

RULES MADE BY THE SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
UNDER SECTION 14 OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
(IMMUNITIES, POWERS AND PRIVILEGES) LAW
(1999 REVISION)

Notice of Orders

By virtue of section 14(2) copies of orders made by the Speaker shall be duly authenticated by the Clerk and exhibited in a conspicuous position in the precincts of the Assembly to which they relate; and such copies, when so authenticated and exhibited, shall be sufficient notice to all persons affected thereby.

In accordance with section 14(1) of the Legislative Assembly (Immunities, Powers and Privileges) Law (1999 Revision), the Speaker is authorized to issue such orders as he deems necessary for the regulation of the admittance of strangers to the precincts of the Assembly.

Section 2 provides that “stranger” means any person other than a Member or Officer of the Assembly.

“Officer of the Assembly” means a person appointed to the staff of the Assembly whether permanently or temporarily and includes the Clerk and the Serjeant-at-Arms on duty within the precincts of the Assembly.

Section 13 states that, “No stranger shall be entitled, as of right, to enter or to remain within the precincts of the Assembly.”.

Section 17 provides that, “Whoever –

- (a) being a stranger, enters or attempts to enter the precincts of the Assembly in contravention of any order of the Speaker;*
- (b) being a stranger, fails or refuses to withdraw from the precincts of the Assembly when ordered to withdraw therefrom by the Speaker;*
- (c) being a stranger, contravenes any rule made by the Speaker under the Standing Orders; or*
- (d) attends any sitting of the Assembly as the representative of any journal after the general permission granted under Standing Orders to the representative or representatives of that journal has been revoked,*

is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine of fifty dollars and to imprisonment for three months.”.

Therefore, in accordance with section 14 of the Legislative Assembly (Immunities, Powers and Privileges) Law (1999 Revision), the following orders are issued in regard to the regulation of the admittance of strangers to the precincts of the Assembly.

Strangers may be present in the galleries of the Legislative Assembly but not in those sections of the precinct that are set apart for the use of the Members while the House is Sitting, subject to the following Rules which are to govern their conduct –

1. No person shall be admitted to the Public Gallery at any time earlier than 30 minutes before the time fixed for the Sitting of the Legislative Assembly, unless permission of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly has first been obtained.
2. No drinking or eating shall take place in the public gallery.
3. The following persons are authorized to use the Distinguished Strangers Gallery so far as limited accommodation allows:
 - (a) The Governor
 - (b) Members of the Judiciary
 - (c) Justices of the Peace
 - (d) Associate and visiting Members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
 - (e) Spouses and close relatives of Members of the Legislative Assembly
 - (f) Ministers of Religion
 - (g) Visiting Parliamentarians, Consular Officers or overseas dignitaries.

Seating inside the Chamber is reserved only for Associated Members of the Local Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and persons invited to the Chamber.

4. **Bowing to the Speaker:** As a mark of respect to the Chair, strangers shall bow to the Chair (the Speaker) when entering or leaving the public gallery and the Chamber.
5. Strangers shall not enter into parts of the House appropriated to Members, unless with the express invitation of the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly or as so directed by the Clerk.

Parts of the House appropriated to Members are:

- The Speaker's Chambers
- The Ante Room leading into the Chamber
- The Chamber
- The Common Room
- The Committee Rooms
- The Dining Room
- Members' Meeting Room
- All other Rooms beyond the Members' Lobby
- All offices of the Department

6. Strangers entering and leaving the building shall use the front entrance of the building only, pass through security, and shall then be directed by an Officer of the Assembly under the instructions of the Clerk.

7. Persons who have been summoned to the Legislative Assembly by the Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of Cabinet and/or the Chairman of any Committee of the House, shall seek assistance from an Officer of the Department and shall not, without permission, enter into any part of the House appropriated to Members.

8. When summoned to House proceedings by the Speaker, or the Chairman of any Committee of the House persons shall be seated in designated seats behind Honourable Ministers and Official Members.

9. Members should not bring other persons into the Chamber while the House is sitting, except where the person is acting as an advisor to the Minister or Member in charge of the business before the House.

10. If Committee meetings are held within the Chamber, persons invited/summoned shall be seated at a table provided in front of the bar in the Chamber and not in Members' seats. They shall not be permitted to enter into any part of the House appropriated to Members.

11. **Dress Code:** Appropriate attire is to be observed by Strangers in the House. If the Serjeant observes any inappropriate dress he shall disallow any visitor access to the public gallery. Jackets or suits shall be worn in the Chamber (with the exception of Committee meetings in the Chamber).

12. **Press Dress Code:** Any member of the press covering proceedings in the public gallery are required to wear appropriate business attire and appropriate shoes whether the member is male or female.

13. Documents or papers to be circulated to Members during any House Sitting or Committee Meeting shall be addressed to the Clerk for distribution.

14. Standing Order 84(2) provides that *any representative of any journal or newspaper when attending meetings of the House shall sit in the area allotted for the press and shall under no conditions engage any Member in conversation during such sittings.*

15. Under the Register of Interests Law 1996 *any person - having received permission to attend a meeting of the Legislative Assembly, or a meeting of its committees, for the purpose of reporting in any newspaper or periodical, or in any radio or television broadcast, the meeting or any matter related to the meeting - is required to register their interests in accordance with the form provided in Schedule 3 of the Law.*

16. A Press Pass shall be issued by the Clerk to a journalist whose registration form has been received by the Registrar of Interests. Once a registration form has been received a Press Pass will be issued within 24 hours from the Office of the Clerk. All journalists, so registered, shall be required to wear a Press Pass whilst attending a meeting of the Legislative Assembly.

17. If any journalist fails to register in compliance with the Law, they shall not be permitted to enter the Press Boxes to cover proceedings.

18. The press are subject to the Rules of the House issued by the Speaker and shall be subject to the relevant provision of The Legislative Assembly (*Immunities, Powers and Privileges*) Law (1999 Revision) and *Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly Standing Orders* (2006 Revision) and to any direction given by the Speaker, the Clerks, the Serjeant-at-Arms and Security Officers.

19. Permission is granted to any representative of the press who is approved under the *Register of Interests Law 1996* (Declaration of Press Interests), to prepare transcripts of the Legislative Assembly proceedings through the use of laptop computers, I-Pads or any other silent touch-typing device so long as it does not interrupt the business of the House. However, other electronic recording device, photography or television is forbidden, without the express permission of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

20. If any member of the Press has failed to register in compliance with the Register of Interests Law 1996, they shall not be permitted to enter the Press Boxes to cover proceedings. When a declaration has been completed and received by the Clerk, a press badge will be issued and at such time admission to the Press Boxes will be permitted.

21. The reading of books or papers (other than Order Papers) in the Public and Distinguished Strangers Galleries is not permitted.


22. It is considered disorderly for any clapping, talking, gesture, nod or any other communication between Members and persons in the public gallery or press boxes.

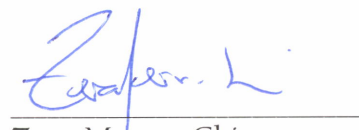
23. The Legislative Assembly is regarded as the only place of its kind and one in which the Speaker has exclusive jurisdiction. Thus, in the Legislative Assembly, the police are subject to the authority of the Speaker. Police have no power to enter the Legislative Assembly in the ordinary course of their duties without the consent of the Speaker. They have no routine security role within the building or precincts, unless specifically requested by the Serjeant at Arms or requested by the Speaker.

Dated this 11th day of October 2103

Date of Operation: 11-Oct 2013

I certify the above to be a true copy


Hon Juliana O'Connor-Connolly, JP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly


Zena Merren-Chin
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly