

ASCENSION

REVISED EDITION OF THE LAWS, 2017

CRIME AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

SEXUAL OFFENCES (COMMUNICATION WITH A CHILD) ORDINANCE, 2022

Ordinance A5 of 2022

In force 19 December 2022

No subsidiary legislation has been issued under this Ordinance

SEXUAL OFFENCES (COMMUNICATION WITH A CHILD) ORDINANCE, 2022

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

1. Short title and commencement
2. Sexual communication with a child
3. Application of Schedule 3 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003
4. Regulations

AN ORDINANCE to prohibit communication with a child for sexual gratification; and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Short title and commencement

1. (1) This Ordinance may be cited as the Sexual Offences (Communication with a child) Ordinance, 2022.

(2) This Ordinance come into force on 19 December 2022.

Sexual communication with a child

2. (1) A person aged 18 or over (A) commits an offence if—
- (a) for the purpose of obtaining sexual gratification, A intentionally communicates with another person (B);
 - (b) the communication is sexual or is intended to encourage B to make (whether to A or to another) a communication that is sexual; and
 - (c) B is under 16 and A does not reasonably believe that B is aged 16 or over.

(2) For the purpose of this section, a communication is sexual if—

- (a) any part of it relates to sexual activity; or
- (b) a reasonable person would, in all the circumstances but regardless of any person's purpose, consider any part of the communication to be sexual,

and in paragraph (a) “sexual activity” means an activity that a reasonable person would, in all the circumstances but regardless of any person's purpose, consider to be sexual.

(3) A person who contravenes this section commits an offence.

Penalty: Imprisonment for a term of 2 years.

Application of Schedule 3 of the Sexual Offences Act, 2003

3. For the application of Schedule 3 of the Sexual Offences Act, 2003 pursuant to the Sexual Offences Act (Application) Order, 2004 the offence specified in section 2 is considered to be an offence under the Schedule.

Regulations

4. The Governor in Council may make regulations necessary or convenient for the purpose of this Ordinance.
