

ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO QUARTO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

CAP. CI.

An Act for the more effectual Prevention of Child Stealing. [18th *July* 1814.]

WHEREAS the Practice of carrying away young Children, by forcible or fraudulent Means, from their Parents or other Perſons having the Care and Charge or Cuſtody of them, commonly called Child Stealing, has of late much prevailed and increaſed: And whereas no adequate Puniſhment is as yet provided by Law in *England* or *Ireland* for ſo heinous an Offence; be it therefore enacted by the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty, by and with the Advice and Conſent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this preſent Parliament aſſembled, and by the Authority of the ſame, That if any Perſon or Perſons, from and after the paſſing of this Act, ſhall, maliciouſly, either by Force or Fraud, lead, take, or carry away, or decoy, or entice away, any Child under the Age of Ten Years, with Intent to deprive its Parent or Parents, or any other Perſon having the lawful Care or Charge of ſuch Child of the Poſſeſſion of ſuch Child, by concealing and detaining ſuch Child from ſuch Parent or Parents, or other Perſon or Perſons having the lawful Care or Charge of it; or with Intent to ſteal any Article of Apparel or Ornament, or other Thing of Value or Uſe, upon or about the Perſon of ſuch Child, to whomſoever ſuch Article may belong; or ſhall receive and harbour with any ſuch Intent as aforeſaid any ſuch Child, knowing the ſame to have been ſo by Force or Fraud led, taken, or carried, or decoyed or enticed away as aforeſaid; every ſuch Perſon or Perſons, and his, her, and their Counſellors, Procurors, Aiders, and Abettors, ſhall be deemed guilty of Felony,

Perſons offending againſt this Act, to be ſubject to the Penalties uſually inflicted on Perſons guilty of Grand Larceny.

and shall be subject and liable to all such Pains, Penalties, Punishments, and Forfeitures, as by the Laws now in force may be inflicted upon, or are incurred by Persons convicted of Grand Larceny.

Not to affect Fathers of illegitimate Children.

II. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That nothing in this Act shall extend, or be construed to extend, to any Person who shall have claimed to be the Father of an illegitimate Child, or to have any Right or Title in Law to the Possession of such Child, on account of his getting Possession of such Child, or taking such Child out of the Possession of the Mother thereof, or other Person or Persons having the lawful Charge thereof.

Not to extend to Scotland.

III. Provided also, and be it further enacted, That this Act shall not extend, or be construed to extend, to that Part of *Great Britain* called *Scotland*.

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8