

FIRST OFFENDERS (WOMEN) ACT.

Act No. 1, 1919.

An Act to make further provision with regard to the hearing of certain charges against women first offenders and the publication of reports of proceedings in such cases; to amend the Supreme Court and Circuit Courts (Amendment) Act, 1912, the Justices Act, 1902, and certain other Acts; and for purposes consequent thereon or incidental thereto. [Assented to, 22nd July, 1919.]

George V,
No. 1.

BE it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the “First Offenders (Women) Act, 1918.” Short title.

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

“Court” means the court in which, or the judge, justice or justices before whom the proceeding is held in respect of which the word is used. Definition

“Minor offence” means an offence punishable on summary conviction before any justice or justices with or without the consent of the accused person.

“Woman” means a female of or above the age of sixteen years.

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Proceedings
to be in
private.

3. (1) When any woman who has not been previously convicted of any offence punishable, either summarily or on indictment, is charged before any court with a minor offence, the hearing of such charge and all proceedings in connection therewith shall, unless the defendant elects to be tried in open court, be in private.

(2) No person, other than the judge, justice, or justices sitting in such court, the person accused, and such officers, witnesses, or other persons as such judge, justice, or justices may require or at the request of the person accused, shall permit to be present, shall have access to or remain in such court during such hearing or proceeding.

(3) Any person remaining in such court during such hearing or proceeding after being directed to leave by such judge, justice, or justices, shall be removed from such court, and shall be liable to be punished as for contempt of court.

Report of
proceedings
not to be
published.

4. No person shall publish in any newspaper a report or account of any such proceedings when such proceedings shall be heard in private.

Any person contravening the provisions of this section shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding fifty pounds.

APPROPRIATION