

THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE BAHAMAS

The Gazette is an official journal of the Government in which notices, legal matters and legislation are published. This journal is often a legal necessity by which official documents came into force and enter the public domain.

Section 4 of the Interpretation and General Clauses Act makes provision for the Official Gazette of The Bahamas. In this regard, it should be noted that wherever the word “*Gazette*” is used in any written law, this can refer to the Official Gazette of The Bahamas, any Supplement or Extraordinary Gazette.

The Official Gazette is prepared by the Cabinet Office and contains submissions or information from various government ministries and departments which are either required by law to be published in the gazette or to which reference must be made in the future.

In addition, the Gazette also refers to any newspaper published and in general circulation in The Bahamas and designated as the *Gazette* by Order of the Governor-General or presently, those newspapers designated as the *Gazette* are the Nassau Guardian, The Tribune and The Bahama Journal. This example is used mainly by the private sector.

Note should be taken that the Official Gazette is made up of several different types of gazettes namely:

1. **OFFICIAL GAZETTE (MAIN)**

The Official Gazette (Main) consists of general information such as appointments, transfers, promotions, resignations and retirements of Public Officers; leave for Cabinet Ministers; appointment of Honorary Consuls; applicants for boat registration, charter and scheduled flight services and motor vehicle franchises; probate notices, among other general matters gazetted in accordance with the provisions of the authoritative legislation.

This gazette is prepared and dated every Thursday with 52 issues annually. Should there be any supplementary gazettes (Parts I, II and III) to the main gazette these are also issued with the same number and date as the Main gazette. While it is not necessary to have a supplementary gazette, there must be a main gazette for each week of the year.

2. **SUPPLEMENT PART I**

Consists only of Acts passed by Parliament.

3. **SUPPLEMENT PART II**

This gazette consists of Statutory Instruments which are Subsidiary Legislation made from existing Acts. Examples of these are Orders, Rules, Regulations, Notices, Directions and Bye-Laws.

4. **SUPPLEMENT PART III – TRADEMARK JOURNAL**

This gazette contains applications/information on trademarks, copyrights, designs and patents taken out at the Registrar General’s Office and submitted only by that department.

5. **EXTRAORDINARY GAZETTE**

An Extraordinary Gazette contains legislation (Acts and Salutory Instruments) in addition to matters of national interest which must be brought to the public’s attention quickly. These are prepared and dated every weekday except Thursdays.

The Official Gazette is printed by the Government Printing Department and distributed by the Government Publications Office, Bay Street. This is a method used for the public to be informed of matters in the Public Service, the country and importantly to be knowledgeable about the Laws of The Bahamas as they are passed by Parliament.

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