



THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

KIDNAPPING ACT 1961

2020 REVISED EDITION

This revised edition incorporates all amendments up to and including 1 December 2021 and comes into operation on 31 December 2021.

Prepared and Published by

THE LAW REVISION COMMISSION
UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF
THE REVISED EDITION OF THE LAWS ACT 1983

Kidnapping Act 1961

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Section

1. Short title
2. Interpretation
3. Abduction, wrongful restraint or wrongful confinement for ransom
4. Knowingly receiving ransom
5. Knowingly negotiating to obtain or for payment of ransom
6. Power to freeze bank account
7. Power to order inspection of books, accounts, receipts, vouchers or other documents
8. Power to obtain information
9. Duty to give information to police
10. Power to intercept communication
11. Offences to be arrestable
12. Evidence of accomplice
13. Evidence of pecuniary resources or property
14. Protection of informers

An Act to provide for the punishment of the offences of abduction, wrongful restraint and wrongful confinement for ransom and other related offences and for matters incidental thereto.

[2 June 1961]

Short title

1. This Act is the Kidnapping Act 1961.

Interpretation

2. In this Act “abduction”, “wrongful restraint” and “wrongful confinement” shall have the meanings assigned to them in sections 362, 339 and 340, respectively of the Penal Code 1871.

Abduction, wrongful restraint or wrongful confinement for ransom

3. Whoever, with intent to hold any person for ransom, abducts or wrongfully restrains or wrongfully confines that person shall be guilty of an offence and shall be punished on conviction with death or imprisonment for life and shall, if he is not sentenced to death, also be liable to caning.

Knowingly receiving ransom

4. Whoever receives, has possession of or disposes of any money or property or any proceeds thereof, which has at any time been delivered as ransom in connection with any offence punishable under section 3, knowing that the money or other property has at any time been delivered as such ransom, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be punished on conviction with imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years and shall also be liable to caning.

Knowingly negotiating to obtain or for payment of ransom

5.—(1) Whoever knowingly negotiates or assists in any negotiation to obtain any ransom for the release of any person who has been wrongfully restrained or wrongfully confined, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be punished on conviction with imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years and shall also be liable to caning.

(2) Whoever knowingly negotiates or assists in any negotiation to pay or pays or provides funds for the payment of any ransom for the release of any person who has been wrongfully restrained or wrongfully confined shall be guilty of an offence and shall be punished on conviction with imprisonment for a term not exceeding 7 years and shall also be liable to a fine.

Power to freeze bank account

6.—(1) The Public Prosecutor may, where he is satisfied that it is likely that the money for the payment of ransom for the release of any person may be paid out of any bank account, by order direct any bank in Singapore not to pay any money out of nor to pay cheques drawn on such bank account for a specified period not exceeding one month.

(2) Any officer of a bank who complies with an order of the Public Prosecutor under subsection (1) shall be relieved of any liability to any other person in respect of the payment prohibited by that order.

(3) The manager of any bank which fails to comply with an order of the Public Prosecutor under subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$3,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or to both.

Power to order inspection of books, accounts, receipts, vouchers or other documents

7.—(1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any other written law, the Public Prosecutor may, if he considers that any evidence of the commission of an offence under this Act or of a conspiracy to commit, or an attempt to commit, or an abetment of that offence by a person is likely to be found in any book, account, receipt, voucher or other document in respect of the payment of money or the delivery of property relating to that person, the spouse or child of that person or to a person reasonably believed by the Public Prosecutor to be a trustee or agent for that person or the spouse or child of that person, by order authorise any police officer of or above the rank of sergeant named in the order to inspect any such book, account, receipt, voucher or other document.

(2) A police officer authorised under subsection (1), may, at all reasonable times, enter any premises specified in the order and inspect any such book, account, receipt, voucher or other document and may take copies thereof or of any relevant part thereof.

(3) Any person who fails to produce any such book, account, receipt, voucher or other document which is in his possession or control, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

(4) For the purposes of this section —

“bank” means any company carrying on the business of bankers in Singapore incorporated under any written law or licensed under the Banking Act 1970;