

**M V M**

**SUMMARY OF JUDGMENT**

Civil contempt of court – inherent jurisdiction – appeal against Magistrates' Court order holding appellant in contempt of a divorce order - whether Magistrates' Court being a creature of statute may grant an order for civil contempt of court. Section 29 (1B) (a) and (b) Magistrates' Court Act 32 of 1944 grants Magistrates' Court concurrent jurisdiction with the High Court over divorce matters - does not extend to the Magistrates' Court the High Court's inherent jurisdiction in respect of orders for civil contempt of court. When granting an order for civil contempt of court, the High Court invokes its inherent jurisdiction. Inherent jurisdiction is a common law doctrine - not conferred by statute.