

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT
1979 No. 39
Australian Capital Territory
Juries (Amendment) Ordinance 1979

The purpose of this Ordinance is to amend the Juries Ordinance 1967 so as to abolish the entitlement that women now have, upon notification to the Sheriff, to exemption as of right from jury service. The abolition of this right will remove the distinction between the liability of men and women for jury service. There is a need, however, to provide for the special problems associated with jury service of pregnant women and persons, whether male or female, having the care of children, the aged and those in ill-health. The Ordinance therefore widens the discretionary ability of a Judge or the Sheriff to excuse persons from attendance, if summoned or appointed to attend for jury service, to include reference to these circumstances.

Sections 1 to 3 are formal provisions.

Section 4 omits paragraph (p) of section 11 of the Principal Ordinance. This paragraph exempts from jury service women who have given notice under section 12.

Section 5 repeals section 12, which permits a woman to notify the Sheriff that she does not wish her name to be included in the jury list or that she wishes it to be struck off if it has been included.

2.

Section 6 repeals and replaces section 14 by a new section which empowers the Judge or Sheriff to excuse from attendance for jury service any person who ought to be excused because of illness, pregnancy, care of children or aged or ill persons, or circumstances of sufficient importance or urgency.

Authorized by the Attorney-General



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