

### Numbering of sections

<i>Original number</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Present number</i>
1 - 5	—	1 - 5
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8 - 9	—	8 - 9
10	—	13
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13 (d)	—	12
13 (a) - (c), (e)	spent/omitted	—

### Index of subsidiary legislation

Booklet 1 Public Library Regulations

### CHAPTER 294

### PUBLIC LIBRARY ACT

#### Arrangement of sections

1. Short title.
2. Interpretation.
3. Administrative control.
4. Maintenance of library services, etc.
5. Appointment of Librarian, etc.
6. Library Committee.
7. Meetings of Committee, etc.
8. Functions of Committee.
9. Ownership and maintenance of building and grounds.
10. Financial matters.
11. Recovery of penalties and fines.
12. Books, etc; to be property of Government.
13. Regulations.

AN ACT to re-organise the Free Public Library and to provide for an efficient public library service throughout Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Commencement: 20th June 1950

WHEREAS, out of the funds generously given to the Kingstown Board by Andrew Carnegie of Skibo Castle in Scotland for the erection of a building for the purposes of a Free Public Library, a building has been erected by the said Board upon land belonging to the said Board, being a part of Lot Number one hundred and thirteen situate in the town of Kingstown and bounded on one side thereof by Granby Street, and on each of the two other sides by a branch of the Kingstown South River which said land is described in an indenture dated the 30th day of August, 1901, and registered on the 3rd December, 1908, in the Registry in Liber Z, volume 5, page 291, and expressed to be made between Charles Lawrence Phills of the first part, Arnott Huntley Spence of the second part, Eliza Julia Kirby of the third part, and the Kingstown Board of the fourth part:

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AND WHEREAS a Free Public Library was established and maintained in the said building under and by virtue of the Library Act:

AND WHEREAS it is considered expedient to re-organise the said Free Public Library to make provision for the establishment and maintenance of an efficient public library service throughout Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

- Short title. 1. This Act may be cited as the Public Library Act.
- Interpretation. 2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—  
“Board” means the Kingstown Board established by the Kingstown Board Act;  
“chairman” means the chairman of the Library Committee established under this Act;  
“Committee” means the Library Committee established in accordance with section 6;  
“Library” means the Free Public Library established in the building erected on the lands of the Board as described in the preamble to this Act out of funds provided by Andrew Carnegie for that purpose.
- Administrative control. 3. The Library shall be under the administrative control of the Government.
- Maintenance of library services, etc. 4. The Governor-General may, out of such funds as may be available to him for that purpose, reorganise and maintain the library services at present rendered by the Library, and in addition may establish and maintain such other library services in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as in his opinion are desirable in order to furnish the provision of an efficient public library service throughout Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- Appointment of Librarian, etc. 5. There shall be appointed, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, a Librarian and such other officers and servants as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Act.
- Library Committee. 6. (1) For the purposes of this Act there shall be established a Library Committee which shall primarily be a consultative body.  
(2) The Committee shall consist of—  
(a) a chairman and two other persons to be appointed by the Governor-General;  
(b) two persons to be appointed by the Board.

(3) The Governor-General may appoint a member of the Board to be deputy chairman, and, in the absence of the chairman, the deputy chairman shall act in his stead.

(4) The Committee may request persons with expert knowledge and experience to attend its meetings for the purpose of assisting the Committee in its deliberations.

(5) The period of service of members of the Committee shall be two years but any member shall be eligible for re-appointment to the Committee.

(6) Any member of the Committee may resign his seat by letter addressed to the Governor-General, and the Governor-General may at any time revoke any appointment made by him.

(7) All resignations and appointments made or revoked shall be published in the Gazette.

(8) Any member of the Committee who has not, on the 31st December in any year, attended at least one-third of the meetings of the Committee during the preceding twelve months or during his tenure of office in such months, shall be considered to have vacated his seat on the Committee unless he has been absent owing to ill-health or with the leave of the Governor-General.

(9) In case of the absence on leave or owing to ill-health of any member of the Committee, the Governor-General or the Board, as the case may be, may appoint another person to act in his stead during such absence.

(10) No act or proceeding of the Committee shall be invalidated or questioned on account of any vacancy among the members of such Committee or of any defect in the appointment of a member.

(11) Should a vacancy occur among the members of the Committee through death, resignation or otherwise, the Governor-General or the Board, as the case may be, may appoint another person to fill the vacancy so created.

7. (1) The Committee may meet at such time as may be necessary or expedient for transacting its business, but shall meet at least once in every three months.

(2) The chairman may at any time summon a meeting of the Committee, and on a requisition by any three members he shall summon a meeting. Such requisition shall state the object for which the meeting is required to be summoned.

(3) Decisions of the Committee may be taken at meetings or, in cases in which the chairman shall so direct, by the recording of the opinions of members on papers circulated among them. The chairman may direct that papers shall not be circulated to any member who through illness, absence from Saint Vincent

Meetings of Committee, etc.

and the Grenadines or otherwise is, in the opinion of the chairman, incapacitated from voting on such papers.

(4) The quorum of the Committee at any meeting, or for the purpose of voting on papers circulated, shall be three.

(5) Decisions of the Committee shall be taken by a majority of votes. In any case in which the voting is equal, the chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

(6) The Librarian, or in his absence any other person appointed under section 5, shall be the secretary of the Committee and shall attend the meetings of the Committee and may speak thereat but shall have no vote.

(7) The secretary of the Committee shall keep a true account of the proceedings of all meetings of the Committee and shall record the same in a minute book kept for that purpose.

Functions  
of the  
Committee.

8. The functions of the Committee shall be—

- (a) to advise the Governor-General on any such matters which concern the Library or public library services as the Governor-General may include within its scope;
- (b) to submit its views on any matters of general interest in regard to the Library or public library services to which, in its opinion, the attention of the Governor-General should be drawn;
- (c) to assist the Governor-General in the framing of regulations;
- (d) to undertake such executive duties in connection with the Library and the public library services as the Governor-General may impose, either indefinitely or for a stated period;
- (e) to enter, with the approval of the Governor-General, into mutual arrangements with other libraries within or without Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for the purpose of furthering the provisions of an efficient public library service throughout Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Ownership  
and main-  
tenance of  
building and  
grounds.

9. (1) The building and land mentioned in the preamble to this Act shall be and remain the property of the Board which shall continue to be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep thereof.

(2) The building and land shall not be used for any purpose other than for purposes connected with the Library and public library services:

Provided that the Board may permit the building and land to be used for any purpose which is not inconsistent with or detrimental to the interests of the Library or public library services and upon such terms and conditions as the Board shall think fit.

10. The expenses of carrying out the provisions of this Act shall be defrayed out of—

Financial  
matters.

- (a) such moneys as may from time to time be appropriated for the purpose by Parliament out of the general revenue of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines;
- (b) gifts, grants and bequests made or given to the Library from any public or private source.

11. (1) All penalties and fines imposed by regulations shall be recoverable in the manner provided by the Criminal Procedure Code and proceedings may be instituted and conducted by the Librarian or by any person authorised by the Committee either generally or for any particular proceedings.

Recovery of  
penalties  
and fines.  
Cap. 125.

(2) All fines, penalties and subscriptions received under the provisions of any regulations shall be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

12. All books, periodicals, furniture and other movable property belonging to the Library at the 20th June, 1950, shall become the property of the Government.

Books, etc;  
to be  
property of  
Government.

13. The Governor-General, after consulting the Committee, may make regulations—

Regulations.

- (a) governing the use by any person or body of persons of the library facilities provided under this Act;
- (b) prescribing the duties and powers of the Librarian and other officers and servants appointed under this Act;
- (c) for the government and good management of the library services; and
- (d) generally for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

**Numbering of regulations**

Original number	Comment	Present number
1-5	—	1-5
6	r/r 34/68	6
7	—	7
8	r/r 34/68	8
9-18	—	9-18
19	—	20
20	CHAL TER 504	19
21	spent/omitted	—

**PUBLIC LIBRARY REGULATIONS**

**Arrangement of regulations**

1. Citation.
2. Interpretation.
3. Library services.
4. Responsibility of Librarian.
5. Hours of business.
6. Borrowing of books.
7. Tickets of membership.
8. Conditions of issue and use of books.
9. Rights of registered members.
10. Articles brought into Library.
11. Books may be reserved for members.
12. Books exposed to infectious diseases.
13. Use of reference libraries.
14. Permission to remove books from reference libraries.
15. Use of adults' reading rooms.
16. Newspapers, and periodicals.
17. Use of childrens' libraries.
18. Local advisory committees.
19. Expulsion from the Library.
20. Offences and penalties.

Commencement: 25th July 1950

1. **Citation.** These Regulations may be cited as the Public Library Regulations.

2. **Interpretation.** In these Regulations—  
 "book" means any book, periodical, newspaper, pamphlet, picture, print, photograph, map, chart, plan or manuscript, or any other article of a like nature forming part of the contents of a library operated under these Regulations;  
 "book-van" means a van used for the purposes of a travelling library operated as a branch of the Library;  
 "Librarian" includes any person appointed to act and acting as Librarian;

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“library” includes the Library, a lending library, reference library, travelling library and reading room;

“library premises” includes every room, office, passage, staircase, entrance and exit occupied together as one set of premises and used for the purposes of affording library facilities to members of the public.

**3. Library services.** For the purposes of the Act there shall be established such reference libraries, lending libraries (including travelling libraries) and reading rooms for adults, and such lending libraries (including travelling libraries) and reading rooms for children as the Governor-General, with the advice of the Committee, shall determine.

**4. Responsibility of Librarian.** The Librarian shall have the general charge of all libraries established and maintained under the Act and shall be responsible for the safekeeping of the books and property acquired for the purpose of efficiently carrying on the library services.

**5. Hours of business.** The Committee shall fix the days and hours on which library facilities shall be available to members of the public, and notices indicating such days and hours shall be displayed in the respective departments and branches of the Library.

**6. Borrowing of books.** Books may be borrowed for home reading by—

- (a) all *bona fide* residents of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on affixing their signatures to a registration form by which they undertake to read and abide by the rules of the Library;
- (b) visitors, on payment of a returnable deposit of five dollars;
- (c) other persons, at the discretion of the Librarian.

**7. Tickets of membership.** Applications for tickets of membership of the Library shall be made on forms provided for the purpose by the Librarian, and an applicant shall be deemed to have consented to be bound by the provisions of these Regulations on signing a form. Tickets of membership shall not be transferable and the loss of a ticket of membership, or the change of address of a member, shall forthwith be notified by the member concerned to the Librarian.

**8. Conditions of issue and use of books.** The time allowed a member of the Library for reading books shall, unless otherwise notified, be fourteen days from the date of borrowing: but the time may be extended for two successive periods of fourteen days each on notice being given, personally or by telephone or in writing, to the Librarian, provided that any such book is not requested by another member. A member detaining books beyond the time allowed shall be liable to a fine of five cents per week or part of a week for each book so detained. No member may borrow a book from any lending library unless duly authorised by the Librarian or one of his assistants.

**9. Rights of registered members.** Registered members shall have a right of access to that part of any premises which is set apart for the purposes of a lending library. No other member of the public shall have such right but the Librarian may, in his discretion, permit the agent or servant of a registered member access to the said part of any such premises for the purpose of changing books for such member.

**10. Articles brought into library.** Every person shall, if so requested by any officer or servant of the Library, leave all handbags, baskets or similar articles which he is carrying, at the counter before entering the said part of any such premises.

**11. Books may be reserved for members.** Any member of the Library may have a particular book or books (other than a book of fiction) reserved for him on its return to a lending library by notifying the Librarian accordingly.

**12. Books exposed to infectious diseases.** (1) No person shall take out of a library any book for use in any house in which there is a person suffering from an infectious disease, and no person shall return to a library any book which has been exposed to infection from any infectious disease, but in every such case shall at once give notice, that such a book has been so exposed, to the medical officer of the appropriate district, and leave the book at the office of the medical officer of health of the district or hand it over to any sanitary inspector acting on his behalf, who shall cause the same to be disinfected or destroyed.

(2) Any person who contravenes any of the provisions of this regulation is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of two hundred and fifty dollars.

## [Booklet 1]

13. **Use of reference libraries.** Any person over the age of fourteen, and with the permission of the Librarian any person under that age, may use a reference library. Members' tickets shall not be required for reference libraries.

14. **Permission to remove books from reference libraries.** No book shall be taken out of a reference library without the permission of the Librarian. Except with the permission of the Librarian, no person shall use any ink in a reference library.

15. **Use of adults' reading rooms.** No person under fourteen shall use any reading room set apart for adults except by permission of the Librarian or one of his assistants.

16. **Newspapers and periodicals.** No newspaper or periodical shall be taken out of any such reading rooms or be retained for use longer than ten minutes after it is required by the Librarian or any of his assistants.

17. **Use of children's libraries.** (1) Children's lending libraries and reading rooms shall be free to boys and girls of such ages as the Committee may decide. Application for tickets of membership of children's libraries must be made on forms provided for the purpose by the Librarian, and each applicant must be recommended in writing on the form by the child's parent or guardian or school teacher who shall guarantee thereon to make good any damage or loss and to pay any fines imposed on the child under regulation 8 in respect of any book borrowed by him.

(2) The provisions of regulations 8, 9, 11 and 12 shall apply in respect of children and children's libraries as they apply in respect of adults and adult's lending libraries.

18. **Local advisory committees.** The Committee may appoint local committees to advise and assist it in the administration and management of its branch libraries, and may determine the terms and conditions of appointment to such committees as well as the number of their members.

19. **Expulsion from the Library.** (1) Any person who, in the opinion of the Librarian, or in the opinion of any other officer in charge of a library at the time, is guilty of misconduct in the library may be required by the Librarian or other officer in charge of the library to leave the library, and if he does not do so, may be removed therefrom.

## [Booklet 1]

(2) Any person who is convicted of an offence against these Regulations, or persistently misconducts himself in a library, shall be liable at the discretion of the Committee to be forbidden the use and privileges of the library during such time as the Committee shall decide.

(3) Any person who has been requested to leave a library under the provisions of subregulation (1) shall not be entitled to enter the library again on the same day without the permission of the person in charge of the library. Any person who so re-enters the library without the permission of the person in charge thereof, is guilty of an offence and liable in like manner to the fine specified in regulation 20.

20. **Offences and penalties.** Any person who—

- (a) engages in audible conversation in any part of any library premises after having been requested not to do so by an officer or servant of the library;
- (b) wilfully obstructs any officer or servant of the library in the execution of his duty, or wilfully disturbs, interrupts or annoys any person in the proper use of a library;
- (c) causes or allows any dog or other animal belonging to him or under his control to enter or remain on any library premises, or brings into any part of any library premises a bicycle or other wheeled vehicle or conveyance;
- (d) enters or remains in any part of library premises not set apart for the use of the public, unless he is an officer or servant of the library or has the permission of an officer or servant of the library to do so;
- (e) smokes, or strikes a light in any part of any library premises;
- (f) carelessly or negligently soils, tears, cuts, defaces, damages, injures or destroys any book forming part of the stock of a library;
- (g) affixes or posts any bill, placard or notice to or upon any part of library premises, unless he is a duly authorised officer or servant of the library;
- (h) enters any library premises if he be offensively unclean in person or dress, or suffering from an offensive, contagious or infectious disease;
- (i) lies on any bench, chair, table or floor of a library;
- (j) partakes of refreshment on library premises;

[Booklet 1.]

- (k) gives a false name or address for the purposes of entering any library premises or obtaining any privilege to which a member of the library is entitled;
  - (l) makes a tracing of any portion of a book without the permission of the Librarian or one of his assistants; or
  - (m) takes any book from any lending library unless duly authorised by the Librarian or one of his assistants.
- is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of two hundred and fifty dollars.

LAWS OF SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

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CHAPTER 295

PUBLIC TELEPHONES ACT

Act(0) 1 of 1969  
amended by  
\*Act 3 of 1978  
\*S.R.O. 38 of 1980  
\*Act 20 of 1987

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