

# A Comparative Study of the Effect and Scope of Prohibition on Assignment of Contractual Rights in Iranian and England Law

Ali Farhani Panah<sup>1</sup> | Mohammad Salehi Mazandarani<sup>2\*</sup>

1 Master's Student in Private Law, University of Qom, Iran2 Associate Professor, University of Qom, Iran

\*Corresponding Author Email: m\_salehimazandarani@yahoo.com

#### **Abstract**

The prohibition of assignment is a fundamental aspect of contract law that has been subject to considerable debate and discussion in common and civil law legal systems. While both legal systems recognize the principle of freedom to contract, they often take different approaches to the prohibition of assignment. In common law, there are two approaches to the prohibition of assignment: the contractual approach and the property approach. According to the contractual approach, the agreement of the parties will not be able to eliminate the transferability of the rights, and therefore, the adverse assignment will be effective to the extent of the agreement between the parties, but not beyond that. On the other hand, according to the property approach, the mentioned right does not have the definition of transferability from the beginning of its realization, and therefore, the adverse assignment will be null and void. Some argue that the property approach is more compatible with the rules governing assignment rights and commercial purposes, and therefore, has gained more support and popularity over time. In Iranian law, with this extent, assignment rights have been examined and assignment cannot be divided into the two mentioned categories, but in Iranian law, if the condition is the result of the prohibition of assignment, according to the general rules of contracts, if assignment takes place despite such a condition, one It will have three effects; Either this assignment is invalid because the mentioned right did not exist, therefore it will be negative to the end of the matter, or it is invalid and requires conditional permission, or it cannot be invoked against the conditional (contractor). Therefore, the effect of this condition is also disputed in Iranian law. It seems that the latter effect, that it cannot be relied on, has a similar result in contrast to the conditionality with the contractual approach and the theory of nullity of assignment with the property approach. The scope of the non-assignment clause is also discussed. In common law, it is clear that the effect of the prohibition of assignment can be extended to other similar contracts that have a similar effect, according to the real intention of the parties, and therefore prevent any direct legal relationship between the obligee and the third party, or in the absence of The existence of a presumption on the actual prohibition is only effective to the extent of the assignment itself, and should not cause the prohibition of other institutions. However, In Iranian law, the inclusion of a condition prohibiting assignment in the form of a



## Journal of Contemporary Comparative Legal Studies

condition abandoning a legal act, is better to be interpreted according to the real intention of the parties, and therefore, if there is a presumption of the existence of a real prohibition, it will cause the contract to be invalid, just like the condition of a negative result. On the other hand, otherwise, it will only be effective to the extent of the assignment itself, and should not cause the prohibition of other institutions. In other words, according to the theory of irrevocability, by including the condition of abandonment of the legal act in the contract, the obligee will only have an obligation to perform towards the obligor, and on the other hand, since a valid contract has been realized between the obligor and the third party, the obligor must also benefit from surrendering the right to a third party. In modern business practices, the non-assignment clause is very common, and its scope has been studied and analyzed by many scholars. According to some experts, the scope of the clause should be expanded to other similar contracts that have a similar effect, according to the real intention of the parties, and therefore prevent any direct legal relationship between the obligee and the third party, or in the absence of The existence of a presumption on the actual prohibition, just like it is in common law. On the other hand, there are those who argue that the scope of the nonassignment clause should be limited to the assignment itself, and should not cause the prohibition of other institutions. In conclusion, the prohibition of assignment can be seen as a legal tool that serves important policy goals in many legal systems. However, there are different approaches to the prohibition of assignment in common and civil law legal systems, and Iranian law has its own unique approach. The effect of nonassignment clauses, their scope, and the real intention of the parties are key factors in determining the validity and effect of the clause in both legal systems. In addition to what has already been discussed, it is important to note that the prohibition of assignment is just one part of the larger issue of transferability of rights. While it is clear that the transferability of rights is an important element of contract law, it must be balanced against the rights of the parties to the contract and the policy goals of contract law. The prohibition of assignment can serve important policy goals, such as preventing parties from taking advantage of the rights of others without their consent, or preventing third parties from interfering with the performance of the contract. At the same time, it is important to recognize that the prohibition of assignment can also be an obstacle to the free transfer of rights, which is a key element of contract law. Therefore, it is important for courts to strike a balance between the policy goals of contract law and the rights of the parties to the contract, when enforcing the prohibition of assignment. In conclusion, the prohibition of assignment is a complex and multifaceted issue that touches on many important elements of contract law. While different legal systems may take different approaches to the prohibition of assignment, it ultimately serves an important function in protecting the rights of parties to the contract and ensuring the smooth functioning of commercial transactions. At the same time, it is important to recognize the need for balance between the policy goals of contract law and the rights of the parties to the contract when enforcing the prohibition of assignment.

**Keywords:** Prohibition, Assignment, clause, equity, Transfer of Right.



# Journal of Contemporary Comparative Legal Studies

## References

#### **Books**

- 1. A.Guest, (2012), Guest on the Law of Assignment, Sweet & Maxwell London.
- 2. B. J., (Hon), B. A. F. Q & Cartwright, J (2020), Anson's Law of Contract, Oxford University Press, 31 Editions.
- 3. Beale, H (2017), Chitty on Contracts 2nd Supplement, Sweet & Maxwell, 32st Edition.
- 4. Boroujerdi Abdo Mohammad (2010), Civil Rights, Tehran: Majd. [In Persian].
- 5. Catherine Elliott & Frances Quinn (2009), Elliott & Quinn's Contract Law, Pearson Education Limited, 7th ed.
- 6. Emami, Seyyed Hassan (1334), Civil Rights, Tehran: Tehran University Press. [In Persian].
- 7. Garner, B. A (2004), Black's Law Dictionary, 8th Edition, Thomson West.
- 8. Iftikhari, Javad (1382), Civil Laws 3, General Contracts and Obligations, Tehran: Mizan,[In Persian].
- 9. Jafari Langroudi, Mohammad Jaafar (2017), The Influence of will in Civil Rights, Tehran: Ganj Danesh Library. [In Persian].
- 10. Katouzian, Nasser (2018), The General Theory of Obligations, Tehran: Mizan Publishing. [In Persian].
- 11. Katouzian, Nasser (2019), General Rules of Contracts, Tehran: Ganj Publications. [In Persian].
- 12. Shaareyan, Ibrahim (2011), Transfer of Contract, Tehran: Frouzesh. [In Persian].
- 13. Shahidi, Mahdi (2019), Fall of Obligations, Tehran: Majd. [In Persian].
- 14. Sarami, Saifullah (2015), Haq, Hakkam, and Obligation, Research Institute of Islamic Science and Culture. [In Persian].
- 15. Safai, Seyyed Hossein (2016), General Rules of Contracts, Tehran: Mezan Publishing House. [In Persian].
- 16. Tavakoli Kermani, Saeed (2009), Transfer of Obligation in Iranian Law, Tehran: Jangal Publications. [In Persian].

## Articles

- 17. Ahmadvand, Behnaz (1400), Definition of the Conceptual Deprivation of Rights, Legal Studies, 20(47). 89-110. [In Persian]. Doi: 10.48300/jlr.2021.140165.
- 18. Aslani, Hamidreza (2006), Guarantee for the Implementation of the Condition of Relinquishment of a Legal act From the Perspective of Imami Jurisprudence and Civil rights of Iran with an Approach Based on the Opinions of Imam Khomeini



# Journal of Contemporary Comparative Legal Studies

(pbuh), Matin Magazine, 9(36). 1-36. [In Persian].

- 19. Afshari, Fatemeh and Asadi, Hamid (2018). Conceptual Determination and Feasibility of Deprivation of Rights From the Point of View of Jurists, Scientific Journal of Faqhi Researches, 15(2). 339-362. [In Persian]. Doi: 10.22059/jorr.2019.262483.1008133.
- 20. Begdali, Saeed and Sadeghian, Ibrahim (2014). Basics and Differences in the Guarantee of Non-Performance of Contractual Obligations in Iranian Law, Imamiyyah Jurisprudence and French Law, Evidence Legal Teachings, 1(1).105-132. [In Persian]. Doi: 10.30497/leg.2015.2607.
- 21. Parvin, Farhad and Radpasand, Hosnia (1400). Effect of Deprivation of Rights on Inherent Dignity and Human Personality in Civil Rights, Ethical Research, 12(45).69-88.[In Persian].
- 22. Taghizadeh, Ebrahim (2017). The Philosophical Foundations of Abolition of Right in Islamic Jurisprudence and Western Law, Jurisprudential Research, 14(3).677-706. [In Persian]. Doi: 10.22059/jorr.2018.215705.
- 23. Jafarzadeh, Qasim and Ahmadirad, Hamid (2011). Analysis of the Legal Nature of the Electronic Transfer of Funds with the Right Transfer Approach, Legal Research Quarterly, 15(Special Issue No. 9).[In Persian].
- 24. Jahangiri, Mohsen and Yazdani, Gholamreza (2011). Investigating the Types of Conditions and their Effects (Relying on the Breach of Obligation), Uzehey Fiqh Madani, (5). 25-54. [In Persian].
- 25. Hosseini, Mahdi (2019). The Condition of Limiting the Right to Transfer the Exchangeable Property in the Contract of Sale, Studies in Political Science, Law and Jurisprudence, 6(4). [In Persian].
- 26. Khobyari, Hamed (2018). Deprivation of "Haq" and Limitation of "Abaha Rule" in Iran's Legal System, Studies in Islamic Jurisprudence and Fundamentals of Law, (40).73-103. [In Persian]. Doi: 10.22034/fvh.2020.4103.
- 27. Zarrokh, Ehsan and Veisi, Aslan (2014). Condition of Invalid Result and its Effects in Iranian Jurisprudence and Civil Law, Studies of Islamic Jurisprudence and Fundamentals of Law, 9(32).49-68.[In Persian].
- 28. Saadat Mostafavi, Seyyed Mostafa (2013). Guarantee for the Execution of a Violation of the Condition of Abandoning a Legal act, Religion and Communication Magazine, (24).171-200. [In Persian].
- 29. Sukuti Nasimi, Reza (2016). Result Condition and Jurisprudential-Legal Status of Transactions Contrary to it, Quarterly Journal of Islamic Jurisprudence and Law, 9(16). 203-230. [In Persian]. Doi: 10.22075/feqh.2017.2415.
- 30. Sultan Ahmadi, Jalal et al. (2018). The Validity of a Transaction in Good Faith in Conflict with the Condition of Prohibition of Legal Action, Legal Studies, 11(2).65-99. [In Persian].



# Journal of Contemporary Comparative Legal Studies

- 31. Sohrabi, Neda (1400). Examination of the Effects and Conditions of Right Revocation in Iranian Jurisprudence and Law, Law Studies, (18).75-90. [In Persian].
- 32. Shabani, Reza (2018). Deprivation of Rights in Jurisprudence and Law, Kanon, (103). 83-95. [In Persian].
- 33. Ghadiri, Qadir (2015). Investigation and Explanation of Self-Rights Deprivation, Islamic Jurisprudence and Fundamentals of Law, 9(4). 105-126. [In Persian].
- 34. Qaidi, Faizoleh and Mohseni, Hassan (2019). Transfer of a Lawsuit Without Transfer of Rights, Contemporary Comparative Law Studies, 11(20). 229-259. [In Persian]. Doi: 10.22034/law.2020.12371.
- 35. Qasimzadeh, Seyed Morteza (2004). Reflection of the Rule of will in the Form of the Result Condition, Quarterly Journal of Judicial Legal Perspectives, (34 & 35). 125-151. [In Persian].
- 36. Moghadam, Isa (2016). Contract Transfer, Private Law Studies, University of Tehran, 37(4). 229-242. [In Persian].
- 37. Moloudi, Mohammad (1383). Special Representative of the Contractors, Journal of School of Law and Political Sciences, 64(0).219-240. [In Persian].
- 38. Nakhaipour, Qasim; Razavi, Seyyed Mohammad; Razavi, Seyyed Ali (2016). Criticism of the Jurisprudential and Legal Review Article Guaranteeing the Implementation of the Violation of the Condition of Legal act Abandonment. Journal of Teachings of Civil Jurisprudence, 9(15).79-110. [In Persian].
- 39. Nematullahi, Ismail (1388). Guarantee of the Execution of the Condition of the Legal act, Islamic Law Magazine, 6(23).7-36. [In Persian].
- 40. Yamerli, Saleh and Jamshid, Daniyal (2015). Conditions and Territory of deprivation of rights in Iran, New Researches in Human Sciences, 3(16).121-134. [In Persian].
- 41. Andrew Tettenborn, (1995), Equitable Assignment and Procedural Quibbles, The Cambridge Law Journal, 54(3), 499–502.
- 42. Bob Allcock, (1983), Restrictions on the Assignment of Contractual Rights, The Cambridge Law Journal, 42(2).
- 43. Greg Tolhurst, (2004), The Efficacy of Contractual Provisions Prohibiting Assignment, Sydney Law Review, 26(2).
- 44. G. Klass, (2010), Contract Law in the USA, Kluwer Law International BV, The Netherlands.
- 45. Goode, Roy, (2009), Contractual Prohibitions Against Assignment, Lloyd's Maritime and Commercial Law Quarterly.
- 46. Munday, R. J. C, (1979), Prohibitions Against Assignment of Choses in Action, The Cambridge Law Journal, 38(1).



# Journal of Contemporary Comparative Legal Studies

- 47. Stoyanov, Dimitar, (2017), The Contractual Prohibition of Assignment A Comparative Overview of the Legal Protection of the Assignee, SSRN Electronic Journal.
- 48. Stoyanov, Dimitar, (2017), Supranational Attempts for Harmonization of the Anti-Assignment Clause, SSRN Electronic Journal.
- 49. Tolhurst, G. J., & Carter, J. W, (2014), PROHIBITIONS ON ASSIGNMENT: A CHOICE TO BE MADE, The Cambridge Law Journal, 73(2).
- 50. Woodward, F. C, (1904), Assignability of Contract, Harvard Law Review, 18(1).

## **Law Cases**

- 51. Devefi Pty Ltd v Mateffy Pearl Nagy Pty Ltd, (1993), Reports of Patent, Design and Trade Mark Cases, 110 (20).
- 52. Hoddler & Tolley Ltd. v Cornes, (1923), N.Z.L.R., 876, 878.
- 53. Linden Gardens Trust Ltd v Lenesta Sludge Disposals Ltd, (1993) UKHL 4.
- 54. Pacific Brands Sports & Leisure Pty Ltd v Underworks Pty Ltd, (2005), FCAFC 40; 149 FCR 395; 230 ALR 56.
- 55. Regina v Chester and North Wales Legal Aid Area Office (No 12), (1997), ex parte Floods of Queensferry Limited, CA 18 Dec.
- 56. Sacks v. Neptune Meter Co. (1932), 144 Misc. 70, 258 N.Y.S. 254 ,N.Y. Sup.
- 57. Tom Shaw & Co v. Moss Empires (Ltd.), (1908), 25 T.L.R., 190, 191.