



The Orissa Freedom Of Religion Act, 1967

An Act to provide for prohibition of conversion from one Religion to another by the use of force or inducement or by fraudulent means and for matters incidental thereto.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Orissa in the Eighteenth Year of the Republic of India as follows:

1. Short title, extent and commencement.

1) This Act may be called the Orissa Freedom of Religion, 1967.

2) It shall extend to the whole of the State of Orissa.

3) It shall come into force at once.

2. Definitions- In this Act unless the context otherwise requires-

(a) "conversion" means renouncing one religion and adopting another.

(b) "force" shall include a show of force or a threat of injury of any kind including threat of divine displeasure or social ex-communication;

(c) "force" shall include misrepresentation or any other fraudulent contrivance. (d)

"inducement" shall include the offer of any gift or gratification, either in cash or in kind and shall also include the grant of any benefit, either pecuniary or otherwise; (d) "minor" means a person under eighteen years of age.

3. Prohibition of forcible conversion No person shall convert or attempt to convert, either directly or otherwise, any person from one religious faith to another by the use of force or by allurement or by any fraudulent means nor shall any person abet such conversion.

4. Punishment for contravention of the provisions of section 3 Any person contravening the provisions contained in section 3 shall, without prejudice to any civil liability, be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to one year or with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees or with both:

Provided that in case the offence is committed in respect of a minor, a woman or a person belonging to the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes the punishment shall be imprisonment to the extent of two years and fine upto ten thousand rupees.

5. Offence to be cognizable An offence under this Act shall be cognizable and shall not be investigated by an officer below the rank of an Inspector of Police.

6. Prosecution to be made with the sanction of District Magistrate. No prosecution for an offence under this Act shall be instituted except by, or with the previous sanction of the District Magistrate or such other authority, not below the rank of a Sub-Divisional Officer, as may be authorized by him in that behalf

7. Power to make rules The State Government may make rules for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act.

THE ORISSA FREEDOM OF RELIGION RULES, 1989

No. 70533- Ref- 1-5/87- H.C In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 7 of the Orissa Freedom of Religion Act, 1967 (Orissa Act 2 of 1968), the State Government of Orissa, do hereby make the following rules, namely:

1. Short Title (1) These rules may be called the Orissa Freedom of religion rules, 1989. (2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. Definitions

(1) In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Act" means Orissa Freedom of Religion Act, 1967 (Orissa Act 2 of 1968) ;

(b) "Organization" means a body of persons authorized by religious institutions who expound spiritual thoughts of different religions inside and outside the country.;

(c) "Form" means form appended to these rules;



- (d) "Government" means Government of Orissa;
(e) "Religious institutions" mean different religious authorities who expound religious thoughts in the country and abroad;
(f) "State" means State of Orissa.
(2) All other words and expressions used but not defined in these rules shall have the same meaning as is respectively assigned in the Act.
3. List of religious institutions and organizations
(1) Each District Magistrate shall maintain a list of religious institutions or organizations propagating religious faith in the district.
(2) The District Magistrate, if he thinks fit, may call for a list of persons with the religious faith, receiving benefits either in cash or in kind from the religious organizations or institutions or from any person connected therewith.
4. Declaration before conversion Any person intending to convert his religion, shall give a declaration before a Magistrate, 1st Class, having jurisdiction prior to such conversion that he intends to convert his religion on his own will.
5. Intimation of ceremony (1) The concerned religious priest shall intimate the date, time and place of the ceremony in which conversion shall be made along with the names and addresses of the persons to be converted to the concerned District Magistrates before fifteen days of the said ceremony.
(2) The intimation shall be in Form 'A' and

shall be delivered either personally by the priest, to the concerned district magistrate or be sent to him by registered post with acknowledgement due.

6. The District Magistrate to issue acknowledgement receipt - The District Magistrate on receiving the intimation from the priest shall sign thereon stating the date on which and the hour at which the intimation has been delivered to him or received by him and shall forthwith acknowledge the receipt thereof in Form 'B'.

7. Register of conversion The District Magistrate shall maintain a register of conversion in Form 'C' and shall enter herein particulars of the intimation received by him.

8. Penalty Any person who contravenes the provisions of Rule 5 or 6 shall be liable to a fine of rupees one thousand.

9. Submission of report to Government The District Magistrate shall by the 10th of each month send to the Government a report of intimations received by him during the preceding month in Form 'D'.

By order of the Governor

S.M.Patnail

Secretary of Government