# **Chapter 5: Contract Formation Flowchart**

## 1. INTENTION

The parties to the agreement must intend the agreement to be legally enforceable.

## **Social or Domestic Agreements**

If the agreement was made between two friends in a social setting, or between members of a household such as brother/sister the court will presume that it was not intended to be a contract.

# No agreement/Not legally enforceable

-Balfour v Balfour [Husband v Wife, PG242]

## **Got agreement/Legally enforceable**

-Wakeling v Ripley [Move from england to Australia, PG242]

rebuttable presumption.

## **Commercial or Business agreements**

Agreement made in a commercial or business context, the court will presume that it was intended to be legally enforceable.

# No agreement/Not legally enforceable

-Rose & Frank Co v JR Crompton & Brothers Ltd [terminating the arrangement, p243]
-Masters v Cameron [pg245]

## **Got Agreement/Legally enforceable**

-Ermogenous v Greek Orthodox Community of SA Inc [pg 244] -Carlill v Carbolic Smoke Ball Co [pg245]

# 2.Agreement

- -An agreement is a meeting of minds, and exists when two or more people share understanding and intention.
- -If arrangements are still being negotiated, there is no agreement and no contract.
  - -One Person (the offeror) has made an offer.
  - -Another person (the offeree) has accepted the offer.
- -The offeree has communicated their acceptance of the offer to the offeror

## Offer

A person makes an offer when they express a willingness to immediately enter into a contract with the person to whom the offer is directed.

# <u>LEGALLY</u> ENFORCEABLE/GOT OFFER

# -Goldsborough Mort & Co Ltd v Quinn [p233]

[offeree paid the offeror to keep the offer open, Cannot revoke the offer because the offeree paid the offeror to keep the offer open.

# -Carlill v Carbolic Smoke Ball Co [pg234]

An advertisement is usually not an offer; instead, it is an invitation to treat. Got offer because the wording that CSBC used entered legal relations.

# -Smythe v Thomas [p236]

Auction, the bid was an offer.

## **NO OFFER**

# -Ramsgate Victoria Hotel Co Ltd v Montefiore [pg233]

Termination/Withdrawa I of offer due to lapse

## -Dickinson v Dodds [pg233]

Revoked by the offeror Offeror is entitled to revoke their offer.

# -Patridge v Crittenden [pg236]

[Invitation to treat, not offer for sale, it's invitation to treat]

# -Haervey v Facey

mere supply of info, expression of interest.

## -Pharmacautical Society v Boots Cash Cahemist

-invitation to treat

## -Hyde v Wrench

-counter offer destroys original offer.

## ACCEPTANCE

-offeree indicates by words or by action that they are willing to immediately enter into a legally enforceable contract with the offeror on the terms offered

-Acceptance must be communicated to the offeror.

## **GOT AGREEMENT**

## -Boyd v Holmes [pg238]

accepted offers and that was previously accepted effectively by silence can amount to an indication of acceptance

# -Carlill v Carbolic Smoke Ball Co [pg238] Unilateral contract: A

contract where acceptance of the offer and performance by the offeree are achieved by the same act.

# -Adams v Lindsell [pg239]

Postal rule: An offeree's acceptance is effective and a contract is formed as soon as the offeree posts the letter of acceptance.

## NO

# <u>AGREEMENT</u>

# -Powell v Lee [p237]

no acceptance until the offeree communicates their acceptance to the offeror.

## -R v Clarke [p238]

The court
explained that a
person cannot
accept an offer by
conduct unless
they are acting in
reliance on the
offer. aware of the
offer or reward

## -Bryne & Co v Leon Van Tienhoven & Co [p239]

it does not apply to offers and revocations. [withdrawal] revocation not effective until communicated.

### 3. CONSIDERATION

An agreement is not a contract unless both parties to the agreement have paid, or promised to pay, a price, called **consideration**.

### **CONSIDERATION PROVIDED**

## -Carlill v Carbolic Smoke Ball Co [p246]

Consideration includes any act of the plaintiff from which the defendant derives a benefit

### -Thomas v Thomas [pg247]

Consideration need not be adequate

## -IPEX Software Services Pty Ltd v Hosking [p249]

Payer expected a legally enforceable promise to made at a later date - legally enforceable.

## -Hartley v Ponsonby [p250]

Promisee does something beyond their legal or contractual duty: promise will be enforceable

### **NO CONSIDERATION/INSUFFICIENT**

### -White v Bluett [p248]

[father and son] Vague promise

## -Placer Development Ltd v Commonwealth [p248]

Consideration payable by the Commonwealth was too vague

### -Roscorla v Thomas [p248]

Consideration paid by the promisee before the promise was made.

## -Stilk v Myrick [p249]

Prior legal obligation: if the promisee was already legally obliged to the fulfillment: insufficient consideration

#### -Foakes v Beer [p250]

Part payment of a debt is not sufficient consideration for a promise by the creditor to waive payment of the balance of the debt

#### -Glasbrook Bros v Glamorgan County Council

public duty owed by law= not a good consideration.

### **PRACTICAL BENEFIT TEST**

## -Musumeci v Windadell Pty Ltd [p252]

According to the practical benefits test/adequate consideration/legitimate reasons for not performing their obligations/altering the contract

## <u>Promissory Estoppel – deals with representations/promises to future matters.</u>

Doctrine of promissory estoppel: The principle that a promise will be legally enforceable even if the promisee has not provided consideration for the promise, as long as certain requirements are satisfied.

- 1. The promisor intended the promisee to rely upon a clear and unambiguous promise.
- 2. The promise has, in fact, relied upon the promise by changing their circumstances, and if the promisor does not keep their promise, the promise will suffer a material disadvantage/ detriment.
- 3.It would be unconscionable (unfair) for the promisor to break their promise.

# -Central London Property Trust Ltd v High Trees House Ltd [p253] – SHIELD English version of defense to stop action on preexisting contract.

Prevent a party to a contract from enforcing contractual rights.

## -Waltons Stores (Interstate) Ltd v Maher [p253] - SWORD

## Australian doctrine of promissory estoppel, enforce non-binding promise.

Prevent a party from denying that a contract exists in the first place.

D.P.E is like a shield

### -Giumelli v Giumelli [p254]

stop the promisor from breaking the promise because the promisee relies upon the promises. [Damages]

