

CONTENTS

PART I THE BAHAWALPUR STATE COURT OF WARDS ACT, 1942

(As Amended vide Court of Wards Amended Ordinance, 2001 (XLI) of
2001)

Pages

Preamble

Chapter I PRELIMINARY

Sections

1.	Title and extent.	1
2.	Authority of previous enactments.	1
3.	Definitions.	1

Chapter II THE COURT OF WARDS AND ITS JURISDICTION

4.	Constitution of the Court of Wards and its Jurisdiction.	2
5.	Powers of Court of Wards to assume Superintendence of landholders.	2
6.	-do-	3
7.	Appointment of Collector as Guardian.	3
8.	Properties of which there are more proprietors than one.	3
9.	Notification of assumption of Superintendence	3
10.	Operation and finality of orders made under Sections 6,7 and 8.	3

Chapter III INQUIRY AND ACTION PRECEDING ASSUMPTION OF SUPERINTENDENCE

11.	Inquiry to satisfy whether the action taken should be under the Act.	4
12.	Procedure in inquiry.	4

Chapter IV WARDSHIP AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

13.	Visiting of properties of Wards.	4
14.	Non-liability of land vested in court of Wards to	5

	sale for arrears of revenue.	
15.	Disabilities of Wards.	5
16.	Disabilities in certain cases.	5
17.	Action on behalf of Wards and to deal with their properties.	5
18.	Deeds other instruments.	6
19.	Notice of suit.	6
20.	Suits to be in the name of Court of Wards.	6

Chapter V

GENERAL PROVISION AS TO THE SUPERINTENDENCE OF THE PERSONS AND PROPERTIES OF WARDS.

21.	Assuming Superintendence of properties to take possession thereof procedure as to property situate in other districts.	6
22.	Superintendence and control Audit of accounts and management of legal affairs of wards and properties.	7
23.	Powers to charge expenses against properties under the Superintendence.	7
24.	Residence and Education of wards.	7
25.	Allowance for wards and family.	7

Chapter VI

ASCERTAINMENT AND LIQUIDATION OF LIABILITIES OF WARDS.

26.	Notice to claimant.	7
27.	Statement of claim.	8
28.	Examination into admission and rejection of claims.	8
29.	Bar of claims not duly notified.	8
30.	Exclusion of document not produced.	8
31.	Decrees against wards, their properties and their execution.	9
32.	Saving of right to sue certain cases.	9
33.	Appeal and revision.	9
34.	Conformant of powers of District Officer (Revenue) on any person.	9

Chapter VII

GUARDIANS AND MANAGERS.

35.	Appointment, Removal and Control of Guardians and Tutors.	10
36.	No person who can succeed to ward to be appointed	10

	Guardian.	
37.	Duties and responsibilities of Guardians.	10
38.	Appointment control and removal of managers.	11
39.	Powers of Managers.	11
40.	Duties and responsibilities of Managers.	11
41.	Termination of appointment of Guardian or Manager.	11
42.	Guardians and Managers to be deemed as Public Servant and Managers and certain Guardian as Public Accountants.	11
43.	District Officer (Revenue) performing as Guardian or Manager.	12

Chapter VIII
RELEASE OF PERSONS AND PROPERTIES FROM
SUPERINTENDENCE

44.	Power to release from Superintendence	12
45.	Retention of Superintendence of property until discharge of debts.	12
46.	Retention of Superintendence where there are more Proprietors than one.	13
47.	Appointment of Guardian or release of minor.	13
48.	Disposal of property after the death of persons.	13
49.	Delivery of documents and accounts on release of property.	13
50.	Release from Superintendence.	13
51.	Recovery of expenses.	13

Chapter IX
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISION.

52.	Bar of Suits and proceedings.	14
53.	Investigation.	14
54.	Power to make rules.	14

¹THE BAHAWALPUR STATE COURT OF WARDS ACT, 1942
AS AMENDED VIDE ²THE BAHAWALPUR COURT OF WRDS
(AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 2001 (XLI OF 2001).

An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to the Court of Wards in the Bahawalpur State.

WHEREAS it is expedient to consolidate and amend the law relating to the Court of Wards in [Bahawalpur]. It is hereby enacted as follows:-

Chapter I

PRELIMINARY.

1. (1) Title and extent.---This Act may be called **The Bahawalpur Court Of Wrds (Amendment) Ordinance, 2001 (XLI Of 2001)**.

(2) It extends to the ³[Districts of Bahawalnagar, Bahawalpur and Rahim Yar Khan].

2. Authority of previous enactments.---(1)All rules and appointments made, notifications and orders issued, authorities and powers conferred, farms and leases granted, rights acquired, liabilities incurred and other things done under any of the previous enactments shall, so far as may be, be deemed to have been respectively made, issued, conferred, granted, acquired, incurred and done under this Act.

(2) Any enactment or document referring to any of the previous enactments shall, so far as may be, be construed to refer to this Act or the corresponding portion thereof.

3. Definitions.---In this Act, unless there be something repugnant in the subject or context, the expression.

- (a) **“immovable property”** shall include land, benefits to arise out of land, and things attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything which is attached to the earth, but shall not include growing crops or grass;
- (b) **“landholder”** shall mean a person who possesses any interest in land, whether as proprietor, assignee of the land-revenue, lessee of waste lands or otherwise;
- (c) **“minor”** shall mean a person who has not, within the meaning of the ⁴[**Majority Act, 1875**], attained his majority; and
- (d) **“wards”** shall mean any person in respect of whose person, or the whole or any part of whose property, or of whose person, and property, the Court of Wards by this Act constituted for the time being has assumed

Superintendence, but shall not include a joint proprietor, the Superintendence of whose property has been assumed by the Court of Wards under section 8.

Chapter II

THE COURT OF WARDS AND ITS JURISDICTION.

4. Constitution of the Court of Wards and its jurisdiction.---

⁵(1) The Executive District Officer (Revenue) of the District, within the limits of which any ward ordinarily resides or any property of any ward is situated, shall be the Court of Wards in respect of the person and the property of the such ward.

Provided that where any ward ordinarily resides within the jurisdiction of one Executive District Officer (Revenue) and his property or any part thereof is situated within the jurisdiction of any other Executive District Officer (Revenue), the Board of Revenue shall determine which Executive District Officer (Revenue) shall be the Court of Wards in respect of the person and the property of such ward.

(2) The Court of Wards may exercise all or any of the powers conferred on it by this Act either direct or through the ⁶[District Officer (Revenue)] of the District, within the limits of which any ward may at any time, reside or any part of the property of any ward may be situated, or through any other person whom it may at any time, in respect of any ward or the whole or any part of the property of any ward, appoint in that behalf.

(3) The Court of Wards may, with the sanction of the ⁷[Board of Revenue] from time to time, by general or special order, or by rule made under this Act, delegate any of its powers to any District Officer (Revenue) or other person as aforesaid, and may at any time, with the like sanction, revoke any such delegation.

(4) The powers and authority by this Act vested in the Court of Wards shall be exercised by it subject to the control of the Board of Revenue.

5. Powers of Court of Wards to make order in certain cases directing the court of wards to assume Superintendence of properties of land-holders.---

(1) Any land-holder may apply to the ⁸[Court of Wards] to make an order directing that his property be placed under the Superintendence of the Court of Wards, and upon receiving any such applications, the Court of

Wards may, if it considers expedient in the public interest so to do, make order accordingly.

- (2) When it appears to Court of Wards that any land-holder is---
- (a) by reason of being a female; or
 - (b) owing to any physical or mental defect or infirmity; or
 - (c) owing to his having been convicted of a non-bailable offence and to his vicious habits or bad character; or
 - (d) owing to his having entered upon a course of wasteful extravagance likely to dissipate his property;

incapable of managing or unfit to manage its affairs, the Court of Wards may make an order directing that the property of such land holder be placed under the Superintendence of the Court of Wards;

Provided that such an order shall not be made on the grounds stated in clause (d) unless such land-holder belongs to a family of political or social importance and the Court of Wards is satisfied that it is desirable, on grounds of public policy or general interest, to make such order.

- (3) **Power of Court of Wards of its own motion to assume Superintendence.**---Every order made by the Court of Wards under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2), shall be final and shall not be called in question in any Court of Law.

6. When any land-holder is a minor or a person adjudged by a competent Court to be of unsound mind and incapable of managing his affairs, the Court of Wards may make an order assuming the Superintendence of the property, or the persons and property of such land-holder.

7. **Court of Wards shall assume Superintendence in cases in which an order is made under section 5 and may do so when Collector is appointed guardian.**---(1) When, in respect of any land-holder, an order is made by the ⁹[Court of Wards] under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) of section 5, the Court of Wards, shall assume the Superintendence of the property of such land-holder, and may in its discretion also assume the Superintendence of his person.

(2) When the District Officer (Revenue) is appointed or declared to be guardian of the person or property, or both of a minor, under the provisions of section 18 of the Guardian and Wards Act, 1890, he shall intimate the fact to the Court of Wards, and the Court of Wards may thereupon, in its discretion, either assume, or refrain from assuming, the Superintendence of the person or property or both (as the case may be) of such minor, and the provisions of this Act shall, if such Superintendence be so assumed, apply to the person or property, or both (as the case may be), of such minor.

8. Properties of which there are more proprietors than one.---

When there are two or more proprietors of any property and the shares of the several proprietors have not been separated off, and the Court of Wards, acting under section 6 or section 7, assumes the Superintendence of the property of one or more, but not all of such proprietors, the Court of Wards may assume the Superintendence, also of the shares of such joint-proprietor or joint-proprietors paying any such proprietor the surplus income, accruing from his share of the property. The Superintendence assumed under this section shall extend only to the management of the share of the joint proprietor in such joint property and shall not as regards such share include the power to sell or mortgage the same or any part thereof, or to grant a lease thereof for a period exceeding 10 years or to create any charge therein or interest therein.

9. Notification of assumption of Superintendence.---

Whenever the Court of Wards assumes the Superintendence of the person or property of any person under any of the provisions of this Act, the order of assumption shall be notified in the ¹⁰[Gazette], and shall specify the district the District Officer (Revenue) of which shall be put in charge on behalf of the Court of Wards.

10. Operation and finality of orders made under sections 6,7 and 8.---

Every order made by the Court of Wards assuming under sections 6,7 and 8, respectively, the Superintendence of the person or property, or both, of any person shall take effect from the date fixed in this behalf in the notification published under section 9, and shall be final and shall not be called in question in any Court of Law.

Chapter III.

INQUIRY AND ACTION PRECEDING ASSUMPTION OF SUPERINTENDENCE.

11. Inquiry by Deputy Commissioner in order to satisfy himself

as to whether action should be taken under the Act.---(1) For the purpose of satisfying himself as to whether, in respect of any land-holder:-

- (a) Court of Wards should be moved to make an order under sub-section (2) of section 5, or
- (b) The Court of Wards should be moved to make an order under section 6.

or for the purpose of making any report which may be called for in connection with any application of a land-holder under sub-section (1) of section 5, the District Officer (Revenue) may make such inquiry into the circumstances of such land-holder, as he may deem necessary, and, pending the taking of any such action, may issue such orders for the temporary custody and protection of the person or property, or both, of such land-holder, as he thinks fit.

(2) If the land-holder be a minor, the District Officer (Revenue) may direct that the person, if any, then having the custody of the minor, shall produce him, or cause him to be produced, at such place and time as the District Officer (Revenue) appoints, and may make such order for the future custody of the minor, pending the orders of the Court of Wards, as he thinks proper.

(3) If the minor is a female who ought not to be compelled to appear in public, the direction under sub-section (2) shall require her to be produced in accordance with the manners and customs of the country.

(4) If the land-holder is alleged to be or is of unsound mind, the District Officer (Revenue) shall make application to the District Judge with a view to an inquiry being made by such Court for the purpose of ascertaining whether such person is or is not of unsound mind and incapable of managing his affairs.

12. Procedure in inquiry.---(1) For the purposes of every inquiry to be made, or direction to be given, in pursuance of any of the provisions of this Act, the District Officer (Revenue) may exercise all or any of the powers of a Civil Court under the Code of Civil Procedure.

(2) For the purpose of protecting the property or any part thereof, of any land-holder pending an inquiry under sub-section (1) of section II, the District Officer (Revenue) may, subject to the direction and control of the Court of Wards, take possession thereof and appoint a manager and such caretakers in respect thereto as he may deem fit.

Chapter IV

WARDSHIP AND ITS CONSEQUENCES.

13. Visiting of property of wards in the Court of Wards.---(1) Upon the publication of a notification under section 9, in respect of the property of any person, the whole of such property, at the date of the

notification, shall vest in the Court of Wards, and shall remain so vested until the Court of Wards shall, by notification under section 50, divest itself of the Superintendence of the whole or any part thereof or is otherwise divested of such Superintendence in due course of law.

(2) All rights accruing to and property inherited by or vesting in any ward after the publication of a notification under section 9, and while the property of such ward is under the Superintendence of the Court of Wards, shall vest in the Court of Wards;

Provided that the Court of Wards may, in its discretion, assume, or refrain from assuming, the Superintendence of any property, which any ward may acquire, otherwise than by inheritance, subsequent to the date of the notification published under section 9.

14. Non-liability of land vested in the Court of Wards to sale for arrears of revenue.---(1) No land under the Superintendence of the Court of Wards shall be sold for arrears of revenue accruing while such land is under such Superintendence.

15. Disabilities of Wards.---(1) No ward shall be competent:-

(a) to transfer or create any charge on, or interest in, the whole or any part of his property, which is under the Superintendence of the Court of Wards, or to enter into any contract which may involve him in pecuniary liabilities:

Provided that nothing in this clause shall be deemed to affect the capacity of a ward to enter into a contract of marriage; but he shall not incur, in connection herewith, any pecuniary liability, except such as, having regard to the personal law, to which he is subject, and to his rank and circumstances, the Court of Wards may, in writing, declare to be reasonable.

(b) without the previous sanction, in writing, of the Court of Wards, (1) to adopt or (2) to give permission to adopt, or (3) to dispose of any property by will.

16. Contain disabilities in certain cases.---(1) When the property of any land-holder, in respect of whom an order has been made under sub-section (1) or on the last ground stated in sub-section (2) of section 5, is released from the Superintendence of the Court of Wards, such land-holder shall not be competent, without the previous sanction of Board of Revenue to alienate the whole or any part of the immovable property, which has been so released, in any way, or to create any charge upon any such property extending beyond his life time, and every transfer made or attempted to be made, or

charge created or attempted to be created, in contravention of this provision, shall be void.

(2) No suits shall be brought whereby to charge any person upon any promise made after he has ceased to be a ward to pay any debt contracted during the period when he was a ward, or upon any ratification made after he has ceased to be a ward of any promise or contract made during the above period, whether there shall or shall not be any new consideration for such promise or, ratification.

17. Power of the Court of Wards to take action on behalf of Wards and to deal with their properties.---(1) The Court of Wards may, at any time, mortgage or sell the whole or any part of the property of a ward, and may grant leases or farms of the whole or any part of such property for such terms as it thinks fit, and may make such remissions of rental or other arrears and may generally and from time to time pass all such orders and do all such acts, not inconsistent with the provisions of this or any other enactment for the time being in force, as it may deem to be for the advantage of the Ward or the benefit of his property.

(2) The Court of Wards may, for the purpose of raising a loan for the benefit of a Ward of his property, hypothecate, with the consent of the Board of Revenue any muafi, pension or assignment of land revenue held by the Ward.

18. Deeds other instruments.---(1) All deed, contracts or other instruments executed by the Court of Wards in the exercise of its powers of Superintendence under this Act, shall be executed by the Court of Wards in its own name.

(2) Covenants entered into by the Court of Wards shall be binding on the Court of Wards only so long as the Ward or the property affected by such covenants remains under its Superintendence and only to the extent of such property; and such covenants shall be binding on the Ward or on the person entitled to such property after the Ward or the property of both (as the case may be) shall be have been released from Superintendence.

(3) This section shall also apply to all deeds, contracts and other instruments executed before the commencement of this Act.

19. Notice of suit.--- No suit relating to the person of any Ward or to any property under the Superintendence of the Court of Wards shall be instituted in any Civil or Revenue Court until the expiration of two months after notice, in writing, has been delivered to or left at, the Office of the District Officer (Revenue) of the District specified in the order of assumption in the notification under section 9, stating the name and place of abode of the

intending plaintiff, the cause of action and the relief which he claims; and the plaint shall contain a statement that such notice has been so delivered or left:

Provided that notice under this section shall not be required in the case of any suit, the period of limitation for which will expire within three months from the date of the notification under section 9.

20. Suits to be in the name of Court of Wards.---(1) No suit (a) by or on behalf of a ward; or (b) affecting any property under the Superintendence of the Court of Wards shall be brought without the authority of the Court of Wards, or of such officer as it may appoint in that behalf, and in every such suit brought with such authority, the Court of Wards shall be named as plaintiff.

(2) In every suit against a ward or affecting property under the Superintendence of Court of Ward shall be named as the defendant.

(3) Suits, brought by or against any Court of Wards, may be instituted and conducted or defended on behalf of the Court of Wards by the District Officer (Revenue) of the District, specified in the order of assumption in the notification under section 9, or by the manager or other person authorized, by general or special order or rule made under this Act, in that behalf, by the Court of Wards.

Chapter V.

GENERAL PROVISIONS AS TO THE SUPERINTENDENCE OF THE PERSONS AND PROPERTIES OF WARDS.

21. Court of Wards assuming Superintendence of the property to take possession thereof procedure as to property situate in other districts.--- As soon as conveniently may be after the assumption, by the Court of Wards, of the Superintendence of the property of any person, the District Officer (Revenue) of every district, within which any part of such property may be situated, or some person authorized, in writing, by him in this behalf, shall take possession of all such property and all accounts and papers relating thereto, and shall do all other acts and things which may be necessary to secure and protect the same and place it under proper custody and control.

22. Powers of Court of Wards as to Superintendence and control Audit of accounts and management of legal affairs of wards and properties.--- The Court of Wards may from time to time direct such provisions as it may think fit to be made in respect of the:-

- (1) superintendence and supervision of the persons of the wards and properties under its superintendence;

- (2) periodical or special audit, by an independent auditor, of the accounts of properties generally, or of any particular property, as it may think fit;
- (3) management of the legal affairs of properties generally, or of any particular property, as it may think fit.

23. Powers of Court of Ward to charge expenses against properties under its Superintendence.---The Court of Wards may from time to time regulate the expenses to be incurred in the supervision, care and management of the wards and properties under its Superintendence, and generally in carrying out all or any of the purposes of this Act, and may order that such expenses, or any of them, including all salaries, gratuities, and leave allowances of establishment and all contingent and other expenses, whatsoever, which it shall consider requisite, be charged against such property generally, or against any one or more properties comprised in such property, for the purposes of which such establishments are, or have been, entertained or such expenses have been incurred.

24. Residence and education of Wards.---(1) The Court of Wards may pass such orders as it thinks fit in respect of the residence of any ward, whose person is for the time being under its Superintendence, and when he is a male minor, in respect of his education.

(2) The Court of Wards may from time to time require any such male or minor ward to attend such tutor, class, school or colleges, for the purposes of education, as it thinks fit.

25. Allowance for wards and his family.---(1) The Court of Wards may, from time to time, determine what sum shall be allowed in respect of the expenses of any ward and of his family and dependents.

(2) The Court of Wards may, from time to time, determine what sums may be spent on the educating of any minor ward, whose person is for the time being under its Superintendence.

Chapter VI.

ASCERTAINMENT AND LIQUIDATION OF LIABILITIES OF WARDS.

26. Notice to claimant.---(1) On the publication of a Notification under section 2, the District Officer (Revenue) of the District specified in the order of assumption, whom the Court of Wards may appoint in that behalf, shall publish in the Gazette a Notice in the Urdu language, calling upon all persons having claims against the ward or against the property under the

Superintendence of the Court of Wards, to notify the same, in writing, to such District Officer (Revenue) within six months from the date of the publication of the Notice.

(2) The Notice may also be published at such places and in such other manner as the Court of Wards may, by general or special order, direct or by rule, made under this Act, prescribe.

(3) The District Officer (Revenue), may, if he is satisfied that any claimant had reasonable excuse for not submitting his statement or claim within six months, receive his claim at any time after the expiry of the period aforesaid but any claim, so received, shall, unless the District Officer (Revenue) otherwise directs and notwithstanding any law, contract, decree or awards to the contrary, cease to carry interest from the date of the expiry of the period aforesaid.

27. Statement of claim.---(1) Every claimant shall, together with his statement of claim, present full particulars thereof.

(2) Every document (including entries in books of account) on which the claimant found his claim, or on which he relies in support thereof, shall be produced before the District Officer (Revenue) with the statement of claim.

(3) Every such document shall be accompanied by a true copy of the same. The District Officer (Revenue), or such officer, as he may appoint in that behalf, shall mark the original document for the purpose of identification, and, after examining and comparing the copy with it, shall retain the copy and return the original to the claimant.

28. Examination into admission and rejection of claims.---The District Officer (Revenue) shall, after such inquiry as he may consider necessary, decide, as to each claim, made against any ward or property, in manner in section 26 and section 27 provided, whether such claim is, either in whole or in part, to be admitted or disallowed, and shall intimate, in writing, his decision in respect of each such claim to the claimant thereof. If such liabilities cannot be paid at once, the decision shall fix the interest (if any) to be paid thereon from the date of such decision to the date of the payment and discharge of such claim.

29. Bar of claims not duly notified.--- Every debt or liability (other than debts due to or liabilities incurred in favour of the Government) to which any ward is subject or with which any property under the Superintendence of the Court of Wards or any part thereof, is charged, and which is not duly notified to the said District Officer (Revenue) within the time and in the manner hereinbefore prescribed shall, subject to the provisions of the Limitation Act, be deemed for all purposes and on all occasions, whether during the continuance of the Superintendence of the Court of Wards or afterwards, to have been duly discharged.

Provided that the provisions of this section shall not be deemed to extinguish any such debt or liability in any case in which the Court of Wards, after assuming the Superintendence of such property, releases the same from such Superintendence, without ascertaining or dealing with the liabilities thereof, as in this chapter provided in that behalf and that, in any such case, in computing the period of limitation applicable to any suit or application for the recovery of any such debt or the enforcement of any such liability, the time from the date of the notification of claim under section 26, to the date of the release of the property from the Superintendence of the Court of Wards, shall be excluded.

30. Exclusion of document not produced.--- If any document, in the possession or under the control of the claimant, is not produced by him as required by section 27, such document shall not be admissible in evidence in any suit or proceeding thereafter brought against a Ward or as affecting any property under the Superintendence of the Court of Wards by the claimant, or by any person claiming under him.

31. Decrees against wards, their properties and their execution.---(1) Nothing contained in this chapter shall be deemed to empower the District Officer (Revenue) to disallow any claim, notified under section 26, which is based upon a decree passed by any competent Court, and any such decree may be proved by the production of a certified copy of the same, accompanied by a certificate from the proper Court that such decree remains unsatisfied.

(2) On the publication of a notice under section 26, all suits and all proceedings in execution of any decree against a ward or as affecting any property under the Superintendence of the Court of Wards, then pending in any Civil Court shall be stayed until the plaintiff or the decree-holder files a certificate that the claim has been notified in accordance with section 26.

(3) No fresh proceedings in execution of any decree against a ward or as affecting such property other than a decree in respect of a transaction subsequent to the date of the notification under section 9, shall be instituted in, nor shall any attachment or other process in execution of such decree be issued by, any Civil Court until the decree-holder files a certificate to the effect specified in clause (2).

32. Saving of right to sue to certain cases.---(1) Subject to the provisions of section 19 and section 31, nothing in this chapter shall be construed as preventing any claimant from bringing or prosecuting any suit, in any competent Court, in respect of any claim, which has been duly notified within the time and in the manner here-before prescribed, to the District Officer (Revenue) and which has, whether in whole or in part, been disallowed by him, but no suit shall at any time be brought or be maintainable in respect of any claim, which has not been so notified or to set aside or modify the order of a District Officer (Revenue) (if any) fixing a date for the payment of such claim or regulating the order on which claims against the ward or properties, under the Superintendence of the Court of Wards, shall be paid.

(2) **Appeal and revision.**---In computing any period of limitation prescribed by the Limitation Act or section 230 of the Civil Procedure Code, every period during which proceedings have been stayed or temporarily barred by reasons of the provisions of this section or of section 31 shall be excluded.

33. No appeal shall lie from any decision given or order made by a District Officer (Revenue) under this chapter, but nothing in this section shall be deemed in any way to limit or interfere with the power of the Court of Wards to revise any such decision or order.

34. Provincial Government may confer the powers of Deputy Commissioner on any person.---For the purposes of this Chapter, Board of Revenue may, at any time or at any stage of any proceeding there-under, invest any person with all or any of the powers of a District Officer (Revenue).

Chapter VII.

GUARDIANS AND MANAGERS.

35. Appointment, removal and Control of guardians and tutors,---(1) The Court of Wards may from time to time appoint guardians for the care of the persons of such wards as are minors or of unsound mind, or are suffering from any physical or mental defect or infirmity, or are females and unmarried, and may control and remove such guardians, and no appointment of a guardian for any ward shall be valid unless and until it has been confirmed by the Court of Wards.

(2) In appointing a guardian under this section, the Court of Wards shall be guided, as far as may be, by the provisions of section 17 of the ¹⁰[Guardians and Wards Act, 1890], and if a ward leaves or is removed from the custody of a guardian, appointed under this section, the District Officer (Revenue) of the District specified in the notification issued under section 9, may exercise the power conferred by section 25 of the said Act on a Court as defined in that Act.

(3) The Court of Wards may appoint any persons to be the tutor of any minor male ward and may control and remove such tutor, every tutor so appointed shall discharge such duties and regulate his conduct in such manner as the Court of Wards may from time to time direct.

36. No person who can succeed to ward to be appointed guardian.---No person who would be the next legal heir of a ward, or would otherwise be immediately interested in outliving a ward, shall be appointed to be his guardian; but nothing in this section shall apply to the mother of a ward or to be a testamentary guardian.

37. Duties and responsibilities of guardians.---A guardian appointed under this chapter shall be charged with the custody of the ward, and shall subject to the supervision and direction of the Court of Wards, and the rules (if any) made under this Act, in that behalf, make suitable provision for his maintenance, health and, if he be a minor, his education and such other matters as the personal law, to which the ward is subject, requires and shall:-

- (a) give such security, if any, as the Court of Wards thinks fit for the due performance of his duty;
- (b) submit such accounts as the Court of Wards may direct;

- (c) pay the balances due from him thereon;
- (d) continue liable to account to the Court of Wards, after he has ceased to be guardian, for his receipts and disbursements during the period of his guardianship;
- (e) apply for the sanction of the Court of Wards to any act which may involve expense not previously sanctioned by it; and
- (f) be entitled to such salary or allowance to be paid out of the proceeds of the property of the ward, as the Court of Wards thinks fit in respect of the execution of his duties as such.

38. Appointment, control and removal of managers.---The Court of Wards, may appoint one or more managers for any properties under its Superintendence and may control, remove such managers.

39. Powers of managers.---A manager, appointed by the Court of Wards, shall, subject to the supervision and direction of the Court of Wards, and the rules (if any) made, under this Act, in that behalf have power to collect the rents of the lands placed under his charge as well as all other money due to the ward or person, whose property he manages, and to grant receipts therefore; and he may, subject to the same sanction, supervision, direction and rules (if any) grant and renew leases and farms and do all such lawful acts as he may be generally or specially authorized by the Court of Wards to do for the good management of the property.

40. Duties and responsibilities of Managers.---Every manager appointed by the Court of Wards, shall, subject to the supervision and direction of the Court of Wards, and to the rules (if any) made, under this Act, in that behalf, manage the property or properties, placed under his charge, diligently and faithfully, and he shall:-

- (a) file such security, if any, as the Court of Wards thinks fit, duly to account for, what he may receive in respect of the rents and profits and other income of the property under his charge;
- (b) keep accounts in such form and submit them at such times, as the Court of Wards may direct;
- (c) deal with all money received by him in such manner as the Court of Wards may direct;

- (d) apply for the sanction of the Court of Wards to any act, which may involve the property in expense, not previously sanctioned by it;
- (e) be entitled to such salary or allowance to be paid out of the proceeds of such property, as the Court of Wards thinks fit, in respect of the execution of duties;
- (f) be responsible for any loss occasioned to the property by his negligence or willful default; and
- (g) continue liable to account to the Court of Wards after he has ceased to be manager, for his receipts and disbursements during the period of his management.

41. Termination of appointment of guardian or Managers.---

The appointment of every guardian or manager, appointed under this chapter, shall terminate on the Court of Wards ceasing exercise Superintendence of the person or property in respect of whom or which, such guardian or Manager, as the case may be, has been appointed.

42. Guardians and Managers to be deemed to be public servants, and Managers and certain guardians to be deemed to be public accountants.---(1) Every guardian and Manager, appointed under this chapter, shall be deemed to be a public servant within the meaning of section 21 of the ¹¹[Pakistan Penal Code] and for the purposes of that Code.

(2) Every such Manager shall be deemed to be a “Public Accountant” within the meaning of the ¹²[Bahawalpur Public Accountants Act, 1850], and every such guardian shall be deemed to be a “Public Accountant” within the meaning and for the purposes of section 3 to 5 of the Public Accountants Act, 1850.

(3) In the definition of “legal remuneration” contained in section 161 of the Pakistan Penal Code the word “Government” shall, for the purposes of this section, be deemed to include the Court of Wards.

43. Deputy Commissioner when to discharge the duties of guardian or Manager.---If no such guardian or Manager is appointed by the Court of Wards, the District Officer (Revenue) of the district, specified in the order of assumption in the notification under section 9 or any other District Officer (Revenue), whom the Court of Wards may appoint in that behalf, shall be competent to do anything that might be lawful done by a guardian of the person or a Manager of the property appointed under this chapter.

Chapter VIII.

RELEASE OF PERSONS AND PROPERTIES FROM SUPERINTENDENCE.

44. Power to release from Superintendence.---The Court of Wards may, at any time, release any person or property, or both, from its Superintendence;

¹³[Omitted]

Provided that persons or property under the charge of the Court of Wards in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 7, shall not be released without the concurrence of the Court which appointed or declared the District Officer (Revenue) to be guardian of the persons or property, or both, of the person concerned, under the ¹⁴[Guardians and Wards Act, 1890].

45. Retention of Superintendence of property until discharge of debts. ---(1) Whenever a Ward dies or ceases to be under any legal incapacity and his property is, at the time of his death or cessation of incapacity, still encumbered with debts and liabilities, the Court of Wards, may, with the sanction of Board of Revenue either release such property or, retain if or any part thereof, under its Superintendence until such debts and liabilities have been discharged.

(2) In any case provided for in sub-section (1), the Court of Wards may together with the property of any such wards, also retain, until the said debts and liabilities have been discharged, the property of which it has assumed the Superintendence under section 8.

46. Retention of Superintendence where there are more proprietors than one.---If, in the case of any property, there are more proprietors than one, the Court of Wards may retain the whole property under its Superintendence, if one or more of the proprietors remain wards, although other or others, may have ceased to be under any legal incapacity.

Provided that in such cases the Court of Wards shall pay to such proprietor or proprietors, who have ceased to be under any legal incapacity, the surplus income accruing from his or their share of the estate.

47. Appointment of guardian on release of minor.---(1) When the Court of Wards decides to release from its Superintendence the person or property, or both, of any minor, it may before such release, by an order, in writing, appoint any person to be the guardian of the person or property, or both, of such minor.

(2) Such appointment shall take effect from the date of such release.

(3) In appointing a guardian under this section, the Court of Wards shall be guided by the provisions of section 17 of the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890 and in every such case the District Officer (Revenue) of the District specified in the order of assumption in the notification under section 9, shall have the powers conferred upon a District Officer (Revenue) under section 35(2).

(4) Every such guardian shall have and be subject to the same rights, duties, and liabilities, as if he had been appointed under the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890.

48. Disposal of property after the death of persons of whose property the Court of Wards has assumed Superintendence.---Whenever, in the event of the death of any person, of whose property, the Court of Wards has assumed Superintendence, the succession to his property or any part thereof, is unclaimed, or disputed, the Court of Wards may either direct that the property, or part thereof, be made over to any persons entitled to or claiming the same, or may institute a suit of inter-pleader against the several claimants, or may retain the Superintendence thereof, until a claimant has, in due course of Law, established his title thereto in a competent court.

49. Delivery of documents and accounts on release of property.--Whenever the Court of Wards releases the property of any person from its Superintendence, it shall deliver to such person, or if it has appointed a guardian under sub-section (1) of section 47, to such guardian all documents of title and all papers and accounts (other than Government records) relating to such property.

50. Notification as to release from Superintendence.---Whenever the Court of Wards releases any person or property from its Superintendence, the fact of such release shall be notified in the Gazette and such release shall take effect from the date fixed in this behalf, in the notification.

51. Recovery of expenses.---Any expenses incurred by the Court of Wards on account of any property under its Superintendence, may, after the release of such property, be recovered as an arrear of land revenue due in respect of such property or any part thereof.

Chapter IX.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISION.

52. Bar of Suits and Proceedings.---(1) No suit shall be brought in any Civil Court in respect of the exercise of any discretion conferred by this Act.

(2) No suit shall be brought against any ¹⁵[Servant of the State] or any guardian, manager or servant appointed by and discharging his duties under a Court of Wards for anything done by him, in good faith, under this Act.

53. Investigations into matters under chapter VI and VII to be considered judicial proceeding.---Every investigation conducted by a District Officer (Revenue) with reference to any claim preferred before him under chapter VI or Chapter VII or to any matter connected with any such claim, shall be taken to be a judicial proceeding within the meaning of the Pakistan Penal Code.

54. Power to make rules.---The Court of Wards may, with the previous sanction of the ¹⁵[Provincial Government], make rules consistent with this Act, regulating all or any of the following matters, namely:-

- (a) the management of properties or of all or any property under the Superintendence of the Court of Wards;
- (b) the procedure to be observed and the powers to be exercised by all or any persons in all or any proceedings under this Act; and
- (c) generally for the purpose of giving effect to all or any of the provisions of this Act.

The Bahawalpur Court of Wards (Amendment) Ordinance, 2001 (XLI of 2001) which was protected and continued in force by the Provisional Constitutional Order, 1999, (Chief Executive's Order No.1 of 1999), as amended by the Provisional Constitutional (Amendment) Order, 1999 (Chief Executive Order No.IX of 1999) and Article 270-AA of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and substituted by the Constitution (Eighteenth Amendment) Act, 2010.

Following Amendments/deletion have been made vide Government of the Punjab, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Department's Notification No.Legis. 13-67/2001 dated 13.11.2001:

1. In the said date in sub-section (2) of section (1), the words, "whole of Bahawalpur" are substituted by the words "Districts of Bahawalnagar, Bahawalpur and Rahim Yar Khan".
2. In Section 3 clause (c), the word "Indian" omitted.
3. For sub-section (1) of section 4, the following was substituted:

“ (1) The Executive District Officer (Revenue) of the District, within the limits of which any ward ordinarily resides, or any property of any ward is situated shall be the Court of Wards in respect of the person and the property of the such ward:

Provided that where any ward ordinarily resides within the jurisdiction of one Executive District Officer (Revenue) and his property or any part whereof is situated within the jurisdiction of any other Executive District Officer (Revenue), the Board of Revenue shall determined, which Executive District Officer (Revenue) shall be the Court of Wards in respect of the person and the property of such ward.”

4. In sections 4,16,17,34 and 45, the words "Provincial Government" are substituted by the words "Board of Revenue".
5. In sections 4,7,9,11,12,19,20,21,26 to 29, 31 to 35, 43,44,47 and 53, the words "Deputy Commissioner" wherever occurring have been substituted by the Wards " District Officer (Revenue)".
6. In section 5, the words "Commissioner" wherever occurring has been substituted by the words "Court of Wards".
7. In section 7 and 11, the words "Provincial Government" have been substituted by the words "Court of Wards".

8. In section 44, the first proviso has been omitted while in the second proviso, the comma and word “further” has been omitted.
9. In section 48, the words “with the sanction of the Commissioner” have been omitted.