



The Orissa Freedom of Religion Act, 1967

Act 2 of 1968

Keyword(s):

Conversion, Force, Fraud, Inducement, Minor, Religion

DISCLAIMER: This document is being furnished to you for your information by PRS Legislative Research (PRS). The contents of this document have been obtained from sources PRS believes to be reliable. These contents have not been independently verified, and PRS makes no representation or warranty as to the accuracy, completeness or correctness. In some cases the Principal Act and/or Amendment Act may not be available. Principal Acts may or may not include subsequent amendments. For authoritative text, please contact the relevant state department concerned or refer to the latest government publication or the gazette notification. Any person using this material should take their own professional and legal advice before acting on any information contained in this document. PRS or any persons connected with it do not accept any liability arising from the use of this document. PRS or any persons connected with it shall not be in any way responsible for any loss, damage, or distress to any person on account of any action taken or not taken on the basis of this document.

[THE ORISSA FREEDOM OF RELIGION
ACT, 1967]

[Received the assent of the Governor on the 9th January
1968, first published in an extraordinary issue
of the Orissa Gazette, dated the 11th
January 1968]

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR PROHIBITION OF CONVERSION
FROM ONE RELIGION TO ANOTHER BY THE USE OF
FORCE OR INDUCEMENT OR BY FRAUDULENT
MEANS AND FOR MATTERS INCIDENTAL THERETO

BE it enacted by the Legislature of the State of
Orissa in the Eighteenth Year of the Republic
of India, as follows :—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Orissa Short title
Freedom of Religion Act, 1967. extent and
commence-
ment.
- (2) It shall extend to the whole of the State
of Orissa.
- (3) It shall come into force at once.

2. In this Act unless the context otherwise Definitions
requires—

- (a) "conversion" means renouncing one
religion and adopting another ;
- (b) "force" shall include a show of force
or a threat of injury of any kind in-
cluding threat of divine displeasure or social
ex-communication ;
- (c) "fraud" shall include misrepresentation or
any other fraudulent contrivance ;
- (d) "inducement" shall include the offer of any
gift or gratification, either in cash or in
kind and shall also include the grant of
any benefit, either pecuniary or otherwise ;

1. For Statement of Objects and Reasons See *Orissa Gazette*, extraordi-
nary, dated the 13th December, 1967 (No. 1592).

(Secs. 3-7)

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

Prohibition of forcible conversion.

3. No person shall convert or attempt to convert, either directly or otherwise, any person from one religious faith to another by the use of force or by inducement or by any fraudulent means nor shall any person abet any such conversion.

Punishment for contravention of the provisions of section 3.

4. Any person contravening the provisions contained in section 3 shall, without prejudice to any civil liability, be punishable with imprisonment of either description which may extend to one year or with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees or with both:

Provided that in case the offence is committed in respect of a minor, a woman or a person belonging to the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes the punishment shall be imprisonment to the extent of two years and fine up to ten thousand rupees.

Offence to be cognizable.

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

Prosecution to be made with the sanction of District Magistrate.

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

Power to make rules.

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