1937

**c 17 Sheriffs Act**

Ontario
CHAPTER 17.

The Sheriffs Act.

1. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may, by a commission under the Great Seal, appoint a sheriff for each county and district. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 1.

2.—(1) The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may, in like manner appoint one person to be sheriff of the County of York, and another to be sheriff of the City of Toronto.

(2) Subject to the provisions of section 4 the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may define what duties with reference to courts held jointly for the City and County, including any duties to be performed under The Jurors' Act, shall be performed by the sheriffs of the City and County respectively.

(3) No act done by either of the said sheriffs shall be held unlawful or invalid on the ground that the same should have been done by the other. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 2.

3. The sheriff of the County of York shall have no jurisdiction within the City of Toronto, save as provided by this Act. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 3.

4.—(1) The sheriff of the County of York shall perform the duties pertaining to the office of sheriff with reference to the following courts held in the City of Toronto, that is to say, the election courts, the non-jury sittings of the High Court, the County Court of the County of York, the Court of General Sessions of the Peace, and the County Judges' Criminal Court.

(2) The sheriff of the City of Toronto shall perform the duties pertaining to the office of sheriff with reference to the Court of Appeal and to the jury sittings of the High Court in Toronto. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 4.

5. The sheriff of the County of York in respect of the courts assigned to him shall be entitled to all fees and allowances payable to sheriff in respect of services connected with such courts, including the removal to the penitentiary of any
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prisoners sentenced thereto by such courts, and the sheriff of the City of Toronto shall in like manner be entitled, in respect of the courts assigned to him, to the like fees and allowances for services connected with such courts. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 5.

6. So long as there is but one gaol for the City of Toronto and the County of York, the sheriff of the City of Toronto shall have control of the gaol. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 6.

7. The sheriff of the County of York shall be entitled to the fees and allowances payable to sheriffs for services relating to prisoners and mentally incompetent persons committed from the County of York outside the City of Toronto who may be confined in such gaol, or relating to any returns required to be made to the Inspector of Prisons in respect of any such prisoners or mentally incompetent persons. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 7.

8. The sheriff of the City of Toronto shall be entitled to the fees and allowances payable to sheriffs for services relating to the custody and control of the gaol, and of any city prisoners and mentally incompetent persons confined therein, and relating to any returns required to be made in respect of such gaol, or of any city prisoners or mentally incompetent persons confined therein. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 8.

9.—(1) When any part of the County of York is annexed to the City of Toronto, the sheriff of the County of York shall forthwith transmit to the sheriff of the City of Toronto a list of all writs of execution then in his hands not theretofore so transmitted, and shall in like manner transmit to the sheriff of the City of Toronto notice of the renewal of any such writ and of any subsequent or supplemental writ in the same cause or matter.

(2) If the sheriff of the City of Toronto, upon search being made in his office for executions against the property of any person, finds that there is no such execution, but that the name of such person is included in any list so transmitted to him by the sheriff of the County of York, he shall, upon request and without charge give a certificate stating that fact and that there is no such execution in his office. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 9.

10. Every sheriff, before he enters upon the duties of his office, shall take and subscribe the oath of allegiance prescribed by The Public Officers Act, and also the oath of office (Form 1), and shall not be required to take any other oath.

R.5.0. 1927, c. 18, s. 5.

R.5.0. 1927, c. 18, s. 6.

R.5.0. 1927, c. 18, s. 7.

R.5.0. 1927, c. 18, s. 8.

R.5.0. 1927, c. 18, s. 9.

Oaths to be taken on appointment.
except as hereinafter provided, and every such oath shall be filed in the office of the clerk of the peace. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 10.

11.—(1) The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may fix and determine the amount of the security to be furnished on behalf of every sheriff, but such amount shall not in any case be less than $3,000.

(2) The security shall be furnished in accordance with the provisions of *The Public Officers Act* and of any Order-in-Council made under the authority thereof, and within one month after the appointment of the sheriff and before he is sworn into office.

(3) In case the security is not furnished within the said period, or within such further period as the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may prescribe, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may revoke the appointment of the sheriff, and his appointment and commission shall be void from and after the date of such revocation.

(4) The security shall not be affected, nor shall the surety be released wholly or in part from the obligation assumed by reason of any change by legislative authority or otherwise in the boundaries of the county, city or district for which the sheriff was appointed, or by reason of any change in his duties.

(5) Any person may examine the security furnished on behalf of a sheriff, and shall be entitled to take a copy thereof.

(6) His Majesty, or any person sustaining damage by reason of the default or misconduct of a sheriff, in addition to any right of action against the sheriff, may bring and maintain an action against the surety alone, and the action shall not be barred by reason of a prior recovery by the same person upon the same security or by reason of a judgment rendered for the defendant in a prior action upon the same security or by reason of any other action being then pending upon the security at the suit of the same plaintiff or any other person for any other distinct cause of action; provided that if the plaintiff has recovered damages in an action against the sheriff for any such default or misconduct and the amount recovered or any part thereof has been paid to the plaintiff, no action shall lie against the surety for the same cause, except for any amount so recovered and remaining unpaid.
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(7) If upon the trial of an action brought against a surety it appears that the plaintiff is entitled to recover, and that the amount which the surety has paid or has become liable to pay under a judgment recovered against him is not equal to the full amount of the security, the court, after deducting from the full amount the sum which the surety has paid or become liable to pay, as aforesaid, shall render judgment against the surety for any sum not exceeding the balance of the sum for which he became surety.

(8) If the surety has actually and bona fide paid out of his own moneys or effects, or has become liable by virtue of a judgment recovered upon the security to pay an amount equal to the amount specified therein the security shall be deemed to be discharged and satisfied, and no other or further sum shall be recovered thereunder.

(9) The court in which an action on the security is pending, upon proof of such payment or liability, and at any stage of the action, may in a summary manner prevent the recovery against the surety of any further sum than that specified in the security.

(10) The security shall extend to the acts and omissions of the deputy of the sheriff, and, in case of a vacancy in the office of sheriff by death, resignation or otherwise, the security shall continue and be enforceable with respect to any act or omission of the deputy sheriff or of a sheriff pro tem. pro tern acting in pursuance of the provisions of this Act or of any deputy sheriff appointed by such sheriff pro tem. in pursuance of the provisions of this Act. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 11.

12. A sheriff or deputy sheriff shall not, directly or indirectly, keep a shop, or trade in goods, wares, or merchandise, either by wholesale or retail. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 12.

13. A sheriff, deputy sheriff, coroner, elisor, bailiff or constable shall not, directly or indirectly, purchase any goods or chattels, lands or tenements by him exposed to sale under legal process. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 13.

14. Every coroner, elisor, bailiff or constable entrusted with the execution of any writ, warrant or process who wilfully misconducts himself in the execution of the same, or wilfully makes any false return to such writ, warrant or process, unless by the consent of the party in whose favour the same may have issued, shall incur a penalty not exceeding
$200, recoverable upon summary conviction, and shall be liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months, and shall answer in damages to any person aggrieved by such misconduct or false return. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 14.

15. If a debtor in execution escapes out of legal custody the sheriff, bailiff, or other person having the custody of such debtor, shall be liable only to an action for the damages sustained by the person at whose suit the debtor was taken or imprisoned, and shall not be liable to any other action in consequence of his escape. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 15.

16. A sheriff who wilfully makes any false return to any process directed to him and placed in his hands for execution, unless by consent of both parties to the same, shall be liable to forfeit his office. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 16.

17. Where an action is brought against a sheriff and a party thereto requires it to be tried by a jury the trial shall take place in such county or district as the court or a judge may direct. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 17.

18. Upon the delivery of a writ of summons at the office of a sheriff, to be served by him, he, or his deputy or clerk, shall endorse thereon the time when it was so delivered; and in case the writ is not fully and completely served within ten days after the delivery, the plaintiff shall be entitled to receive back the same; and the sheriff, deputy sheriff or clerk shall endorse thereon the time of the delivery back: and the cost of the mileage and service of the writ by a literate person afterwards, if the person to be served was at any time during the ten days within the county or district, shall be allowed in the taxation of costs, as if the service had been by the sheriff or his officer. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 18.

19. If the sheriff, being applied to, does not return the writ, after the expiration of the ten days, the plaintiff may issue a duplicate or concurrent writ on the praecipe already filed, and the costs of the first or other writ not returned may be charged against and recovered from the sheriff by the plaintiff. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 19.

20.—(1) Where, for the purpose of investigating or establishing some title to land, a certificate respecting executions against lands is required from a sheriff, the sheriff if so requested, shall include in one certificate any number of names in respect of which the certificates may be required in the same matter or investigation.
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(2) The sheriff shall, in such certificate, include all certificates of proof of claims under The Creditors Relief Act which may be in his hands affecting lands.

(3) The maximum fees payable to a sheriff in respect to such certificate shall be $4. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 20.

21. Subject to rules of court the sheriff shall, except upon legal holidays and during the long vacation, keep his office open every day from ten o'clock in the forenoon until four o'clock in the afternoon, and during all that time he or his deputy or some competent person shall be present to transact the business of the office; and during the long vacation the sheriff or his deputy or clerk shall be present in his office on every day, legal holidays excepted, from ten o'clock in the forenoon until one o'clock in the afternoon, provided that the sheriffs or their respective deputies or clerks, shall only be required to be present in their offices, for the transaction of business on every Saturday, not being a holiday, from ten o'clock in the forenoon until one o'clock in the afternoon, and provided also that when the office of a sheriff may be closed under this section at one o'clock in the afternoon, the sheriff or his deputy shall nevertheless, upon application made to him, transact all necessary and urgent business of his office in the same manner and to the same extent as on days upon which the office is required to be kept open until four o'clock. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 21.

22. The sheriff shall keep in his office the following books, certain books to be kept in sheriff's office.

(a) Process books—in which shall be entered a memorandum of every process other than writs of execution or writs in the nature of writs of execution, received by him, the court out of which the same issued, the date of the receipt, the nature of the process, the names of the parties thereto, the solicitor by whom issued, what was done thereunder or therewith and the date and the nature of the return made thereto;

(b) Execution books—in which shall be entered a memorandum of every writ of execution, or writ in the nature of a writ of execution received by him, the court out of which the same issued, the date of the receipt, the nature of the process, the names of the parties thereto, the solicitor by whom issued, what was done thereunder or therewith and the date and the nature of the return made thereto, or what was done thereunder or therewith;

(c) A cash book—in which shall be entered all moneys received or paid by the sheriff in his official capacity, or in connection with his office, for any service whatever, for fees, poundage, service of process and papers, attendance at courts, moneys levied or collected under execution, or under writs in the nature of writs of execution or otherwise, the date of the receipt or payment and the cause, matter or service in, or on account of which the same was received or paid;

Sheriff to keep an account of his fees.

(d) A separate book—in which shall be entered from day to day all fees and emoluments received by him, by virtue of his office, and the several amounts disbursed by him, in carrying on the work of his office;

Other books,

(e) Such other books as the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may require. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 23.

23. The sheriff shall, on or before the 15th day of January in every year, make, to the Inspector of Legal Offices, a return, under oath, of the aggregate amount of the fees and emoluments received by him, and of his disbursements, during the previous year, up to and inclusive of the 31st day of December. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 24.

Books to be paid for by county.

24. The sheriff shall procure the books mentioned in section 22, and the cost thereof shall be paid by the city or county of which he is sheriff. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 25.

Sheriff to make quarterly returns of fines, etc., and pay over moneys.

25. The sheriff shall quarterly and within twenty days after the expiration of each quarterly period, transmit to the Inspector of Legal Offices a just, true and faithful account, verified upon oath, of all fines, penalties, and forfeitures which he has been required to levy and make by any lawful authority, and of the receipt and application of the same, or the reason why the same have not been received and applied, and he shall pay over to the proper officer or to the person lawfully entitled to receive the same, the several sums collected by him, within twenty days next after the period within which the same have been collected, and every sheriff neglecting or refusing to transmit such quarterly account, or to pay over any money so collected by him, within the time hereby prescribed, shall incur the like penalty and may be sued for the same in the same manner, as is provided with regard to justices of the peace neglecting or refusing to make the returns required by Part II of The Justices of the Peace Act. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 26; 1936, c. 56, s. 16.
26. The sheriff shall give his attendance upon the judges for the maintenance of good order in His Majesty's courts, and for the doing and executing of all other things to the office of sheriff in such case appertaining. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 27.

SHERIFF TO APPOINT CONSTABLES AND CRIER.

27. The sheriff shall have the appointment and control of the court crier and of the constables at the sittings of the High Court, the county court, the court of general sessions and constables of the peace, and other courts at which the attendance of the sheriff is required. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 28.

PAYMENT OF SHERIFF'S COSTS

28. Where a sheriff is directed by the court to perform any service or do any act for which no fee is provided the sheriff may be allowed such fee as the court may think fit, and the same shall be payable as the court may direct. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 29.

29. The sheriff may at the time of the delivery demand from any person delivering a process or attachment to him to be executed, the fees allowed to him by the tariff for receiving the writ or order and for warrant and return, and a reasonable sum for mileage and the fees and mileage so paid shall, if afterwards collected from the debtor, be repaid by the sheriff to the person who issued such process or attachment. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 30.

30.—(1) After the expiration of one month from the service of his bill of costs, fees and expenses against a solicitor, the sheriff may serve the solicitor with a notice of an application to the Supreme Court or a judge thereof, or to a judge of a county or district court, returnable not earlier than eight days from the day of service, for payment of the amount of the bill, and the amount claimed shall be stated in the notice.

(2) On the return of the notice, the court or judge may, without reference, direct the payment to the sheriff of the amount of his demand, or of any less amount, either without costs, or with costs to be fixed by an order or to be taxed; or the court or judge may order the bill and the demand thereon to be taxed by the proper officer, and may direct that the officer shall tax to the party entitled thereto his costs of the reference, and may also direct that the sheriff and the solicitor shall respectively pay what may be found due to the
other upon the conclusion of the reference and taxation; and
the court or judge making the reference shall restrain the
bringing of any action pending the reference, and in case
the order of reference does not make provision in this behalf,
the officer named in the order of reference may, in his discr­
etion, having regard to the matters in dispute between the
parties and occasioning the costs, tax the costs of the order
and reference, or any part thereof, in favour of either party,
or may disallow any part thereof.

(3) At the expiration of eight days from the date of the
order or of the certificate of the taxing officer, as the case
may be, the party entitled to payment may sue out a writ of
execution for the amount ordered or certified to be payable
to him. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 31.

DEATH, ETC., OF SHERIFF.

31.—(1) If the sheriff dies, or his resignation is accepted,
or he is removed from office, the deputy sheriff shall con­
tinue the office of sheriff and execute the same and all things
appertaining thereto in the name of the sheriff so dying,
resigning or removed, until another sheriff has been appoint­
ed and sworn into office, and the deputy sheriff shall be
answerable for the execution of the office during such inter­
val as the sheriff would by law have been, if he had been liv­
ing or had continued in office, and the security given to the
sheriff by the deputy sheriff, and his pledges, as well as the
security furnished on behalf of the sheriff, shall remain and
be a security to His Majesty and to all persons whomsoever
for the performance by the deputy sheriff of the duties of
the office during such interval.

(2) If there is no deputy sheriff, the crown attorney for
the city, county or district, as the case may be, shall be the
sheriff pro tempore until another person is appointed sheriff,
and the crown attorney on becoming sheriff pro tempore may
appoint a deputy sheriff, and shall do and perform every
other act, matter or thing necessary for the execution of the
office.

(3) During such interval the sheriff pro tempore shall be
answerable for the execution of the office, as the sheriff would
by law have been if he had been living or had continued in
office, and any security given by or furnished on behalf of
the sheriff since the 16th day of April, 1895, or hereafter fur­
nished on behalf of a sheriff so afterwards dying, resigning
or removed shall be a security to His Majesty, and to all
persons whomsoever, for the performance of the duties of the
office by the sheriff *pro tempore* and his deputy. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 32.

32. All books, accounts, records, papers, writs, warrants, process, moneys, and other matters and things in the possession or under the control of a sheriff by virtue of, or pertaining to his office, shall be the property of His Majesty, and the same upon the death, resignation or removal from office of the sheriff shall, by the person in whose possession or control they may happen to be or may come, be immediately handed over to and shall be taken possession of by the successor in office of the sheriff, or such person as the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may appoint to receive the same. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 33.

33. No person, except the successor in office of the sheriff, so dying, resigning or removed, or the person appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council as aforesaid, shall take, have or hold such books, accounts, records, papers, writs, warrants, process, moneys, or other matters or things, and any person having or holding any of them shall forthwith on demand deliver over the same to the succeeding sheriff, or to the person appointed as aforesaid, and, upon default the offender shall incur a penalty of not less than $10, nor more than $50, besides costs, for every day's default, recoverable on summary conviction and shall also be liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months, unless the penalty and costs are sooner paid. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 34.

34.—(1) Upon the removal of a sheriff from office or upon his resignation and the appointment of his successor, etc., the outgoing sheriff, or, in the event of the death of a sheriff, the deputy sheriff or sheriff *pro tempore* shall forthwith make out and deliver to the incoming sheriff a true and correct list and account, under his hand, of all prisoners in his custody, and of all writs and process in his hands not wholly executed by him, with all such particulars as shall be necessary to explain to the incoming sheriff the matters intended to be transferred to him, and shall thereupon hand over and transfer to the care and custody of the incoming sheriff all such prisoners, writs and process, and all records, books and matters appertaining to the office of sheriff.

(2) The incoming sheriff shall thereupon sign and deliver a duplicate of the list and account to the outgoing sheriff, or to the deputy sheriff, or sheriff *pro tempore*, to whom the same shall be a good and sufficient discharge for all the prisoners therein mentioned, and transferred to the incoming sheriff, and from the further charge of the execution of the
writs and process mentioned therein, without any writ of discharge or other writ whatsoever, and the incoming sheriff shall thereupon stand and be fully and effectually charged with the prisoners, and with the execution and care of the writs and process mentioned in the list and account.

(3) If the outgoing sheriff, or the deputy sheriff or the sheriff pro tempore refuses or neglects to make out, sign and deliver the list and account, and to hand over the writs and process in manner aforesaid, he shall be liable to any person aggrieved for the damages and costs sustained by such neglect or refusal. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 35.

35. A sheriff, after resigning or being removed or in case of the death of a sheriff, his heirs, executors or administrators, shall, at all times, have the right, free of charge, to have access to, and to search and examine into all accounts, books, papers, writs, warrants and process of whatever kind, and all other matters and things which were in his possession before his death, resignation or removal, and which, at the time of making or requiring to make such search or examination, are in the possession or control of the succeeding sheriff, or the then sheriff of the city, county or district. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 36.

36. In case of the death, resignation or removal from office of a sheriff, or of a deputy sheriff while there is no sheriff, or of a sheriff pro tempore, after he has made a sale of lands, but before he has made the deed of conveyance of the same to the purchaser, and whether the sale was under an execution or for arrears of taxes the deed of conveyance shall be made to the purchaser by the sheriff, or by the deputy sheriff who is in office acting as sheriff, or by the sheriff pro tempore, at the time when the deed of conveyance is made. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 37.

37. In case of the death, resignation or removal from office of a sheriff after action brought by him as sheriff, the action may be continued in the name of his successor, to whom the benefit of all securities given to the sheriff in his official capacity shall enure. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 38.

38. For attending the sittings of the county court for trials without jury the following fees shall be payable,

(a) to the sheriff, $5 per diem;

(b) to the crier, $3 per diem;
and the same shall be chargeable and shall be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund. R.S.O. 1927, c. 18, s. 39; 1930, c. 21, s. 1.

[As to protection of sheriff from damages for acts done by virtue of his office, see The Public Authorities Protection Act.]

Remuneration of sheriffs, see The Public Officers’ Fees Act, Rev. Stat., c. 18.

Superannuation of sheriffs, see The Public Service Act, Rev. Stat., c. 15, s. 53.]

FORM 1.

OATH OF OFFICE.

I, A. B., of , in the County (or District) of, Esquire, having been appointed Sheriff of swear that I will well, truly and faithfully perform and execute all the duties required of me by law, appertaining to the office of sheriff, so long as I continue therein, and that I have not given or promised directly or indirectly, or authorized any person to give or promise any money, gratuity or reward whatsoever for procuring the said office for me.

Sworn before me at of , the day of , 19 .

A Commissioner, etc.

R.S.O. 1927, c. 16, Form 1.