Company Law

Law 220

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Consider Ac-1985 22 20 Section 119(c)

Ac-2000-12 Ac-2000-12

Ac-1907-Les Manuso

Ac-1890 220 Sections 1(1), 24(1), 26, 33, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42(1), 43



The legal framework of a business will influence the way a business operates and develops¹. Therefore it is necessary to decide whether Archie, Bob and Catherine should form a partnership or a limited company.

A partnership, defined in section 1(1) of the Partnership Act 1890² (PA 1890), is the sess weekersons cannot be a relationship. which has no separate legal identity they cannot make contracts, commit crimes or be sued and confers unlimited liability4. This makes it possible for each partner to be liable without limit for debts incurred by other partners in the course of partnership business⁵. A partnership is formed by an agreement which is contractually binding subject to contract law⁶. The agreement takes the form of a deed and sets out the terms and conditions of the partnership⁷. There are three forms of partnership, an ordinary partnership governed by the PA 18908, a limited partnership governed by the Limited Partnership Act 19079 and, governed by the Limited Liability Partnership Act 200010, the limited liability partnership¹¹. However despite these different forms, a partnership is simply the partners who comprise a business¹². In contrast a limited company is a corporation which has a separate legal identity to that of its members¹³; this comes from Samo A. Samo A. A limited company is known as a serso keeps, that is an artificial legal person, which has perpetual succession meaning that it's existence is maintained by the constant succession of new members to replace those that leave¹⁵. A limited company confers limited liability meaning that members are only liable for debts to the value of the amount of capital they have contributed¹⁶. A company is formed by registration under the Companies Act 1985¹⁷ and can be limited by either shares or guarantee¹⁸. There

usinesslink.gov.uk/b

³ Morse, G. (2006) w. Oxford University Press page 1

⁴ Morse, G. (2006) w, Oxford University Press page 1

⁵ Morse, G. (2006) aw, Oxford University Press page 1

Zaw, Oxford University Press page 158 6 Morse, G. (2006) ₹

[.] Oxford University Press page 48

¹¹ Keenan, D & Bisacre, J (2005) Control Longman page 34

¹² Morse, G. (2006) → 12 Morse, G. (2006) W, Oxford University Press page 1

¹³ Keenan, D & Bisacre, J. (2005) Company, Pearson Longman page 2

^{14 &}amp; co Ltd [1897] AC 22

¹⁵ Keenan, D & Bisacre, J (2005) Com www. Pearson Longman page 2

¹⁶ Morse, G₁(2006) → Constant Section 17 Constant Section 185 → Constant Section 1985 → Constant Section 16 Morse, G₁(2006) → Constant Section 16 Morse, G₂(2006) → Constant Section 16 Morse, G₂(2006) → Constant Section 16 Morse, G₂(2006) → Constant Section 17 Morse, G₂(200 Oxford University Press page 1 - 2

are two main types of limited companies, public limited companies and private limited companies¹⁹ which can enter into contracts, employ people, commit crimes and be sued²⁰.

Having identified the structures we must now compare them in view of what Archie, Bob and Catherine would like. Firstly they would like to be able to share profits equally. Under section 24(1) PA 1890²¹, 'and a share profits equally. Se emile A sièce en la fina vois o intercente 322. There is no need for the profits to reflect the capital contributions²³; this comes from Ward Vew 3524. As an essential criteria for a partnership is mutual sharing²⁵, the profits would be shared equally between the partners²⁶. With a company the capital is raised by selling shares making each shareholder entitled to a share of the profits²⁷. Section 119(c) of the Companies Act 1985²⁸ states that Table A provides that all dividends shall be paid according to the amount invested²⁹. This means the profits will only be shared evenly if every member contributes the same amount of capital. Here each partner is contributing £5000 meaning that whether a partnership or a limited company is formed, the profits can be shared equally, a partnership because it is based on mutual sharing, and a limited company because they are each contributing the same amount. Secondly they wish to be able to retire from the partnership by giving three months notice. In a partnership there is a general rule that death, bankruptcy or retirement automatically dissolves the business³⁰, this comes from section 33 PA 1890³¹. However a report on partnership law by the Law Commission³² established a rule which allows a partnership to continue providing two partners remain³³. This results in a technical dissolution which allows the business to be reformed by the remaining partners³⁴. This is however subject to the partnership agreement³⁵. In addition to this,

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¹⁸ Keenan, D & Bisacre, J. (2005) Company, Pearson Longman page 23 - 24

¹⁹ Keenan, D & Bisacre, J (2005) Company, Pearson Longman page 9 - 10

²⁰ Morse G. (2006)

²¹ Ac-1890 (1)

²² Morse, G. (2006) Saw, Oxford University Press page 185

²³ Morse, G. (2006) Care South Conford University Press page 26

^{24 %} Co 24 998 1 W X 1722

²⁵ Morse, G. (2006)

²⁶ Morse, G. (2006) Carrow, Oxford University Press page 186

²⁷ www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdtog/action/layer?r.s=al&topicId=1074429027

²⁸ Compares Ac-1985 2/2010 10 Section 119(c)

²⁹ Keenan, D & Bisacre, J (2005) Company, Pearson Longman page 196

³⁰ Morse G. (2006) Care S. Oxford University Press page 229

³¹⁻²⁻²⁻⁵⁻⁵⁻Ac-1890-12-50 section 33

³² www.lawcom.gov.uk/lc_reports.htm

³³ Morse, G. (2006) Saw, Oxford University Press page 5

³⁴ Morse, G. (2006) ♥ and Solution Oxford University Press page 256

³⁵ Morse, G. (2006)

section 26 PA 1890³⁶ provides that a signed notice given by the retiring partner shall be sufficient³⁷. There is no provision for the amount of notice to be given but this could be included in the partnership agreement. On the other hand a member of a company can retire by transferring his shares³⁸. The company will not be dissolved because of retirement due to perpetual succession39. However there is no need to give notice of retirement in a limited company meaning therefore that a partnership would be the best option. Notice of retirement will allow the remaining partner's time to reform the business. They would also like to be able to purchase an outgoing partners interest in the partnership. Section 43 PA 1890⁴⁰ allows for the transfer of an outgoing partner's interest by holding that their interest is a debt due to them from the remaining partners; however this again is subject to the partnership agreement⁴¹. In a report by the Law Commission⁴² it was recommended that an outgoing partner should be bound to transfer his interest to the remaining partners⁴³. However a partner cannot transfer his shares without the consent of all other partners⁴⁴ and is again subject to the partnership agreement⁴⁵. In contrast a member of a company can freely transfer his shares unless the companies articles of association provides otherwise articles of association provides otherwise. Therefore it may be contained in the articles that the remaining members have first refusal to an outgoing members shares, however if this is not the case then the shares can be transferred to anyme. This would make a partnership more suitable as they would be able to maintain control themselves; this may not happen in a limited company. Finally they wish to use the name 'Archie's Fitness' but Archie also wants to ensure that in the event of dissolution, no one else can use this name. With regards to a partnership section 1 of the Business Names Act 1985⁴⁸ applies where the name does not consist only of the partners surnames⁴⁹ and under section 4 of this Act⁵⁰ a partnership must disclose the names of each partner along with an address on all business documents and at the business premises⁵¹. Therefore they would be able to use the name 'Archie's Fitness' so long as all partners

SO section 26

³⁷ Morse, G. (2006)
³⁸ Keenan, D & Bisacre, J. (2005)
³⁹ Keenan, D & Bisacre, J. (2005)
³⁰ Keenan, D & Bisacre, J. (2005)
³⁰ Keenan, D & Bisacre, J. (2005)

SO section 43

⁴¹ Morse, G. (2006) Www. Oxford University Press page 271

⁴² www.lawcom.gov.uk/lc

⁴³ Morse, G. (2006) Www. Oxford University Press page 271

t/bdotg/action/detail?r.s=sl&type=RESOURCES&itemId=1074433319

⁴⁵ Morse, G. (2006) € Alexander Oxford University Press page 271

⁴⁶ Keenan, D & Bisacre, J. (2005) Control of the W., Pearson Longman page 275 A7 Keenan, D & Bisacre, J. (2005) Control of the W., Pearson Longman page 236

⁴⁸ Ac-1985

⁴⁹ Morse G. (2006)

^{50 = 10} ess Names Ac-1985 - 10 - 10 ess

⁵¹ Morse, G. (2006) € 51 Morse, G. (2006) Notifierd University Press page 102

names and addresses are displayed on all documents and premises. However the Business Names Act 198552 does not prevent more than one partnership from using the same name³, although from Ewing v Buttercup⁵⁴ if a name is used to deceive and divert business that firm can use the tort of passing off to prevent their name from being used⁵⁵. It may also be included in the partnership agreement that if the partnership ends or someone leaves, no one can trade under the name 'Archie's Fitness'. With a company it may be acceptable for the members to use their own names if they are having difficulty having another name accepted however more than the name may be required⁵⁶. In addition to this a company cannot use a name that already exists on an index kept by the Registrar of Companies⁵⁷. This means that should the company come to an end, no one would be able to trade under the name 'Archie's Fitness', making a company more suitable here.

Following this Archie, Bob and Catherine would be best suited to a partnership. Due to the PA 1890⁵⁸ and a partnership agreement, the profits can be shared equally, a partner can retire by giving notice, shares can be transferred to existing partners and Archie may be able to prevent the others from using the name 'Archie's Fitness' if they leave or the partnership ends. Although a partnership confers unlimited liability they can be shared between the partners while at the same time allowing greater knowledge and expertise to be brought to the partnership.

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Generally death, bankruptcy or retirement brings a partnership to an end⁵⁹. However in 2003, a report by the Law Commission⁶⁰ recommended that so long as two partners remain the business should be allowed to continue⁶¹. This rule now applies unless the partnership agreement provides otherwise². This relates to the dissolution of a partnership which Archie and Bob may have to undertake now that Catherine has decided to leave.

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w, Oxford University Press page 102 53 Morse, G. (2006) ₹

⁵⁴ Margarine Co 2017

⁵⁵ Morse, G. (2006) Www. Oxford University Press page 103

⁵⁶ Keenan, D & Bisacre, J. (2005) Company, Pearson Longman page 73

⁵⁷ Keenan, D& Bisacre, J. (2005) Company, Pearson Longman page 72

⁵⁸ Ac-1890 Ac-1890 September 59 Morse, G. (2006)

Notifierd University Press page 229

⁶¹ Morse, G. (2006) Zaw, Oxford University Press page 5

⁶² Morse, G. (2006) Nord University Press page 5

Dissolution is the ending of a partnership and can arise by death, bankruptcy or retirement of a partner⁶³. There are two types of dissolution, a general dissolution and a technical dissolution⁶⁴. In certain circumstances the partnership may be dissolved and reformed by the remaining partners; however this is subject to the partnership agreement⁶⁵. If a partnership agreement states that the partnership shall continue after death, bankruptcy or retirement then a technical dissolution will occur⁶⁶. If there is nothing in the agreement as to the partnerships status then a general dissolution will occur⁶⁷. This can be illustrated by the case of where v where ⁶⁸. The effect of a general dissolution is that the entire partnership comes to an end, with a technical dissolution the firm is dissolved and reformed under the remaining partners⁶⁹.

Archie and Bob now have two options, a technical dissolution or a general dissolution. If the partnership agreement allows for continuation after a death or retirement then the firm can be reformed by Archie and Bob however three criteria must be complied with. Firstly it is for Catherine to take steps to avoid future liability for partnership debts⁷⁰. Under the provisions of section 37 PA 1890⁷¹ a departing partner must inform all existing clients of their departure and put notice to that effect in the London Gazette to inform any potential clients⁷². Secondly Catherine's interest in the firm must be purchased⁷³. Section 43 PA 1890⁷⁴ states that an outgoing partner's interest is a debt due to him from the remaining partners⁷⁵. The Law Commission proposed that an outgoing partner should be bound to transfer his interest to the remaining partners however it must be stated in the partnership agreement how the interest will be purchased⁷⁶. Finally Catherine's right to profits made between the date of retirement and the date the interest is purchased must be determined⁷⁷. Section 42(1) PA 1890⁷⁸ provides that a departing partner can either opt for a share in the profits between these times or opt for 5% interest to be paid

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⁶³ Morse, G. (2006)

⁶⁴ Morse, G. (2006) See See, Oxford University Press page 229 - 230

⁶⁵ Morse, G. (2006) www. Oxford University Press page 229

⁶⁶ Morse, G. (2006) 230, 256 Morse, G. (2006) 230, 256

⁶⁷ Morse, G. (2006) € 2008, Oxford University Press page 229, 230, 256

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⁶⁹ Morse, G. (2006)

⁷⁰ Morsey G. (2006) Care Say, Oxford University Press page 257

^{€ 60 - 1890 - 1890 - 1890 - 1890} Se 5.00.37

⁷² Morse, G. (2006) → South Control University Press page 257

⁷³ Morse₁ G. (2006) → Additional Press page 257

⁴² Ac-1890 - 42 Ac-1890 Setto 43

⁷⁵ Morse, G. (2006) South States, Oxford University Press page 271

⁷⁶ Morse, G. (2006) ♥ and Solution Oxford University Press page 271

⁷⁷ Morse G. (2006)

^{78€ 200} Ac-1890 - 12 SO set 10 A2(1)

on their share per annum, again this is subject to the partnership agreement 9. However if the partnership agreement does not identify the status of the partnership after death or retirement then a general dissolution will occur. If this is the case then the firm would need to be wound up which includes collecting and valuing assets, settling partnership debts and distributing any surplus⁸⁰. Again three steps must be undertaken. Firstly it must be decided who will wind up the business, the partners themselves or a receiver appointed by the cour^{§1}. The most common way to wind up is by an existing partner. It is cheaper, quicker and conducted more privately82. Under section 38 PA 189083 there is a duty to wind up the business and complete any unfinished transactions84. A failure to do this may result in actions for negligence by third parties⁸⁵. This will apply unless a court orders otherwise and appoints a receiver to conduct the winding up process⁸⁶. If a receiver is appointed they are the only person entitled to act on behalf of the firm87. Secondly it must be determined whether there are any premiums that need to be returned to the partners88. A premium is a joining fee paid to allow someone to become a partner for a specified time⁸⁹. If a firm is dissolved prematurely, under section 40 PA 1890⁹⁰ the premiums may, in part, need to be returned⁹¹. Finally the partner's rights to the firm's assets must be established. Under section 39 PA 1890⁹² every partner is entitled, once partnership debts have been paid, to a share of the surplus⁹³.

Following this it is likely that Archie and Bob would undertake a technical dissolution. As they wanted to be able to retire from the partnership and be able to purchase an outgoing partners interest it is likely that the partnership agreement would provide for the continuation of the firm in the event of a death, bankruptcy or retirement. Catherine now needs to avoid her liability for future debts by informing both existing and potential clients of her departure, Archie or Bob will be required to purchase Catherine's interest in the firm and her right to a share of the profits must be determined. Once this has been complied with the partnership will be reformed under Archie and Bob.

⁷⁹ Morse, G. (2006) € Zaw, Oxford University Press page 263

w, Oxford University Press page 246 80 Morse, G. (2006) ♥

⁸¹ Morse, G. (2006) w, Oxford University Press page 246

⁸² Morse G. (2006) Oxford University Press page 248

^{-11.}SO sec. 0.38

⁸⁴ Morse, G. (2006) w, Oxford University Press page 246 - 247

⁸⁵ Morse, G. (2006) **₹** w, Oxford University Press page 248

⁸⁶ Morse, G. (2006) Zew, Oxford University Press page 248

⁸⁷ Morse, G. (2006) ₹ Zaw, Oxford University Press page 249

Zaw, Oxford University Press page 253

Car, Oxford University Press page 253

⁸⁹ Morse G. (2006) = 500 90 = 500 S. Ac-1890 511.SO sec. 02.40

⁹¹ Morse G. ⊈ Oxford University Press page 253

FAc-1890€ 511.SO sec. 0.39

⁹³ Morse, G. (2006) Zaw, Oxford University Press page 254



Generally death, bankruptcy or retirement of a partner brings the partnership to an enc94 however, the Law Commission, in a report in 200395, recommended that so long as two partners remain the firm should be allowed to continue⁹⁶. Although this rule now applies, in this situation there are only two partners, Archie and Bob, who have decided to go their separate ways and where only one partner remains to carry on a business there is a necessity to dissolve the partnership⁹⁷. This means that a general dissolution must occur bringing the partnership to an end⁹⁸. The next step is to wind up the business which involves collecting and valuing partnership assets, settling partnership debts and distributing the surplus99. To wind up the partnership it must be decided who will carry out the winding up process¹⁰⁰. This can either be by a partner who, under section 38 PA 1890¹⁰¹, must complete all unfinished transactions¹⁰², or by a receiver appointed by a court to manage and supervise the process¹⁰³. If a receiver is appointed they are the only person authorised to act and commence proceedings on behalf of the firm104. Next any premiums paid must be returned to the partners¹⁰⁵. A premium is a joining fee paid to become a partner for a certain period of time¹⁰⁶; this comes from section 40 PA 1890¹⁰⁷. Finally it must be determined what rights each partner has to the firm's assets¹⁰⁸. Under section 39 PA 1890¹⁰⁹ each partner is entitled, after all debts have been paid, to a share of the surplus¹¹⁰. Once it has been decided who will conduct the winding up, any premiums have been returned, all debts have been paid and any surplus distributed between the former partners, the partnership will be wound up and be dissolved meaning it no longer exists. However it may be possible for either Archie or Bob to buy out each other instead of winding up111. This may be ordered by the court are known as a

⁹⁴ Morse, G. (2006)

⁹⁵ www.lawcom.gov.uk/lc

⁹⁶ Morse, G. (2006) w, Oxford University Press page 5

⁹⁷ Morse, G. (2006) w, Oxford University Press page 230

⁹⁸ Morse, G. (2006) € w, Oxford University Press page 229 - 230

aw, Oxford University Press page 246 99 Morse, G. (2006)

¹⁰⁰ Morse G. (2006) Oxford University Press page 246

^{511.}SO sec. 0.38

¹⁰² Morse, G. (2006) ₩ Zew, Oxford University Press page 246 - 247

¹⁰³ Morse, G. (2006) → Zaw, Oxford University Press page 248

¹⁰⁴ Morse, G. (2006) Eaw, Oxford University Press page 249

¹⁰⁵ Morse, G. (2006) ₹56 Zaw, Oxford University Press page 253

Oxford University Press page 253 106 Morse G. (2006) € 5006

^{511.}SO sec. 0. 40

¹⁰⁸ Morse G. (2006)

^{511.}SO sec. 0.39

¹¹⁰ Morse, G. (2006) Aw, Oxford University Press page 254 111 Morse, G. (2006) Aw, Oxford University Press page 256

Syers v Syers orders¹¹² which come from Syers v Syers¹¹³. If this was to occur it is likely that Archie would buy out Bob and continue to trade as a sole trader. This means that a technical dissolution may occur which, in accordance with the partnership agreement, allows the business to effectively continue¹¹⁴. If this is the case then notice must be given to existing clients to notify them of the change and a notice to that effect in the London Gazette for potential clients¹¹⁵. Archie would then need to purchase Bobs interest in the business and establish his right to the profits¹¹⁶. However since a partnership must be dissolved where only one person remains to carry on a business¹⁷⁷, it is likely that the partnership will be dissolved. Archie and Bob could then go their separate ways and establish there own sole trader businesses.

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¹¹² Morse, G. (2006) Normal University Press page 256

^{113 (1876) 1} ACCAS 174

¹¹⁴ Morse, G. (2006)

¹¹⁵ Morse, G. (2006) Norse, Oxford University Press page 257

¹¹⁶ Morse, G. (2006) → Aw, Oxford University Press page 257

¹¹⁷ Morse, G. (2006) American, Oxford University Press page 230



Keenan, D & Bisacre, J. Commun. 13th Pearson Longman 2005

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