

This is the Law



By ROBERT E. LEE (For the N. C. Bar Association)

Agreements to Marry

What can a woman do if a man wrongfully breaches his promise to marry her?

In most states, including North Carolina she may sue the man for breach of contract and recover a judgment for damages.

She cannot get a court order requiring the man to go through a wedding ceremony with her. There are no exceptions to this rule.

The amount of damages to be recovered depends upon the wealth of the defendant, the mortification and mental pain suffered by the plaintiff, expenses incurred in preparation of the marriage, injury to plaintiff's reputation, and other things.

The woman is not obligated to return the engagement ring if the donor refuses to carry out his promise without legal justification.

In almost a third of the states there have been enacted statutes barring actions for breach of promise to marry.

Woman with wealthy suitors should maneuver to have their proposals occur in states where "anti-heart balm statutes" do not exist.

May a man recover damages from a woman who breaches her contract to marry him?

Does the law require that an engagement agreement be in any particular form?

No. If the conduct and declarations of the parties clearly indicate that they regard themselves as engaged, it is immaterial as to by what means they have arrived at that state.

May a suit for breach of promise to marry be brought against a person less than twenty-one years of age?

No. Minors are not liable generally on contracts other than for necessities. Marriage is not a necessity.

If no time for the wedding has been fixed, when must the marriage occur?

Where no time for the wedding has been fixed, failure to perform within a reasonable time may be considered a breach.

Advertisement for William Penn Blended Whiskey, featuring a bottle image and pricing information.

tors to be considered. A mere request for the postponement of the marriage ceremony for reasonable cause does not amount to a repudiation or breach of the contract to marry.

May a man be sued for breach of promise if he discovers that the woman has had sexual relations with another?

No. The unchastity of the woman, if unknown by the man at the time of the promise, is a complete defense for breach of promise to marry in North Carolina.

World Working Population Now Over One Billion

The world has a working population of more than a billion persons, according to information compiled by the International Labour Office.

Two out of every five persons of the earth's present population of about 2.7 billion persons are described as economically active in their contribution toward the production of goods and services for home consumption or for trade between nations.

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Advertisement for Arcadian Nitrogen Solutions, featuring a large image of a cornfield and text describing the product.



EASY DOES IT!—Young Reserve Forces Act enlistees learn how to take a litter over the obstacle course during their training at "medics" at Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Tex.

world, and reflects both the high proportion of very young children in the population and the taboo on women being economically active in most Middle Eastern countries.

Situation in Africa Tropical and Southern Africa, on the other hand, has the highest rate in the world, with about half the entire population classed as economically active.

Though the composition of the working population may vary from one country to another, the adult male is still the predominant worker and bread-winner.

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Table of property listings for the first township, including names, addresses, and values.

Table of property listings for the second township, including names, addresses, and values.

Table of property listings for the third township, including names, addresses, and values.

Table of property listings for the fourth township, including names, addresses, and values.