

**BELIZE:**

**SUMMARY JURISDICTION(OFFENCES) (AMENDMENT) BILL,**  
**2023**

**ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES**

1. Short title.
2. Amendment of section 4.
3. Insertion of new section 4A.

**BELIZE:**

**BILL**

**For**

**AN ACT** to amend the Summary Jurisdiction (Offences) Act, Chapter 98 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; to upgrade the ‘use of threatening words or behaviour’ from a ‘petty offence’ to a serious offence; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(Gazetted .....2023).

**BE IT ENACTED**, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives and Senate of Belize and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. This Act may be cited as the

Short title.

**SUMMARY JURISDICTION (OFFENCES) (AMENDMENT)  
ACT, 2023,**

Cap. 98.

and shall be read and construed as one with the Summary Jurisdiction (Offences) Act which is hereinafter referred to as the principal Act.

Amendment of section 4.

2. The principal Act is amended in section 4 by repealing paragraph (xi).

Insertion of new section 4A.

3. The principal Act is amended by inserting immediately after section 4, the following new section 4A–

“Use of threatening words or behaviour, etc.

**4A.** A person who uses any threatening, abusive, profane, obscene, indecent or insulting words or behaviour, whether calculated to lead to a breach of the peace or not, such several offences being committed in a street, or public place, or in a private enclosure or ground, whether directly or within hearing of–

(i) a person acting as a judicial and legal officer or as a peace officer;

*Summary Jurisdiction (Offences)*

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- (ii) a member of the Belize Defence Force in the course of duty;
- (iii) a member of Belize Coast Guard in the course of duty;
- (iv) an Immigration Officer in the course of duty;
- (v) a Customs Officer in the course of duty;
- (vi) a member of the National Fire Service in the course of duty;
- (vii) a public officer in the course of duty;
- (viii) a prison officer in the course of duty;
- (ix) a teacher in the course of duty;
- (x) a member of the media in the course of duty; or
- (xi) an elected official,

commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for three years.”