

LEGAL NOTICE NO. 203

REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT, CHAP. 2:01

RULES

MADE BY THE PRESIDENT UNDER SECTION 161(1) OF THE  
REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT

THE ELECTION (AMENDMENT) RULES, 1998

1. These Rules may be cited as the Election (Amendment) Rules, Citation 1998.

2. In these Rules, “the Rules” means the Election Rules.

Interpretation  
Chap. 2:01

3. Rule 38 of the Rules is amended by—

Rule 38  
amended

(a) adding in subrule (7) the words “including blindness or visual impairment” immediately after the words “physical disability”;

(b) deleting in subrule (8) the words “a person who professes to know him and who is an elector whose name appears on the revised list of electors for the polling station” and substituting the words “a companion”.

4. Rule 48 of the Rules is deleted and substituted as follows:

Rule 48  
amended

“Voting by an  
incapacitated  
elector

Chap. 2:01

48. (1) Subject to rules 38 to 47, the Presiding Officer, on application of an elector who is incapacitated by blindness, visual impairment or by other physical cause and who is, therefore unable to vote in the manner directed by these Rules, shall require the elector to swear an oath in the form set out as Form No. 58 or 59 in the Prescribed Forms Rules, as the case may be, and on making such oath the elector shall be allowed to cast his vote with the use of a template or the assistance of a companion of his choice.

(2) Where a blind or visually impaired elector opts to vote with the use of a template, the Presiding Officer shall provide him with a template to assist him in marking his ballot paper.

(3) For the purposes of these Rules “template” means a pocket-shaped cardboard device opened at the top and the right into which a ballot paper is inserted in such a way that the holes in the template correspond with the circles opposite the names of the candidates.

(4) Subject to subrule (5) for the purposes of these Rules, "a companion" means—

- (a) a person who is entitled to vote as an elector at the election except an election officer or a polling agent; or
- (b) the father, mother, brother, sister, husband, wife, son or daughter of the elector who has attained the age of eighteen years.

(5) A person incapacitated by blindness, visual impairment or other physical cause shall not be a companion to an elector under these Rules.

(6) Where the assistance of a companion is required the elector may request that the Presiding Officer be present with the elector and his companion in the voting compartment."

5. Rule 49 of the Rules is deleted and substituted as follows:

Rule 49  
amended

"Declaration by  
incapacitated  
elector's  
companion  
Chap. 2:01

49. (1) Where the elector swears an oath in accordance with Rule 48(1), the Presiding Officer shall require the elector's companion to make a declaration, in the form set out as Form No. 60 in the Prescribed Forms Rules.

(2) Where the Presiding Officer is satisfied that the provisions of Rule 48 and subrule (1) of this Rule have been complied with, he shall grant the application made under Rule 48 and thereupon anything which is, by these Rules, required to be done to or by the elector in connection with the giving of his vote, may be done to, or with the assistance of a template or the companion."

Made this 29th day of June, 1998.

M. LOOK LOY  
*Acting Secretary to Cabinet*