such property, at the date of notification, shall vest in the Court of Wards, and shall remain so vested until the Court of Wards shall, by notification under section 50, divest itself of the superintendence of the whole or any part thereof, or is otherwise divested of such superintendence in due course of law.

(2) All rights accruing to and property inherited by or vesting in any ward after the publication of a notification under section 9, and while the property of such ward is under the superintendence of the Court of Wards, shall vest in the Court of Wards:

Provided that the Court of Wards may, in its discretion assume, or refrain from assuming, the superintendence of any property which any ward may acquire, otherwise than by inheritance, subsequent to the date of the notification published under section 9.

14. Non-liability of land vested in the Court of Wards to sale for arrears of revenue.

No land under the superintendence of the Court of Wards shall be sold for arrears of revenue accruing while such land is under such superintendence.

15. Disabilities of wards.

No ward shall be competent--

(a) to transfer or create any charge on, or interest in, the whole or any part of his property which is under the superintendence of the Court of Wards, or to enter into any contract which may involve him in pecuniary liability:

Provided that nothing in this clause shall be deemed to affect the capacity of a ward to enter into a contract of marriage: but he shall not incur, in connection therewith, any pecuniary liability, except such as, having regard to the personal law to which he is subject, and to his rank and circumstances, the Court of Wards may, in writing, declare to be reasonable;

(b) without the previous sanction, in writing, of the Court of Wards, (1) to adopt, or (2) to give permission to adopt, or (3) to dispose of any property by will.

1. See now the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (Act V of 1908), Unrepealed Central Acts, Volume V.

16. Continuing disabilities in certain cases.

(1) When the property of any land-holder, in respect of whom an order has been made under sub-section (1) or on the last ground stated in sub-section (2) of section 5, is released from the superintendence of the Court of Wards, such land-holder shall not be competent, without the previous sanction of the ¹[State] Government, to alienate the whole or any part of the immovable property which has been so released, in any way, or to create any charge upon any such property extending beyond his lifetime, and every transfer made or attempted to be made, or charge created or attempted to be created, in contravention of this provision, shall be void.

(2) No suit shall be brought whereby to charge any person upon any promise made after he has ceased to be a ward to pay any debt contracted during the period when he was a ward, or upon any ratification made after he has ceased to be a ward of any promise or contract made during the above period, whether there shall or shall not be any new consideration for such promise or ratification.

17. Power of the Court of Wards to act on behalf of wards and to deal with their properties.

(1) The Court of Wards, may, at any time, mortgage or sell the whole or any part of the property of a ward, and may grant leases or farms of the whole or any part of such property for such terms as it thinks fit, and may make such remission of rental or other arrears and may generally and from time to time pass all such orders and do all such act, not inconsistent with the provisions of this or any other enactment for the time being in force, as it may deem to be for the advantage of the ward or the benefit of his property.

(2) The Court of Wards may, for the purpose of raising a loan for the benefit of a ward or his property, hypothecate, with the consent of the ¹[State] Government, any Jagir, muafi, pension or assignment of land-revenue held by the ward.

18. Deeds and other instrument.

(1) All deeds, contracts or other instruments executed by the Court of Wards in the exercise of its powers of superintendence under this Act, shall be executed by the Court of Wards in its own name.

(2) Covenants entered into by the Court of Wards shall be binding on the Court of Wards only so long as the ward or the property affected by such covenants remains under its superintendence and only to the extent of such property; and such covenants shall be binding on the ward or on the person entitled to such property after the ward or the property or both (as the case may be) shall have been released from superintendence.

(3) This section shall also apply to all deeds, contracts and other instruments executed before the commencement of this Act.

1. Substituted for the word "Provincial" by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950.

19. Notice of suit.

No suit ¹[or decree] relating to the person of any ward or to any property under the superintendence of the Court of Wards shall be instituted ²[or executed] in any Civil or Revenue Court until the expiration of two months after notice in writing has been delivered to, or left at, the office of the Deputy Commissioner of the district specified in the order of assumption in the notification under section 9, stating the name and place of abode of the intending plaintiff ³[or decree holder, as the case may be, and such other particulars as may be prescribed by rules made under this Act]; and the plaint ⁴[or application for execution] shall contain a statement that such notice has been so delivered or left:

Provided that notice under this section shall not be required in the case of any suit the period of limitation for which will expire within three months from the date of the notification under section 9.

20. Suits to be in the name of Court of Wards.

(1) No suit (a) by or on behalf of a ward, or (b) affecting any property under the superintendence of the Court of Wards shall be brought without the authority of the Court of Wards or of such officer as it may appoint in that behalf, and in every such suit brought with such authority the Court of Wards shall be named as plaintiff.

(2) In every suit against a ward or affecting property under the superintendence of Court of Wards, the Court of Wards shall be named as the defendant.

(3) Suits brought by or against any Court of Wards may be instituted and conducted or defended on behalf of the Court of Wards by the Deputy Commissioner of the district specified in the order of assumption in the notification under section 9, or by the manager or rule made under this Act, in that behalf by the Court of Wards.

CHAPTER V

**General Provisions As To The Superintendence of the
Persons And Properties Of Wards**

21. Court of Wards assuming superintendence of the property to take possession thereof: Procedure as to property situate in other districts.

As soon as conveniently may be after the assumption, by the Court of Wards, of the superintendence of the property of any person, the Deputy Commissioner of every district within which any part of such property may be situated, or some person authorised, in writing, by him in this behalf shall take possession of all such property and all accounts and papers relating thereto, and shall do all other acts and things which may be necessary to secure and protect the same and place it under proper custody and control.

1. Inserted by Punjab Act II of 1944, section 2(a) as extended to the Union territory of Delhi *vide* Govt. of India, Home Deptt. Notification No. 72/44-Public dated the 1-7-1944. Published in the Gazette of India, Part I, dated the 8-7-1944.

2. Inserted by Punjab Act II of 1944, section 2 (b), as extended to Delhi.

3. Substituted for the words "the cause of action, and the relief which he claims" by Punjab Act II of 1944, section 2 (c).

4. Inserted by Punjab Act II of 1944, section 2 (d), as extended to Delhi.

22. Powers of Court of Wards as to superintendence and control. Audit of accounts and management of legal affairs of wards and properties.

The Court of Wards may from time to time direct such provision as it may think fit to be made in respect of the--

- (1) superintendence and supervision of the persons of the wards and properties under its superintendence;
- (2) periodical or special audit, by an independent auditor, of the accounts of properties generally, or of any particular property as it may think fit;
- (3) management of the legal affairs of properties generally, or of any particular property, as it may think fit.

23. Powers of Court of Wards to charge expenses against properties under its superintendence.

The Court of Wards may from time to time regulate the expenses to be incurred in the supervision, care and management of the wards and properties under its superintendence, and generally in carrying out all or any of the purposes of this Act, and may order that such expenses or any of them, including all salaries, gratuities and leave allowances of establishments and all contingent and other expenses whatsoever which it shall consider requisite, be charged against such property generally, or against any one or more properties comprised in such property for the purposes of which such establishments, are or have been, entertained or such expenses have been incurred.

24. Residence and education of wards.

(1) The Court of Wards may pass such orders as it thinks fit in respect of the residence of any ward whose person is for the time being under its superintendence, and, when he is a male minor, in respect of his education.

(2) The Court of Wards may from time to time require any such male minor ward to attend such tutor, class, school, or college, for the purposes of education, as it thinks fit.

25. Allowance for ward and family.

(1) The Court of Wards may from time to time determine what sums shall be allowed in respect of the expenses of any ward and of his family and dependants.

(2) The Court of Wards may from time to time determine what sums may be spent on the education of any minor ward whose person is for the time being under its superintendence.

CHAPTER VI

Ascertainment And Liquidation Of Liabilities Of Wards

26. Notice to claimants.

(1) On the publication of a notification under section 9, the Deputy Commissioner of the District specified in the order of assumption or any other Deputy Commissioner whom the Court of Wards may appoint in that behalf shall publish in the

¹Official Gazette a notice in both English and Urdu languages calling upon all persons having claims against the ward or against the property under the superintendence of the Court of Wards to notify the same in writing to such Deputy Commissioner within six months from the date of publication of the notice.

(2) The notice may also be published at such places and in such other manner as the Court of Wards may, by general or special order, direct or by rule, made under this Act, prescribe.

(3) The Deputy Commissioner may, if he is satisfied that any claimant had reasonable excuse for not submitting his statement of claim within six months, receive his claim at any time after the expiry of the period aforesaid, but any claim so received shall, unless the Deputy Commissioner otherwise directs and notwithstanding any law, contract, decree or award to the contrary, cease to carry interest from the date of the expiry of the period aforesaid.

27. Presentation of claims.

(1) Every claimant shall, together with his statement of claim, present full particulars thereof.

(2) Every document (including entries in books of account) on which the claimant founds his claim, or on which he relies in support thereof, shall be produced before the Deputy Commissioner with the statement of claim.

(3) Every such document shall be accompanied by a true copy of the same. The Deputy Commissioner or such officer as he may appoint in that behalf, shall mark the original document for the purpose of identification, and after examining and comparing the copy with it shall retain the copy and return the original to the claimant.

28. Examination into admission and rejection claims.

(1) The Deputy Commissioner shall, after such inquiry as he may consider necessary decide as to each claim made against any ward or property, in manner in section 26 and section 27 provided whether such claim is, either in whole or in part, to be admitted or disallowed and shall intimate, in writing his decision in respect of each such claim to the claimant thereof. If such liabilities cannot be paid at once, the decision shall fix the interest (if any) to be paid thereon from the date of such decision to the date of the payment and discharge of such claim.

29. Bar of claims not duly notified.

Every debt or liability (other than debt due to, or liabilities incurred in favour of the ²[Government]) to which any ward is subject, or with which any property under the superintendence of the Court of Wards or any part thereof is charged, and which is not duly notified to the said Deputy Commissioner within the time and in the manner hereinbefore prescribed, shall, subject to the provisions of section 7 and section 13 of the ³Indian Limitation Act, 1877 (XV of 1877), be deemed for all

1. Substituted for the word "Gazette" by the Government of India (Adaptation of Indian Laws) Order, 1937.

2. Substituted for the word "Crown" by the Adaptation of Laws order, 1950.

3. See now the Indian Limitation Act, 1908 (IX of 1908), Unrepealed Central Acts, Volume V.

purposes and on all occasions whether during the continuance of the superintendence of the Court of Wards or afterwards, to have been duly discharged.

Provided that the provisions of this section shall not be deemed to extinguish any such debt or liability in any case in which the Court of Wards, after assuming the superintendence of such property, releases the same from such superintendence without ascertaining and dealing with the liabilities thereof as in this chapter provided in that behalf, and that, in any such case, in computing the period of limitation applicable to any suit or application for the recovery of any such debt or the enforcement of any such liability, the time from the date of the notification of claim under section 26, to the date of the release of the property from the superintendence of the Court of Wards, shall be excluded.

30. Exclusion documents produced.

If any document in the possession or under the control of the claimants not produced by him as required by section 27, such document shall not be admissible in evidence in any suit or proceeding thereafter brought against a ward or as affecting any property under the superintendence of the Court of Wards by the claimant, or by any person claiming under him.

31. Decrees against wards or their properties and their execution.

(1) Nothing contained in this chapter shall be deemed to empower the Deputy Commissioner to disallow any claim, notified under section 26, which is based upon a decree passed by any competent Court, and any such decree may be proved by the production of a certified copy of the same accompanied by a certificate from the proper Court that such decree remains unsatisfied.

(2) On the publication of a notice under section 26, all suits and all proceedings in execution of any decree against a ward or as affecting any property under the superintendence of the Court of Wards then pending in any Civil Court shall be stayed.¹* * * * *

²[(3) No such suit or proceedings shall be continued or revived in any such Court until the expiration of six months from the date of the publication of the notice under section 26, and until the expiration of two months after notice in writing has been delivered to, or left at, the office of the Deputy Commissioner of the District specified in the order of assumption in the notification under section 9, stating the name and place of abode of the plaintiff or decree-holder, as the case may be, and such other particulars in respect of the suit or decree as may be prescribed by rules made under this Act; and every application for the continuance or revival of the suit or proceedings in execution of such decree shall contain a statement that the provisions of this sub-section have been complied with.]

1. The words "until the plaintiff or the decree-holder files a certificate that the claim has been notified in accordance with section 26." omitted by Punjab Act II of 1944, as extended to Delhi.

2. Substituted for the old sub-section by Punjab Act II of 1944, section 3 (b), as extended to Delhi.

3. Inserted by Punjab Act II of 1944, 4(a), as extended to Delhi.

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32. Saving of right to sue in certain cases.

(1) Subject to the provisions of section 19 and section 31 nothing in this chapter shall be construed as preventing any claimant from bringing or prosecuting any suit³ [or executing any decree] in any competent Court, in respect of any claim which has been duly notified, within the time and in the manner hereinbefore prescribed to the Deputy Commissioner, and which has, whether in whole or in part, been disallowed by him.

¹[Provided that no suit or proceedings in execution of any decree shall at any time be brought or be maintainable--

(a) in respect of any claim which has not been so notified; or

(b) to set aside or modify the order (if any) of a Deputy Commissioner fixing a date for the payment of such claim or regulating the order in which claims against the ward or properties under the superintendence of the Court of Wards shall be paid.]

(2) In computing any period of limitation prescribed by the ²Indian Limitation Act, 1877 (XV of 1877), or section 230 of the ³Civil Procedure Code (XIV of 1882), every period during which proceedings have been stayed or temporarily barred by reasons of the provisions of this section or of section 31 shall be excluded.

33. Appeal and revision.

No appeal shall lie from any decision given or order made by a Deputy Commissioner under this chapter, but nothing in this section shall be deemed in any way to limit or interfere with the power of the Court of Wards to revise any such decision or order.

34. State Government may confer the powers of Deputy Commissioner on any person.

For the purpose of this chapter, the ⁴[State] Government may, at any time or at any stage of any proceedings thereunder, invest any person with all or any of the powers of a Deputy Commissioner.

CHAPTER VII

Guardians And Managers

35. Appointment, removal and control of guardians and tutors.

(1) The Court of Wards may from time to time appoint guardians for the care of the persons of such wards as are minors or of unsound mind, or are suffering from any physical or mental defect or infirmity, or are females and unmarried, and may control and remove such guardians, and no appointment of a guardian for any wards shall be valid unless and until it has been confirmed by the Court of Wards.

(2) In appointing a guardian under this section, the Court of Wards shall be

1. Substituted by Punjab Act II of 1944, section 4(b), as extended to Delhi.

2. See now the Indian Limitation Act, 1908 (IX of 1908), Unrepealed Central Acts, Volume V.

3. See now the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (Act V of 1908) Unrepealed Central Acts, Volume V.

4. Substituted for the word "Provincial" by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950.

guided, as far as may be, by the provisions of section 17 of the ¹Guardians and Wards Act, 1890, and if a ward leaves or is removed from the custody of a guardian appointed under this section, the Deputy Commissioner of the District specified in the notification issued under section 9 may exercise the powers conferred by section 25 of the said Act on a Court as defined in that Act.

(3) The Court of Wards may appoint any person to be the tutor of any minor male ward and may control and remove such tutor. Every tutor so appointed shall discharge such duties and regulate his conduct in such manner as the Court of Wards may from time to time direct.

36. No person who can succeed to ward to be appointed guardian.

No person who would be the next legal heir of a ward, or would otherwise be immediately interested in outliving a ward, shall be appointed to be his guardian but nothing in this section shall apply to the mother of a ward or to a testamentary guardian.

37. Duties and responsibilities of guardians.

A guardian under this chapter shall be charged with the custody of the ward, and shall, subject to the supervision and direction of the Court of Wards, and the rules (if any) made, under this Act, in that behalf, make suitable provision for his maintenance, health and if he be a minor, his education and such other matters as the personal law to which the ward is subject, requires and shall--

- (a) give such security, if any, as the Court of Wards thinks fit for the due performance of his duty;
- (b) submit such accounts as the Court of Wards may direct;
- (c) pay the balances due from him thereon;
- (c) continue liable to account to the Court of Wards, after he has ceased to be guardian, for his receipts and disbursements during the period of his guardianship;
- (d) apply for the sanction of the Court of Wards to any act which may involve expense not previously sanctioned by it; and
- (e) be entitled to such salary or allowance, to be paid out of the proceeds of the property of the ward as the Court of Wards thinks fit, in respect of the execution of his duties as such.

38. Appointment, control and removal of managers.

The Court of Wards may appoint one or more managers for any properties under its superintendence and may control and remove such managers.

39. Powers of Managers.

A manager appointed by the Court of Wards shall, subject to the supervisions and direction of the Court of Wards, and the rules (if any) made, under this Act, in that behalf, have power to collect the rents of the lands placed under his charge as well as

1. Unrepealed Central Act, Volume III.

all other money due to the ward or person whose property he manages, and to grant receipts therefor; and he may, subject to the same supervision, direction and rules (if any), grant and renew leases and farms and do all such lawful acts as he may be generally or specially authorised by the Court of Wards to do for the good management of the property.

40. Duties and responsibilities of managers.

Every manager appointed by the Court of Wards shall, subject to the supervision and direction of the Court of Wards, and to the rules (if any) made, under this Act, in that behalf, manage the property or properties placed under his charge diligently and faithfully, and he shall--

- (a) give such security, if any, as the Court of Wards thinks fit, duly to account for what he may receive in respect of the rents and profits and other income of the property under his charge;
- (b) keep accounts in such form and submit them at such times as the Court of Wards may direct;
- (c) deal with all money received by him in such manner as the Court of Wards may direct;
- (d) apply for the sanction of the Court of Wards to any act which may involve the property in expense not previously sanctioned by it;
- (e) be entitled to such salary or allowance to be paid out of the proceeds of such property as the Court of Wards thinks fit, in respect of the execution of his duties;
- (f) be responsible for any loss occasioned to the property by his negligence or wilful default; and
- (g) continue liable to account to the Court of Wards after he has ceased to be manager for his receipts and disbursements during the period of his management.

41. Termination of appointment of guardian or manager.

The appointment of every guardian or manager appointed under this chapter, shall terminate on the Court of Wards ceasing to exercise superintendence of the person or property in respect of whom or which such guardian or manager, as the case may be, has been appointed.

42. Guardians and managers to be deemed to be public servants and managers and certain guardians to be deemed to be public accountants.

(1) Every guardian and manager appointed under this chapter shall be deemed to be 'public servant' within the meaning of section 21 of the 'Indian Penal Code and for the purposes of that Code.

(2) Every such manager shall be deemed to be a 'public accountant' within the meaning of the 'Public Accountants Act, 1850, and every such guardian shall be deemed to be 'Public accountant' within the meaning and for the purposes of sections 3 to 5 of the 'Public Accountants Act, 1850.

(3) In the definition of 'legal remuneration' contained in section 161 of the Indian Penal Code the word 'Government' shall for the purposes of this section, be deemed to include the Court of Wards.

43. Deputy Commissioner when to discharge the duties of guardian or manager.

If no such guardian or manager is appointed by the Court of Wards, the Deputy Commissioner of the District specified in the order of assumption in the notification under section 9 or any other Deputy Commissioner whom the Court of Wards may appoint in that behalf, shall be competent to do anything that might be lawfully done by a guardian of the person or a manager of the property appointed under this chapter.

CHAPTER VIII

Release Of Persons And Properties From Superintendence.

44. Power to release from superintendence.

The Court of Wards may, at any time, release any person or property or both, from its superintendence:

Provided that the property of a land-holder who has been made a ward in accordance with an order made under section 5, shall not be released from the superintendence of the Court of Wards without the previous sanction of the ¹[State] Government.

Provided further, that persons or property under the charge of the Court of Wards, in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 7, shall not be released without the concurrence of the Court which appointed or declared the Deputy Commissioner to be guardian of the person or property, or both, of the person concerned, under the ²Guardians and Wards Act, 1890.

45. Retention of superintendence of property until discharge of debts.

(1) Whenever a ward dies or ceases to be under any legal incapacity, and his property is, at the time of his death or cessation of incapacity, still encumbered with debts and liabilities, the Court of Wards may either release such property or, with the sanction of the ¹[State] Government, retain it or any part thereof under its superintendence until such debts and liabilities have been discharged.

(2) In any case provided for in sub-section (1) the Court of Wards may together with the property of any such ward also retain until the said debts and liabilities have been discharged, the property of which it has assumed the superintendence under section 8.

46. Retention of superintendence where there are more proprietors than one.

If, in the case of any property there are more proprietors than one, the Court of Wards may retain the whole property under its superintendence if one or more of the

1. Substituted for the word "Provincial" by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950.

2. Unrepealed Central Acts, Volume III.

proprietors remain wards, although other or others may have ceased to be under any legal incapacity:

Provided that in such cases a proprietor who has ceased to be disqualified shall not, after the cessation of such disqualification, be deemed to be ward for the purposes of this Act and the Court of Wards shall pay to such proprietor the surplus income accruing from his share of the joint property.

47. Appointment of guardian on release of minor.

(1) When the Court of Wards decides to release from its superintendence the person or property, or both, of any minor, it may, before such release, by an order in writing, appoint any person to be guardian of the person or property, or both, of such minor.

(2) Such appointment shall take effect from the date of such release.

(3) In appointing a guardian under this section the Court of Wards shall be guided by the provisions of section 17 of the 'Guardians and Wards Act, 1890 (VIII of 1890), and in every such case the Deputy Commissioner of the District specified in the order of assumption in the notification under section 9 shall have the powers conferred upon Deputy Commissioner under section 35(2).

(4) Every such guardian shall have and be subject to the same rights, duties and liabilities as if he had been appointed under the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890.

48. Disposal of property after the death of person of whose property the Court of Wards has assumed superintendence.

Whenever, in the event of the death of any person of whose property the Court of Wards has assumed superintendence, the succession to his property or any part thereof, is unclaimed or disputed, the Court of Wards may either direct that the property, or part thereof, be made over to any person entitled to or claiming the same, or may institute a suit of inter-pleader against the several claimants, or may retain the superintendence thereof until a claimant has, in due course of law, established his title thereto in a competent Court.

49. Delivery of documents and accounts on release of property.

Whenever the Court of Wards release the property of any person from its superintendence, it shall deliver to such person or if it has appointed a guardian under subsection (1) of section 47, to such guardian all documents of title and all papers and accounts (other than Government records) relating to such property.

50. Notifications as to release from superintendence.

Whenever the Court of Wards release any person or property from its superintendence, the fact of such release shall be notified in the 'Official Gazette, and such release shall take effect from the date fixed in this behalf in the notification.

1. Substituted for the word "Gazette" by the Government of India (Adaptation of Indian Laws) Order, 1937.

51. Recovery of expenses.

Any expense incurred by the Court of Wards on account of any property under its superintendence may, after the release of such property, be recovered as an arrear of land-revenue due in respect of such property, or any part thereof.

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CHAPTER IX
Miscellaneous Provisions

52. Bar of suits and proceedings.

(1) No suit shall be brought in any Civil Court in respect of the exercise of any discretion conferred by this Act.

(2) No suit shall be brought against any officer of Government or any guardian, manager or servant appointed by and discharging his duties under a Court of Wards for anything done by him in good faith under this Act.

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53. Investigation into matters under Chapters VI and VII to be considered judicial proceedings.

Every investigation conducted by a Deputy Commissioner with reference to any claim preferred before him under Chapter VI or Chapter VII or to any matter connected with any such claim shall be taken to be a judicial proceeding within the meaning of the ¹Indian Penal Code (XLV of 1860).

54. Power to make rules.

The Court of Wards may, with the previous sanction of the ²[State] Government, make ³rules consistent with this Act regulating all or any of the following matters, namely :--

- (a) the management of properties or of all or any property under the superintendence of the Court of Wards;
- (b) the procedure to be observed and the powers to be exercised by all or any persons in all or any proceedings under this Act; ⁴[.....]
- ⁵[(c) all matters or things required or permitted by this Act to be prescribed; and]
- ⁶(d) generally for the purpose of giving effect to all or any of the provisions of this Act.

⁷[55. Application of Act to estates of Rulers of Indian States.

The powers and functions conferred on the State Government by or under this Act

1. Unrepealed Central Acts, Volume I.

2. Substituted for the word "Provincial" by the Application of Laws Order, 1950.

3. For rules, see notification No. 55, dated 12th March 1904, *Punjab Gazette* 1904, Part III, page 337, as amended by No. 254, dated 30th November 1908, *Punjab Gazette*, 1908, Part III, page 1403, No. 7, dated 6th January 1915, *Punjab Gazette*, 1915, Part III, page 37 No. 106, dated 19th June, 1916 *Punjab Gazette*, 1916 Part III, page 928.

4. The word "and" was omitted by Punjab Act II of 1944, section 5(a), as extended to Delhi.

5. Inserted by Punjab Act II of 1944, section 5 (b), as extended to Delhi.

6. The old clause (c) relettered as clause (d) by Punjab Act II of 1944, section 5(b).

7. Inserted by the Adaptation of Laws (Third Amendment) Order, 1951.

shall, in relation to the estates of Rulers of Indian States, be powers and functions of the Central Government.]

SCHEDULE

ENACTMENTS REPEALED

Number and year	Title	Extent of repeal
XXVI of 1854 ...	Education of male minors subject to the superintendence of the Court of Wards	The whole so far as it applies to Punjab
IV of 1872 ...	The Punjab Laws Act, 1872	Sections 34 to 38, inclusive
XII of 1878 ...	Amendment of the Punjab Laws Act, 1872	Sections 3 and 4