



**TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS**

**CHAPTER 124**  
**TRUSTS ORDINANCE**

**Revised Edition**  
showing the law as at 15 May 1998

This is a revised edition of the law, prepared by the Law Revision Commissioner under the authority of the Revised Edition of the Laws Ordinance 1997.

This edition contains a consolidation of the following laws—

**TRUSTS ORDINANCE**

Ordinance 25 of 1990 .. in force 1 February 1991 (G.N. 22/91)

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No Subsidiary Legislation has been made under this Ordinance



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**CHAPTER 124**  
**TRUSTS ORDINANCE**

*(Ordinance 25 of 1990)*

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE PROVISION WITH REGARD TO TRUSTS,  
TRUSTEES AND PERSONS INTERESTED UNDER TRUSTS AND  
MATTERS INCIDENTAL AND RELATED THERETO.

[1 February 1991] Commencement

PART I

PRELIMINARY

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Trusts Ordinance. Short title
  
2. (1) In this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise requires— Interpretation
  - “beneficiary” means a person entitled to benefit under a trust or in whose favour a discretion to distribute property held on trust may be exercised;
  - “breach of trust” means a breach of any duty imposed on a trustee by this Ordinance or by the terms of the trust;
  - “charitable purpose” means a purpose recognised as charitable by the law governing the validity of the trust for which the purpose was created;
  - “corporate trustee” means a trustee which is a corporation;
  - “corporation” means a body corporate wherever incorporated;
  - “Court” means the Supreme Court of the Turks and Caicos Islands;
  - “foreign trust” means a trust as to which the law governing validity is the law of some jurisdiction other than that of the Islands;
  - “heirship right” means any right, claim or interest in, against or to property of a person arising or accruing in consequence of that person’s death, other than any such right, claim or interest created by will or other voluntary disposition by such person or resulting from an express limitation in the disposition of the property to such person;

“insolvent” means being subject to liabilities, whether actual, contingent or prospective, of which the value exceeds that of the assets available to meet such liabilities as they become due;

“insurance” includes assurance;

“interest of a beneficiary” means his interest under a trust and references to his interest have a corresponding meaning;

“minor” means a person who either under the law of the Islands or under the law of his domicile has not reached the age of legal capacity;

“personal relationship” includes every form of relationship by blood or marriage, including former marriage, and in particular a personal relationship between two persons exists if—

- (a) one is the child of the other, natural or adopted (whether or not the adoption is recognised by law), legitimate or illegitimate; or
- (b) one is married to the other (whether or not the marriage is recognised by law); or
- (c) one cohabits with the other or so conducts himself or herself in relation to the other as to give rise in any jurisdiction to any rights, obligations or responsibilities analogous to those of parent and child or husband and wife; or
- (d) personal relationships exist between each of them and a third person,

but no change in circumstances causes a personal relationship, once established, to terminate;

“personal representative” means the executor or administrator for the time being of a deceased person;

“property” means property of any description wherever situated, and, in relation to rights and interests, includes those rights and interests whether vested, contingent, defeasible or future;

“settlor” means a person who provides trust property;

“terms of a trust” means the written or oral terms of a trust, and any other terms made applicable by the laws governing its validity, construction or administration;

“trust” includes—

- (a) the trust property; and

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- (b) the rights, powers, duties, interests, relationships and obligations under a trust;

“trust property” means the property for the time being held in a trust;

“Turks and Caicos Trust” means a trust as to which the law governing validity is the law of the Islands; and

“unit trust” means any trust established for the purpose, or having the effect, of providing for persons having funds available for investment, facilities for the participation by them as beneficiaries under the trust in any profits or income arising from the acquisition, holding, management or disposal of any property whatsoever.

(2) This Ordinance shall not be construed as a codification of laws regarding trusts, trustees and persons interested under trusts.

**3.** A trust exists where a person (known as a trustee) holds or has vested in him or is deemed to hold or have vested in him property which does not form, or which has ceased to form, part of his own estate—

Existence of a trust

- (a) for the benefit of any person (known as a beneficiary) whether or not yet ascertained or in existence; or
- (b) for any purpose which is not for the benefit only of the trustee; or
- (c) for such benefit as is mentioned in paragraph (a) and also for any such purpose as is mentioned in paragraph (b).

**4.** (1) Subject to subsection (3) and to section 40, the law governing the validity, administration and construction of a trust shall be—

Applicable law of a trust

- (a) the law chosen by the settlor to be the applicable law, the choice being expressed or implied in the terms of the trust; or
- (b) if no such choice is ascertainable, the law with which the trust had its closest connection at the time it was created.

(2) In ascertaining the law with which a trust had the closest connection at the time it was created, reference shall be made in particular to—

- (a) the place of administration of the trust designated by the settlor;

- (b) the *situs* of the assets of the trust;
- (c) the place of residence or business of the trustee; and
- (d) the objects of the trust and the places where they are to be fulfilled.

(3) A severable aspect of a trust may be governed by a law different from that applicable to another aspect. The law applicable to the validity of a trust shall determine whether that law or the law governing a severable aspect of the trust may be replaced by another law.

Jurisdiction of  
the Court

**5.** The Court has jurisdiction where—

- (a) the trust is a Turks and Caicos Trust; or
- (b) a trustee of a foreign trust is resident in the Islands;  
or
- (c) any trust property of a foreign trust is situated in the Islands; or
- (d) administration of any trust property of a foreign trust is carried on in the Islands.

## PART II

### PROVISIONS APPLICABLE ONLY TO A TURKS AND CAICOS TRUST

Application of  
Part II

**6.** This Part applies only to a Turks and Caicos Trust.

Creation of a  
trust

**7.** (1) Subject to subsection (3), a trust may come into existence in any manner.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), a trust may come into existence by oral declaration, or by an instrument in writing (including a will or codicil) or arise by conduct.

(3) A unit trust may be created only by an instrument in writing.

Property which  
may be placed in  
a trust

**8.** Subject to section 12(2)—

- (a) any property may be held by or vested in a trustee upon trust; and
- (b) a trustee may accept from any person property to be added to the trust property.

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**9.** (1) A beneficiary shall be—

Beneficiaries of  
a trust

(a) identifiable by name; or

(b) ascertainable by reference to—

(i) a class; or

(ii) a relationship to some person whether or not living at the time of the creation of the trust or at the time which under the terms of the trust is the time by reference to which members of a class are to be determined.

(2) The terms of a trust may provide for the addition of a person as a beneficiary or the exclusion of a beneficiary from benefit.

(3) The terms of a trust may impose upon a beneficiary an obligation as a condition for benefit.

(4) A settlor or trustee of a trust may also be a beneficiary of the trust.

**10.** (1) Subject to the terms of the trust, a beneficiary may disclaim his interest or any part of it, whether or not he has received any benefit from it.

Disclaimer of a  
beneficial  
interest

(2) A disclaimer shall be in writing and, subject to the terms of the trust, may be temporary and may, if the disclaimer so provides, be revoked in the manner and circumstances described or referred to therein.

(3) A disclaimer is not effective until received by a trustee.

**11.** The interest of a beneficiary is movable property and, subject to the terms of the trust, may be sold, pledged, charged, or otherwise dealt with in any manner applicable to such property.

Nature of  
beneficial  
interest

**12.** (1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), a trust shall be valid and enforceable in accordance with its terms.

Validity of a  
Turks and Caicos  
Trust

(2) A trust shall be invalid and unenforceable—

(a) to the extent that—

(i) it purports to do anything the doing of which is contrary to the law of the Islands; or

(ii) it purports to confer any right or power or impose any obligation the exercise or carrying out of which is contrary to the law of the Islands; or

- (iii) it is created for a purpose in relation to which there is no beneficiary, not being a charitable purpose;
- (b) to the extent that the Court declares that—
  - (i) the trust was established by duress, fraud, mistake, undue influence, misrepresentation or in breach of fiduciary duty; or
  - (ii) the terms of the trust or its subject are so uncertain that its performance is rendered impossible.
- (3) Where a trust is created for two or more purposes of which some are lawful and others are unlawful—
  - (a) if those purposes cannot be separated the trust shall be invalid;
  - (b) where those purposes can be separated the Court may declare that the trust is valid exclusively for the purposes which are lawful unless a distinct share of income or capital of the trust is allocated for an unlawful purpose in which case the trust shall be invalid as to that share.
- (4) Property in respect of which a trust is wholly or partially invalid shall, subject to any order of the Court, be held by the trustee in trust for the settlor absolutely or if he is dead for his personal representative.
- (5) In subsection (4), “settlor” means the person who provided the property in respect of which the trust is wholly or partially invalid.

Application of  
foreign laws

- 13.** (1) All questions arising in regard to a trust which is for the time being governed by the laws of the Islands or in regard to any disposition of property upon the trusts thereof including, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, questions as to—
- (i) the capacity of any settlor;
  - (ii) any aspect of the validity of the trust or disposition or the interpretation or effect thereof;
  - (iii) the administration of the trust, whether the administration be conducted in the Islands or elsewhere, including questions as to the powers, obligations, liabilities and rights of trustees and their appointment and removal; or

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- (iv) the existence and extent of powers, conferred or retained, including powers of variation or revocation of the trust and powers of appointment, and the validity of any exercise thereof,

are to be determined according to the laws of the Islands, without reference to the laws of any other jurisdictions with which the trust or disposition may be connected,

Provided only that—

- (a) this section does not validate any disposition of property which is neither owned by the settlor nor the subject of a power in that behalf vested in the settlor, nor does this section affect the recognition of foreign laws in determining whether the settlor is the owner of such property or the holder of such a power;
- (b) this section takes effect subject to any express contrary term of the trust or disposition;
- (c) as regards the capacity of a corporation this section does not affect the recognition of the laws of its place of incorporation;
- (d) this section does not affect the recognition of foreign laws prescribing generally (without reference to the existence or terms of the trust) the formalities for the disposition of property;
- (e) this section does not validate any trust or disposition of real property situate in a jurisdiction other than the Islands which is invalid according to the laws of such jurisdiction;
- (f) this section does not validate any testamentary trust or disposition which is invalid according to the laws of the testator's domicile.

(2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), it is expressly declared that no trust governed by the laws of the Islands and no disposition of property to be held upon the trusts thereof is void, voidable, liable to be set aside or defective in any fashion, nor is the capacity of any settlor to be questioned by reason that—

- (a) the laws of any foreign jurisdiction prohibit or do not recognise the concept of a trust; or
- (b) the trust or disposition avoids or defeats rights, claims or interests conferred by foreign law upon any person by reason of a personal relationship to the settlor or by way of heirship rights, or contravenes any rule of foreign law or any foreign judicial

or administrative order or action intended to recognise, protect, enforce or give effect to any such rights, claims or interests.

Duration of a  
Turks and Caicos  
Trust

**14.** (1) An instrument creating or varying a trust may provide for the duration and date of termination of the trust.

(2) The rule of law known as the rule against perpetuities shall not apply to a Turks and Caicos Trust.

(3) For the avoidance of doubt it is declared that the rule referred to in subsection (2) includes—

- (a) the application or effect of that rule in respect of accumulations; and
- (b) the rule of law prohibiting trusts of perpetual duration.

Number of  
trustees

**15.** (1) Subject to the terms of the trust, the number of trustees shall be not less than two, unless one trustee was originally appointed or the sole trustee is a corporation.

(2) Where there is no trustee or less than the number required under subsection (1) a trust shall not fail on that account.

Appointment out  
of Court of new  
or additional  
trustee

**16.** (1) Where the terms of a trust contain no provision for the appointment of a new or additional trustee the trustees for the time being or the last remaining trustee or the personal representative or the liquidator of the last remaining trustee may appoint a new or additional trustee.

(2) Subject to the terms of the trust, a trustee appointed under this section shall have the same powers, discretions and duties and may act as if he had been originally appointed a trustee.

(3) A trustee having power to appoint a new trustee who fails to exercise such power may be removed from office by the Court.

(4) On the appointment of a new or additional trustee anything requisite for vesting the trust property in the trustees for the time being of the trust shall be done.

Prohibition of  
renunciation  
after acceptance

**17.** (1) No person shall be obliged to accept appointment as a trustee, but a person who knowingly does any act or thing in relation to the trust property consistent with the status of a trustee of that property shall be deemed to have accepted appointment as a trustee.

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(2) A person who has not accepted and is not deemed to have accepted appointment as a trustee may disclaim such appointment within a reasonable period of time after becoming aware of it by notice in writing to the settlor or to the trustees.

(3) If the settlor is dead or cannot be found and there are no other trustees a person to whom subsection (2) applies may apply to the Court for relief from his appointment and the Court may make such order as it thinks fit.

**18.** (1) Subject to subsection (3), a trustee, not being a sole trustee, may resign his office by notice in writing delivered to his co-trustees, but such resignation shall not take effect until the resigning trustee has executed the documents and performed the acts necessary to vest the trust property in the new or continuing trustees.

Resignation or  
removal of a  
trustee

(2) A resignation—

- (a) given in order to facilitate a breach of trust; or
- (b) which would result in there being no trustee or fewer than the number of trustees required under section 15(1), shall have no effect.

(3) A trustee shall cease to be a trustee of the trust immediately upon—

- (a) his removal from office by the Court; or
- (b) his resignation becoming effective; or
- (c) the operation of a provision, in the terms of a trust under which he is removed from office or otherwise ceases to hold his office.

**19.** Subject to the terms of the trust, where the number of trustees falls below the minimum number required under section 15(1), the required number of new trustees shall be appointed and until such minimum number is reached the surviving or continuing trustees shall act only for the purpose of preserving the trust property.

Position of  
continuing  
trustees on  
reduction in  
number of  
trustees

**20.** (1) A trustee shall in the execution of his duties and in the exercise of his powers and discretions—

Duties of trustee

- (a) act—
  - (i) with due diligence;
  - (ii) as would a prudent person;
  - (iii) to the best of his ability and skill; and
- (b) observe the utmost good faith.

(2) Subject to this Ordinance, a trustee shall carry out and administer the trust in accordance with its terms.

(3) A trustee shall, subject to the terms of the trust, preserve and enhance so far as is reasonable the value of the trust property.

(4) Except—

(a) with the approval of the Court; or

(b) as permitted by this Ordinance or expressly provided by the terms of the trust,

a trustee shall not—

(i) directly or indirectly profit from his trusteeship; or

(ii) cause or permit any other person to profit directly or indirectly from such trusteeship; or

(iii) on his own account enter into any transaction with the trustees or relating to the trust property which may result in such profit.

(5) A trustee shall keep accurate accounts and records of his trusteeship.

(6) A trustee shall keep trust property separate from his own property and separately identifiable from any other property of which he is trustee.

Duty of co-trustees to act together

**21.** (1) Subject to the terms of the trust, where there is more than one trustee all the trustees shall join in performing the trust.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), where there is more than one trustee no power or discretion given to the trustees shall be exercised unless all the trustees agree on its exercise.

(3) The terms of a trust may empower trustees to act by a majority but a trustee who dissents from a decision of the majority of the trustees may require his dissent to be recorded in writing.

Impartiality of trustee

**22.** Subject to the terms of the trust, where there is more than one beneficiary, or more than one charitable purpose, or at least one beneficiary and at least one charitable purpose, a trustee shall act fairly as between one and the other.

Powers of trustee

**23.** (1) Subject to the terms of the trust and subject to his duties under this Ordinance, a trustee shall in relation to the trust property have all the same powers as a natural person acting as the beneficial owner of such property.

(2) A trustee shall exercise his powers only in the interests of the beneficiaries and in accordance with the terms of the trust.

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(3) The terms of a trust may require a trustee to obtain the consent of some other person before exercising a power or discretion.

(4) Subject to the terms of the trust, a person whose consent is required as provided in subsection (3) shall—

- (a) not be deemed to be a trustee by reason only of such requirement or of the giving or withholding of such consent or of any act incidental thereto;
- (b) be entitled to remuneration and reimbursement of expenses in respect of services rendered in connection with the giving or withholding of consent or of any act incidental thereto.

**24.** (1) A trustee shall not delegate his powers unless permitted to do so by this Ordinance or by the terms of the trust.

Delegation by trustee

(2) Except where the terms of the trust specifically provide to the contrary, a trustee, whether or not there is any necessity—

- (a) may delegate management of trust property to and employ investment managers whom the trustee reasonably considers competent and qualified to manage the investment of trust property; and
- (b) may employ professional or skilled persons to act in relation to any of the affairs of the trust or to hold any of the trust property.

(3) A trustee shall not be liable for any loss to the trust arising from a delegation or appointment under subsection (2) who, in good faith and without neglect, makes such delegation or appointment or permits the continuation thereof.

(4) A trustee may authorise a person referred to in subsection (2) to retain any commission or other payment usually payable in relation to any transaction.

(5) Where a trustee enters into an agreement for the employment of an investment manager under subsection (2) (a) he may agree on the same terms as are customarily found in an agreement between the investment manager and beneficial (as opposed to fiduciary) owners of property and he shall not be liable for breach of trust by virtue of agreeing to such terms except that he shall not agree to any term excluding or limiting the liability of the investment manager for negligent performance of duties unless he considers that in all the circumstances a prudent man of business would accept such a term.

**25.** (1) Unless authorised by—

- (a) the terms of the trust; or

Remuneration and expenses of trustee

- (b) the consent in writing of all of the beneficiaries; or
- (c) any order of the Court,

a trustee shall not be entitled to remuneration for his services.

(2) A trustee may reimburse himself or pay out of the trust all expenditure properly incurred by him in connection with the trust.

Power to  
appropriate

**26.** Subject to this Ordinance and to the terms of the trust, a trustee may, without the consent of any beneficiary, appropriate trust property in or towards satisfaction of the interest of a beneficiary in such manner and in accordance with such valuation as he thinks fit.

Corporate trustee  
acting by  
resolution

**27.** A corporate trustee may—

- (a) act in connection with a trust by a resolution of such corporate trustee or of its board of directors or other governing body; or
- (b) by such a resolution appoint one or more of its officers or employees to act on its behalf in connection with the trust.

Trustee may  
refuse to make  
disclosure

**28.** Subject to the terms of the trust and subject to any order of the Court, a trustee shall not be required to disclose to any person, any document which—

- (a) discloses his deliberations as to the manner in which he has exercised a power or discretion or performed a duty conferred or imposed upon him; or
- (b) discloses the reason for any particular exercise of such power or discretion or performance of duty or the material upon which such reasons shall or might have been based; or
- (c) relates to the exercise or proposed exercise of such power or discretion or the performance or proposed performance of such duty; or
- (d) relates to or forms part of the accounts of the trust,

unless, in a case to which paragraph (d) applies, that person is a beneficiary under the trust not being a charity, or a charity which is referred to by name in the terms of the trust as a beneficiary under the trust.

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Liability for  
breach of trust

**29.** (1) A trustee who commits or concurs in a breach of trust shall be liable for—

- (a) the loss or depreciation in value of the trust property resulting from such breach; and
- (b) the profit, if any, which would have accrued to the trust property if there had been no such breach.

(2) Where there are two or more breaches of trust, a trustee shall not set off a gain from one breach of trust against a loss resulting from another breach of trust, unless they arise in the same transaction or result from the same unauthorised policy.

(3) A trustee shall not be liable for a breach of trust committed prior to his appointment, if such breach of trust was committed by some other person.

(4) A trustee shall not be liable for a breach of trust committed by a co-trustee unless—

- (a) he becomes aware or ought to have become aware of the commission of such breach or of the intention of his co-trustee to commit a breach of trust; and
- (b) he actively conceals such breach or such intention or fails within a reasonable time to take proper steps to protect or restore the trust property or prevent such breach.

(5) A beneficiary may—

- (a) relieve a trustee of liability to him for a breach of trust; and
- (b) indemnify a trustee against liability to him for a breach of trust.

(6) Subsection (5) shall not apply unless the beneficiary—

- (a) has legal capacity;
- (b) has full knowledge of all material facts; and
- (c) is not improperly induced by the trustee to take action under subsection (5).

(7) Where two or more trustees are liable in respect of a breach of trust, they shall be liable jointly and severally.

(8) A trustee who becomes aware of a breach of trust, to which subsection (3) relates shall take all reasonable steps to have such breach remedied.

(9) Subject to the terms of the trust, a trustee shall not be liable—

- (a) for the default of a co-trustee unless—
  - (i) he concurs in the default of that trustee; or
  - (ii) he fails to take reasonable care to prevent it; or
- (b) for any loss to the trust property unless such loss is due to—
  - (i) his wilful default, act or concurrence; or
  - (ii) his neglect or failure to exercise reasonable care to prevent such loss.

(10) A term of a trust shall be invalid if it purports to relieve a trustee from liability arising from his own fraud, wilful misconduct or negligence.

Trustee acting in respect of more than one trust

**30.** (1) A trustee acting for the purposes of more than one trust shall not, in the absence of fraud, be affected by notice of any instrument, matter, fact or thing in relation to any particular trust if he has obtained notice of it by reason of his acting or having acted for the purposes of another trust.

(2) A trustee of a trust shall disclose to his co-trustee any interest which he has as trustee of another trust, if any transaction in relation to the first mentioned trust is to be entered into with the trustee of such other trust.

Dealing by trustee with third party

**31.** (1) Subject to subsection (2), and without prejudice to the liability of a trustee for any breach of trust, where in any transaction or matter affecting a trust a trustee informs a third party that he is acting as trustee, a claim by such third party in relation thereto shall extend only to the trust property.

(2) Where the circumstances set out in subsection (1) exist, and the transaction or matter involved a breach of trust, and the third party knew that it involved a breach of trust, the third party shall have no claim against the trust property.

(3) Where in any such transaction or matter a trustee fails to inform a third party that he is acting as trustee—

- (a) he shall be personally liable to such third party in respect thereof; and
- (b) he shall have a right of recourse to the trust property by way of indemnity against such personal liability unless he acted in breach of trust.

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(4) In this section “third party” means any person not being a settlor, trustee or beneficiary of the trust.

**32.** (1) Subject to subsection (2), where a person (in this section referred to as a constructive trustee) makes or receives any profit, gain or advantage from a breach of trust he shall be deemed to be a trustee of that profit, gain, or advantage and of any property which represents it or is obtained by application of it.

Constructive trustee

(2) Subsection (1) shall not apply to a *bona fide* purchaser of property for value and without notice of a breach of trust or to a person who derives title from such a purchaser unless that person has, at the time of deriving title, notice of a breach of trust.

(3) A person who is or becomes a constructive trustee shall deliver up the property of which he is a constructive trustee to the person properly entitled to it.

(4) This section shall not be construed as excluding any other circumstance under which a person may be or become a constructive trustee.

**33.** (1) When a trustee resigns, retires or is removed, he shall duly surrender trust property in his possession or under his control.

Position of outgoing trustee

(2) A trustee who resigns, retires or is removed and has complied with subsection (1) shall be released from liability to any beneficiary, trustee or person interested under the trust for any act or omission in relation to the trust property or his duty as a trustee except liability—

- (a) arising from any breach of trust to which such trustee (or in the case of a corporate trustee any of its officers or employees) was a party or to which he was privy; or
- (b) in respect of actions to recover from such trustee (or, in the case of a corporate trustee, any of its officers or employees) trust property or the proceeds of trust property in the possession of such trustee, officer or employees.

(3) Any provision in the terms of a trust purporting to indemnify a trustee to an extent greater than is provided by this section shall be invalid.

**34.** (1) The terms of a trust may make the interest of a beneficiary liable to termination.

Protective trusts

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), the terms of a trust may make the interest of a beneficiary in the income or capital of the trust property subject to—

- (a) a restriction on alienation or disposal; or
- (b) diminution or termination in the event of the beneficiary becoming insolvent or any of his property becoming liable to sequestration for the benefit of his creditors.

(3) A trust under which the interest of a beneficiary is subject to restriction, diminution or termination under subsection (2) may be referred to as a protective trust.

Class interests

**35.** (1) Subject to the terms of a trust, the following rules shall apply where a trust or an interest under a trust is in favour of a class of persons—

Rule 1. A class closes when it is no longer possible for any other person to become a member of the class.

Rule 2. A woman who is over the age of fifty-five years shall be deemed to be no longer capable of bearing a child.

Rule 3. Where any class interest relates to income and for any period there is no member of the class in existence the income shall be accumulated and shall be retained until there is a member of the class in existence or the class closes.

(2) In this section “class interest” means a trust or an interest under a trust which is in favour of a class of persons.

Power to provide for variation of terms of trust

**36.** (1) The terms of a trust may be varied in any manner provided by its terms.

(2) This section is in addition to section 47 (which provides for the variation of the terms of a Turks and Caicos Trust by the Court).

Power of accumulation and advancement

**37.** (1) The terms of a trust may direct or authorise the accumulation for any period of all or part of the income of the trust.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), income of the trust which is not accumulated under subsection (1) shall be distributed.

(3) Subject to the terms of the trust and subject to any prior interests or charges affecting the trust property, where a

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beneficiary is a minor and whether or not his interest is vested or contingent the trustee may—

- (a) accumulate the income attributable to the interest of such beneficiary;
- (b) apply such income or part of it to or for the maintenance, education or other benefit of such beneficiary;
- (c) advance or appropriate to or for the benefit of any such beneficiary all or part of the capital to which his share of income is attributable.

(4) The receipt of a parent or the lawful guardian of a beneficiary who is a minor shall be a sufficient discharge to the trustee for a payment made under subsection (3).

(5) Subject to the terms of the trust and subject to any prior interests or charges affecting the trust property, the trustee may advance or apply for the benefit of a beneficiary part of the trust property prior to the date of the happening of the event upon the happening of which the beneficiary becomes entitled absolutely thereto.

(6) Any part of the trust property advanced or applied under subsection (5) shall be brought into account in determining from time to time the share of the beneficiary in the trust property.

(7) No part of the trust property advanced or applied under subsection (5) shall exceed the presumptive, contingent or vested share of the beneficiary in the trust property.

**38.** The terms of a trust may confer on the trustee or any other person power to appoint or assign all or any part of the trust property or any interest in the trust property to, or to trustees for the benefit of, any person, whether or not such person was a beneficiary of the trust immediately prior to such appointment or assignment.

Power of  
appointment

**39.** (1) A trust and any exercise of a power under a trust may be expressed to be—

Power of  
revocation

- (a) revocable whether wholly or partly; or
- (b) capable of variation.

(2) No such revocation or variation shall prejudice anything lawfully done by a trustee in relation to a trust before he received notice of such revocation or variation.

(3) Subject to the terms of the trust, if it is revoked the trustee shall hold the trust property in trust for the settlor absolutely.

(4) Where a trust is partly revoked subsection (3) shall apply to the property which is the subject of such revocation.

(5) In subsection (3) “settlor” means the particular person who provided the property which is the subject of revocation.

Power to provide  
for change of  
applicable law

**40.** The terms of a trust may provide for the law referred to in section 4(1) or the law governing a severable aspect thereof to be changed from the law of the Islands to the law of another jurisdiction but such provision shall not be valid unless the terms also provide that—

- (a) the change cannot invalidate any other terms of the trust, any purpose of the trust, and any interest of a beneficiary; and
- (b) the change is consistent with the intention of the settlor.

Failure or lapse  
of interest

**41.** (1) Subject to the terms of a trust and subject to any order of the Court, where—

- (a) an interest lapses; or
- (b) a trust terminates; or
- (c) there is no beneficiary and no person who can become a beneficiary in accordance with the terms of the trust; or
- (d) property is vested in a person which is not for his sole benefit and the trusts upon which he is to hold the property are not declared or communicated to him;

the interest or property affected by such lapse, termination, lack of beneficiary or lack of declaration or communication of trusts shall be held by the trustee or the person referred to in paragraph (d), as the case may be, in trust for the settlor absolutely or if he is dead for his personal representative.

(2) In subsection (1) “settlor” means the particular person who provided the interest or property affected as mentioned in subsection (1).

Application *cy-*  
*pres* of charitable  
gift

**42.** (1) Subject to subsection (2) the circumstances in which the original purpose of a charitable gift can be altered to allow the property given or part of it to be applied *cy-pres* shall be as follows—

- (a) where the original purposes, in whole or in part—
  - (i) have been as far as may be fulfilled; or

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- (ii) cannot be carried out, or cannot be carried out according to the directions given and to the spirit of the gift; or
- (b) where the original purposes provide for part only of the property available by virtue of the gift; or
- (c) where the property available by virtue of the gift and other property applicable for similar purposes can be more effectively used in conjunction and to that end can suitably, regard being had to the spirit of the gift, be made applicable to common purposes; or
- (d) where the original purposes were laid down by reference to an area which then was but has since ceased to be a unit for some other purpose or by reference to a class of persons or to an area which has for any reason since ceased to be suitable, regard being had to the spirit of the gift, or to be practicable in administering the gift; or
- (e) where the original purposes, in whole or in part, have, since they were laid down—
  - (i) been adequately provided for by other means; or
  - (ii) ceased, as being useless or harmful to the community or for other reasons, to be in law charitable; or
  - (iii) ceased in any other way to provide a suitable and effective method of using the property available by virtue of the gift, regard being had to the spirit of the gift.

(2) References in subsection (1) to the original purposes of gift shall be construed, where the application of the property given has been altered or regulated by a scheme or otherwise, as referring to the purposes for which the property is for the time being applicable.

(3) It is hereby declared that a trust for charitable purposes places a trustee under a duty, where the case requires the property or some part of it to be applied *cy-pres*, to secure its effective use for charity by taking steps to enable it to be so applied.

**43.** (1) On the termination of a trust the trust property shall be distributed by the trustee within a reasonable time in accordance with the terms of the trust to the persons entitled thereto.

Termination of a  
Turks and Caicos  
Trust

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), the trustee may retain sufficient assets to make reasonable provision for liabilities whether existing, future, contingent or otherwise.

(3) Without prejudice to the powers of the Court and notwithstanding the terms of the trust, where all the beneficiaries are in existence and have been ascertained and none are minors or persons other than minors who under the law of the Islands or of their domicile do not have legal capacity, they may require the trustee to terminate the trust and distribute the trust property among them.

Appointment of  
resident trustee

**44.** (1) Where there is no trustee resident in the Islands a beneficiary may apply to the Court for the appointment of a person nominated for the purpose in the application, who shall be a person who resides in the Islands, as an additional trustee.

(2) The Court—

- (a) upon being satisfied that the notice of the application by the beneficiary has been served upon the trustees;
- (b) having heard any representations made by the trustees or any other beneficiary; and
- (c) having ascertained that the person nominated for the purpose in the application is willing to act;

may make an order appointing such person as an additional trustee.

Power to relieve  
trustee from  
personal liability

**45.** (1) The Court may relieve a trustee either wholly or partly from personal liability for a breach of trust where it appears to the Court that—

- (a) he is or may be personally liable for the breach of trust; and
- (b) he has acted honestly and reasonably; and
- (c) he ought fairly to be excused—
  - (i) for the breach of trust; or
  - (ii) for omitting to obtain the directions of the Court in the matter in which such breach arose.

(2) Subsection (1) shall apply whether the transaction alleged to be a breach of trust occurred before or after the commencement of this Ordinance.

Power to make  
beneficiary  
indemnify for  
breach of trust

**46.** (1) Where a trustee commits a breach of trust at the instigation or at the request or with the consent of a beneficiary, the Court may by order impound all or part of the interest of the

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beneficiary by way of indemnity to the trustee or any person claiming through him.

(2) Subsection (1) applies whether or not such beneficiary is a minor or a person other than a minor, who under the law of the Islands or under the law of his domicile does not have legal capacity.

**47.** (1) Subject to subsection (2), the Court may, if it thinks fit, by order approve on behalf of—

- (a) a minor or a person other than a minor who under the law of the Islands or his domicile does not have legal capacity, having, directly or indirectly, an interest, whether vested or contingent, under the trust; or
- (b) any person, whether ascertained or not, who may become entitled, directly or indirectly, to an interest under the trust as being at a future date or on the happening of a future event a person of any specified description or a member of any specified class of persons; or
- (c) any person unborn; or
- (d) any person in respect of any interest of his that may arise by reason of any discretionary power given to anyone on the failure or determination of any existing interest that has not failed or determined,

any arrangement, by whomsoever proposed and whether or not there is or may be any other person beneficially interested who is capable of assenting thereto, varying or revoking all or any of the terms of the trust or enlarging the powers of the trustee of managing or administering any of the trust property.

(2) The Court shall not approve an arrangement on behalf of any person coming within paragraphs (a), (b) or (c) of subsection (1) unless the carrying out thereof appears to be for the benefit of that person.

(3) Where in the management or administration of a trust, any sale, lease, pledge, charge, surrender, release or other disposition, or any purchase, investment, acquisition, expenditure or other transaction is in the opinion of the Court expedient but the same cannot be effected by reason of the absence of any power for that purpose vested in the trustee by the terms of the trust or by law, the Court may confer upon the trustee either generally or in any particular circumstances a power for that purpose on such terms and subject to such provisions and conditions, if any, as the Court thinks fit and may direct in what manner and from what property

Variation of  
Turks and Caicos  
Trust by Court  
and approval of  
particular  
transactions

any money authorised to be expended and the costs of any transaction are to be paid or borne.

(4) This section applies to a trust whose law governing administration is the law of the Islands.

### PART III

#### PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO A FOREIGN TRUST

Application of  
Part III

**48.** This Part applies only to a foreign trust.

Enforceability of  
a foreign trust

**49.** (1) Subject to subsection (2), a foreign trust or a severable aspect thereof shall be governed by the foreign law applicable to the validity, construction and administration thereof.

(2) A foreign trust shall be enforceable in the Islands except to the extent that it purports to do anything the doing of which is contrary to the law of the Islands or to confer any right or power or impose any obligation the exercise or carrying out of which is contrary to the law of the Islands.

### PART IV

#### PROVISIONS OF GENERAL APPLICATION

Application of  
Part IV

**50.** This Part applies to a Turks and Caicos Trust and, to the extent that the context admits, applies to a foreign trust.

Vesting of trust  
property in new  
or continuing  
trustees

**51.** (1) Where a new trustee is appointed by instrument in writing, then—

- (a) if the instrument contains a declaration by the appointor to the effect that any property subject to the trust shall vest in the persons who, by virtue of the instrument, are to be the trustees, the instrument shall operate without conveyance, transfer or assignment, to vest in those persons, as joint tenants, and for the purposes of the trust, the property to which the declaration relates; and
- (b) if the instrument does not contain such a declaration, it shall subject to any express provision to the contrary contained in it, operate as if it contained such a declaration by the appointor extending to all

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the property with respect to which a declaration could have been made.

(2) Where by a written instrument an outgoing trustee is discharged without a new trustee being appointed, then the provisions of subsection (1) shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the vesting of the property concerned in the continuing trustees as joint tenants for the purposes of the trust.

(3) This section does not apply to the transfer or purported transfer of title to land held under a lease or subject to a charge if such lease or charge contains a provision to the effect that assignment or transfer is prohibited, or is subject to a consent which has not been obtained at the date of execution of the written instrument referred to in subsections (1) and (2).

(4) This section does not affect any requirement imposed by law or by a legally binding obligation on the appointor, or on the person in whom property is vested by reason of this section or on any other person, to perform any act additional to the transfer of title represented by the vesting created by this section, including, but not limited to, acts of registration and the giving of notice.

(5) In this section, "lease" includes an underlease and an agreement for lease or underlease.

**52.** (1) A trustee may apply to the Court for directions concerning the manner in which he may or should act in connection with any matter concerning the trust and the Court may make such order, if any, as it thinks fit.

Application to,  
and certain  
powers of, the  
Court

(2) The Court may, if it thinks fit—

(a) make an order concerning—

(i) the execution or the administration of any trust;  
or

(ii) the trustee of any trust, including an order relating to the exercise of any power, discretion or duty of the trustee, the appointment or removal of a trustee, the remuneration of a trustee, the submission of accounts, the conduct of the trustee and payments, whether payments into Court or otherwise; or

(iii) a beneficiary or any person having a connection with the trust;

(b) make a declaration as to the validity or the enforceability of any aspect of a trust;

(c) rescind or vary any order or declaration made under this Ordinance, or make any new or further order or declaration.

(3) An application to the Court for an order or declaration under subsection (2) may be made by the Attorney General or by the trustee or a beneficiary or, with leave of the Court, by any other person.

(4) Where the Court makes an order for the appointment of a trustee, it may impose such conditions as it thinks fit, including conditions as to the vesting of trust property.

(5) Subject to any order of the Court, a trustee appointed under this section shall have the same powers, discretions and duties and may act as if he had been originally appointed as a trustee.

Execution of  
instruments by  
order of the  
Court

**53.** Where any person neglects or refuses to comply with an order of the Court directing him to execute or make any conveyance, assignment or other document or instrument or indorsement, for giving effect to any order of the Court under this Ordinance, the Court may, on such terms and conditions, if any, as may be just, order that the conveyance, assignment, or other document or instrument or indorsement, shall be executed, made or done by such person as the Court nominates for the purpose, at the cost of the person in default, or otherwise, as the Court directs, and a conveyance, assignment, document, instrument or indorsement so executed, made or done shall operate and be for all purposes valid as if it had been executed, made or done by the person originally directed to execute, make or do it.

Payment of costs

**54.** The Court may order the costs and expenses of and incidental to an application to the Court under this Ordinance to be raised and paid out of the trust property or to be borne and paid in such manner and by such persons as it thinks fit.

Nature of  
trustee's estate,  
following trust  
property and  
insolvency of  
trustee

**55.** (1) Subject to subsection (2)—

- (a) the interest of a trustee in the trust property is limited to that which is necessary for the proper performance of the trust; and
- (b) such property shall not be deemed to form part of his assets.

(2) Where a trustee is also a beneficiary of the same trust, subsection (1) shall not apply to his interest in the trust property as a beneficiary.

(3) Without prejudice to the liability of a trustee for breach of trust, trust property which has been alienated or converted in

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breach of trust or the property into which it has been converted may be followed and recovered unless—

- (a) it is not identifiable; or
- (b) it is in the possession of a person to whom section 32(2) applies.

(4) Where a trustee becomes insolvent or upon distraint, execution or any similar process of law being made, taken or used against any of his property, his creditors shall have no right or claim against the trust property except to the extent that the trustee himself has a claim against the trust or has a beneficial interest in the trust.

**56.** (1) Subject to subsection (3) a *bona fide* purchaser for value—

- (a) may deal with a trustee in relation to trust property as if the trustee were the beneficial owner of the trust property; and
- (b) shall not be affected by the trusts on which such property is held.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), no person paying or advancing money to a trustee shall be concerned to see that such money is wanted, or that no more than is wanted is raised, or otherwise as to the propriety of the transaction or the application of the money.

(3) A person who deals with a trustee shall not be personally liable in respect of any breach of trust on the part of the trustee unless, in respect of that dealing, that person—

- (a) has actual knowledge of the breach of trust; or
- (b) wilfully disregards circumstances which would cause an honest and reasonable person to conclude, on a balance of probabilities, that a breach of trust exists; or
- (c) would have actual knowledge of the breach of trust if he made the enquiries which would be made in the circumstances by an honest and reasonable man.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3), it shall be presumed that an honest and reasonable man would, if the circumstances reasonably so required, seek professional advice including where appropriate legal advice.

**57.** (1) This section applies to a corporate trustee which, being constituted or operated for the purpose of acting as a trustee

Protection from  
personal liability  
of persons  
dealing with  
trustees

Liability of  
directors of a  
corporate trustee

(whether or not it is also constituted or operated for other purposes)—

- (a) is a trustee of a Turks and Caicos Trust;
- (b) is resident in the Islands; or
- (c) is carrying on business in the Islands or from an address in the Islands.

(2) Where a breach of trust has been committed by a corporate trustee to which this section applies, every person who at the time of the commission of the breach of trust was a director of such corporate trustee shall be deemed to be a guarantor of such corporate trustee in respect of any pecuniary damages and costs awarded by the Court against such corporate trustee in respect of such breach:

Provided always that the Court may relieve a director either wholly or partly from personal liability as a guarantor of such corporate trustee where it appears to the Court that he ought fairly to be excused from such liability, because—

- (a) he has proved that he was not aware of such breach of trust being contemplated or committed, and in being not so aware, was not behaving in a reckless or negligent manner; or
  - (b) he expressly objected, and exercised such rights as he had by way of voting power or otherwise as a shareholder, director or other officer of the company so as to try to prevent the commission of such breach of trust.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2)—
- (a) “director” includes a person occupying the position of director by whatever name called, a person in accordance with whose directions or instructions the directors of the corporation or of a corporation of which it is a subsidiary (or any of them) are accustomed to act, and a person who either alone or with or through an associate is entitled to exercise or control the exercise of one third or more of the voting power at a general meeting of the corporation or of a corporation of which it is a subsidiary;
  - (b) “subsidiary” means a corporation in respect of which another corporation is entitled to exercise or can control the exercise of one third or more of the voting power;

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- (c) where used in this subsection “associate” in relation to a person means any relative, partner or other person who is, has been or may be influenced by that person.

**58.** (1) No period of limitation or prescription shall apply to an action brought against a trustee—

Limitation of  
actions or  
prescription

- (a) in respect of any fraud to which the trustee was a party or to which he was privy; or
- (b) to recover from the trustee trust property—
- (i) in his possession; or
- (ii) under his control; or
- (iii) previously received by him and converted to his use.

(2) Save as provided in subsection (1), the period within which an action founded on breach of trust may be brought against a trustee by a beneficiary is—

- (a) three years from the delivery of the final accounts of the trust to the beneficiary; or
- (b) three years from the date on which the beneficiary first has knowledge of the occurrence of a breach of trust,

whichever period shall first begin to run.

(3) Where the beneficiary is a minor the period referred to in subsection (2) shall not begin to run before the day on which the beneficiary ceases to be a minor.

## PART V

### SUPPLEMENTAL

**59.** Subject to section 60, this Ordinance shall apply to trusts constituted or created either before or after the commencement of this Ordinance.

Application of  
Ordinance

**60.** (1) Nothing in this Ordinance shall—

Saving  
provisions

- (a) abridge or affect the powers, responsibilities or duties under any provision of law of the Governor or of any special or general attorney;

- (b) affect the legality or validity of anything done before the commencement of this Ordinance in relation to a trust existing before the commencement of this Ordinance; or
- (c) affect the legality of a trust arising from a document or disposition executed or taking effect before the commencement of this Ordinance.

(2) Nothing in this Ordinance shall derogate from the powers of the Court which exist independently of this Ordinance—

- (a) to set aside or reduce any transfer or other disposition of property; or
- (b) to vary any trust; or
- (c) to reduce or vary any testamentary or other disposition; or
- (d) to make an order relating to matrimonial proceedings.

(3) Nothing in this Ordinance shall affect a personal representative where he is acting as such.

Assets protection trusts

**61.** (1) If by virtue of a disposition made by or on behalf of a settlor his property becomes trust property which is the subject of a Turks and Caicos Trust, and—

- (a) the settlor is an individual;
- (b) the settlor is not insolvent when the disposition is made; and
- (c) the settlor does not become insolvent by reason of the disposition,

that disposition shall not be voidable at the instance of any creditor of the settlor.

(2) In any proceedings in which the provisions of this section are to be applied, the burden of proof of the fact that a settlor is or has been insolvent shall be upon the person asserting that fact.

Rules of Court

**62.** The Court may make rules of Court for the purposes of proceedings under this Ordinance.

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