

Deserted Wives and Children Act 1840, New South Wales

1840 – 1901

Other Names: • An Act to provide for the maintenance of Deserted Wives and Children

URL: <https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/pdf/asmade/act-1840-10a>

Details

The Deserted Wives and Children Act 1840 [10/1840 (4 Vic. No.5)] was created to protect women and children who had been 'deserted' by their husbands or fathers, and left without financial support. It included 'illegitimate' as well as legitimate children in its terms, so long as proving paternity didn't rest only on the mother's oath. This Act was amended in 1858 to allow Justices to 'place' children who were 'abandoned' by their parents in public institutions, such as the Destitute Children's Asylum, or any other public establishment. The Act was repealed by the Deserted Wives and Children Act 1901.

More info

Chronology

- **Deserted Wives and Children Act 1840, New South Wales (1840 – 1901)**
 - Deserted Wives and Children Act 1901, New South Wales (1901 - 1964)

Related Entries

Related Organisations

- [Randwick Asylum for Destitute Children \(1858 - 1915\)](#)
- [Asylum for Destitute Children \(1852 - 1858\)](#)

Related Legislation

- [Deserted Wives and Children Act of 1840 as amended by the Act of 1858, New South Wales \(1858 - 1901\)](#)

The Deserted Wives and Children Act 1840, Colony of New South Wales was amended by an Act to amend the Act for the Maintenance of Deserted Wives and Children in 1858.

Resources

- Parliamentary Counsel's Office, [NSW legislation](#), No date