

Interpretation of Statutes – It is contrary to all rules of construction to read words into an Act unless it is necessary to do so

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"... we cannot aid the legislature's defective phrasing of an Act, we cannot add or mend and, by construction, makeup deficiencies which are left there.

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It is contrary to all rules of construction to read words into an Act unless it is necessary to do so. Similarly, it is wrong and dangerous to proceed by substituting some other words for words of the statute. Speaking briefly the court cannot reframe the legislation for the very good reason that it has no power to legislate."

Privy Council decisions in Crawford v. Spooner (1846) 6 Moore PC 1] and Lord Howard de Walden v. IRC (1948) 2 AER 825]

Tags: Interpretation of Statutes, Words can not added or deleted