

BELIZE:

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE (AMENDMENT)
ACT, 2020

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

1. Short title.
2. Amendment of section 95.
3. Amendment of section 129A.



No. 11 of 2020

I assent,

(SIR COLVILLE N. YOUNG)

Governor-General

25th March, 2020.

AN ACT to amend the Supreme Court of Judicature Act Chapter 91 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011; to allow the Chief Justice to make practice directions in instances of public interest and national security; to provide for the Minister to make regulations for the procedures to be used for prison video link appearances in criminal and civil causes and matters before Inferior Courts and Supreme Court; to clarify that petitions for divorce by consent are to be presented to the Court; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(Gazetted 25th March, 2020)

BE IT ENACTED, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives and Senate of Belize and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. This Act may be cited as the

Short title.

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE
(AMENDMENT) ACT, 2020,

CAP. 91.
Act No. 21 of
2018.

and shall be read and construed as one with the Supreme Court of Judicature Act, which, as amended, is hereinafter referred to as the principal Act.

Amendment
of section 95.

2. Section 95(1) of the principal Act is amended—

(a) by deleting the chapeau and substituting the following—

“Notwithstanding anything contained in the Summary Jurisdiction (Procedure) Act, the Inferior Courts Act, the District Courts (Procedure) Act, the Family Courts Act or any other law, save and except the Court of Appeal Act and the Caribbean Court of Justice Act, the Chief Justice may, by himself or with the concurrence of the other judges, from time to time make rules of court and issue practice directions under this Act for the following purposes—”;

CAP. 99.
CAP. 94.
CAP. 97.
CAP. 93.
CAP. 90.
CAP. 92.

(b) in paragraph (j) by deleting the full stop and substituting a semi-colon; and

(c) by inserting the following new paragraphs after paragraph (j)—

“(k) regulating and prescribing the procedure to be followed for the use of prison video link in Inferior Courts and the Supreme Court, in all civil and criminal causes and matters; and

(l) regulating and prescribing the practice, procedure and related matters to be followed in Inferior Courts and the Supreme Court, in all civil and criminal causes and matters, to protect the health and safety of court staff and the public.”.

3. Section 129A of the principal Act is amended by deleting the word “Registrar” wherever it appears and substituting the word “Court”.

**Amendment
of section
129A.**