

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

No. 42—1931.

I ASSENT,

[L.S.]

A. C. HOLLIS,  
*Governor.*

30th December, 1931.

AN ORDINANCE to regulate the publication of reports of judicial proceedings in such manner as to prevent injury to public morals.

[On Proclamation.]

BE it enacted by the Governor of Trinidad and Tobago with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof as follows:—

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Judicial Proceedings (Regulation of Reports) Ordinance, 1931. Short title.

2.—(1) It shall not be lawful to print or publish, or cause or procure to be printed or published—

(a) in relation to any judicial proceedings, any indecent matter or indecent medical, surgical or physiological details being matter or details the publication of which would be calculated to injure public morals ;

Restriction on publication of reports of judicial proceedings.

(b) in relation to any judicial proceedings for dissolution of marriage, for nullity of marriage, or for judicial separation, or for restitution of conjugal rights, any particulars other than the following, that is to say :—

- (i) the names, addresses and occupations of the parties and witnesses ;
- (ii) a concise statement of the charges, defences and countercharges in support of which evidence has been given ;
- (iii) submissions on any point of law arising in the course of the proceedings, and the decision of the Court thereon ;
- (iv) the summing-up of the judge and the finding of the jury (if any) and the judgment of the court and observations made by the judge in giving judgment.

Provided that nothing in this part of this sub-section shall be held to permit the publication of anything contrary to the provisions of paragraph (a) of this sub-section.

Penalties.

(2) If any person acts in contravention of the provisions of this Ordinance, he shall in respect of each offence be liable, on summary conviction by a Magistrate, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding four months, with or without hard labour, or to a fine not exceeding five hundred pounds, or to both such imprisonment and fine.

Who may be convicted.

Provided that no person, other than a proprietor, editor, master printer or publisher, shall be liable to be convicted under this Ordinance.

Leave of Attorney-General necessary.

(3) No prosecution for an offence under this Ordinance shall be commenced by any person without the sanction of the Attorney-General.

Exceptions.

(4) Nothing in this section shall apply to the printing of any pleading, transcript of evidence or other document for use in connection with any judicial proceedings or the communication thereof to persons concerned in the proceedings, or to the printing or publishing of any notice or report in pursuance of the directions of the court ; or to

the printing or publishing of any matter in any separate volume or part of any *bona fide* series of law reports which does not form part of any other publication and consists solely of reports of proceedings in courts of law, or in any publication of a technical character *bona fide* intended for circulation among members of the legal or medical professions.

3. This Ordinance shall commence on such day as may be fixed by the Governor by proclamation. <sup>Commence-</sup>  
<sup>ment.</sup>

Passed in Council this fifteenth day of December, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and thirty-one.

J. W. DAY,  
*Clerk of the Council.*