

## ORISSA FREEDOM OF RELIGION ACT, 1967

### Preamble 1 - THE ORISSA FREEDOM OF RELIGION ACT, 1967

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#### THE ORISSA FREEDOM OF RELIGION ACT, 1967

#### PREAMBLE

*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:

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#### Section 1 - Short title, extent and commencement

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- 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.

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#### Section 2 - Definitions

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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) "fraud" 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;
- (e) "minor" means a person under eighteen years of age.

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#### Section 3 - Prohibition of forcible conversion

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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 inducement or by any fraudulent means nor shall any person abet such conversion.

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#### **Section 4 - Punishment for contravention of the provisions of section 3**

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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.

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#### **Section 5 - Offence to be cognizable**

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

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#### **Section 6 - Prosecution to be made with the sanction of District Magistrate**

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No prosecution for an offence under this Act shall be made without the sanction of the Magistrate of the District or such other authority, not below the rank of a Sub-divisional Officer, as may be authorised by him in that behalf.

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#### **Section 7 - Power to make rules**

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

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