

Interpretation of Statutes

A well known principle of law that a prior general Act may be effected by a subsequent particular or a special Act. In the **Principles of Statutory Interpretation by Justice G.P. Singh** 13 th Edition 2012 the aforesaid principle is culled out in the following manner:-

“A prior general Act may be effected by a subsequent particular or a Special Act , if the special matter of particular Act prior to its enforcement was being governed by the general provision of the earlier Act. In such a case the operation of the particular Act may have the effected of parallel rebelling the general Act or curtailing its operation or added conditions to its operation for the particular cases.

A general Act operation may be curtailed by a latter special Act even if the general Act contained a non- obstante clause. The curtailment of the general Act will be more readily inferred with the latter special Act also containing an overriding non-obstante provision.