

**LAWS OF DOMINICA**

**MERITORIOUS SERVICE HONOURS ACT**

**CHAPTER 19:09**

**Act**  
**34 of 1967**  
**Amended by**  
**10 of 1975**  
**31 of 1983**  
**12 of 1990**

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**CHAPTER 19:09**

**MERITORIOUS SERVICE HONOURS ACT**

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## MERITORIOUS SERVICE HONOURS ACT

## CHAPTER 19:09

34 of 1967. **AN ACT to provide for the conferring of honours on persons who have rendered meritorious service to the State of Dominica.**

Commencement. [30th October 1967]

Short title. **1. This Act may be cited as the –  
MERITORIOUS SERVICE HONOURS ACT.**

President may confer honours on persons who rendered meritorious service. [10 of 1975].

**2. Each year, on the 3rd day of November or at such other times as he may deem it expedient to do so, the President may confer honours on persons resident in Dominica or elsewhere who have rendered meritorious service to the State of Dominica.**

Meritorious service awards. [10 of 1975 31 of 1983].

**3. (1) The following awards for meritorious service to the State may be conferred on persons resident in Dominica or elsewhere:**

*(a) the Dominica Award of Honour.*

The medal to be awarded to persons on whom this honour has been conferred shall be in gold plate, and shall have the shape, size and inscription set out in Regulations made by the President;

*(b) the Sisserou Award of Honour.*

The medal to be awarded to persons on whom this honour has been conferred shall be of the description set out in regulation 5 of the Meritorious Service Honours Regulations;

*(c) the Meritorious Service Award.*

The medal to be awarded to persons on whom this honour is conferred shall be in bronze and shall have the shape, size and description set out in regulation 5 of the Meritorious Service Honours Regulations;

*(d) the Services Medal of Honour.*

The medal to be awarded to persons on whom this honour is conferred shall be of the description set out in the Services Medal Regulations;

*(e) the Long Service Medal.*

The medal to be awarded to persons on whom this honour is conferred shall be of the description set out in the Services Medal Regulations.

(2) Recipients of the above awards shall be entitled to receive a warrant to that effect, and to wear such insignia as may be prescribed in this Act or in the Regulations made thereunder.

## 4. Any person who –

Unauthorised use  
of insignia, etc.

- (a) without authority uses or wears any warrant, certificate or insignia or decoration or medal supplied or authorised in connection with any honour for meritorious service to the State of Dominica, or any warrant, certificate or insignia or decoration or medal so nearly resembling the same as to be calculated to deceive; or
- (b) falsely represents himself to be a person who is or has been entitled to use or wear any such warrant, certificate or insignia or decoration or medal as aforesaid; or
- (c) without lawful authority or excuse supplies or offers to supply any such warrant, certificate or insignia or decoration or medal as aforesaid to any person not authorised to use or wear the same;

is liable on summary conviction to a fine of one thousand five hundred dollars or to imprisonment for six months.

5. (1) Any person who accepts or obtains or agrees to accept or attempts to obtain from another person for himself or for any other person, or for any purpose, any gift, money or valuable consideration as an inducement or reward for procuring or assisting or endeavouring to procure the grant of an honour for meritorious service to any person, or otherwise in connection with such a grant, is guilty of an offence.

Abuses in  
connection with  
the grant of  
honours.

(2) Any person who gives, or agrees or proposes to give or offers to another person any gift, money or valuable consideration as

an inducement or reward for procuring or assisting or endeavouring to procure the grant of an honour for meritorious service, or otherwise in connection with such a grant, is guilty of an offence.

(3) Any person guilty of an offence under this Act is liable on summary conviction to a fine of three thousand dollars or to imprisonment for one year.

The Registrar of Honours.

6. The person for the time being holding the office of Attorney General shall perform the duties of Registrar of Honours, and shall record all proceedings connected with the honour in a register to be appropriated for that purpose and shall, at the request of the President, prepare all warrants and other instruments to be passed under the Public Seal of Dominica, and summon all recipients of the honour to attend the President at any investiture.

The Secretary.

7. The person for the time being performing the duty of Secretary to the Cabinet shall perform the duties of Secretary and shall collect and tabulate the names of persons recommended for the award of an honour, and shall perform such other duties connected with the award of the honour as may be assigned to him by the Prime Minister.

Investiture.

8. The President shall, on a day appointed for the investiture of persons so honoured, present such persons with a certificate and invest them with the medal and other insignia of the honour.

Precedence of honours. [10 of 1975 31 of 1983].

9. (1) The honours conferred under section 3(1)(a), (b) and (c) shall have the following rank and precedence:

- (a) the Dominica Award of Honour shall be the highest award for meritorious service conferred by the State;
- (b) the Sisserou Award of Honour shall rank next after the Dominica Award of Honour;
- (c) the Meritorious Service Award shall rank next after the Sisserou Award of Honour.

(2) Persons who have been given awards under this Act prior to the 1st July 1975 shall be deemed to have been awarded the Dominica Award of Honour.

(3) The honours conferred at section 3(1)(d) and (e) shall have the following rank and precedence:

- (a) the Services Medal of Honour;  
(b) the Long Service Medal.

**10.** The President may by Regulations prescribe the form of the medal and other insignia of the honour.

Forms of medal  
and insignia.

**11.** The award of an honour under this Act to any person may be cancelled by the President on a recommendation to that effect by the Prime Minister; but it shall be competent for the President to restore the honour to any person whose award may have been cancelled and annulled when such recommendation has been withdrawn.

Cancellation of  
awards.

**12. (1)** The President may from time to time make such Regulations as he may consider necessary for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

Regulations.  
[12 of 1990].

(2) The Meritorious Service Honours Regulations (formerly contained in the Schedule to this Act) shall be deemed to have been made under this section.

**SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION**

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**MERITORIOUS SERVICE HONOURS REGULATIONS**

**ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS**

REGULATION

1. Short title.
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## SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION

## MERITORIOUS SERVICE HONOURS REGULATIONS

34 of 1967.  
(Schedule).*deemed to be made under section 12*

1. These Regulations may be cited as the – Short title.  
MERITORIOUS SERVICE HONOURS REGULATIONS.
2. In these Regulations “Secretary” means the secretary appointed under the Act. Interpretation.
3. The names of persons considered deserving of an honour for meritorious service to the State of Dominica shall be submitted to the Secretary not later than 30th June in any year. Nominations to be sent to the Secretary.
4. The honour for meritorious service shall be conferred by the President by warrant on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. Honour to be conferred by warrant.
5. (1) The medal shall be of silver gilt, octagonal in shape and shall measure one and one-half inches from point to point; it shall have on the obverse side the Coat of Arms of Dominica and the inscription “For Meritorious Service” at the top and the word “Dominica” below. The reverse side shall carry a wreath of palm branches crossed at their base and the words “All for Each and Each for All”. Description of medal.
- (2) The medal shall be attached to a corded silk ribbon of one inch and one quarter in width, predominantly blue in colour with the colours red and white added. The centre of the ribbon shall carry a vertical red stripe with vertical white stripes on either side.
- (3) The medal shall be worn on the left breast on official occasions when full-size medals are worn.
6. The certificate shall be approximately fifteen inches by twelve inches and shall bear the Coat of Arms of Dominica in colour and the inscription - “This Certificate of Merit is awarded to ..... for Meritorious Service to the State of Dominica”; it shall carry the date of award as well as the signatures of the President and the Prime Minister. Description of certificate.

Publication of names of recipients.

7. The names of recipients of the honour for meritorious service shall be published in the *Gazette*.

Medal returnable on death of recipient.

8. Upon the death of any recipient of the honour, the medal shall forthwith be returned to the President unless he shall in any instance consider otherwise expedient.

Investiture. [1 of 1969].

9. (1) Recipients of honours in respect of meritorious service to Dominica shall be invested at Government House or any other suitable place on the 3rd day of November in each year or on such other date as the President shall consider expedient.

(2) Recipients of honours in respect of meritorious service to Dominica shall be entitled to use the abbreviation M.S.A. which means 'Meritorious Service Award' after their names.

Residence in Dominica.

10. For the purposes of this Act a person shall be deemed to be resident in Dominica if he was born in Dominica or if he has been resident in Dominica for not less than seven years prior to the date of the award.

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