A BILL

To

Establish a regime for the registration of civil partnerships and provide for maintenance; and to make related amendments to certain enacted Ordinances.

Preamble

WHEREAS—

(1) The Court of Final Appeal ruled in *Sham Tsz Kit v Secretary of Justice* [2023] HKCFA 28 on 5 September 2023 that it was necessary to establish an alternative legal framework for civil partnerships to address their basic social needs, similar to heterosexual couples.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is enacted by the Legislative Council as follows-

1

Part 1

Preliminary

1. Short title

This Ordinance may be cited as the Registration and Maintenance of Civil Partnerships Ordinance.

2. Interpretation

In this Ordinance—

child (子女)—see section 2 of Matrimonial Proceedings and Property Ordinance (Cap. 192);

child of the family (家庭子女)—see section 2 of Matrimonial Proceedings and Property Ordinance (Cap. 192);

civil partnership (registration) application (民事伴侶關係（註冊）申請) means the application mentioned in section 4;

legal partner (合法伴侶)—see section 5;

registered civil partner (已註冊民事伴侶) means a party under a registered civil partnership;

registered civil partnership (已註冊民事伴侶關係) means a valid relationship registered under sections 3 and 4 of this ordinance.

Part 2

Regime for Registration of Civil Partnerships

Division 1—Registration of Civil Partnerships

3. Registration of civil partnerships by Registrar on application

Subject to the other provisions of this Subdivision, the Registrar may, on application made by any 2 persons, register the civil partnership of those 2 persons so that the civil partnership is recognized in law.

4. Conditions for registration

A civil partnership registration is valid only if all the following conditions were met when the civil partnership (registration) applications was made—

(a) that the parties are of the same sex;

(b) that the parties have both reached 16 years of age;

(c) where any of the party is of over 16 and under 21 years of age at the date of registration, a written consent of the relevant person as specified in Schedule 3 to the Marriage Ordinance (Cap.181) must be produced.

(d) the parties are each, or a party is, a Hong Kong resident;

(e) that each of the parties—

(i) does not have a valid—

(A) marriage; or

(B) civil partnership or civil union (or relationship that is substantially the same), registered, under the law of any place, with a third party (whether of the opposite sex or same sex); and

(ii) does not have a registered civil partner.

5. Invalid civil partnerships on application

(1) In this section—

legal partner (合法伴侶)means

(a) husband or wife in a marriage; or

(b) registered civil partner (or relationship that is substantially the same as civil partner) registered in any jurisdiction.

(2) A civil partnership shall be null and void on the ground of kindred or affinity as provided by Schedule 5 (Kindred and Affinity) to the Marriage Ordinance (Cap. 181).

(3) In the schedule—

(a) a reference to marriage is a reference to registered civil partnership;

(b) a reference to solemnized is a reference to registered;

(c) a reference to man is a reference to woman;

(d) a reference to woman is a reference to man;

(e) a reference to wife is a reference to legal partner;

(f) a reference to husband is a reference to legal partner.

Division 2—Financial Relief in Connection with Dissolution, Nullity or Separation

6. Financial provision for registered civil partner in cases of dissolution, etc.

(1) On granting a dissolution, nullity, or separation order, or at any time afterwards, the court may make any one or more of the following orders, that is to say—

(a) an order that either registered civil partner must make to the other such periodical payments for such term as may be specified;

(b) an order that either registered civil partner must secure to the other, to the satisfaction of the court, such periodical payments for such term as may be specified;

(c) an order that either registered civil partner must pay to the other such lump sum or sums as may be specified.

[cf. 2004 c. 33 Sch.5 para.2(1) U.K.]

7. Financial provision for child of the family in cases of dissolution, etc.

(1) The court may make any one or more of the following orders—

(a) In proceedings for a dissolution, nullity or separation order, before making the order;

(b) if proceedings for a dissolution, nullity or separation order are dismissed after the beginning of the trial, either straightaway or within a reasonable period after the dismissal.

(2) The orders are—

(a) an order that one of the registered civil partners must make—

(i) to such person as may be specified for the benefit of a child of the family; or

(ii) to a child of the family,

such periodical payments set out in section 7(1)(a).

(b) an order that one of the registered civil partners must secure—

(i) to such person as may be specified for the benefit of a child of the family; or

(ii) to a child of the family,

such periodical payments set out in section 7(1)(b).

(c) an order that one of the registered civil partners must pay such lump sum as may be specified—

(i) to such person as may be specified for the benefit of a child of the family; or

(ii) to a child of the family.

(3) While the court has power to make an order in any proceedings by virtue of section 7(1)(a), it may exercise that power from time to time; and where the court makes an order by virtue of section 7(1)(b) in relation to a child it may from time to time make a further order under this section in relation to him.

[cf. 2004 c. 33 Sch.5 para.2(1) U.K.]

8. Particular provision that may be made by lump sum orders

(1) An order under this section requiring one registered civil partner to pay the other a lump sum may be made for the purpose of enabling the other registered civil partner to meet any liabilities or expenses reasonably incurred by the other in maintaining—

(a) himself or herself, or

(b) a child of the family.

before making an application for an order under this section in his or her favour.

(2) An order under this section requiring a lump sum to be paid to or for the benefit of a child of the family may be made for the purpose of enabling any liabilities or expenses reasonably incurred by or for the benefit of the child before making an application for an order under this section to be met.

(3) An order under this section for the payment of a lump sum may—

(a) provide for its payment by instalments of such amount as may be specified; and

(b) require the payment of the instalments to be secured to the satisfaction of the court.

[cf. 2004 c. 33 Sch.5 para.3(1)-(3), 42(3) U.K.]

9. Matters to be taken into account when exercising powers under sections 6 and 7

(1) It shall be the duty of the court in deciding whether to exercise its power under section 6 in relation to a registered civil partner and, if so, in what manner, to have regard to matters as provided by section 7(1) of the Matrimonial Proceedings and Property Ordinance (Cap 192).

(2) It shall be the duty of the court in deciding whether to exercise its power under section 7 in relation to a child of the family and, if so, in what manner, to have regard to matters as provided by section 7(2) of the Matrimonial Proceedings and Property Ordinance (Cap 192).

(3) It shall be the duty of the court in deciding whether to exercise its power under section 7 in relation to against a registered civil partner in favour of a child of the family who is not the child of that party, and, if so, in what manner, to have regard to matters as provided by section 7(3) of the Matrimonial Proceedings and Property Ordinance (Cap 192).

(4) In the section, a reference to marriage is a reference to registered civil partnership.

10. Maintenance pending outcome of dissolution, nullity or separation proceedings

(1) On application for a dissolution, nullity or separation order, the court may make an order requiring either registered civil partner to make to the other for the other's maintenance such periodical payments for such term—

(a) beginning no earlier than the date on which the application was made, and

(b) ending with the date on which the proceedings are determined,

as the court thinks reasonable.

[cf. 2004 c. 33 Sch.5 para.38(1) U.K.]

Part 3

Amendments

11. Related amendments to certain enactments

The enactments specified in Schedule 1 are amended as set out in that Schedule.

Schedule 1

Related Amendments to Certain Ordinances

Part 1

Separation and Maintenance Orders Ordinance (Cap. 16)

12. Section 2 amended (interpretation)

Add in alphabetical order

"***Child / Children of registered civil partnership*—**see section 2 of Matrimonial Proceedings and Property Ordinance (Cap. 192);

registered civil partner (已註冊民事伴侶) means the party under a registered civil partnership;

registered civil partnership (已註冊民事伴侶關係)—see section 2 of Registration and Maintenance of Civil Partnerships Ordinance (of 2025);"

13. "married person or registered civil partner" substituted for "married person"

The following provisions—

(a) Section 3;

(b) Section 7(3);

(c) Section 7(4)—

Repeal

"married person"

Substitute

"married person or registered civil partner"

14. "marriage or registered civil partnership" substituted for "marriage"

The following provisions—

(a) Section 3;

(b) Section 5;

(c) Section 6;

(d) Section 7(3);

(e) Section 7(4)—

Repeal

"marriage"

Substitute

"marriage or registered civil partnership"

15. "husband or wife or registered civil partner" substituted for "husband or wife"

The following provisions—

(a) Section 5(1);

(b) Section 7(3);

(c) Section 7(4)—

Repeal

"husband or wife"

Substitute

"husband or wife or registered civil partner"

16. Section 6 amended (limitation of powers of District Court)

(1) Section 6(1), after "wife"—

Add

"or the registered civil partner"

(2) Section 6(2), after "her husband"—

Add

"or the registered civil partners"

17. Section 7 amended (District Court may vary or discharge order)

(1) Section 7(1), after "the wife"—

Add

"or the registered civil partner".

(2) Section 7(4) after the "married person's"—

Add

"or the registered civil partner's".

(3) Section 7(4), after "both the husband and wife" —

Add

"or both the registered civil partners".

18. Section 13 amended (Transitional)

After section 13(3) —

Add

"(4) The amendments to this Ordinance apply to registered civil partnerships formed before or after the commencement of this Ordinance".

Part 2

Matrimonial Proceedings and Property Ordinance (Cap. 192)

19. Section 2 amended (interpretation)

(1) Section 2(1), definition of ***child***—

Repeal

"marriage"

Substitute

"marriage or registered civil partnership".

(2) Section 2(1), definition of ***child of the family***—

Repeal

"marriage"

Substitute

"marriage, or to two people who are registered civil partners of each other".

(3) Section 2(1), definition of ***maintenance order***, paragraph (a), before "for"—

Add

"or section 6(1)(a), 7(2)(a) of Registration and Maintenance of Civil Partnerships Ordinance (of 2025)"

(4) Section 2(1), definition of ***maintenance order***, paragraph (b), before "for"—

Add

"or section 6(1)(b), 7(2)(b) of Registration and Maintenance of Civil Partnerships Ordinance (of 2025)"

(5) Section 2(1), definition of ***maintenance order***, paragraph (b), before "for"—

Add

"or section 6(1)(c), 7(2)(c) of Registration and Maintenance of Civil Partnerships Ordinance (of

2025)”

(6) Section 2(1)—

Add in alphabetical order

“***registered civil partnership*** (已註冊民事伴侶關係)—see section 2 of Registration and Maintenance of Civil Partnerships Ordinance (of 2025);

reunion (重聚) means the formation of a subsequent registered civil partnership or marriage by an individual, after the dissolution, nullity or separation of a former registered civil partnership”

20. Section 8 heading amended (neglect by party to marriage to maintain other party or child of the family)

Section 8, heading—

Repeal

“marriage”

Substitute

“marriage or registered civil partnership”

21. Section 10 amended (provisions as to powers of court to make orders in favour of children and duration of such orders)

(1) After section 10(3)—

Add

“(3A) Sections 10(1) and (3) apply to an order made by virtue of section 7(2)(a) or (b) or (c) of Registration and Maintenance of Civil Partnerships Ordinance (of 2025)”.

(2) After section 10(4)—

Add

“(5) Section 10(4) apply to an order made by virtue of section 7(2)(a) of Registration and Maintenance of Civil Partnerships Ordinance (of 2025)”.

22. Section 11 amended (variation, discharge of orders for financial provision)

After section (2)(e)—

Add

"(f) any order made by virtue of section 6(1)(a) or b), 7(2)(a) or (b), 8(3) of Registration and Maintenance of Civil Partnerships Ordinance (of 2025);

(g) any order made under section 10 of Registration and Maintenance of Civil Partnerships Ordinance (of 2025)".

23. Section 12 amended (payment of certain arrears unenforceable without the leave of the court)

After section 12(1) —

Add

"(1A) Section 12(1) applies to an order made by virtue of section 7(2) or 10 of Registration and Maintenance of Civil Partnerships Ordinance (of 2025)".

24. Section 13 amended (power of court to order sums paid under certain orders to be repaid in certain cases)

Section 13(5), after "(e)"—

Add

"section 6(1)(a) or (b), 7(2)(a) or (b) or 10 of Registration and Maintenance of Civil Partnerships Ordinance (of 2025)**".**

25. "marriage or registered civil partnership" substituted for " marriage"

The following provisions—

(a) Section 8(1);

(b) Section 14(2);

(c) Section 29A.

Repeal

"marriage or registered civil partnership"

Substitute

"marriage"

26. Section 15 amended (alteration of agreements by court during lives of parties)

Section 15(4) after "remarriage"—

Add

"or reunion"

27. Section 28B added

After Section 28—

Add

"**28B. Application to the Registration of Civil Partnership Ordinance**

(1) This section is applied to the Registration and Maintenance of Civil Partnerships Ordinance (of 2025). "

Civil Partnership Act 2004

2004 CHAPTER 33

An Act to make provision for and in connection with civil partnership. [18th November 2004]

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C1 Act power to apply (with modifications) conferred (S.) (1.9.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 30(5)(b)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/212, art. 2, sch. (as amended (1.9.2014) by S.S.I. 2014/218, art. 2(3), sch.)

C2 Act: power to amend conferred (E.W.) (26.5.2019) by Civil Partnerships, Marriages and Deaths (Registration etc) Act 2019 (c. 12), **s. 2(1)** (with s. 2(2))

C3 Act modified (N.I.) (7.12.2020) by The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Northern Ireland) (No. 2) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/1143), **reg. 15(2)**

C4 Act: power to modify conferred (1.6.2021) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 4(2)(c)**, 16; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

PART 1

INTRODUCTION

1 Civil partnership

(1) A civil partnership is a relationship between two people [F1]... ("civil partners")—

(a) which is formed when they register as civil partners of each other—

(i) in England or Wales (under Part 2),

(ii) in Scotland (under Part 3),

(iii) in Northern Ireland (under Part 4), or

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(iv) outside the United Kingdom under an Order in Council made under Chapter 1 of Part 5 (registration at British consulates etc. or by armed forces personnel), or

(b) which they are treated under Chapter 2 of Part 5 as having formed (at the time determined under that Chapter) by virtue of having registered an overseas relationship **[**F2, or

(c) which results from the conversion, under Part 3, 4 or 5 of the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Northern Ireland) (No. 2) Regulations 2020, of their marriage.**]**

(2) Subsection (1) is subject to the provisions of this Act under or by virtue of which a civil partnership is void.

(3)**[**F3(a)**]** A civil partnership ends only on death, dissolution or annulment **[**F4, or

(b) in the case of a civil partnership formed as mentioned in subsection (1)(a)(i) or (iv), on the conversion of the civil partnership into a marriage under section 9 of the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013**][**F5, or

(c) on its coming to an end in accordance with section 11(2)(a) of the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5) (ending of civil partnership formed as mentioned in subsection (1)(a)(ii) or (iv) on its being changed to a marriage under section 10 of that Act, and ending of certain civil partnerships where the civil partners marry in accordance with the Marriage (Scotland) Act 1977)**][**F6, or

(d) in the case of a civil partnership formed as mentioned in subsection (1)(a)(iii) or (iv), on the conversion of the civil partnership into a marriage—

(i) under Part 3 of the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Northern Ireland) (No. 2) Regulations 2020, or

(ii) under Part 3 or 4 of the Marriage of Same Sex Couples (Conversion of Civil Partnership) Regulations 2014.**]**

[F7(3A) Subsection (3) is subject to section 11(2)(a) of the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (ending of certain civil partnerships on marriage under Scots law).**]**

(4) The references in subsection (3) to dissolution and annulment are to dissolution and annulment having effect under or recognised in accordance with this Act.

(5) References in this Act to an overseas relationship are to be read in accordance with Chapter 2 of Part 5.

Textual Amendments

F1 Words in s. 1(1) omitted (E.W.) (2.12.2019) by virtue of The Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1458), regs. 1(2), **3**; (N.I.) (13.1.2020) by virtue of The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), **16(2)** (with regs. 6-9); and (S.) (1.2.2021 for specified purposes, 1.6.2021 in so far as not already in force) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 1(2)**, 16; S.S.I. 2020/414, reg. 2(1)(a)(2); S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

F2 S. 1(1)(c) and word inserted (7.12.2020) by The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Northern Ireland) (No. 2) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/1143), regs. 1(2), **44(2)**

F3 Word in s. 1(3) inserted (10.12.2014) by Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 (c. 30), s. 21(3), **Sch. 7 para. 34(a)**; S.I. 2014/3169, art. 2

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

F4 S. 1(3)(b) and word inserted (10.12.2014) by Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 (c. 30), s. 21(3), **Sch. 7 para. 34(b)**; S.I. 2014/3169, art. 2

F5 S. 1(3)(c) and word inserted (E.W.N.I.) (13.1.2020) by The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), **10(3)(c)** (with regs. 6-9, 10(4))

F6 S. 1(3)(d) and word inserted (7.12.2020) by The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Northern Ireland) (No. 2) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/1143), regs. 1(2), **44(3)**

F7 S. 1(3A) inserted (S.) (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 11(9)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

PART 2

CIVIL PARTNERSHIP: ENGLAND AND WALES

CHAPTER 1

REGISTRATION

Formation, eligibility and parental etc. consent

2 Formation of civil partnership by registration

(1) For the purposes of section 1, two people are to be regarded as having registered as civil partners of each other once each of them has signed the civil partnership document—

(a) at the invitation of, and in the presence of, a civil partnership registrar, and

(b) in the presence of each other and two witnesses.

(2) Subsection (1) applies regardless of whether subsections (3) and (4) are complied with.

(3) After the civil partnership document has been signed under subsection (1), it must also be signed, in the presence of the civil partners and each other, by—

(a) each of the two witnesses, and

(b) the civil partnership registrar.

(4) After the witnesses and the civil partnership registrar have signed the civil partnership document, the relevant registration authority must ensure that—

(a) the fact that the two people have registered as civil partners of each other, and

(b) any other information prescribed by regulations,

is recorded in the register as soon as is practicable.

(5) No religious service is to be used while the civil partnership registrar is officiating at the signing of a civil partnership document.

(6) "The civil partnership document" has the meaning given by section 7(1).

(7) "The relevant registration authority" means the registration authority in whose area the registration takes place.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Commencement Information

I1 S. 2 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 2 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 2(4)(b) in force for certain purposes at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and otherwise 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1; s. 2(1)-(3), (4)(a), (5)-(7) in force at 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

3 Eligibility

(1) Two people are not eligible to register as civil partners of each other if—

F8(a) . . . . . .

(b) either of them is already a civil partner or lawfully married,

(c) either of them is under **[**F9 18**]**, F10...

(d) they are within prohibited degrees of relationship **[**F11, or

(e) either of them is serving a life sentence in a prison or other place of detention and is subject to a whole life order.**]**

[F12(1A) But two people are not ineligible to register as civil partners of each other by reason of either of them falling within paragraph (e) of subsection (1) if each of them falling within that paragraph has permission from the Secretary of State to register as a civil partner of the other.

(1B) The Secretary of State may not give permission under subsection (1A) unless satisfied that exceptional circumstances exist which justify the permission being given.**]**

(2) Part 1 of Schedule 1 contains provisions for determining when two people are within prohibited degrees of relationship.

[F13(3) In this section—

"life sentence" has the meaning given by section 34(2) of the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997;

"whole life order" means an order that section 28(5) to (8) of that Act (early release of person serving life sentence) is not to apply to a person.

(4) A person is to be treated for the purposes of this section as being subject to a whole life order if—

(a) the person is serving a life sentence passed before 18 December 2003,

(b) the sentence was passed in circumstances where the sentence was fixed by law,

(c) before 18 December 2003 the person was notified in writing by the Secretary of State (otherwise than in a notice expressed to be provisional) that the Secretary of State does not intend that the person should ever be released on licence, and

(d) an order has not been made in relation to the sentence under paragraph 3(1)(a) of Schedule 22 to the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (mandatory life sentences: transitional cases).**]**

Textual Amendments

F8 S. 3(1)(a) omitted (2.12.2019) by virtue of The Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1458), regs. 1(2), **4**

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

F9 Word in s. 3(1)(c) substituted (27.2.2023) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 (c. 28), **ss. 3(2)**, 7(1) (with s. 8); S.I. 2023/88, reg. 2 (with regs. 3-17)
F10 Word in s. 3(1)(c) omitted (2.8.2024) by virtue of Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 (c. 21), **ss. 76(2)(a)**, 81(2); S.I. 2024/846, reg. 2(b)
F11 S. 3(1)(e) and word inserted (2.8.2024) by Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 (c. 21), **ss. 76(2)(b)**, 81(2); S.I. 2024/846, reg. 2(b)
F12 S. 3(1A)(1B) inserted (2.8.2024) by Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 (c. 21), **ss. 76(3)**, 81(2); S.I. 2024/846, reg. 2(b)
F13 S. 3(3)(4) inserted (2.8.2024) by Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 (c. 21), **ss. 76(4)**, 81(2); S.I. 2024/846, reg. 2(b)

F14 4 Parental etc. consent where proposed civil partner under 18

. . . . . .

Textual Amendments
F14 S. 4 omitted (27.2.2023) by virtue of Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 (c. 28), **ss. 3(3)**, 7(1) (with s. 8); S.I. 2023/88, reg. 2 (with regs. 3-17)

Registration procedure: general

5 Types of pre-registration procedure

(1) Two people may register as civil partners of each other under—
(a) the standard procedure;
(b) the procedure for house-bound persons;
(c) the procedure for detained persons;
(d) the special procedure (which is for cases where a person is seriously ill and not expected to recover).

(2) The procedures referred to in subsection (1)(a) to (c) are subject to—
(a) section 20 (modified procedures for certain non-residents);
(b) Schedule 3 (former spouses one of whom has changed sex).

(3) The procedures referred to in subsection (1) (including the procedures as modified by section 20 and Schedule 3) are subject to—
(a) Part 2 of Schedule 1 (provisions applicable in connection with prohibited degrees of relationship), F15...
F16(b) . . . . . .

(4) This section is also subject to section 249 and Schedule 23 (immigration control and formation of civil partnerships).

Textual Amendments
F15 Word in s. 5(3)(a) omitted (27.2.2023) by virtue of Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 (c. 28), s. 7(1), **Sch. para. 4(2)(a)** (with s. 8); S.I. 2023/88, reg. 2 (with regs. 3-17)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

F16 S. 5(3)(b) omitted (27.2.2023) by virtue of Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 (c. 28), s. 7(1), **Sch. para. 4(2)(b)** (with s. 8); S.I. 2023/88, reg. 2 (with regs. 3-17)

6 Place of registration

(1) The place at which two people may register as civil partners of each other—

(a) must be in England or Wales,

(b) F17 . . . . . .

(c) must be specified in the notices, or notice, of proposed civil partnership required by this Chapter.

(2) F18 . . . . . .

[F19(3) Subsections (3A) and (3B) apply in the case of registration under the standard procedure (including that procedure modified as mentioned in section 5).

(3A) The place must be—

(a) on approved premises, or

(b) in a register office.

(3B) If it is in a register office, the place must be open to any person wishing to attend the registration.

(3C) In this Chapter "register office" means a register office provided under section 10 of the Registration Service Act 1953.**]**

[F20(3D) Where, further to regulations under section 6A of this Act or section 2 of the Civil Partnerships, Marriages and Deaths (Registration etc) Act 2019, an approval of premises for the purposes of subsection (3A)(a) has effect—

(a) only in relation to civil partnerships formed by two people of the same sex, or

(b) only in relation to civil partnerships formed by two people of the opposite sex,

the premises are "approved premises", for the purposes of this Part, only in relation to civil partnerships of that sort.**]**

(4) F21 . . . . . .

(5) F21 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F17 S. 6(1)(b) repealed (5.4.2011) by Equality Act 2010 (c. 15), ss. 202(2), 211(2), 216(3), **Sch. 27 Pt. 1** (as substituted by S.I. 2010/2279, art. 13, Sch. 2) (with ss. 6(4), 205); S.I. 2011/1066, **art. 2(h)**; S.I. 2011/2646, **art. 2**

F18 S. 6(2) repealed (5.4.2011) by Equality Act 2010 (c. 33), ss. 202(2), 211(2), 216(3), **Sch. 27 Pt. 1** (as substituted by S.I. 2010/2279, art. 13, Sch. 2) (with ss. 6(4), 205; S.I. 2011/1066, **art. 2(h)**; S.I. 2011/2646, **art. 2**

F19 S. 6(3)-(3C) substituted (5.12.2005) for s. 6(3) by The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 2(2)** (subject to art. 1(3))

F20 S. 6(3D) inserted (2.12.2019) by The Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1458), regs. 1(2), **7**

F21 S. 6(4)(5) omitted (5.12.2005) by virtue of The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 2(3)** (subject to art. 1(3))

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

[F22 6A Power to approve premises

(1) The [F23 Secretary of State] may by regulations make provision for and in connection with the approval by registration authorities of premises for the purposes of section 6(3A)(a).

(2) The matters dealt with by regulations may include—

(a) the kind of premises in respect of which approvals may be granted;

(b) the procedure to be followed in relation to applications for approval;

(c) the considerations to be taken into account by a registration authority in determining whether to approve any premises;

(d) the duration and renewal of approvals;

(e) the conditions that must or may be imposed by a registration authority on granting or renewing an approval;

(f) the determination and charging by registration authorities of fees in respect of applications for the approval of premises and in respect of the renewal of approvals;

(g) the circumstances in which a registration authority must or may revoke an approval;

(h) the review of any decision to refuse an approval or the renewal of an approval, to impose conditions on granting or renewing an approval or to revoke an approval;

(i) the notification to the Registrar General of all approvals granted, renewed or revoked;

(j) the keeping by registration authorities of registers of approved premises;

(k) the issue by the Registrar General of guidance supplementing the provision made by the regulations.

F24 [(2A) Regulations under this section may provide that premises approved for the registration of civil partnerships may differ from those premises approved for the registration of civil marriages.

(2B) Provision by virtue of subsection (2)(b) may, in particular, provide that applications for approval of premises may only be made with the consent (whether general or specific) of a person specified, or a person of a description specified, in the provision.

(2C) The power conferred by section 258(2), in its application to the power conferred by this section, includes in particular—

(a) power to make provision in relation to religious premises that differs from provision in relation to other premises;

(b) power to make different provision for different kinds of religious premises.]

(3) Without prejudice to the width of subsection (2)(e), the [F25 Secretary of State] must exercise his power to provide for the imposition of conditions as mentioned there so as to secure that members of the public are permitted to attend when two people sign the civil partnership schedule on approved premises in accordance with section 6(3A)(a).

F26 (3A) . . . . . .

F27 [(3B) "Civil marriage" means marriage solemnised otherwise than according to the rites of the Church of England or any other religious usages.

(3C) "Religious premises" means premises which—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) are used solely or mainly for religious purposes, or

(b) have been so used and have not subsequently been used solely or mainly for other purposes.**]]**

Textual Amendments

F22 S. 6A inserted (21.7.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), arts. 1(c), 3, **Sch. para. 3**

F23 Words in s. 6A(1) substituted (3.4.2008) by The Transfer of Functions (Registration) Order 2008 (S.I. 2008/678), art. 5(1), **Sch. 2 para. 14(a)** (with art. 4)

F24 S. 6A(2A)-(2C) inserted (11.7.2011) by Equality Act 2010 (c. 33), **ss. 202(3)**, 216(3) (with ss. 6(4), 205); S.I. 2011/1636, **art. 2(c)**

F25 Words in s. 6A(3) substituted (3.4.2008) by The Transfer of Functions (Registration) Order 2008 (S.I. 2008/678), art. 5(1), **Sch. 2 para. 14(a)** (with art. 4)

F26 S. 6A(3A) omitted (2.12.2019) by virtue of The Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1458), regs. 1(2), **9(2)**

F27 S. 6A(3A)-(3C) inserted (11.7.2011 so far as relating to the insertion of s. 6A(3B)(3C)) by Equality Act 2010 (c. 33), **ss. 202(4)**, 216(3) (with ss. 6(4), 205); S.I. 2011/1636, **art. 2(d)**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C5 S. 6A(1): transfer of functions (3.4.2008) by The Transfer of Functions (Registration) Order 2008 (S.I. 2008/678), art. 3(1), **Sch. 1 para. 14(a)** (with art. 4)

7 The civil partnership document

(1) In this Part "the civil partnership document" means—

(a) in relation to the special procedure, a Registrar General's licence, and

(b) in relation to any other procedure, a civil partnership schedule.

(2) Before two people are entitled to register as civil partners of each other—

(a) the civil partnership document must be delivered to the civil partnership registrar, and

(b) the civil partnership registrar may then ask them for any information required (under section 2(4)) to be recorded in the register.

The standard procedure

8 Notice of proposed civil partnership and declaration

[F28(1) For two people to register as civil partners of each other under the standard procedure a notice of proposed civil partnership must be given—

(a) if the proposed civil partners have resided in the area of the same registration authority for the period of 7 days immediately before the giving of the notice, by each of them to that registration authority;

(b) if the proposed civil partners have not resided in the area of the same registration authority for that period, by each of them to the registration authority in whose area he or she has resided for that period.**]**

(2) A notice of proposed civil partnership must contain such information as may be prescribed by regulations.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(3) A notice of proposed civil partnership must also include the necessary declaration, made and signed by the person giving the notice—

(a) at the time when the notice is given, and

(b) in the presence of an authorised person;

and the authorised person must attest the declaration by adding his name, description and place of residence.

(4) The necessary declaration is a solemn declaration in writing—

(a) that the proposed civil partner believes that there is no impediment of kindred or affinity or other lawful hindrance to the formation of the civil partnership;

[F29(b) that the proposed civil partners have for the period of 7 days immediately before the giving of the notice had their usual places of residence in the area of the registration authority, or in the areas of the registration authorities, to which notice is given.**]**

[F30(c) that the proposed civil partner believes all of the information stated in the notice, and all information and evidence supplied with the notice, is true.**]**

(5) Where a notice of proposed civil partnership is given to a registration authority in accordance with this section, the registration authority must ensure that the following information is recorded in the register as soon as possible—

(a) the fact that the notice has been given and the information in it;

(b) the fact that the authorised person has attested the declaration.

[F31(5A) Subsection (5) is subject to section 9F.**]**

(6) "Authorised person" means an employee or officer or other person provided by a registration authority who is authorised by that authority to attest notices of proposed civil partnership.

(7) For the purposes of this Chapter, a notice of proposed civil partnership is recorded when subsection (5) is complied with.

Textual Amendments

F28 S. 8(1) substituted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 4(2)** (subject to art. 1(3))

F29 S. 8(4)(b) substituted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 4(3)** (subject to art. 1(3))

F30 S. 8(4)(c) inserted (1.3.2015) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), s. 75(3), **Sch. 4 para. 19(2)** (with Sch. 9 para. 66); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(f)

F31 S. 8(5A) inserted (1.3.2015) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), s. 75(3), **Sch. 4 para. 19(3)** (with Sch. 9 para. 66); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(f)

Commencement Information

I2 S. 8 partly in force; s. 8 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 8(2) in force for certain purposes at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and otherwise 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1; s. 8(3) - (7) in force at 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1; s. 8(1) never in force;

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

[F32 8A Additional information if party not relevant national

(1) This section applies to notice of proposed civil partnership given to a registration authority in accordance with section 8 if one, or each, of the parties to the proposed civil partnership is not a relevant national.

(2) But this section does not apply if Schedule 3 applies to the proposed civil partnership.

(3) For each party to the proposed civil partnership who is not a relevant national, the notice must include whichever of statements A, B or C is applicable to that person.

(4) Statement A is a statement that the person has the appropriate immigration status.

(5) Statement B is a statement that the person holds a relevant visa in respect of the proposed civil partnership.

(6) Statement C is a statement that the person neither—

(a) has the appropriate immigration status, nor

(b) holds a relevant visa in respect of the proposed civil partnership.

(7) If the notice contains the statement referred to in the first column of an entry in this table, the notice must be accompanied by the information and photographs referred to in the second column of that entry (insofar as that entry is applicable to the parties to the proposed civil partnership)—

If the notice includes this statement...	***...the notice must be accompanied by...***
Statement A (in respect of one or both of the parties to the proposed civil partnership)	For each party in respect of whom statement A is made, details of the particular immigration status which that party has
Statement B (in respect of one or both of the parties to the proposed civil partnership)	(1) For each party, a specified photograph of that party (2) For each party in respect of whom statement B is made, details of the relevant visa which that party has
Statement C (in respect of one or both of the parties to the proposed civil partnership)	(1) For each party, a specified photograph of that party (2) For each party, the usual address of that party (3) For each party whose usual address is outside the United Kingdom, an address in the United Kingdom at which that party can be contacted by post (4) For each party who has previously used any name or names other than the person's name stated in the notice of proposed civil partnership in accordance with regulations

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

	under section 8(2), a statement of the other name or names
(5)	For each party who currently uses, or has previously used, an alias or aliases, a statement of the alias or aliases

(8) If the notice contains more than one of statements A, B and C, subsection (7) must be complied with in relation to each of those statements; but where the notice contains statements B and C, subsection (7) does not require the notice to be accompanied by more than one specified photograph of each party.

(9) If the notice includes statement C for a party to the proposed civil partnership—

(a) the notice may be accompanied by a statement ("statement D") of that person's immigration position in the United Kingdom;

(b) if the notice is accompanied by statement D for a party to the proposed civil partnership, the person may provide the registration authority with details of his or her immigration position in the United Kingdom; and

(c) if any such details are provided, the registration authority must record them.

(10) In this section—

(a) a reference—

(i) to a person having the appropriate immigration status, or

(ii) to a person holding a relevant visa,

has the same meaning as in section 49 of the Immigration Act 2014;

(b) a reference to the particular immigration status which a person has is a reference to the immigration status set out in any of paragraphs (a) to (c) of section 49(2) of that Act which the person has;

(c) a reference to a person's immigration position in the United Kingdom includes a reference to the person's not being entitled to be in the United Kingdom.

(11) In this section "specified photograph" means a photograph that is in accordance with regulations made under section 9E (and for this purpose "photograph" includes other kinds of images).**]**

Textual Amendments

F32 S. 8A inserted (20.10.2014 for specified purposes, 1.3.2015 in so far as not already in force) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), s. 75(3), **Sch. 4 para. 20** (with Sch. 9 para. 66); S.I. 2014/2771, art. 3(e); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(f)

[F33 9 Evidence

(1) A notice of proposed civil partnership under section 8 must, in relation to each of the parties to the civil partnership, be accompanied by specified evidence of the following matters—

(a) the person's name and surname;

(b) the person's date of birth;

(c) the person's place of residence;

(d) the person's nationality.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

[If a party to the proposed civil partnership is a relevant national within the meaning F34(1A) of section 30A(ab) the notice of proposed civil partnership under section 8 must also be accompanied—

(a) where the party falls within section 30A(ab)(i), by an electronic certificate which confirms that the leave referred to in that provision has been granted; or

(b) where the party falls within section 30A(ab)(ii)—

(i) by a certificate of application which confirms that the application referred to in regulation 4 of the Citizens' Rights (Application Deadline and Temporary Protection) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 has been made; and

(ii) by evidence that the relevant period referred to in regulation 4 of those Regulations has not expired.**]**

(2) A person giving a notice of proposed civil partnership under section 8 must provide the registration authority to which the notice is given with specified evidence—

(a) as to whether the person has previously formed a civil partnership or been married; and

(b) if so, as to the ending of the civil partnership or marriage.

(3) In this section "specified evidence" means evidence that is in accordance with regulations made under section 9E.

Textual Amendments

F33 Ss. 9-9F substituted for s. 9 (20.10.2014 for specified purposes, 1.3.2015 in so far as not already in force) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), s. 75(3), **Sch. 4 para. 21** (with Sch. 9 para. 66); S.I. 2014/2771, art. 3(e); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(f)

F34 S. 9(1A) inserted (1.7.2021) by The Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Act 2020 (Consequential, Saving, Transitional and Transitory Provisions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/1309), regs. 1(2)(c), **16(2)**

9A Additional evidence if party not relevant national

(1) This section applies to notice of proposed civil partnership given to a registration authority in accordance with section 8 if one, or each, of the parties to the proposed civil partnership is not a relevant national.

(2) If the notice includes statement A (referred to in section 8A(4)), and accordingly is accompanied by details of the particular immigration status which a party to the proposed civil partnership has, the notice must be accompanied by specified evidence of that status.

(3) If the notice includes statement B (referred to in section 8A(5)), the notice must be accompanied by specified evidence of the holding of the relevant visa by the party to the proposed civil partnership.

(4) If, in accordance with section 8A(7), the notice is accompanied by the usual address of a party to the proposed civil partnership, the notice must also be accompanied by specified evidence that it is that party's usual address.

(5) If the notice includes statement D (referred to in section 8A(9)), the notice may be accompanied by evidence of the person's immigration position in the United Kingdom.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(6) If subsection (2) or (3) applies to the notice, and the notice is not accompanied by the specified evidence required by that subsection, the notice must be accompanied by—

(a) photographs and addresses of the kinds referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 in the relevant entry in section 8A(7);

(b) as respects the usual address of each party that is provided in accordance with paragraph (a), specified evidence that the address provided is that party's usual address; and

(c) addresses, names and aliases of the kinds referred to in paragraphs 3 to 5 in the relevant entry in section 8A(7) (insofar as those paragraphs are applicable to the parties to the proposed civil partnership).

(7) In this section—

"relevant entry in section 8A(7)" means the second column of the last entry in the table in section 8A(7);

"specified evidence" means evidence that is in accordance with regulations made under section 9E.

Textual Amendments

F33 Ss. 9-9F substituted for s. 9 (20.10.2014 for specified purposes, 1.3.2015 in so far as not already in force) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), s. 75(3), **Sch. 4 para. 21** (with Sch. 9 para. 66); S.I. 2014/2771, art. 3(e); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(f)

9B Change of usual address or UK contact address

(1) The Secretary of State may, by regulations, make provision about the giving to the Secretary of State of—

(a) notice of a person's usual address, if the person's notified usual address changes;

(b) notice of a UK contact address, if the person's notified usual address is not in the United Kingdom;

(c) notice of a person's UK contact address, if the person's notified UK contact address changes;

(d) evidence of any address notified in accordance with regulations under paragraph (a), (b) or (c).

(2) The provision that may be made in regulations under this section includes—

(a) provision imposing a requirement on a person;

(b) provision about the rejection of information or evidence which there are reasonable grounds to suspect to be false.

(3) Regulations under subsection (1)(d) may, in particular, make any provision of the kind that may be made under section 9E(3).

(4) In this section—

"notified UK contact address" means an address in the United Kingdom, at which a person can be contacted by post, that has been notified in accordance with—

(a) section 8A(7) or 9A(6), or

(b) regulations under this section;

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

"notified usual address" means the usual address of a person that has been notified in accordance with—

(a) section 8A(7) or 9A(6), or

(b) regulations under this section.

Textual Amendments

F33 Ss. 9-9F substituted for s. 9 (20.10.2014 for specified purposes, 1.3.2015 in so far as not already in force) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), s. 75(3), **Sch. 4 para. 21** (with Sch. 9 para. 66); S.I. 2014/2771, art. 3(e); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(f)

9C Rejection of false information or evidence

(1) A registration authority may reject—

(a) any information or photograph provided under section 8, 8A or 9A, or

(b) any evidence provided under section 9 or 9A,

if (in particular) the registration authority has reasonable grounds for suspecting that the information, photograph or evidence is false.

(2) If the registration authority rejects any information, photograph or evidence, the registration authority may proceed under this Act as if the rejected information, photograph or evidence had not been provided.

(3) This section does not limit the powers of registration authorities to reject anything provided under any other enactment.

Textual Amendments

F33 Ss. 9-9F substituted for s. 9 (20.10.2014 for specified purposes, 1.3.2015 in so far as not already in force) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), s. 75(3), **Sch. 4 para. 21** (with Sch. 9 para. 66); S.I. 2014/2771, art. 3(e); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(f)

9D Amendment of notice and evidence provisions

(1) The Secretary of State may by order—

(a) amend section 8A or 9A so as to vary the information that must or may be given in cases where that section applies;

(b) amend section 9 or 9A so as to vary the matters in respect of which specified evidence must or may be given in cases where that section applies;

(c) make such provision (including provision amending section 9B or 9E or any other enactment) as the Secretary of State considers appropriate in consequence of provision made under paragraph (a) or (b).

(2) The Secretary of State must consult the Registrar General before making an order under this section.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F33 Ss. 9-9F substituted for s. 9 (20.10.2014 for specified purposes, 1.3.2015 in so far as not already in force) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), s. 75(3), **Sch. 4 para. 21** (with Sch. 9 para. 66); S.I. 2014/2771, art. 3(e); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(f)

9E Specified evidence

(1) The Registrar General may make regulations about the evidence that is required to be given for the purposes of section 9.

(2) The Secretary of State may make regulations about the evidence that is required to be given for the purposes of section 9A.

(3) Regulations under this section may, in particular, make provision about—

(a) the kind of evidence which is to be supplied;
(b) the form in which evidence is to be supplied;
(c) the manner in which evidence is to be supplied;
(d) the period within which evidence is to be supplied;
(e) the supply of further evidence;
(f) the sufficiency of evidence supplied;
(g) the consequences of failing to supply sufficient evidence in accordance with the regulations (including provision to secure that, in such a case, a particular decision is made or is to be treated as having been made);
(h) the retention or copying of evidence supplied.

(4) In this section "evidence" includes a photograph or other image.

(5) The Registrar General must obtain the approval of the Secretary of State before making regulations under this section.

(6) The Secretary of State must consult the Registrar General before making regulations under this section.

Textual Amendments

F33 Ss. 9-9F substituted for s. 9 (20.10.2014 for specified purposes, 1.3.2015 in so far as not already in force) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), s. 75(3), **Sch. 4 para. 21** (with Sch. 9 para. 66); S.I. 2014/2771, art. 3(e); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(f)

9F Recording of information in the register: compliance with requirements

The registration authority must not enter in the register the information relating to a proposed civil partnership mentioned in section 8(5) in a case where any of the requirements imposed by or under any of the following provisions of this Act is applicable but is not complied with—

section 8A(3) to (7);
section 8A(8);
section 9(1);
section 9A(4) or (6);

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

section 18(3);
section 19(3);
[[F35]section 19(5A);**]**
paragraph 5(1) of Schedule 1;
paragraph 4 of Schedule 23.

Textual Amendments

F33 Ss. 9-9F substituted for s. 9 (20.10.2014 for specified purposes, 1.3.2015 in so far as not already in force) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), s. 75(3), **Sch. 4 para. 21** (with Sch. 9 para. 66); S.I. 2014/2771, art. 3(e); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(f)

F35 Words in s. 9F inserted (2.8.2024) by Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 (c. 21), **ss. 76(5)**, 81(2); S.I. 2024/846, reg. 2(b)

10 Proposed civil partnership to be publicised

(1) Where a notice of proposed civil partnership has been given to a registration authority, **[**[F36]the registration authority must keep the relevant information on public display during the waiting period.**]**

(2) "The relevant information" means—

(a) the name of the person giving the notice,

(b) the name of that person's proposed civil partner, and

(c) such other information **[**[F37]included in the notice of proposed civil partnership**]** as may be prescribed by regulations.

[[F38](3) All information that a registration authority is required for the time being to keep on public display under subsection (1) must be kept on display by it at one register office provided for a district within its area.**]**

Textual Amendments

F33 Ss. 9-9F substituted for s. 9 (20.10.2014 for specified purposes, 1.3.2015 in so far as not already in force) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), s. 75(3), **Sch. 4 para. 21** (with Sch. 9 para. 66); S.I. 2014/2771, art. 3(e); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(f)

F36 Words in s. 10(1) substituted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 6(2)** (subject to art. 1(3))

F37 Words in s. 10(2)(c) inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 6(3)** (subject to art. 1(3))

F38 S. 10(3) inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 6(4)** (subject to art. 1(3))

Commencement Information

I3 S. 10 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 10 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 10(2)(c) in force at 15.4.2005 for certain purposes by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1; s. 10 in force at 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

11 Meaning of "the waiting period"

In this Chapter "the waiting period", in relation to a notice of proposed civil partnership, means the period—

(a) beginning the day after the notice is recorded, and

(b) subject to section 12, ending at the end of the period of **[**F39**]** 28 days beginning with that day.

Textual Amendments

F33 Ss. 9-9F substituted for s. 9 (20.10.2014 for specified purposes, 1.3.2015 in so far as not already in force) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), s. 75(3), **Sch. 4 para. 21** (with Sch. 9 para. 66); S.I. 2014/2771, art. 3(e); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(f)

F39 Word in s. 11 substituted (1.3.2015) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), s. 75(3), **Sch. 4 para. 22** (with Sch. 9 para. 66); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(f)

12 Power to shorten the waiting period

(1) If the Registrar General, on an application being made to him, is satisfied that there are compelling reasons because of the exceptional circumstances of the case for shortening the period of **[**F40**]** 28 days mentioned in section 11(b), he may shorten it to such period as he considers appropriate.

(2) Regulations may make provision with respect to the making, and granting, of applications under subsection (1).

(3) Regulations under subsection (2) may provide for—

(a) the power conferred by subsection (1) to be exercised by a registration authority on behalf of the Registrar General in such classes of case as are prescribed by the regulations;

(b) the making of an appeal to the Registrar General against a decision taken by a registration authority in accordance with regulations made by virtue of paragraph (a).

[If a proposed civil partnership is referred to the Secretary of State under section 12A—

F41(4) (a) any application under subsection (1) is to be made to the Secretary of State; and

(b) the power conferred by subsection (1) is exercisable by the Secretary of State.

(5) If the Secretary of State grants an application made under subsection (1), the Secretary of State must give notice of the grant of the application to—

(a) the applicant,

(b) the registration authority to which notice of the proposed civil partnership was given, and

(c) if different, the registration authority responsible for issuing the civil partnership schedule under section 14(1) in relation to the proposed civil partnership.

(6) Regulations under subsection (2) do not apply to applications made to the Secretary of State in accordance with subsection (4).

(7) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision with respect to the making, and granting, of applications made in accordance with subsection (4).

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(8) The Secretary of State must consult the Registrar General before making regulations under subsection (7).**]**

Textual Amendments

F33 Ss. 9-9F substituted for s. 9 (20.10.2014 for specified purposes, 1.3.2015 in so far as not already in force) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), s. 75(3), **Sch. 4 para. 21** (with Sch. 9 para. 66); S.I. 2014/2771, art. 3(e); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(f)

F40 Word in s. 12(1) substituted (20.10.2014 for specified purposes, 1.3.2015 in so far as not already in force) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), s. 75(3), **Sch. 4 para. 23(2)** (with Sch. 9 para. 66); S.I. 2014/2771, art. 3(e); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(f)

F41 S. 12(4)-(8) inserted (20.10.2014 for specified purposes, 1.3.2015 in so far as not already in force) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), s. 75(3), **Sch. 4 para. 23(3)** (with Sch. 9 para. 66); S.I. 2014/2771, art. 3(e); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(f)

Commencement Information

I4 S. 12 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 12 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 12(2) in force at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1; s. 12(1)(3) in force at 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

[

Referral of proposed civil partnership to Secretary of State

F42 12A (1) On every occasion when notice of proposed civil partnership is given under section 8, the registration authority must decide whether or not each of the parties to the proposed civil partnership is an exempt person.

(2) But this section does not apply if Schedule 3 applies to the proposed civil partnership.

(3) In making a decision under subsection (1) about a party to a proposed civil partnership, a registration authority may rely on any advice given in relation to that decision by the Secretary of State.

(4) In a case where—

(a) section 8A applies to the notice of proposed civil partnership, and

(b) specified evidence required by section 9A(2) or (3) in relation to a party to the proposed civil partnership is not produced in accordance with that section,

the registration authority must decide that that party to the proposed civil partnership is not an exempt person.

(5) If the registration authority decides that either of the parties is not an exempt person, or that both of the parties are not exempt persons, the registration authority must—

(a) refer the proposed civil partnership to the Secretary of State;

(b) notify the parties to the proposed civil partnership that the proposed civil partnership must be referred to the Secretary of State;

(c) give the parties to the proposed civil partnership prescribed information about—

(i) the effects of the referral;

(ii) the requirement under regulations under section 9B to notify the Secretary of State of changes of address.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(6) The registration authority must act in accordance with regulations when complying with the duty in subsection (5)(a) to refer a proposed civil partnership to the Secretary of State.

(7) Regulations may, in particular, make provision about—

(a) the form, manner or timing of the referral of a proposed civil partnership;

(b) information, photographs or evidence — or copies of any of those things — to be included with the referral of a proposed civil partnership.

(8) If the registration authority refers the proposed civil partnership to the Secretary of State, this Act has effect in relation to the proposed civil partnership subject to the modifications in Schedule 3A.

(9) In this section—

(a) a reference to a person being an exempt person has the same meaning as in section 49 of the Immigration Act 2014;

(b) "prescribed information" means information prescribed in regulations;

(c) "regulations" means regulations made by the Secretary of State after consulting the Registrar General.**]**

Textual Amendments

F33 Ss. 9-9F substituted for s. 9 (20.10.2014 for specified purposes, 1.3.2015 in so far as not already in force) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), s. 75(3), **Sch. 4 para. 21** (with Sch. 9 para. 66); S.I. 2014/2771, art. 3(e); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(f)

F42 S. 12A inserted (20.10.2014 for specified purposes, 1.3.2015 in so far as not already in force) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), s. 75(3), **Sch. 4 para. 24** (with Sch. 9 para. 66); S.I. 2014/2771, art. 3(e); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(f)

13 Objection to proposed civil partnership

(1) Any person may object to the issue of a civil partnership schedule under section 14 by giving any registration authority notice of his objection.

(2) A notice of objection must—

(a) state the objector's place of residence and the ground of objection, and

(b) be signed by or on behalf of the objector.

(3) If a notice of objection is given to a registration authority, it must ensure that the fact that it has been given and the information in it are recorded in the register as soon as possible.

Textual Amendments

F33 Ss. 9-9F substituted for s. 9 (20.10.2014 for specified purposes, 1.3.2015 in so far as not already in force) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), s. 75(3), **Sch. 4 para. 21** (with Sch. 9 para. 66); S.I. 2014/2771, art. 3(e); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(f)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

14 Issue of civil partnership schedule

(1) As soon as the waiting period in relation to each notice of proposed civil partnership has expired, the registration authority in whose area it is proposed that the registration take place is under a duty, at the request of one or both of the proposed civil partners, to issue a document to be known as a "civil partnership schedule".

(2) Regulations may make provision as to the contents of a civil partnership schedule.

(3) The duty in subsection (1) does not apply if the registration authority is not satisfied that there is no lawful impediment to the formation of the civil partnership.

(4) If an objection to the issue of the civil partnership schedule has been recorded in the register, no civil partnership schedule is to be issued until—

(a) the relevant registration authority has investigated the objection and is satisfied that the objection ought not to obstruct the issue of the civil partnership schedule, or

(b) the objection has been withdrawn by the person who made it.

(5) "The relevant registration authority" means the authority which first records that a notice of proposed civil partnership has been given by one of the proposed civil partners.

[This section has effect subject to section 14A.**]**
F43(6)

Textual Amendments

F33 Ss. 9-9F substituted for s. 9 (20.10.2014 for specified purposes, 1.3.2015 in so far as not already in force) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), s. 75(3), **Sch. 4 para. 21** (with Sch. 9 para. 66); S.I. 2014/2771, art. 3(e); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(f)

F43 S. 14(6) inserted (1.3.2015) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), s. 75(3), **Sch. 4 para. 26(1)** (with Sch. 9 para. 66); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(f)

Commencement Information

I5 S. 14 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 14 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 14(2) in force at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1; s. 14(1)(3)-(5) in force at 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

[F44 14A Notice of proposed civil partnership: false information or evidence

(1) A registration authority may refuse to issue a civil partnership schedule under section 14(1) in a case where—

(a) notice of a proposed civil partnership has been given under section 8, and

(b) a registration authority has reasonable grounds for suspecting that a relevant decision was made incorrectly because of the provision of false information or evidence.

(2) If a registration authority refuses to issue the schedule, the parties to the proposed civil partnership are to be taken not to have given notice under section 8; but that does not prevent criminal proceedings from being brought against either party, or any other person, in relation to the giving of the notice.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(3) This section does not limit the powers of registration authorities to refuse to issue civil partnership schedules.

(4) In this section—

"evidence" includes a photograph or other image;

"exempt person" has the same meaning as in section 12A;

"relevant decision" means a decision of a registration authority that a party to the proposed civil partnership is an exempt person.**]**

Textual Amendments

F44 S. 14A inserted (1.3.2015) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), s. 75(3), **Sch. 4 para. 26(2)** (with Sch. 9 para. 66); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(f)

15 Appeal against refusal to issue civil partnership schedule

(1) If the registration authority refuses to issue a civil partnership schedule—

(a) because an objection to its issue has been made under section 13, or

(b) in reliance on section 14(3) **[**F45or 14A**]**,

either of the proposed civil partners may appeal to the Registrar General.

(2) On an appeal under this section the Registrar General must either confirm the refusal or direct that a civil partnership schedule be issued.

[F46(3) In a case where—

(a) in reliance on section 14A, a registration authority refuses to issue a civil partnership schedule, and

(b) on an appeal against the refusal, the Registrar General directs that a civil partnership schedule be issued,

section 14A(2) is of no effect — and is to be taken to have never had any effect — in relation to the parties' giving of notice under section 8.**]**

Textual Amendments

F45 Words in s. 15(1)(b) inserted (1.3.2015) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), s. 75(3), **Sch. 4 para. 26(3)(a)** (with Sch. 9 para. 66); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(f)

F46 S. 15(3) inserted (1.3.2015) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), s. 75(3), **Sch. 4 para. 26(3)(b)** (with Sch. 9 para. 66); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(f)

16 Frivolous objections and representations [F47and appeals]: liability for costs etc.

(1) Subsection (3) applies if—

(a) a person objects to the issue of a civil partnership schedule, but

(b) the Registrar General declares that the grounds on which the objection is made are frivolous and ought not to obstruct the issue of the civil partnership schedule.

(2) Subsection (3) also applies if—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) in reliance on section 14(3), the registration authority refuses to issue a civil partnership schedule as a result of a representation made to it, and

(b) on an appeal under section 15 against the refusal, the Registrar General declares that the representation is frivolous and ought not to obstruct the issue of the civil partnership schedule.

(3) The person who made the objection or representation is liable for—

(a) the costs of the proceedings before the Registrar General, and

(b) damages recoverable by the proposed civil partner to whom the objection or representation relates.

[F48(3A) If—

(a) in reliance on section 14A, a registration authority refuses to issue a civil partnership schedule, and

(b) on an appeal against the refusal, the Registrar General declares that the appeal is frivolous,

the person making the appeal is liable for the costs of the proceedings before the Registrar General.**]**

(4) For the purpose of enabling any person to recover any **[**F49costs and damages in accordance with subsection (3) or (3A)**]**, a copy of a declaration of the Registrar General purporting to be sealed with the seal of the General Register Office is evidence that the Registrar General has made the declaration.

Textual Amendments

F47 Words in s. 16 title inserted (1.3.2015) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), s. 75(3), **Sch. 4 para. 26(4)(a)** (with Sch. 9 para. 66); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(f)

F48 S. 16(3A) inserted (1.3.2015) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), s. 75(3), **Sch. 4 para. 26(4)(b)** (with Sch. 9 para. 66); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(f)

F49 Words in s. 16(4) substituted (1.3.2015) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), s. 75(3), **Sch. 4 para. 26(4)(c)** (with Sch. 9 para. 66); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(f)

17 Period during which registration may take place

(1) The proposed civil partners may not register as civil partners of each other on the production of the civil partnership schedule until the waiting period in relation to each notice of proposed civil partnership has expired.

(2) Subject to subsection (1), under the standard procedure, they may register as civil partners by signing the civil partnership schedule **[**F50**[**F51at any time during**]** the applicable period F52...**]**.

(3) If they do not register as civil partners by signing the civil partnership schedule before the end of the applicable period—

(a) the notices of proposed civil partnership and the civil partnership schedule are void, and

(b) no civil partnership registrar may officiate at the signing of the civil partnership schedule by them.

(4) The applicable period, in relation to two people registering as civil partners of each other, is the period of 12 months beginning with—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) the day on which the notices of proposed civil partnership are recorded, or
(b) if the notices are not recorded on the same day, the earlier of those days.**]**

Textual Amendments

F33 Ss. 9-9F substituted for s. 9 (20.10.2014 for specified purposes, 1.3.2015 in so far as not already in force) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), s. 75(3), **Sch. 4 para. 21** (with Sch. 9 para. 66); S.I. 2014/2771, art. 3(e); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(f)

F50 Words in s. 17(2) substituted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 7** (subject to art. 1(3))

F51 Words in s. 17(2) substituted (1.10.2012) by Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 (c. 9), **ss. 114(3)(a)**, 120 (with s. 97); S.I. 2012/2234, art. 3(m)

F52 Words in s. 17(2) repealed (1.10.2012) by Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 (c. 9), ss. 114(3)(b), 120, **Sch. 10 Pt. 11** (with s. 97); S.I. 2012/2234, art. 3(m)

The procedures for house-bound and detained persons

18 House-bound persons

(1) This section applies if two people wish to register as civil partners of each other at the place where one of them is house-bound.

(2) A person is house-bound at any place if, in relation to that person, a statement is made by a registered medical practitioner that, in his opinion—
(a) because of illness or disability, that person ought not to move or be moved from the place where he is at the time when the statement is made, and
(b) it is likely to be the case for at least the following 3 months that because of the illness or disability that person ought not to move or be moved from that place.

(3) The procedure under which the two people concerned may register as civil partners of each other is the same as the standard procedure, except that—
(a) each notice of proposed civil partnership must be accompanied by a statement under subsection (2) ("a medical statement"), which must have been made not more than 14 days before the day on which the notice is recorded,
(b) the fact that the registration authority to whom the notice is given has received the medical statement must be recorded in the register, and
(c) the applicable period (for the purposes of section 17) is the period of 3 months beginning with—
(i) the day on which the notices of proposed civil partnership are recorded, or
(ii) if the notices are not recorded on the same day, the earlier of those days.

(4) A medical statement must contain such information and must be made in such manner as may be prescribed by regulations.

(5) A medical statement may not be made in relation to a person who is detained as described in section 19(2).

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(6) For the purposes of this Chapter, a person in relation to whom a medical statement is made is to be treated, if he would not otherwise be so treated, as resident and usually resident at the place where he is for the time being.

Commencement Information

I6 S. 18 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 18 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 18(4) in force for certain purposes at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and otherwise 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1; s. 18(1)-(3)(5)(6) in force at 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

19 Detained persons

(1) This section applies if two people wish to register as civil partners of each other at the place where one of them is detained.

(2) "Detained" means detained—

(a) as a patient in a hospital (but otherwise than by virtue of section 2, 4, 5, 35, 36 or 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 (c. 20) (short term detentions)), or

(b) in a prison or other place to which the Prison Act 1952 (c. 52) applies.

(3) The procedure under which the two people concerned may register as civil partners of each other is the same as the standard procedure, except that—

(a) each notice of proposed civil partnership must be accompanied by a supporting statement, which must have been made not more than 21 days before the day on which the notice is recorded,

(b) the fact that the registration authority to whom the notice is given has received the supporting statement must be recorded in the register, and

(c) the applicable period (for the purposes of section 17) is the period of 3 months beginning with—

(i) the day on which the notices of proposed civil partnership are recorded, or

(ii) if the notices are not recorded on the same day, the earlier of those days.

(4) A supporting statement, in relation to a detained person, is a statement made by the responsible authority which—

(a) identifies the establishment where the person is detained, [F53]...

(b) states that the responsible authority has no objection to that establishment being specified in a notice of proposed civil partnership as the place at which the person is to register as a civil partner **[**[F54], and

(c) states whether the person is serving a life sentence and, if so, whether the person is subject to a whole life order.**]**

(5) A supporting statement must contain such information and must be made in such manner as may be prescribed by regulations.

[[F55](5A) Where the detained person is serving a life sentence and is subject to a whole life order, each notice of proposed civil partnership must also be accompanied by a statement made by the Secretary of State not more than 21 days before the day on which the

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

notice is recorded stating that the detained person has the permission required by section 3(1A).

(5B) The fact that the registration authority to whom a notice of proposed civil partnership is given has received a statement under subsection (5A) must be recorded in the register.**]**

(6) "The responsible authority" means—

(a) if the person is detained in a hospital, the hospital's managers;

(b) if the person is detained in a prison or other place to which the 1952 Act applies, the governor or other officer for the time being in charge of that prison or other place.

(7) "Patient" and "hospital" have the same meaning as in Part 2 of the 1983 Act and "managers", in relation to a hospital, has the same meaning as in section 145(1) of the 1983 Act.

[F56(7A) "Life sentence" and "whole life order" have the meanings given by section 3(3) of this Act and section 3(4) (persons treated as being subject to a whole life order) applies for the purposes of this section.**]**

(8) For the purposes of this Chapter, a detained person is to be treated, if he would not otherwise be so treated, as resident and usually resident at the place where he is for the time being.

Textual Amendments

F53 Word in s. 19(4)(a) omitted (27.5.2025) by virtue of Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 (c. 21), **ss. 76(7)(a)**, 81(2); S.I. 2025/441, reg. 4(b)

F54 S. 19(4)(c) and word inserted (27.5.2025) by Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 (c. 21), **ss. 76(7)(b)**, 81(2); S.I. 2025/441, reg. 4(b)

F55 S. 19(5A)(5B) inserted (2.8.2024) by Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 (c. 21), **ss. 76(8)**, 81(2); S.I. 2024/846, reg. 2(b)

F56 S. 19(7A) inserted (2.8.2024) by Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 (c. 21), **ss. 76(9)**, 81(2); S.I. 2024/846, reg. 2(b)

Commencement Information

I7 S. 19 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 19 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 19(5) in force for certain purposes at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and otherwise 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1; s. 19(1)-(4)(6)-(8) in force at 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

Modified procedures for certain non-residents

20 Modified procedures for certain non-residents

(1) Subsection (5) applies in the following **[**F57two**]** cases.

(2) The first is where—

(a) two people wish to register as civil partners of each other in England and Wales, and

(b) one of them ("A") resides in Scotland and the other ("B") resides in England or Wales.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(3) F58 . . . . . .

(4) The **[**F59second**]** is where—

(a) two people wish to register as civil partners of each other in England and Wales, and

(b) one of them ("A") is **[**F60an officer, seaman or marine borne on the books of one of Her Majesty's ships at sea.**]** and the other ("B") resides in England or Wales.

(5) For the purposes of the standard procedure, the procedure for house-bound persons and the procedure for detained persons—

(a) A is not required to give a notice of proposed civil partnership under this Chapter;

[F61(b) B may make the necessary declaration without reference to A's usual place of residence for any period;**]**

(c) the waiting period is calculated by reference to the day on which B's notice is recorded;

(d) the civil partnership schedule is not to be issued by a registration authority unless A or B produces to that registration authority a certificate of no impediment issued to A under the relevant provision;

(e) the applicable period is calculated by reference to the day on which B's notice is recorded and, where the standard procedure is used in the **[**F62first case**]**, is the period of 3 months beginning with that day;

(f) section 31 applies as if in subsections (1)(a) and (2)(c) for "each notice" there were substituted " B's notice ".

(6) "The relevant provision" means—

(a) if A resides in Scotland, section 97;

(b) F63 . . . . . .

(c) if A is **[**F64an officer, seaman or marine borne on the books of one of Her Majesty's ships at sea**]**, section 239.

(7) F65 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F57 Word in s. 20(1) substituted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 8(2)** (subject to art. 1(3))

F58 S. 20(3) omitted (5.12.2005) by virtue of The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 8(3)** (subject to art. 1(3))

F59 Word in s. 20(4) substituted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 8(4)(a)** (subject to art. 1(3))

F60 Words in s. 20(4) substituted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 8(4)(b)** (subject to art. 1(3))

F61 S. 20(5)(b) substituted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 8(5)(a)** (subject to art. 1(3))

F62 Words in s. 20(5)(e) substituted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 8(5)(b)** (subject to art. 1(3))

F63 S. 20(6)(b) omitted (5.12.2005) by virtue of The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 8(6)(a)** (subject to art. 1(3))

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

F64 Words in s. 20(6)(c) substituted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 8(6)(b)** (subject to art. 1(3))

F65 S. 20(7) omitted (5.12.2005) by virtue of The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 8(7)** (subject to art. 1(3))

The special procedure

21 Notice of proposed civil partnership

(1) For two people to register as civil partners of each other under the special procedure, one of them must—

(a) give a notice of proposed civil partnership to the registration authority for the area in which it is proposed that the registration take place, and

(b) comply with any requirement made under section 22.

(2) The notice must contain such information as may be prescribed by regulations.

(3) Subsections (3) to (6) of section 8 (necessary declaration etc.), apart from paragraph (b) of subsection (4), apply for the purposes of this section as they apply for the purposes of that section.

Commencement Information

I8 S. 21 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 21 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 21(2) in force for certain purposes at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and otherwise 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1; s. 21(1)(3) in force at 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

22 Evidence to be produced

(1) The person giving a notice of proposed civil partnership to a registration authority under the special procedure must produce to the authority such evidence as the Registrar General may require to satisfy him—

(a) that there is no lawful impediment to the formation of the civil partnership,

(b) that the conditions in subsection (2) are met, and

(c) that there is sufficient reason why a licence should be granted.

[F66(2) The conditions are that one of the proposed civil partners—

(a) is seriously ill and not expected to recover,

(b) cannot be moved to a place where they could be registered as civil partners of each other under the standard procedure, and

(c) understands the nature and purport of signing a Registrar General's licence.**]**

(3) The certificate of a registered medical practitioner is sufficient evidence of any or all of the matters referred to in subsection (2).

Textual Amendments

F66 S. 22(2) substituted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 9** (subject to art. 1(3))

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

23 Application to be reported to Registrar General

On receiving a notice of proposed civil partnership under section 21 and any evidence under section 22, the registration authority must—

(a) inform the Registrar General, and

(b) comply with any directions the Registrar General may give for verifying the evidence given.

24 Objection to issue of Registrar General's licence

(1) Any person may object to the Registrar General giving authority for the issue of his licence by giving the Registrar General or any registration authority notice of his objection.

(2) A notice of objection must—

(a) state the objector's place of residence and the ground of objection, and

(b) be signed by or on behalf of the objector.

(3) If a notice of objection is given to a registration authority, it must ensure that the fact that it has been given and the information in it are recorded in the register as soon as possible.

25 Issue of Registrar General's licence

(1) This section applies where a notice of proposed civil partnership is given to a registration authority under section 21.

(2) The registration authority may issue a Registrar General's licence if, and only if, given authority to do so by the Registrar General.

(3) The Registrar General—

(a) may not give his authority unless he is satisfied that one of the proposed civil partners is seriously ill and not expected to recover, but

(b) if so satisfied, must give his authority unless a lawful impediment to the issue of his licence has been shown to his satisfaction to exist.

(4) A licence under this section must state that it is issued on the authority of the Registrar General.

(5) Regulations may (subject to subsection (4)) make provision as to the contents of a licence under this section.

(6) If an objection has been made to the Registrar General giving authority for the issue of his licence, he is not to give that authority until—

(a) he has investigated the objection and decided whether it ought to obstruct the issue of his licence, or

(b) the objection has been withdrawn by the person who made it.

(7) Any decision of the Registrar General under subsection (6)(a) is final.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Commencement Information

I9 S. 25 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 25 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 25(5) in force at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1; s. 25(1)-(4)(6)(7) in force at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

26 Frivolous objections: liability for costs

(1) This section applies if—

(a) a person objects to the Registrar General giving authority for the issue of his licence, but

(b) the Registrar General declares that the grounds on which the objection is made are frivolous and ought not to obstruct the issue of his licence.

(2) The person who made the objection is liable for—

(a) the costs of the proceedings before the Registrar General, and

(b) damages recoverable by the proposed civil partner to whom the objection relates.

(3) For the purpose of enabling any person to recover any such costs and damages, a copy of a declaration of the Registrar General purporting to be sealed with the seal of the General Register Office is evidence that the Registrar General has made the declaration.

27 Period during which registration may take place

(1) If a Registrar General's licence has been issued under section 25, the proposed civil partners may register as civil partners by signing it at any time within 1 month from the day on which the notice of proposed civil partnership was given.

(2) If they do not register as civil partners by signing the licence within the 1 month period—

(a) the notice of proposed civil partnership and the licence are void, and

(b) no civil partnership registrar may officiate at the signing of the licence by them.

Supplementary

28 Registration authorities

In this Chapter "registration authority" means—

(a) in relation to England, a county council, the council of any district comprised in an area for which there is no county council, a London borough council, the Common Council of the City of London or the Council of the Isles of Scilly;

(b) in relation to Wales, a county council or a county borough council.

29 Civil partnership registrars

(1) A civil partnership registrar is an individual who is designated by a registration authority as a civil partnership registrar for its area.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(2) It is the duty of each registration authority to ensure that there is a sufficient number of civil partnership registrars for its area to carry out in that area the functions of civil partnership registrars.

(3) Each registration authority must inform the Registrar General as soon as is practicable—

(a) of any designation it has made of a person as a civil partnership registrar, and

(b) of the ending of any such designation.

(4) [F67] . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F67 S. 29(4) omitted (5.12.2005) by virtue of The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 10** (subject to art. 1(3))

30 The Registrar General and the register

(1) In this Chapter "the Registrar General" means the Registrar General for England and Wales.

(2) The Registrar General must provide a system for keeping any records that relate to civil partnerships and are required by this Chapter to be made.

(3) The system may, in particular, enable those records to be kept together with other records kept by the Registrar General.

(4) In this Chapter "the register" means the system for keeping records provided under subsection (2).

[F68 30ZA. Religious involvement: protection against compulsion

(1) A protected person may not be compelled by any means (including by the enforcement of a contract or a statutory or other legal requirement) to—

(a) seek or consent to the approval of religious premises for the purposes of section 6(3A)(a),

(b) allow religious premises to be used as the place at which two people register as civil partners of each other under this Part, or

(c) provide, arrange, facilitate, participate in, or be present at—

(i) an occasion during which two people register as civil partners of each other on religious premises under this Part, or

(ii) a ceremony or event in England or Wales to mark the formation of a civil partnership,

where the person does not wish to do things of that sort in relation to civil partnerships generally, or those between two people of the same sex, or those between two people of the opposite sex.

(2) In this section—

"protected person" means—

(a) a religious organisation,

(b) a constituent body or part of a religious organisation, or

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(c) a person acting on behalf of, or under the auspices of, such an organisation, body or part,

but does not include a civil partnership registrar;

"religious premises" has the meaning given by section 6A(3C).**]**

Textual Amendments

F68 S. 30ZA inserted (2.12.2019) by The Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1458), regs. 1(2), **9(3)**

[F69 30A Relevant nationals

In this Chapter "relevant national" means—

(a) a British citizen,

[F70(aa) an Irish citizen, or

(ab) a person who is not an Irish citizen and who—

(i) has leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom which was granted by virtue of residence scheme immigration rules within the meaning given by section 17 of the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020, or

(ii) is an applicant for the purposes of regulation 4 of the Citizens' Rights (Application Deadline and Temporary Protection) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 (applications which have not been finally determined by the deadline) where the relevant period within the meaning of that regulation has not expired.**]**

F71(b) . . . . . .

F71(c) . . . . . .**]**

Textual Amendments

F69 S. 30A inserted (20.10.2014 for specified purposes, 1.3.2015 in so far as not already in force) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), s. 75(3), **Sch. 4 para. 27** (with Sch. 9 para. 66); S.I. 2014/2771, art. 3(e); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(f)

F70 S. 30A(aa)(ab) inserted (1.7.2021) by The Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Act 2020 (Consequential, Saving, Transitional and Transitory Provisions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/1309), regs. 1(2)(c), **16(3)(a)** (with Sch. 5 para. 9(1))

F71 S. 30A(b)(c) omitted (1.7.2021) by virtue of The Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Act 2020 (Consequential, Saving, Transitional and Transitory Provisions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/1309), regs. 1(2)(c), **16(3)(b)** (with Sch. 5 para. 9(1))

31 Offences relating to civil partnership schedule

(1) A person commits an offence if he issues a civil partnership schedule knowing that he does so—

(a) before the waiting period in relation to each notice of proposed civil partnership has expired, **[**F72or**]**

(b) after the end of the applicable period, F73...

F74(c) . . . . . .

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(2) A person commits an offence if, in his actual or purported capacity as a civil partnership registrar, he officiates at the signing of a civil partnership schedule by proposed civil partners knowing that he does so—

(a) at a place other than the place specified in the notices of proposed civil partnership and the civil partnership schedule,

[F75(aa) on premises that are not approved premises although the signing is purportedly in accordance with section 6(3A)(a),

F76(ab) . . . . . .**]**

(b) in the absence of a civil partnership registrar,

(c) before the waiting period in relation to each notice of proposed civil partnership has expired, or

(d) even though the civil partnership is void under section 49(b) F77....

(3) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (1) or **[**F78(2)(a), (aa), (b), (c) or (d)**]** is liable on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years or to a fine (or both).

[F79(3A) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (2)(ab) is liable on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 14 years or to a fine or both.**]**

(4) A prosecution under this section may not be commenced more than 3 years after the commission of the offence.

Textual Amendments

F72 Word in s. 31(1)(a) inserted (27.2.2023) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 (c. 28), s. 7(1), **Sch. para. 4(3)(a)(i)** (with s. 8); S.I. 2023/88, reg. 2 (with regs. 3-17)

F73 Word in s. 31(1)(b) omitted (27.2.2023) by virtue of Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 (c. 28), s. 7(1), **Sch. para. 4(3)(a)(ii)** (with s. 8); S.I. 2023/88, reg. 2 (with regs. 3-17)

F74 S. 31(1)(c) omitted (27.2.2023) by virtue of Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 (c. 28), s. 7(1), **Sch. para. 4(3)(a)(iii)** (with s. 8); S.I. 2023/88, reg. 2 (with regs. 3-17)

F75 S. 31(2)(aa)(ab) inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 11(2)** (subject to art. 1(3))

F76 S. 31(2)(ab) repealed (1.10.2012) by Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 (c. 9), ss. 114(4), 120, **Sch. 10 Pt. 11** (with s. 97); S.I. 2012/2234, art. 3(m)

F77 Words in s. 31(2)(d) omitted (27.2.2023) by virtue of Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 (c. 28), s. 7(1), **Sch. para. 4(3)(b)** (with s. 8); S.I. 2023/88, reg. 2 (with regs. 3-17)

F78 Words in s. 31(3) substituted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 11(3)** (subject to art. 1(3))

F79 S. 31(3A) inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 11(4)** (subject to art. 1(3))

32 Offences relating to Registrar General's licence

(1) A person commits an offence if—

(a) he gives information by way of evidence in response to a requirement under section 22(1), knowing that the information is false;

(b) he gives a certificate as provided for by section 22(3), knowing that the certificate is false.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(2) A person commits an offence if, in his actual or purported capacity as a civil partnership registrar, he officiates at the signing of a Registrar General's licence by proposed civil partners knowing that he does so—

(a) at a place other than the place specified in the licence,

(b) in the absence of a civil partnership registrar,

(c) after the end of 1 month from the day on which the notice of proposed civil partnership was given, or

(d) even though the civil partnership is void under section 49(b) [F80]....

(3) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (1) or (2) is liable—

(a) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or to a fine (or both);

(b) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum.

(4) A prosecution under this section may not be commenced more than 3 years after the commission of the offence.

Textual Amendments

F80 Words in s. 32(2)(d) omitted (27.2.2023) by virtue of Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 (c. 28), s. 7(1), **Sch. para. 4(4)** (with s. 8); S.I. 2023/88, reg. 2 (with regs. 3-17)

33 Offences relating to the recording of civil partnerships

(1) A civil partnership registrar commits an offence if he refuses or fails to comply with the provisions of this Chapter or of any regulations made under section 36.

(2) A civil partnership registrar guilty of an offence under subsection (1) is liable—

(a) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to a fine (or both);

(b) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum;

and on conviction shall cease to be a civil partnership registrar.

(3) A person commits an offence if—

(a) under arrangements made by a registration authority for the purposes of section 2(4), he is under a duty to record information required to be recorded under section 2(4), but

(b) he refuses or without reasonable cause omits to do so.

(4) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (3) is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

(5) A person commits an offence if he records in the register information relating to the formation of a civil partnership by the signing of a civil partnership schedule, knowing that the civil partnership is void under section 49(b) [F81]....

(6) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (5) is liable on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years or to a fine (or both).

(7) A person commits an offence if he records in the register information relating to the formation of a civil partnership by the signing of a Registrar General's licence, knowing that the civil partnership is void under section 49(b) [F82]....

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(8) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (7) is liable—

(a) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or to a fine (or both);

(b) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum.

(9) A prosecution under subsection (5) or (7) may not be commenced more than 3 years after the commission of the offence.

Textual Amendments

F81 Words in s. 33(5) omitted (27.2.2023) by virtue of Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 (c. 28), s. 7(1), **Sch. para. 4(5)(a)** (with s. 8); S.I. 2023/88, reg. 2 (with regs. 3-17)

F82 Words in s. 33(7) omitted (27.2.2023) by virtue of Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 (c. 28), s. 7(1), **Sch. para. 4(5)(b)** (with s. 8); S.I. 2023/88, reg. 2 (with regs. 3-17)

34 Fees

(1) The **[**F83Secretary of State**]** may by order provide for fees F84... to be payable to such persons as may be prescribed by the order in respect of—

(a) the giving of a notice of proposed civil partnership and the attestation of the necessary declaration;

(b) the making of an application under section 12(1) (application to reduce waiting period);

(c) the issue of a Registrar General's licence;

(d) the attendance of the civil partnership registrar when two people sign the civil partnership document;

(e) such other services provided in connection with civil partnerships either by registration authorities or by or on behalf of the Registrar General as may be prescribed by the order.

[F85(1A) An order under this section may—

(a) specify the amount of any fee payable under the order, or

(b) set out how such a fee is to be determined.

(1B) Subsection (1C) applies where the order provides for a fee to be payable to a registration authority.

(1C) The order may provide for such part of the fee as may be specified by or determined in accordance with the order to be payable by the registration authority to the Registrar General in such circumstances as may be prescribed by the order.**]**

[F86(2) The order may provide for the reduction, waiver or refund of part or all of a fee whether by conferring a discretion or otherwise.**]**

[F87(3) Where a civil partnership registrar for any area attends when two people sign the civil partnership schedule on approved premises, in accordance with section 6(3A)(a)—

(a) subsection (1)(d) does not apply, but

(b) the registration authority for that area is entitled from those people a fee of an amount determined by the authority in accordance with regulations under section 6A.**]**

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F83 Words in s. 34(1) substituted (3.4.2008) by The Transfer of Functions (Registration) Order 2008 (S.I. 2008/678), art. 5(1), **Sch. 2 para. 14(b)** (with art. 4)

F84 Words in s. 34(1) omitted (12.7.2016) by virtue of Immigration Act 2016 (c. 19), s. 94(1), **Sch. 15 para. 4(2)**; S.I. 2016/603, reg. 3(w)

F85 S. 34(1A)-(1C) inserted (12.7.2016) by Immigration Act 2016 (c. 19), s. 94(1), **Sch. 15 para. 4(3)**; S.I. 2016/603, reg. 3(w)

F86 S. 34(2) substituted (12.7.2016) by Immigration Act 2016 (c. 19), s. 94(1), **Sch. 15 para. 4(4)**; S.I. 2016/603, reg. 3(w)

F87 S. 34(3) inserted (21.7.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), arts. 1(c), 3, **Sch. para. 12**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C6 S. 34(1): transfer of functions (3.4.2008) by The Transfer of Functions (Registration) Order 2008 (S.I. 2008/678), art. 3(1), **Sch. 1 para. 14(b)** (with art. 4)

Commencement Information

I10 S. 34 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 34 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 34(1) in force at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1; s. 34(2) in force at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

35 Power to assimilate provisions relating to civil registration

(1) The **[**F88Secretary of State**]** may by order make—

(a) such amendments of this Act as appear to him appropriate for the purpose of assimilating any provision connected with the formation or recording of civil partnerships in England and Wales to any provision made F89. . . in relation to civil marriage in England and Wales, and

(b) such amendments of other enactments and of subordinate legislation as appear to him appropriate in consequence of any amendments made under paragraph (a).

(2) "Civil marriage" means marriage solemnised otherwise than according to the rites of the Church of England or any other religious usages.

(3) "Amendment" includes repeal or revocation.

(4) "Subordinate legislation" has the same meaning as in the Interpretation Act 1978 (c. 30).

Textual Amendments

F88 Words in s. 35(1) substituted (3.4.2008) by The Transfer of Functions (Registration) Order 2008 (S.I. 2008/678), art. 5(1), **Sch. 2 para. 14(c)** (with art. 4)

F89 Words in s. 35(1)(a) repealed (8.1.2007) by Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006 (c. 51), ss. 30, 33, **Sch.** (with s. 30(2)-(5))

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C7 S. 35(1): transfer of functions (3.4.2008) by The Transfer of Functions (Registration) Order 2008 (S.I. 2008/678), art. 3(1), **Sch. 1 para. 14(c)** (with art. 4)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

36 Regulations and orders

(1) Regulations may make provision supplementing the provisions of this Chapter.

(2) Regulations may in particular make provision—

(a) relating to the use of Welsh in documents and records relating to civil partnerships;

(b) with respect to the retention of documents relating to civil partnerships;

(c) prescribing the duties of civil partnership registrars;

(d) prescribing the duties of persons in whose presence any declaration is made for the purposes of this Chapter;

(e) for the issue by the Registrar General of guidance supplementing any provision made by the regulations.

(f) for the issue by registration authorities or the Registrar General of certified copies of entries in the register and for such copies to be received in evidence.

[F90(g) for the carrying out by the Registrar General, on request, of searches of entries in the register and the provision, on request, of information contained in the entries (otherwise than in the form of certified copies).**]**

(3) In this Chapter **[**F91, except in section 6A **[**F929B, 9E(2), 12(7) or 12A**]** ,**]**"regulations" means regulations made by the Registrar General with the approval of the **[**F93Secretary of State**]**.

(4) Any power to make regulations or an order under this Chapter is exercisable by statutory instrument.

(5) A statutory instrument containing **[**F94regulations under section 6A **[**F959B, 9E(2) or 12A**]** or**]** an order under section 34 is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

(6) No order may be made under section **[**F969D or**]** 35 unless a draft of the statutory instrument containing the order has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament.

Textual Amendments

F90 S. 36(2)(g) inserted (26.5.2015) by Deregulation Act 2015 (c. 20), **ss. 99(2)**, 115(3)(k)

F91 Words in s. 36(3) inserted (21.7.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), arts. 1(c), 3, **Sch. para. 13(2)**

F92 Words in s. 36(3) inserted (20.10.2014 for specified purposes, 1.3.2015 in so far as not already in force) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), s. 75(3), **Sch. 4 para. 28(2)** (with Sch. 9 para. 66); S.I. 2014/2771, art. 3(e); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(f)

F93 Words in s. 36(3) substituted (3.4.2008) by The Transfer of Functions (Registration) Order 2008 (S.I. 2008/678), art. 5(1), **Sch. 2 para. 14(d)** (with art. 4)

F94 Words in s. 36(5) inserted (21.7.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), arts. 1(c), 3, **Sch. para. 13(3)**

F95 Words in s. 36(5) inserted (20.10.2014 for specified purposes, 1.3.2015 in so far as not already in force) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), s. 75(3), **Sch. 4 para. 28(3)** (with Sch. 9 para. 66); S.I. 2014/2771, art. 3(e); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(f)

F96 Words in s. 36(6) inserted (20.10.2014 for specified purposes, 1.3.2015 in so far as not already in force) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), s. 75(3), **Sch. 4 para. 28(4)** (with Sch. 9 para. 66); S.I. 2014/2771, art. 3(e); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(f)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C8 S. 36(3): transfer of functions (3.4.2008) by The Transfer of Functions (Registration) Order 2008 (S.I. 2008/678), art. 3(1), **Sch. 1 para. 14(d)** (with art. 4)

CHAPTER 2

DISSOLUTION, NULLITY AND OTHER PROCEEDINGS

Introduction

37 Powers to make orders and effect of orders

(1) The court may, in accordance with this Chapter—

(a) make an order (a "dissolution order") which dissolves a civil partnership on the ground that it has broken down irretrievably;

(b) make an order (a "nullity order") which annuls a civil partnership which is void or voidable;

(c) make an order (a "presumption of death order") which dissolves a civil partnership on the ground that one of the civil partners is presumed to be dead;

(d) make an order (a "separation order") which provides for the separation of the civil partners.

F97(2) . . . . . .

(3) A nullity order made where a civil partnership is voidable annuls the civil partnership only as respects any time after the order has been made final, and the civil partnership is to be treated (despite the order) as if it had existed up to that time.

(4) In this Chapter, other than in sections 58 to 61, "the court" means—

(a) the High Court, or

[F98(b) the family court.**]**

(5) This Chapter is subject to sections 219 to 224 (jurisdiction of the court).

Textual Amendments

F97 S. 37(2) omitted (6.4.2022) by virtue of Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 (c. 11), **ss. 4(2)**, 8(1)(8) (with s. 8(7)); S.I. 2022/283, reg. 2

F98 S. 37(4)(b) substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 162**; S.I. 2014/954, **art. 2(e)** (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, **arts. 3-11**)

[F99 37A Dissolution on ground of breakdown: conditional and final orders

(1) Every dissolution order—

(a) is, in the first instance, a conditional order, and

(b) may not be made final before the end of the period of 6 weeks from the making of the conditional order (the "first prescribed period").

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(2) The court may not make a conditional order unless—

(a) in the case of an application that is to proceed as an application by one civil partner only, that person has confirmed to the court that they wish the application to continue, or

(b) in the case of an application that is to proceed as an application by both civil partners, those persons have confirmed to the court that they wish the application to continue;

and a person may not give confirmation for the purposes of this subsection before the end of the period of 20 weeks from the start of proceedings (the "second prescribed period").

(3) The Lord Chancellor may by order amend this section so as to substitute—

(a) a different definition of the first prescribed period, or

(b) a different definition of the second prescribed period.

(4) But the Lord Chancellor may not under subsection (3) provide for a period which would result in the total number of days in the first and second prescribed periods (taken together) exceeding 26 weeks.

(5) In a particular case the court dealing with the case may by order shorten the first prescribed period or the second prescribed period.

(6) The power to make an order under subsection (3) is exercisable by statutory instrument.

(7) An instrument containing such an order may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.**]**

Textual Amendments

F99 S. 37A inserted (6.4.2022) by Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 (c. 11), **ss. 4(3)**, 8(1)(8) (with s. 8(7)); S.I. 2022/283, reg. 2

38 [F100Annulment and presumption of death: conditional and final orders]

[F101(A1) Every nullity or presumption of death order—

(a) is, in the first instance, a conditional order, and

(b) may not be made final before the end of the prescribed period for the purposes of this paragraph.**]**

(1) Subject to subsections (2) to (4), the prescribed period for the purposes of **[**F102subsection (A1)(b)**]** is—

(a) 6 weeks from the making of the conditional order, or

(b) if the 6 week period would end on a day on which the office or registry of the court dealing with the case is closed, the period of 6 weeks extended to the end of the first day on which the office or registry is next open.

(2) The Lord Chancellor may by order amend this section so as to substitute a different definition of the prescribed period for the purposes of **[**F103subsection (A1)(b)**]**.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(3) But the Lord Chancellor may not under subsection (2) provide for a period longer than 6 months to be the prescribed period.

(4) In a particular case the court dealing with the case may by order shorten the prescribed period.

(5) The power to make an order under subsection (2) is exercisable by statutory instrument.

(6) An instrument containing such an order is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

Textual Amendments

F100 S. 38 heading substituted (6.4.2022) by Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 (c. 11), **ss. 4(4)(a)**, 8(1)(8) (with s. 8(7)); S.I. 2022/283, reg. 2

F101 S. 38(A1) inserted (6.4.2022) by Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 (c. 11), **ss. 4(4)(b)**, 8(1)(8) (with s. 8(7)); S.I. 2022/283, reg. 2

F102 Words in s. 38(1) substituted (6.4.2022) by Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 (c. 11), **ss. 4(4)(c)**, 8(1)(8) (with s. 8(7)); S.I. 2022/283, reg. 2

F103 Words in s. 38(2) substituted (6.4.2022) by Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 (c. 11), **ss. 4(4)(d)**, 8(1)(8) (with s. 8(7)); S.I. 2022/283, reg. 2

39 Intervention of the Queen's Proctor

(1) This section applies if an application has been made for a dissolution, nullity or presumption of death order.

(2) The court may, if it thinks fit, direct that all necessary papers in the matter are to be sent to the Queen's Proctor who must under the directions of the Attorney General instruct counsel to argue before the court any question in relation to the matter which the court considers it necessary or expedient to have fully argued.

(3) If any person at any time—

(a) during the progress of the proceedings, or

(b) before the conditional order is made final,

gives information to the Queen's Proctor on any matter material to the due decision of the case, the Queen's Proctor may take such steps as the Attorney General considers necessary or expedient.

(4) If the Queen's Proctor intervenes or shows cause against the making of the conditional order in any proceedings relating to its making, the court may make such order as may be just as to—

(a) the payment by other parties to the proceedings of the costs incurred by him in doing so, or

(b) the payment by the Queen's Proctor of any costs incurred by any of those parties because of his doing so.

(5) The Queen's Proctor is entitled to charge as part of the expenses of his office—

(a) the costs of any proceedings under subsection (2);

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) if his reasonable costs of intervening or showing cause as mentioned in subsection (4) are not fully satisfied by an order under subsection (4)(a), the amount of the difference;

(c) if the Treasury so directs, any costs which he pays to any parties under an order made under subsection (4)(b).

40 Proceedings before order has been made final

(1) This section applies if—

(a) a conditional order has been made, and

(b) the Queen's Proctor, or any person who has not been a party to proceedings in which the order was made, shows cause why the order should not be made final on the ground that material facts have not been brought before the court.

(2) This section also applies if—

(a) a conditional order has been made,

(b) 3 months have elapsed since the earliest date on which an application could have been made for the order to be made final,

(c) no such application has been made by the civil partner who applied for the conditional order, and

(d) the other civil partner makes an application to the court under this subsection.

(3) The court may—

(a) make the order final,

(b) rescind the order,

(c) require further inquiry, or

(d) otherwise deal with the case as it thinks fit.

(4) Subsection (3)(a)—

(a) applies despite **[**F104sections 37A(1) and 38(A1)**]** (period before conditional orders may be made final), but

(b) is subject to section 48(4) (protection for respondent F105...) F106....

Textual Amendments

F104 Words in s. 40(4)(a) substituted (6.4.2022) by Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 (c. 11), s. 8(1)(8), **Sch. para. 35(a)** (with s. 8(7)); S.I. 2022/283, reg. 2

F105 Words in s. 40(4)(b) omitted (6.4.2022) by virtue of Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 (c. 11), s. 8(1)(8), **Sch. para. 35(b)** (with s. 8(7)); S.I. 2022/283, reg. 2

F106 Words in s. 40(4)(b) omitted (22.4.2014) by virtue of Children and Families Act 2014 (c. 6), **ss. 17(6)**, 139(6); S.I. 2014/793, art. 2 (with transitional provisions in S.I. 2014/1042, arts. 5, 11)

41 Time bar on applications for dissolution orders

(1) No application for a dissolution order may be made to the court before the end of the period of 1 year from the date of the formation of the civil partnership.

F107(2) . . . . . .

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F107 S. 41(2) omitted (6.4.2022) by virtue of Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 (c. 11), s. 8(1)(8), **Sch. para. 36** (with s. 8(7)); S.I. 2022/283, reg. 2

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C9 S. 41 applied (with modifications) (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Treatment of Overseas Relationships) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3042), **art. 3(1)**

C10 S. 41 applied (with modifications) (2.12.2019) by The Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1458), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 4(1)**

42 Attempts at reconciliation of civil partners

(1) This section applies in relation to cases where an application is made for a dissolution or separation order.

(2) Rules of court must make provision for requiring the **[**F108legal representative**]** acting for **[**F109an applicant to certify whether the representative**]** has—

(a) discussed with the applicant the possibility of a reconciliation with the other civil partner, and

(b) given the applicant the names and addresses of persons qualified to help effect a reconciliation between civil partners who have become estranged.

(3) If at any stage of proceedings for the order it appears to the court that there is a reasonable possibility of a reconciliation between the civil partners, the court may adjourn the proceedings for such period as it thinks fit to enable attempts to be made to effect a reconciliation between them.

(4) The power to adjourn under subsection (3) is additional to any other power of adjournment.

Textual Amendments

F108 Words in s. 42(2) substituted (1.1.2010) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 20), ss. 208, 211, **Sch. 21 para. 150** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/3250, **art. 2(h)** (with arts. 6, 9)

F109 Words in s. 42(2) substituted (6.4.2022) by Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 (c. 11), s. 8(1)(8), **Sch. para. 37** (with s. 8(7)); S.I. 2022/283, reg. 2

Commencement Information

I11 S. 42 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 42 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 42(1) in force at 15.4.2005 for certain purposes by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and otherwise 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1; s. 42(2) in force at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1; s. 42(3)(4) in force at 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

43 Consideration by the court of certain agreements or arrangements

(1) This section applies in relation to cases where—

(a) proceedings for a dissolution or separation order are contemplated or have begun, and

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) an agreement or arrangement is made or proposed to be made between the civil partners which relates to, arises out of, or is connected with, the proceedings.

(2) Rules of court may make provision for enabling—

(a) the civil partners, or either of them, to refer the agreement or arrangement to the court, and

(b) the court—

(i) to express an opinion, if it thinks it desirable to do so, as to the reasonableness of the agreement or arrangement, and

(ii) to give such directions, if any, in the matter as it thinks fit.

Dissolution of civil partnership

44 Dissolution of civil partnership which has broken down irretrievably

(1) Subject to section 41, an application for a dissolution order may be made to the court by **[**F110either or both civil partners**]** on the ground that the civil partnership has broken down irretrievably.

[F111(1A) An application under subsection (1) must be accompanied by a statement by the applicant or applicants that the civil partnership has broken down irretrievably.**]**

F112(2) . . . . . .

F113(3) . . . . . .

(4) **[**F114The court dealing with an application under subsection (1) must—

(a) take the statement to be conclusive evidence that the civil partnership has broken down irretrievably, and

(b) make a dissolution order.**]**

F115(5) . . . . . .

[F116(6) Without prejudice to the generality of section 75 of the Courts Act 2003, Family Procedure Rules may make provision as to the procedure for an application under subsection (1) by both civil partners to become an application by one civil partner only (including provision for a statement made under subsection (1A) in connection with the application to be treated as made by one civil partner only).**]**

Textual Amendments

F110 Words in s. 44(1) substituted (25.6.2020 for specified purposes, 6.4.2022 in so far as not already in force) by Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 (c. 11), **ss. 3(2)**, 8(3)(b) (with s. 8(7)); S.I. 2022/283, reg. 2

F111 S. 44(1A) inserted (25.6.2020 for specified purposes, 6.4.2022 in so far as not already in force) by Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 (c. 11), **ss. 3(3)**, 8(3)(b) (with s. 8(7)); S.I. 2022/283, reg. 2

F112 S. 44(2) omitted (25.6.2020 for specified purposes, 6.4.2022 in so far as not already in force) by virtue of Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 (c. 11), **ss. 3(4)**, 8(3)(b) (with s. 8(7)); S.I. 2022/283, reg. 2

F113 S. 44(3) omitted (25.6.2020 for specified purposes, 6.4.2022 in so far as not already in force) by virtue of Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 (c. 11), **ss. 3(4)**, 8(3)(b) (with s. 8(7)); S.I. 2022/283, reg. 2

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

F114 S. 44(4) substituted (25.6.2020 for specified purposes, 6.4.2022 in so far as not already in force) by Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 (c. 11), **ss. 3(5)**, 8(3)(b) (with s. 8(7)); S.I. 2022/283, reg. 2

F115 S. 44(5) omitted (25.6.2020 for specified purposes, 6.4.2022 in so far as not already in force) by virtue of Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 (c. 11), **ss. 3(6)**, 8(3)(b) (with s. 8(7)); S.I. 2022/283, reg. 2

F116 S. 44(6) inserted (25.6.2020 for specified purposes, 6.4.2022 in so far as not already in force) by Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 (c. 11), **ss. 3(7)**, 8(3)(b) (with s. 8(7)); S.I. 2022/283, reg. 2

F117 45 Supplemental provisions as to facts raising presumption of breakdown

. . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F117 S. 45 omitted (6.4.2022) by virtue of Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 (c. 11), s. 8(1)(8), **Sch. para. 38** (with s. 8(7)); S.I. 2022/283, reg. 2

F118 46 Dissolution order not precluded by previous separation order etc.

. . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F118 S. 46 omitted (6.4.2022) by virtue of Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 (c. 11), s. 8(1)(8), **Sch. para. 39** (with s. 8(7)); S.I. 2022/283, reg. 2

F119 47 Refusal of dissolution in 5 year separation cases on ground of grave hardship

. . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F119 S. 47 omitted (6.4.2022) by virtue of Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 (c. 11), s. 8(1)(8), **Sch. para. 40** (with s. 8(7)); S.I. 2022/283, reg. 2

48 Proceedings before order made final: protection for respondent F120...

F121(1) . . . . . .

[F122(2) Subsections (3) to (5) apply if—

(a) on an application for a dissolution order a conditional order has been made and—

(i) the conditional order is in favour of one civil partner only, or

(ii) the conditional order is in favour of both civil partners but one of them has since withdrawn from the application, and

(b) the respondent has applied to the court for consideration under subsection (3) of their financial position after the dissolution of the civil partnership.**]**

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(3) The court hearing an application by the respondent under subsection (2) must consider all the circumstances, including—

(a) the age, health, conduct, earning capacity, financial resources and financial obligations of each of the parties, and

(b) the financial position of the respondent as, having regard to the dissolution, it is likely to be after the death of the applicant should the applicant die first.

(4) Subject to subsection (5), the court must not make the order final unless it is satisfied that—

(a) the applicant should not be required to make any financial provision for the respondent, or

(b) the financial provision made by the applicant for the respondent is—

(i) reasonable and fair, or

(ii) the best that can be made in the circumstances.

(5) The court may if it thinks fit make the order final if—

(a) it appears that there are circumstances making it desirable that the order should be made final without delay, and

(b) it has obtained a satisfactory undertaking from the applicant that he will make such financial provision for the respondent as it may approve.

Textual Amendments

F120 Words in s. 48 heading omitted (6.4.2022) by virtue of Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 (c. 11), s. 8(1)(8), **Sch. para. 41(a)** (with s. 8(7)); S.I. 2022/283, reg. 2

F121 S. 48(1) omitted (6.4.2022) by virtue of Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 (c. 11), s. 8(1)(8), **Sch. para. 41(b)** (with s. 8(7)); S.I. 2022/283, reg. 2

F122 S. 48(2) substituted (6.4.2022) by Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 (c. 11), s. 8(1)(8), **Sch. para. 41(c)** (with s. 8(7)); S.I. 2022/283, reg. 2

Nullity

49 Grounds on which civil partnership is void

Where two people register as civil partners of each other in England and Wales, the civil partnership is void if—

(a) at the time when they do so, they are not eligible to register as civil partners of each other under Chapter 1 (see section 3), **[**F123or**]**

(b) at the time when they do so they both know—

(i) that due notice of proposed civil partnership has not been given,

(ii) that the civil partnership document has not been duly issued,

(iii) that the civil partnership document is void under section 17(3) or 27(2) (registration after end of time allowed for registering),

(iv) that the place of registration is a place other than that specified in the notices (or notice) of proposed civil partnership and the civil partnership document, F124. . .

(v) that a civil partnership registrar is not present, or

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

[F125(vi) that the place of registration is on premises that are not approved premises although the registration is purportedly in accordance with section 6(3A)(a), F126...**]**

F127(c) . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F123 Word in s. 49(a) inserted (27.2.2023) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 (c. 28), s. 7(1), **Sch. para. 4(6)(a)** (with s. 8); S.I. 2023/88, reg. 2 (with regs. 3-17)

F124 Word in s. 49(b)(iv) omitted (5.12.2005) by virtue of The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 14(2)** (subject to art. 1(3))

F125 S. 49(b)(vi) inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 14(3)** (subject to art. 1(3))

F126 Word in s. 49(b)(vi) omitted (27.2.2023) by virtue of Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 (c. 28), s. 7(1), **Sch. para. 4(6)(b)** (with s. 8); S.I. 2023/88, reg. 2 (with regs. 3-17)

F127 S. 49(c) omitted (27.2.2023) by virtue of Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 (c. 28), s. 7(1), **Sch. para. 4(6)(c)** (with s. 8); S.I. 2023/88, reg. 2 (with regs. 3-17)

50 Grounds on which civil partnership is voidable

(1) Where two people register as civil partners of each other in England and Wales, the civil partnership is voidable if—

(a) either of them did not validly consent to its formation (whether as a result of duress, mistake, unsoundness of mind or otherwise);

(b) at the time of its formation either of them, though capable of giving a valid consent, was suffering (whether continuously or intermittently) from mental disorder of such a kind or to such an extent as to be unfitted for civil partnership;

(c) at the time of its formation, the respondent was pregnant by some person other than the applicant;

(d) an interim gender recognition certificate under the Gender Recognition Act 2004 (c. 7) has, after the time of its formation, been issued to either civil partner;

(e) the respondent is a person whose gender at the time of its formation had become the acquired gender under the 2004 Act.

(2) In this section and section 51 "mental disorder" has the same meaning as in the Mental Health Act 1983 (c. 20).

51 Bars to relief where civil partnership is voidable

(1) The court must not make a nullity order on the ground that a civil partnership is voidable if the respondent satisfies the court—

(a) that the applicant, with knowledge that it was open to him to obtain a nullity order, conducted himself in relation to the respondent in such a way as to lead the respondent reasonably to believe that he would not seek to do so, and

(b) that it would be unjust to the respondent to make the order.

(2) Without prejudice to subsection (1), the court must not make a nullity order by virtue of section 50(1)(a), (b), (c) or (e) unless—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) it is satisfied that proceedings were instituted within 3 years from the date of the formation of the civil partnership, or

(b) leave for the institution of proceedings after the end of that 3 year period has been granted under subsection (3).

(3) A judge of the court may, on an application made to him, grant leave for the institution of proceedings if he—

(a) is satisfied that the applicant has at some time during the 3 year period suffered from mental disorder, and

(b) considers that in all the circumstances of the case it would be just to grant leave for the institution of proceedings.

(4) An application for leave under subsection (3) may be made after the end of the 3 year period.

(5) Without prejudice to subsection (1), the court must not make a nullity order by virtue of section 50(1)(d) unless it is satisfied that proceedings were instituted within the period of 6 months from the date of issue of the interim gender recognition certificate.

(6) Without prejudice to subsections (1) and (2), the court must not make a nullity order by virtue of section 50(1)(c) or (e) unless it is satisfied that the applicant was at the time of the formation of the civil partnership ignorant of the facts alleged.

52 Proof of certain matters not necessary to validity of civil partnership

(1) Where two people have registered as civil partners of each other in England and Wales, it is not necessary in support of the civil partnership to give any proof—

F128(a) . . . . . .

[F129(aa) that before the registration either of the civil partners resided, or resided for any period, in the area stated in the notices of proposed civil partnership to be the area of that person's place of residence;**][**F130or

(ab) that, in the case of a civil partnership to which Schedule 3A applied, any of the events listed in paragraph 2(2) to (6) of that Schedule occurred.**]**

F131(b) . . . . . .

and no evidence is to be given to prove the contrary in any proceedings touching the validity of the civil partnership.

F132(2) . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F128 S. 52(1)(a) omitted (27.2.2023) by virtue of Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 (c. 28), s. 7(1), **Sch. para. 4(7)(a)** (with s. 8); S.I. 2023/88, reg. 2 (with regs. 3-17)

F129 S. 52(1)(aa) inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 15(2)** (subject to art. 1(3))

F130 S. 52(1)(ab) and word inserted (1.3.2015) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), s. 75(3), **Sch. 4 para. 29(b)** (with Sch. 9 para. 66); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(f)

F131 S. 52(1)(b) omitted (5.12.2005) by virtue of The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 15(3)** (subject to art. 1(3))

F132 S. 52(2) omitted (27.2.2023) by virtue of Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 (c. 28), s. 7(1), **Sch. para. 4(7)(b)** (with s. 8); S.I. 2023/88, reg. 2 (with regs. 3-17)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

53 Power to validate civil partnership

(1) Where two people have registered as civil partners of each other in England and Wales, the Lord Chancellor may by order validate the civil partnership if it appears to him that it is or may be void under section 49(b).

(2) An order under subsection (1) may include provisions for relieving a person from any liability under section 31(2), 32(2) or 33(5) or (7).

(3) The draft of an order under subsection (1) must be advertised, in such manner as the Lord Chancellor thinks fit, not less than one month before the order is made.

(4) The Lord Chancellor must—

(a) consider all objections to the order sent to him in writing during that month, and

(b) if it appears to him necessary, direct a local inquiry into the validity of any such objections.

(5) An order under subsection (1) is subject to special parliamentary procedure.

54 Validity of civil partnerships registered outside England and Wales

(1) Where two people register as civil partners of each other in Scotland, the civil partnership is—

(a) void, if it would be void in Scotland under section 123, F133...

[F134(aa) void, if the civil partnership was registered when—

(i) one of the two people was domiciled in England and Wales, and

(ii) one of the two people was under 18, and**]**

(b) voidable, if the circumstances fall within section 50(1)(d).

(2) Where two people register as civil partners of each other in Northern Ireland, the civil partnership is—

(a) void, if it would be void in Northern Ireland under section 173, F135...

[F136(aa) void, if the civil partnership was registered when—

(i) one of the two people was domiciled in England and Wales, and

(ii) one of the two people was under 18, and**]**

(b) voidable, if the circumstances fall within any paragraph of section 50(1).

[F137(2A) Where two people convert, or purport to convert, their marriage into a civil partnership under Part 3, 4 or 5 of the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Northern Ireland) (No. 2) Regulations 2020, the civil partnership is—

(a) void, if it would be void in Northern Ireland under section 173, F138...

[F139(aa) void, if the marriage was solemnised there when—

(i) one of the two people was domiciled in England and Wales, and

(ii) one of the two people was under 18, and**]**

(b) voidable, if it would be voidable there under section 174.**]**

(3) Subsection (4) applies where two people register as civil partners of each other under an Order in Council under—

(a) section 210 (registration at British consulates etc.), or

(b) section 211 (registration by armed forces personnel),

("the relevant section").

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(4) The civil partnership is—

(a) void, if—

(i) the condition in subsection (2)(a) or (b) of the relevant section is not met, or

(ii) a requirement prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph by an Order in Council under the relevant section is not complied with, and

(b) voidable, if—

(i) the appropriate part of the United Kingdom is England and Wales or Northern Ireland and the circumstances fall within any paragraph of section 50(1), or

(ii) the appropriate part of the United Kingdom is Scotland and the circumstances fall within section 50(1)(d).

(5) The appropriate part of the United Kingdom is the part by reference to which the condition in subsection (2)(b) of the relevant section is met.

(6) Subsections (7) and (8) apply where two people have registered an apparent or alleged overseas relationship.

(7) The civil partnership is void if—

(a) the relationship is not an overseas relationship, or

(b) (even though the relationship is an overseas relationship) the parties are not treated under Chapter 2 of Part 5 as having formed a civil partnership.

(8) The civil partnership is voidable if—

(a) the overseas relationship is voidable under the relevant law,

(b) the circumstances fall within section 50(1)(d), or

(c) where either of the parties was domiciled in England and Wales or Northern Ireland at the time when the overseas relationship was registered, the circumstances fall within section 50(1)(a), (b), (c) or (e).

(9) Section 51 applies for the purposes of—

(a) subsections (1)(b), (2)(b) and (4)(b),

(b) subsection (8)(a), in so far as applicable in accordance with the relevant law, and

(c) subsection (8)(b) and (c).

(10) In subsections (8)(a) and (9)(b) "the relevant law" means the law of the country or territory where the overseas relationship was registered (including its rules of private international law).

(11) For the purposes of subsections (8) and (9)(b) and (c), references in sections 50 and 51 to the formation of the civil partnership are to be read as references to the registration of the overseas relationship.

Textual Amendments

F133 Word in s. 54(1)(a) omitted (27.2.2023) by virtue of Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 (c. 28), **ss. 4(2)(a)(i)**, 7(1) (with s. 8); S.I. 2023/88, reg. 2 (with regs. 3-17)

F134 S. 54(1)(aa) inserted (27.2.2023) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 (c. 28), **ss. 4(2)(a)(ii)**, 7(1) (with s. 8); S.I. 2023/88, reg. 2 (with regs. 3-17)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

F135 Word in s. 54(2)(a) omitted (27.2.2023) by virtue of Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 (c. 28), **ss. 4(2)(b)(i)**, 7(1) (with s. 8); S.I. 2023/88, reg. 2 (with regs. 3-17)

F136 S. 54(2)(aa) inserted (27.2.2023) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 (c. 28), **ss. 4(2)(b)(ii)**, 7(1) (with s. 8); S.I. 2023/88, reg. 2 (with regs. 3-17)

F137 S. 54(2A) inserted (7.12.2020) by The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Northern Ireland) (No. 2) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/1143), regs. 1(2), **44(4)**

F138 Word in s. 54(2A)(a) omitted (27.2.2023) by virtue of Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 (c. 28), **ss. 4(2)(c)(i)**, 7(1) (with s. 8); S.I. 2023/88, reg. 2 (with regs. 3-17)

F139 S. 54(2A)(aa) inserted (27.2.2023) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 (c. 28), **ss. 4(2)(c)(ii)**, 7(1) (with s. 8); S.I. 2023/88, reg. 2 (with regs. 3-17)

Presumption of death orders

55 Presumption of death orders

(1) The court may, on an application made by a civil partner, make a presumption of death order if it is satisfied that reasonable grounds exist for supposing that the other civil partner is dead.

(2) In any proceedings under this section the fact that—

(a) for a period of 7 years or more the other civil partner has been continually absent from the applicant, and

(b) the applicant has no reason to believe that the other civil partner has been living within that time,

is evidence that the other civil partner is dead until the contrary is proved.

Separation orders

56 Separation orders

(1) An application for a separation order may be made to the court by **[**F140either or both civil partners.**]**

[F141(1A) An application under subsection (1) must be accompanied by—

(a) if the application is by one civil partner only, a statement by that person that they seek to be separated from the other civil partner, or

(b) if the application is by both civil partners, a statement by them that they seek to be separated from one another.**]**

F142(2) . . . . . .

[F143(3) The court dealing with an application under subsection (1) must make a separation order.**]**

F144(4) . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F140 Words in s. 56(1) substituted (6.4.2022) by Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 (c. 11), **ss. 5(2)**, 8(1)(8) (with s. 8(7)); S.I. 2022/283, reg. 2

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

F141 S. 56(1A) inserted (6.4.2022) by Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 (c. 11), **ss. 5(3)**, 8(1)(8) (with s. 8(7)); S.I. 2022/283, reg. 2

F142 S. 56(2) omitted (6.4.2022) by virtue of Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 (c. 11), **ss. 5(4)**, 8(1)(8) (with s. 8(7)); S.I. 2022/283, reg. 2

F143 S. 56(3) substituted (6.4.2022) by Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 (c. 11), **ss. 5(5)**, 8(1)(8) (with s. 8(7)); S.I. 2022/283, reg. 2

F144 S. 56(4) omitted (6.4.2022) by virtue of Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 (c. 11), **ss. 5(6)**, 8(1)(8) (with s. 8(7)); S.I. 2022/283, reg. 2

57 Effect of separation order

If either civil partner dies intestate as respects all or any of his or her real or personal property while—

(a) a separation order is in force, and

(b) the separation is continuing,

the property as respects which he or she died intestate devolves as if the other civil partner had then been dead.

Declarations

58 Declarations

(1) Any person may apply to the High Court or **[**F145the family court**]** for one or more of the following declarations in relation to a civil partnership specified in the application—

(a) a declaration that the civil partnership was at its inception a valid civil partnership;

(b) a declaration that the civil partnership subsisted on a date specified in the application;

(c) a declaration that the civil partnership did not subsist on a date so specified;

(d) a declaration that the validity of a dissolution, annulment or legal separation obtained outside England and Wales in respect of the civil partnership is entitled to recognition in England and Wales;

(e) a declaration that the validity of a dissolution, annulment or legal separation so obtained in respect of the civil partnership is not entitled to recognition in England and Wales.

(2) Where an application under subsection (1) is made to a court by a person other than a civil partner in the civil partnership to which the application relates, the court must refuse to hear the application if it considers that the applicant does not have a sufficient interest in the determination of that application.

Textual Amendments

F145 Words in s. 58 substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 164**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

59 General provisions as to making and effect of declarations

(1) Where on an application for a declaration under section 58 the truth of the proposition to be declared is proved to the satisfaction of the court, the court must make the declaration unless to do so would be manifestly contrary to public policy.

(2) Any declaration under section 58 binds Her Majesty and all other persons.

(3) The court, on the dismissal of an application for a declaration under section 58, may not make any declaration for which an application has not been made.

(4) No declaration which may be applied for under section 58 may be made otherwise than under section 58 by any court.

(5) No declaration may be made by any court, whether under section 58 or otherwise, that a civil partnership was at its inception void.

(6) Nothing in this section affects the powers of any court to make a nullity order in respect of a civil partnership.

60 The Attorney General and proceedings for declarations

(1) On an application for a declaration under section 58 the court may at any stage of the proceedings, of its own motion or on the application of any party to the proceedings, direct that all necessary papers in the matter be sent to the Attorney General.

(2) The Attorney General, whether or not he is sent papers in relation to an application for a declaration under section 58, may—

(a) intervene in the proceedings on that application in such manner as he thinks necessary or expedient, and

(b) argue before the court dealing with the application any question in relation to the application which the court considers it necessary to have fully argued.

(3) Where any costs are incurred by the Attorney General in connection with any application for a declaration under section 58, the court may make such order as it considers just as to the payment of those costs by parties to the proceedings.

61 Supplementary provisions as to declarations

(1) Any declaration made under section 58, and any application for such a declaration, must be in the form prescribed by rules of court.

(2) Rules of court may make provision—

(a) as to the information required to be given by any applicant for a declaration under section 58;

(b) requiring notice of an application under section 58 to be served on the Attorney General and on persons who may be affected by any declaration applied for.

(3) No proceedings under section 58 affect any final judgment or order already pronounced or made by any court of competent jurisdiction.

(4) The court hearing an application under section 58 may direct that the whole or any part of the proceedings must be heard in private.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(5) An application for a direction under subsection (4) must be heard in private unless the court otherwise directs.

Commencement Information

I12 S. 61 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 61 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 61(1) in force at 15.4.2005 for certain purposes by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and otherwise 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1; s. 61(2) in force at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1

General provisions

F146 62 Relief for respondent in dissolution proceedings

. . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F146 S. 62 omitted (6.4.2022) by virtue of Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 (c. 11), s. 8(1)(8), **Sch. para. 42** (with s. 8(7)); S.I. 2022/283, reg. 2

F147 63 Restrictions on making of orders affecting children

. . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F147 S. 63 repealed (22.4.2014) by Children and Families Act 2014 (c. 6), **ss. 17(1)(b)**, 139(6); S.I. 2014/793, art. 2 (with transitional provisions in S.I. 2014/1042, arts. 5, 11)

64 Parties to proceedings under this Chapter

(1) Rules of court may make provision with respect to—

(a) the joinder as parties to proceedings under sections 37 to 56 of persons involved in allegations of improper conduct made in those proceedings,

(b) the dismissal from such proceedings of any parties so joined, and

(c) the persons who are to be parties to proceedings on an application under section 58.

(2) Rules of court made under this section may make different provision for different cases.

(3) In every case in which the court considers, in the interest of a person not already a party to the proceedings, that the person should be made a party, the court may if it thinks fit allow the person to intervene upon such terms, if any, as the court thinks just.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Commencement Information

I13 S. 64 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 64 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 64(1)(2) in force at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1; s. 64(3) in force at 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

CHAPTER 3

PROPERTY AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

65 Contribution by civil partner to property improvement

(1) This section applies if—

(a) a civil partner contributes in money or money's worth to the improvement of real or personal property in which or in the proceeds of sale of which either or both of the civil partners has or have a beneficial interest, and

(b) the contribution is of a substantial nature.

(2) The contributing partner is to be treated as having acquired by virtue of the contribution a share or an enlarged share (as the case may be) in the beneficial interest of such an extent—

(a) as may have been then agreed, or

(b) in default of such agreement, as may seem in all the circumstances just to any court before which the question of the existence or extent of the beneficial interest of either of the civil partners arises (whether in proceedings between them or in any other proceedings).

(3) Subsection (2) is subject to any agreement (express or implied) between the civil partners to the contrary.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C11 S. 65 applied (with modifications) (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Treatment of Overseas Relationships) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3042), **art. 3(2)**

C12 S. 65 applied (with modifications) (2.12.2019) by The Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1458), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 4(2)**

66 Disputes between civil partners about property

(1) In any question between the civil partners in a civil partnership as to title to or possession of property, either civil partner may apply to—

(a) the High Court, or

[F148(b) the family court.**]**

(2) On such an application, the court may make such order with respect to the property as it thinks fit (including an order for the sale of the property).

F149(3) . . . . . .

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F148 S. 66(1)(b) substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 165(2)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

F149 S. 66(3) omitted (22.4.2014) by virtue of Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 165(3)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

Commencement Information

I14 S. 66 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 66 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 66(1)(b) in force at 15.4.2005 for certain purposes by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and otherwise 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1; s. 66(3) in force at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1; s. 66(1)(a) in force at 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1; s. 66(2) in force at 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

67 Applications under section 66 where property not in possession etc.

(1) The right of a civil partner ("A") to make an application under section 66 includes the right to make such an application where A claims that the other civil partner ("B") has had in his possession or under his control—

(a) money to which, or to a share of which, A was beneficially entitled, or

(b) property (other than money) to which, or to an interest in which, A was beneficially entitled,

and that either the money or other property has ceased to be in B's possession or under B's control or that A does not know whether it is still in B's possession or under B's control.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1)(a) it does not matter whether A is beneficially entitled to the money or share—

(a) because it represents the proceeds of property to which, or to an interest in which, A was beneficially entitled, or

(b) for any other reason.

(3) Subsections (4) and (5) apply if, on such an application being made, the court is satisfied that B—

(a) has had in his possession or under his control money or other property as mentioned in subsection (1)(a) or (b), and

(b) has not made to A, in respect of that money or other property, such payment or disposition as would have been appropriate in the circumstances.

(4) The power of the court to make orders under section 66 includes power to order B to pay to A—

(a) in a case falling within subsection (1)(a), such sum in respect of the money to which the application relates, or A's s share of it, as the court considers appropriate, or

(b) in a case falling within subsection (1)(b), such sum in respect of the value of the property to which the application relates, or A's interest in it, as the court considers appropriate.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(5) If it appears to the court that there is any property which—

(a) represents the whole or part of the money or property, and

(b) is property in respect of which an order could (apart from this section) have been made under section 66,

the court may (either instead of or as well as making an order in accordance with subsection (4)) make any order which it could (apart from this section) have made under section 66.

(6) Any power of the court which is exercisable on an application under section 66 is exercisable in relation to an application made under that section as extended by this section.

68 Applications under section 66 by former civil partners

(1) This section applies where a civil partnership has been dissolved or annulled.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), an application may be made under section 66 (including that section as extended by section 67) by either former civil partner despite the dissolution or annulment (and references in those sections to a civil partner are to be read accordingly).

(3) The application must be made within the period of 3 years beginning with the date of the dissolution or annulment.

69 Actions in tort between civil partners

(1) This section applies if an action in tort is brought by one civil partner against the other during the subsistence of the civil partnership.

(2) The court may stay the proceedings if it appears—

(a) that no substantial benefit would accrue to either civil partner from the continuation of the proceedings, or

(b) that the question or questions in issue could more conveniently be disposed of on an application under section 66.

(3) Without prejudice to subsection (2)(b), the court may in such an action—

(a) exercise any power which could be exercised on an application under section 66, or

(b) give such directions as it thinks fit for the disposal under that section of any question arising in the proceedings.

70 Assurance policy by civil partner for benefit of other civil partner etc.

Section 11 of the Married Women's Property Act 1882 (c. 75) (money payable under policy of assurance not to form part of the estate of the insured) applies in relation to a policy of assurance—

(a) effected by a civil partner on his own life, and

(b) expressed to be for the benefit of his civil partner, or of his children, or of his civil partner and children, or any of them,

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

as it applies in relation to a policy of assurance effected by a husband and expressed to be for the benefit of his wife, or of his children, or of his wife and children, or of any of them.

71 Wills, administration of estates and family provision

Schedule 4 amends enactments relating to wills, administration of estates and family provision so that they apply in relation to civil partnerships as they apply in relation to marriage.

72 Financial relief for civil partners and children of family

(1) Schedule 5 makes provision for financial relief in connection with civil partnerships that corresponds to provision made for financial relief in connection with marriages by Part 2 of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 (c. 18).

(2) Any rule of law under which any provision of Part 2 of the 1973 Act is interpreted as applying to dissolution of a marriage on the ground of presumed death is to be treated as applying (with any necessary modifications) in relation to the corresponding provision of Schedule 5.

(3) Schedule 6 makes provision for financial relief in connection with civil partnerships that corresponds to provision made for financial relief in connection with marriages by the Domestic Proceedings and Magistrates' Courts Act 1978 (c. 22).

(4) Schedule 7 makes provision for financial relief in England and Wales after a civil partnership has been dissolved or annulled, or civil partners have been legally separated, in a country outside the British Islands.

CHAPTER 4

CIVIL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

73 Civil partnership agreements unenforceable

(1) A civil partnership agreement does not under the law of England and Wales have effect as a contract giving rise to legal rights.

(2) No action lies in England and Wales for breach of a civil partnership agreement, whatever the law applicable to the agreement.

(3) In this section and section 74 "civil partnership agreement" means an agreement between two people—

(a) to register as civil partners of each other—

(i) in England and Wales (under this Part),

(ii) in Scotland (under Part 3),

(iii) in Northern Ireland (under Part 4), or

(iv) outside the United Kingdom under an Order in Council made under Chapter 1 of Part 5 (registration at British consulates etc. or by armed forces personnel), or

(b) to enter into an overseas relationship.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(4) This section applies in relation to civil partnership agreements whether entered into before or after this section comes into force, but does not affect any action commenced before it comes into force.

74 Property where civil partnership agreement is terminated

(1) This section applies if a civil partnership agreement is terminated.

(2) Section 65 (contributions by civil partner to property improvement) applies, in relation to any property in which either or both of the parties to the agreement had a beneficial interest while the agreement was in force, as it applies in relation to property in which a civil partner has a beneficial interest.

(3) Sections 66 and 67 (disputes between civil partners about property) apply to any dispute between or claim by one of the parties in relation to property in which either or both had a beneficial interest while the agreement was in force, as if the parties were civil partners of each other.

(4) An application made under section 66 or 67 by virtue of subsection (3) must be made within 3 years of the termination of the agreement.

(5) A party to a civil partnership agreement who makes a gift of property to the other party on the condition (express or implied) that it is to be returned if the agreement is terminated is not prevented from recovering the property merely because of his having terminated the agreement.

CHAPTER 5

CHILDREN

75 Parental responsibility, children of the family and relatives

(1) Amend the Children Act 1989 (c. 41) ("the 1989 Act") as follows.

(2) In section 4A(1) (acquisition of parental responsibility by step-parent) after "is married to" insert " , or a civil partner of, ".

(3) In section 105(1) (interpretation), for the definition of "child of the family" (in relation to the parties to a marriage) substitute—

> ""child of the family", in relation to parties to a marriage, or to two people who are civil partners of each other, means—
>
> (a) a child of both of them, and
>
> (b) any other child, other than a child placed with them as foster parents by a local authority or voluntary organisation, who has been treated by both of them as a child of their family."

(4) In the definition of "relative" in section 105(1), for "by affinity)" substitute " by marriage or civil partnership) ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Commencement Information

I15 S. 75 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 75 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 75(1)(3)(4) in force at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)** Sch. 1; s. 75(2) in force at 30.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(9)**, Sch. 1

76 Guardianship

In section 6 of the 1989 Act (guardians: revocation and disclaimer) after subsection (3A) insert—

"(3B) An appointment under section 5(3) or (4) (including one made in an unrevoked will or codicil) is revoked if the person appointed is the civil partner of the person who made the appointment and either—

(a) an order of a court of civil jurisdiction in England and Wales dissolves or annuls the civil partnership, or

(b) the civil partnership is dissolved or annulled and the dissolution or annulment is entitled to recognition in England and Wales by virtue of Chapter 3 of Part 5 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004,

unless a contrary intention appears by the appointment."

77 Entitlement to apply for residence or contact order

In section 10(5) of the 1989 Act (persons entitled to apply for residence or contact order) after paragraph (a) insert—

"(aa) any civil partner in a civil partnership (whether or not subsisting) in relation to whom the child is a child of the family;".

78 Financial provision for children

(1) Amend Schedule 1 to the 1989 Act (financial provision for children) as follows.

(2) In paragraph 2(6) (meaning of "periodical payments order") after paragraph (d) insert—

"(e) Part 1 or 9 of Schedule 5 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (financial relief in the High Court or a county court etc.);

(f) Schedule 6 to the 2004 Act (financial relief in the magistrates' courts etc.),".

(3) In paragraph 15(2) (person with whom a child lives or is to live) after "husband or wife" insert " or civil partner ".

(4) For paragraph 16(2) (extended meaning of "parent") substitute—

"(2) In this Schedule, except paragraphs 2 and 15, "parent" includes—

(a) any party to a marriage (whether or not subsisting) in relation to whom the child concerned is a child of the family, and

(b) any civil partner in a civil partnership (whether or not subsisting) in relation to whom the child concerned is a child of the family;

and for this purpose any reference to either parent or both parents shall be read as a reference to any parent of his and to all of his parents."

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

79 Adoption

(1) Amend the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (c. 38) as follows.

(2) In section 21 (placement orders), in subsection (4)(c), after "child marries" insert " , forms a civil partnership ".

(3) In section 47 (conditions for making adoption orders), after subsection (8) insert—

"(8A) An adoption order may not be made in relation to a person who is or has been a civil partner."

(4) In section 51 (adoption by one person), in subsection (1), after "is not married" insert " or a civil partner ".

(5) After section 51(3) insert—

"(3A) An adoption order may be made on the application of one person who has attained the age of 21 years and is a civil partner if the court is satisfied that—

(a) the person's civil partner cannot be found,

(b) the civil partners have separated and are living apart, and the separation is likely to be permanent, or

(c) the person's civil partner is by reason of ill-health, whether physical or mental, incapable of making an application for an adoption order."

(6) In section 64 (other provision to be made by regulations), in subsection (5) for "or marriage" substitute " , marriage or civil partnership ".

(7) In section 74(1) (enactments for whose purposes section 67 does not apply), for paragraph (a) substitute—

"(a) section 1 of and Schedule 1 to the Marriage Act 1949 or Schedule 1 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (prohibited degrees of kindred and affinity),".

(8) In section 79 (connections between the register and birth records), in subsection (7)—

(a) in paragraph (b), after "intends to be married" insert " or form a civil partnership ", and

(b) for "the person whom the applicant intends to marry" substitute " the intended spouse or civil partner ".

(9) In section 81 (Adoption Contact Register: supplementary), in subsection (2) for "or marriage" substitute " , marriage or civil partnership ".

(10) In section 98 (pre-commencement adoptions: information), in subsection (7), in the definition of "relative" for "or marriage" substitute " , marriage or civil partnership ".

(11) In section 144 (interpretation), in the definition of "relative" in subsection (1), after "by marriage" insert " or civil partnership ".

(12) In section 144(4) (meaning of "couple"), after paragraph (a) insert—

"(aa) two people who are civil partners of each other, or".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

CHAPTER 6

MISCELLANEOUS

80 False statements etc. with reference to civil partnerships

(1) A person commits an offence if—

(a) for the purpose of procuring the formation of a civil partnership, or a document mentioned in subsection (2), he—

(i) makes or signs a declaration required under this Part or Part 5, or

(ii) gives a notice or certificate so required,

knowing that the declaration, notice or certificate is false,

(b) for the purpose of a record being made in any register relating to civil partnerships, he—

(i) makes a statement as to any information which is required to be registered under this Part or Part 5, or

(ii) causes such a statement to be made,

knowing that the statement is false, **[**F150or**]**

F151(c) . . . . . .

(d) with respect to a declaration made under paragraph 5(1) of Schedule 1 he makes a statement mentioned in paragraph 6 of that Schedule which he knows to be false in a material particular.

(2) The documents are—

(a) a civil partnership schedule or a Registrar General's licence under Chapter 1;

(b) a document required by an Order in Council under section 210 or 211 as an authority for two people to register as civil partners of each other;

(c) a certificate of no impediment under section 240.

(3) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (1) is liable—

(a) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 7 years or to a fine (or both);

(b) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum.

(4) The Perjury Act 1911 (c. 6) has effect as if this section were contained in it.

Textual Amendments

F150 Word in s. 80(1)(b) inserted (27.2.2023) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 (c. 28), s. 7(1), **Sch. para. 4(8)(a)** (with s. 8); S.I. 2023/88, reg. 2 (with regs. 3-17)

F151 S. 80(1)(c) omitted (27.2.2023) by virtue of Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 (c. 28), s. 7(1), **Sch. para. 4(8)(b)** (with s. 8); S.I. 2023/88, reg. 2 (with regs. 3-17)

81 Housing and tenancies

Schedule 8 amends certain enactments relating to housing and tenancies.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

82 Family homes and domestic violence

Schedule 9 amends Part 4 of the Family Law Act 1996 (c. 27) and related enactments so that they apply in relation to civil partnerships as they apply in relation to marriages.

83 Fatal accidents claims

(1) Amend the Fatal Accidents Act 1976 (c. 30) as follows.

(2) In section 1(3) (meaning of "dependant" for purposes of right of action for wrongful act causing death), after paragraph (a) insert—

"(aa) the civil partner or former civil partner of the deceased;".

(3) In paragraph (b)(iii) of section 1(3), after "wife" insert " or civil partner ".

(4) After paragraph (f) of section 1(3) insert—

"(fa) any person (not being a child of the deceased) who, in the case of any civil partnership in which the deceased was at any time a civil partner, was treated by the deceased as a child of the family in relation to that civil partnership;".

(5) After section 1(4) insert—

"(4A) The reference to the former civil partner of the deceased in subsection (3)(aa) above includes a reference to a person whose civil partnership with the deceased has been annulled as well as a person whose civil partnership with the deceased has been dissolved."

(6) In section 1(5)(a), for "by affinity" substitute " by marriage or civil partnership ".

(7) In section 1A(2) (persons for whose benefit claim for bereavement damages may be made)—

(a) in paragraph (a), after "wife or husband" insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) in paragraph (b), after "was never married" insert " or a civil partner ".

(8) In section 3 (assessment of damages), in subsection (4), after "wife" insert " or civil partner ".

84 Evidence

(1) Any enactment or rule of law relating to the giving of evidence by a spouse applies in relation to a civil partner as it applies in relation to the spouse.

(2) Subsection (1) is subject to any specific amendment made by or under this Act which relates to the giving of evidence by a civil partner.

(3) For the avoidance of doubt, in any such amendment, references to a person's civil partner do not include a former civil partner.

(4) References in subsections (1) and (2) to giving evidence are to giving evidence in any way (whether by supplying information, making discovery, producing documents or otherwise).

(5) Any rule of law—

(a) which is preserved by section 7(3) of the Civil Evidence Act 1995 (c. 38) or section 118(1) of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c. 44), and

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) under which in any proceedings evidence of reputation or family tradition is admissible for the purpose of proving or disproving the existence of a marriage,

is to be treated as applying in an equivalent way for the purpose of proving or disproving the existence of a civil partnership.

PART 3

CIVIL PARTNERSHIP: SCOTLAND

CHAPTER 1

FORMATION AND ELIGIBILITY

85 Formation of civil partnership by registration

(1) For the purposes of section 1, two people are to be regarded as having registered as civil partners of each other once each of them has signed the civil partnership schedule, in the presence of—

(a) each other,

(b) two witnesses both of whom have attained the age of 16, and

[F152(c) the approved celebrant or, as the case may be, the authorised registrar.**]**

(2) But the two people must be eligible to be so registered.

(3) Subsection (1) applies regardless of whether subsection (4) is complied with.

(4) After the civil partnership schedule has been signed under subsection (1), it must also be signed, in the presence of the civil partners and each other by—

(a) each of the two witnesses, and

(b) **[**F153the approved celebrant or, as the case may be,**]** the authorised registrar.

Textual Amendments

F152 S. 85(1)(c) substituted for s. 85(1)(c) and words (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(2)(a)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

F153 Words in s. 85(4)(b) inserted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(2)(b)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

86 Eligibility

(1) Two people are not eligible to register in Scotland as civil partners of each other if—

F154(a) . . . . . .

(b) they are related in a forbidden degree,

(c) either has not attained the age of 16,

(d) either is married or already in civil partnership, or

(e) either is incapable of—

(i) understanding the nature of civil partnership, or

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(ii) validly consenting to its formation.

[F155(2) Subject to subsection (3), a person is related to another person in a forbidden degree if related to that person in a degree specified in Schedule 10.**]**

(3) **[**F156A person who is related to another person in a degree specified in paragraph 2 of Schedule 10 (relationships by affinity) is not related to that person**]** in a forbidden degree if—

(a) both persons have attained the age of 21, and

(b) the younger has not at any time before attaining the age of 18 lived in the same household as the elder and been treated by the elder as a child of the elder's family.

[F157(3A) For the purposes of paragraph 2 of Schedule 10, "spouse" means—

(a) in the case of a marriage between persons of different sexes, a wife in relation to her husband or a husband in relation to his wife, and

(b) in the case of a marriage between persons of the same sex, one of the parties to the marriage in relation to the other.**]**

[F158(4) Paragraph 2 of Schedule 10 has effect subject to the modifications specified in subsection (5) in the case of a person (here the "relevant person") whose gender has become the acquired gender under the Gender Recognition Act 2004 (c. 7).

(5) The reference in **[**F159subsection (3A)(a) as it applies to**]** that paragraph to—

(a) a F160... wife of the relevant person includes any F160... husband of the relevant person, and

(b) a F160... husband of the relevant person includes any F160... wife of the relevant person.**]**

[F161(5A) This section and Schedule 10 have effect as if any reference in that Schedule to a **[**F162parent**]** within any of the degrees of relationship specified F163... included a woman who is a parent of a child by virtue of section 42 or 43 of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 (c. 22).**]**

(6) F164. . . . . .

(7) F165. . . . . .

(8) References in this section and in Schedule 10 to relationships and degrees of relationship are to be construed in accordance with section 1(1) of the Law Reform (Parent and Child) (Scotland) Act 1986 (c. 9).

(9) For the purposes of this section, a degree of relationship specified in paragraph 1 of Schedule 10 exists whether it is of the full blood or the half blood.

(10) Amend section 41(1) of the Adoption (Scotland) Act 1978 (c. 28) (application to determination of forbidden degrees of provisions of that Act relating to the status conferred by adoption) as follows—

(a) after first "marriage" insert " , to the eligibility of persons to register as civil partners of each other ", and

(b) for "and incest" substitute " , to such eligibility and to incest ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F154 S. 86(1)(a) repealed (1.6.2021) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 6(2)**, 16; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

F155 S. 86(2) substituted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(3)(a)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

F156 Words in s. 86(3) substituted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(3)(b)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

F157 S. 86(3A) inserted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(3)(c)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

F158 S. 86(4)(5) substituted (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 33, 46(2), { Sch. 1 para. 2(b)}; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to art. 3-13)

F159 Words in s. 86(5) inserted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(3)(d)(i)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

F160 Words in s. 86(5) repealed (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(3)(d)(ii)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

F161 S. 86(5A) inserted (1.9.2009) by The Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Consequential Amendments and Transitional and Saving Provisions) Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/1892), art. 2, **Sch. 1 para. 4**

F162 Word in s. 86(5A) substituted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(3)(e)(i)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

F163 Words in s. 86(5A) repealed (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(3)(e)(ii)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

F164 S. 86(6) repealed (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 33, 46(2), { Sch. 3}; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to art. 3-13)

F165 S. 86(7) repealed (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 33, 46(2), { Sch. 3}; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to art. 3-13)

CHAPTER 2

REGISTRATION

87 Appointment of authorised registrars

For the purpose of affording reasonable facilities throughout Scotland for **[**[F166]civil**]** registration as civil partners, the Registrar General—

(a) is to appoint such number of district registrars as he thinks necessary, and

(b) may, in respect of any district for which he has made an appointment under paragraph (a), appoint one or more assistant registrars,

as persons who may carry out such registration (in this Part referred to as "authorised registrars").

Textual Amendments

F166 Word in s. 87 inserted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(4)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

88 Notice of proposed civil partnership

(1) In order to register as civil partners, each of the intended civil partners must submit to the district registrar a notice, in the prescribed form [F167]. . . , of intention to enter civil partnership (in this Part referred to as a "notice of proposed civil partnership").

(2) **[**[F168]Each of the intended civil partners must also pay the prescribed fee and submit the following documents—

(a) that person's birth certificate,**]**

(b) if that person has previously been married or in civil partnership and—

(i) the marriage or civil partnership has been dissolved, a copy of the decree of divorce or dissolution, or

(ii) the other party to that marriage or civil partnership has died, the death certificate of that other party, and

(c) if that person has previously ostensibly been married or in civil partnership but decree of annulment has been obtained, a copy of that decree.

[[F169](2A) If an intended civil partner is a relevant national as defined in section 30A(ab)(i) or (ii) the intended civil partner must also submit—

(a) where the intended civil partner falls within section 30A(ab)(i), an electronic certificate which confirms that the leave referred to in that provision has been granted; or

(b) where the intended civil partner falls within section 30A(ab)(ii)—

(i) a certificate of application which confirms that the application referred to in regulation 4 of the Citizens' Rights (Application Deadline and Temporary Protection) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 has been made; and

(ii) evidence that the relevant period referred to in regulation 4 of those Regulations has not expired.**]**

(3) If a person is unable to submit a certificate or decree required by subsection (2) he may instead make a declaration to that effect, stating what the reasons are; and he must provide the district registrar with such—

(a) information in respect of the matters to which the certificate or document would have related, and

(b) documentary evidence in support of that information,

as the district registrar may require.

(4) If a document submitted under subsection (2) or (3) is in a language other than English, the person submitting it must**[**[F170], unless subsection (4A) applies,**]** attach to the document a translation of it in English, certified by the translator as a correct translation.

[[F171](4A) This subsection applies where—

(a) the document submitted is accompanied by a multilingual standard form issued by an authority in a Member State of the European Union in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/1191 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and

(b) the district registrar considers that the information included in the multilingual standard form is sufficient for processing the document.**]**

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(5) A person submitting a notice under subsection (1) must make and **[**F172attest in the prescribed manner**]** the necessary declaration (the form for which must be included in any form prescribed for the notice).

[F173(5A) Regulations prescribing the form of the notice of proposed civil partnership may make provision for the notice to be electronic rather than paper-based.**]**

(6) The necessary declaration is a declaration that the person submitting the notice believes that the intended civil partners are eligible to be in civil partnership with each other.

[F174(7) In this section, "the district registrar" means—

(a) where the civil partnership is to be registered in a registration district, the district registrar for that district,

(b) where the civil partnership is to be registered in Scottish waters—

(i) in the case where the civil partnership is to be registered by an approved celebrant, the district registrar for any registration district,

(ii) in the case where the civil partnership is to be registered by an authorised registrar, the district registrar for the registration district of the proposed authorised registrar.**]**

[F175(8) A district registrar to whom a notice under subsection (1) is submitted may require the person submitting the notice to provide the district registrar with specified nationality evidence relating to each of the intended civil partners.

(9) A requirement under subsection (8) may be imposed at any time—

(a) on or after the submitting of the notice under subsection (1), but

(b) before the district registrar completes the civil partnership schedule.

(10) In subsection (8), "specified nationality evidence" means such evidence of that person's nationality as may be specified in guidance issued by the Registrar General.**]**

Textual Amendments

F167 Words in s. 88(1) omitted (1.10.2006 for certain purposes and otherwise 1.1.2007) by virtue of Local Electoral Administration and Registration Services (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 14), ss. {52(2)(a)}, 63(2); S.S.I. 2006/469, **arts. 2**, **3**, Schs. 1, 2

F168 Words in s. 88(2) substituted (1.10.2006 for certain purposes and otherwise 1.1.2007) by Local Electoral Administration and Registration Services (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 14), **ss. 52(2)(b)**, 63(2); S.S.I. 2006/469, **arts. 2**, **3**, Schs. 1, 2

F169 S. 88(2A) inserted (1.7.2021) by The Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Act 2020 (Consequential, Saving, Transitional and Transitory Provisions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/1309), regs. 1(2)(c), **16(4)**

F170 Words in s. 88(4) inserted (16.2.2019) by The Multilingual Standard Forms (Consequential Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2018 (S.S.I. 2018/374), regs. 1(1), **3(2)**

F171 S. 88(4A) inserted (16.2.2019) by The Multilingual Standard Forms (Consequential Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2018 (S.S.I. 2018/374), regs. 1(1), **3(3)**

F172 Words in s. 88(5) substituted (1.10.2006 for certain purposes and otherwise 1.1.2007) by Local Electoral Administration and Registration Services (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 14), **ss. 52(2)(c)**, 63(2); S.S.I. 2006/469, **arts. 2**, **3**, Schs. 1, 2

F173 S. 88(5A) inserted (1.10.2006) by Local Electoral Administration and Registration Services (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 14), **ss. 52(2)(d)**, 63(2); S.S.I. 2006/469, **art. 2**, Sch. 1

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

F174 S. 88(7) inserted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(5)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

F175 S. 88(8)-(10) inserted (1.9.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 25**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/212, art. 2, sch. (as amended (1.9.2014) by S.S.I. 2014/218, art. 2(3), sch.)

Commencement Information

I16 S. 88 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 88 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 88(1)(5) in force at 14.9.2005 for certain purposes by S.S.I. 2005/428, **art. 2**, Sch. and otherwise 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.S.I. 2005/604, **art. 2(b)**; s. 88(2)-(4)(6) in force at 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.S.I. 2005/604, **art. 2(b)**

[F176 88A. Additional information if party not relevant national

(1) This section applies to a notice of proposed civil partnership submitted to a district registrar in accordance with section 88 if one, or each, of the parties to the proposed civil partnership is not a relevant national.

(2) For each party to the proposed civil partnership who is not a relevant national, the notice must be accompanied by whichever of statements A, B or C is applicable to that person.

(3) Statement A is a statement that the person has the appropriate immigration status.

(4) Statement B is a statement that the person holds a relevant visa in respect of the proposed civil partnership.

(5) Statement C is a statement that the person neither—

(a) has the appropriate immigration status, nor

(b) holds a relevant visa in respect of the proposed civil partnership.

(6) If the notice is accompanied by the statement referred to in the first column of an entry in this table, the notice must also be accompanied by the information and photographs referred to in the second column of that entry (insofar as that entry is applicable to the parties to the proposed civil partnership)—

If the notice is accompanied by this statement....	*...the notice must also be accompanied by....*
Statement A (in respect of one or both of the parties to the proposed civil partnership)	For each party in respect of whom statement A is made, details of the particular immigration status which that party has
Statement B (in respect of one or both of the parties to the proposed civil partnership)	1. For each party, a specified photograph of that party 2. For each party in respect of whom statement B is made, details of the relevant visa which that party has
Statement C (in respect of one or both of the parties to the proposed civil partnership)	1. For each party, a specified photograph of that party 2. For each party, the usual address of that party

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

If the notice is accompanied by this statement....	*...the notice must also be accompanied by....*
	3. For each party who has previously used any name or names other than the person's name stated in the civil partnership notice, a statement of the other name or names 4. For each party who currently uses, or has previously used, an alias or aliases, a statement of the alias or aliases.

(7) If the notice is accompanied by more than one of statements A, B and C, subsection (6) must be complied with in relation to each of those statements; but where the notice is accompanied by statements B and C, subsection (6) does not require the notice to be accompanied by more than one specified photograph of each party.

(8) If the notice is accompanied by statement C for a party to the proposed civil partnership—

(a) the notice may also be accompanied by a statement ("statement D") of that person's immigration position in the United Kingdom;

(b) if the notice is accompanied by statement D for a party to the proposed civil partnership, the person may provide the district registrar with details of his immigration position in the United Kingdom; and

(c) if any such details are provided, the district registrar must record them.

(9) In this section and section 88B—

(a) a reference—

(i) to a person having the appropriate immigration status, or

(ii) to a person holding a relevant visa,

is to be construed in accordance with section 49 of the 2014 Act;

(b) a reference to the particular immigration status which a person has is a reference to the immigration status set out in any of paragraphs (a) to (c) of section 49(2) of that Act which the person has;

(c) a reference to a person's immigration position in the United Kingdom includes a reference to the person's not being entitled to be in the United Kingdom.

(10) In this section "specified photograph" means a photograph that is in accordance with regulations made by the Secretary of State under section 54(2) of, and paragraph 3 of Schedule 5 to, the 2014 Act (and for this purpose "photograph" includes other kinds of images).

Textual Amendments

F176 Ss. 88A-88F inserted for specified purposes (1.3.2015) by The Referral and Investigation of Proposed Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Scotland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/396), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 2** (with art. 1(3))

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C13 S. 88A(9) applied (2.3.2015) by The Sham Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland and Northern Ireland) (Administrative) Regulations 2015 (S.I. 2015/404), regs. 1(2), **17(4)(b)**

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

88B. Additional evidence if party not relevant national

(1) If a notice of proposed civil partnership to which section 88A applies ("the notice") is accompanied by statement A (referred to in section 88A(3)), and accordingly is also accompanied by details of the particular immigration status which a party to the proposed civil partnership has, the notice must also be accompanied by specified evidence of that status.

(2) If the notice is accompanied by statement B (referred to in section 88A(4)), the notice must also be accompanied by specified evidence of the holding of the relevant visa by the party to the proposed civil partnership.

(3) If, in accordance with section 88A(6), the notice is accompanied by the usual address of a party to the proposed civil partnership, the notice must also be accompanied by specified evidence that it is that party's usual address.

(4) If the notice is accompanied by statement D (referred to in section 88A(8)), the notice may also be accompanied by evidence of the person's immigration position in the United Kingdom.

(5) If subsection (1) or (2) applies to the notice, and the notice is not accompanied by the specified evidence required by that subsection, the notice must be accompanied by—

(a) photographs and addresses of the kinds referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 in the relevant entry in section 88A(6);

(b) as respects the usual address of each party that is provided in accordance with sub-paragraph (a), specified evidence that the address provided is that party's usual address; and

(c) names and aliases of the kinds referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4 in the relevant entry in section 88A(6) (insofar as those paragraphs are applicable to the proposed civil partnership).

(6) In this section—

"relevant entry in section 88A(6)" means the second column of the last entry in the table in section 88A(6);

"specified evidence" means evidence that is in accordance with regulations made by the Secretary of State under section 54(2) of, and paragraph 3 of Schedule 5 to, the 2014 Act.

Textual Amendments

F176 Ss. 88A-88F inserted for specified purposes (1.3.2015) by The Referral and Investigation of Proposed Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Scotland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/396), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 2** (with art. 1(3))

88C. Declaration to accompany information and evidence

Where the notice of proposed civil partnership is accompanied by—

(a) information provided in accordance with section 88A, and

(b) information and evidence provided in accordance with section 88B,

that information and evidence must also be accompanied by a declaration in writing and signed by the party who makes it that the party believes all of the information and evidence accompanying the notice to be true.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F176 Ss. 88A-88F inserted for specified purposes (1.3.2015) by The Referral and Investigation of Proposed Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Scotland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/396), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 2** (with art. 1(3))

88D. Rejection of false information or evidence

(1) A district registrar may reject—

(a) any evidence relating to a party's nationality provided in accordance with section 88(8),

(b) any information or photograph provided under section 88A or 88B, or

(c) any evidence provided under section 88B,

if (in particular) the district registrar has reasonable grounds for suspecting that the information, photograph or evidence is false.

(2) If the district registrar rejects any information, photograph or evidence, the district registrar may proceed under this Act as if the rejected information, photograph or evidence had not been provided.

(3) This section does not limit the powers of the district registrar to reject anything provided under any other enactment.

(4) In this section "enactment" includes an enactment comprised in, or an instrument made under, an Act of the Scottish Parliament.

Textual Amendments

F176 Ss. 88A-88F inserted for specified purposes (1.3.2015) by The Referral and Investigation of Proposed Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Scotland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/396), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 2** (with art. 1(3))

88E. Notice of proposed civil partnership: treated as not given

(1) Where any of the requirements imposed by or under any of the provisions of this Act mentioned in subsection (2) is applicable but not complied with by either or both parties to the proposed civil partnership, the parties are to be taken not to have submitted notice under section 88.

(2) The provisions are—

(a) section 88(8);

(b) section 88A(2) to (7);

(c) section 88B(3) or (5);

(d) paragraph 9 of Schedule 23.

Textual Amendments

F176 Ss. 88A-88F inserted for specified purposes (1.3.2015) by The Referral and Investigation of Proposed Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Scotland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/396), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 2** (with art. 1(3))

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

88F. Referral of proposed civil partnership to the Secretary of State

(1) On every occasion when notice of proposed civil partnership is submitted under section 88, a district registrar must decide whether or not each of the parties to the proposed civil partnership is an exempt person.

(2) But this section does not apply if section 96 applies to the proposed civil partnership.

(3) In making a decision under subsection (1) about a party to a proposed civil partnership, a district registrar may rely on any advice given in relation to that decision by the Secretary of State.

(4) In a case where—

(a) section 88A applies to the notice of proposed civil partnership, and

(b) specified evidence required by section 88B(1) or (2) in relation to a party to the proposed civil partnership is not produced in accordance with that section,

the district registrar must decide that that party to the proposed civil partnership is not an exempt person.

(5) If the district registrar decides that either of the parties is not an exempt person, or that both of the parties are not exempt persons, the registrar must—

(a) refer the proposed civil partnership to the Secretary of State;

(b) notify the parties to the proposed civil partnership that the proposed civil partnership must be referred to the Secretary of State;

(c) give the parties to the proposed civil partnership prescribed information about—

(i) the effects of the referral;

(ii) the requirement under regulations to notify the Secretary of State of changes of address.

(6) The district registrar must act in accordance with regulations when complying with the duty in subsection (5)(a) to refer a proposed civil partnership to the Secretary of State.

(7) If the district registrar refers the proposed civil partnership to the Secretary of State, this Act has effect in relation to the proposed civil partnership subject to the modifications in Schedule 10A.

(8) In this section—

(a) a reference to a person being an exempt person has the same meaning as in section 49 of the 2014 Act;

(b) "prescribed information" means information prescribed in regulations;

(c) "regulations" means regulations made by the Secretary of State under section 54(2) of, and Schedule 5 to, the 2014 Act.**]**

Textual Amendments

F176 Ss. 88A-88F inserted for specified purposes (1.3.2015) by The Referral and Investigation of Proposed Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Scotland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/396), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 2** (with art. 1(3))

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

89 Civil partnership notice book

(1) On receipt of a notice of proposed civil partnership, the district registrar is to enter in a book (to be known as "the civil partnership book") supplied to him for that purpose by the Registrar General such particulars, extracted from the notice, as may be prescribed and the date of receipt by him of that notice.

(2) The form and content of any page of that book is to be prescribed.

[F177(3) In this section and sections 90, 91, 92 and 94, "the district registrar" means—

(a) where the civil partnership is to be registered in a registration district, the district registrar for that district,

(b) where the civil partnership is to be registered in Scottish waters—

(i) in the case where the civil partnership is to be registered by an approved celebrant, the district registrar to whom the civil partnership notices were submitted,

(ii) in the case where the civil partnership is to be registered by an authorised registrar, the district registrar for the registration district of the proposed authorised registrar.**]**

[F178(4) Subsection (1) is subject to section 88E.**]**

Textual Amendments

F177 S. 89(3) inserted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(6)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

F178 S. 89(4) inserted for specified purposes (1.3.2015) by The Referral and Investigation of Proposed Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Scotland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/396), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 4** (with art. 1(3))

Commencement Information

I17 S. 89 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 89 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 89(1) in force at 14.9.2005 for certain purposes by S.S.I. 2005/428, **art. 2**, Sch. and otherwise 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.S.I. 2005/604, **art. 2(b)**; s. 89(2) in force at 14.9.2005 by S.S.I. 2005/428, **art. 2**, Sch.

90 Publicisation

(1) Where notices of a proposed civil partnership are **[**F179received by**][**F180the district registrar**]** , he must, as soon as practicable after **[**F181such receipt**]**(or, if the two documents are not **[**F182received**]** on the same day, after **[**F183the first is received**]**), publicise the relevant information and send it to the Registrar General who must also publicise it.

(2) "The relevant information" means—

(a) the names of the intended civil partners, and

(b) the date on which it is intended to register them as civil partners of each other, being a date more than **[**F18428 days**]** after publicisation by the district registrar under subsection (1).

(3) Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) is subject to section **[**F18591(1)**]** .

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(4) The manner in which and means by which relevant information is to be publicised are to be prescribed.

Textual Amendments

F179 Words in s. 90(1) substituted (1.10.2006) by Local Electoral Administration and Registration Services (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 14), **ss. 52(3)(a)**, 63(2); S.S.I. 2006/469, **art. 2**, Sch. 1

F180 Words in s. 90(1) substituted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(7)(a)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

F181 Words in s. 90(1) substituted (1.10.2006) by Local Electoral Administration and Registration Services (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 14), **ss. 52(3)(b)**, 63(2); S.S.I. 2006/469, **art. 2**, Sch. 1

F182 Word in s. 90(1) substituted (1.10.2006) by Local Electoral Administration and Registration Services (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 14), **ss. 52(3)(c)**, 63(2); S.S.I. 2006/469, **art. 2**, Sch. 1

F183 Words in s. 90(1) substituted (1.10.2006) by Local Electoral Administration and Registration Services (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 14), **ss. 52(3)(d)**, 63(2); S.S.I. 2006/469, **art. 2**, Sch. 1

F184 Words in s. 90(2)(b) substituted (1.3.2015) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(7)(b)**, 36; S.S.I. 2015/14, art. 2, sch. (with art. 3(2))

F185 Word in s. 90(3) substituted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(7)(c)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

Commencement Information

I18 S. 90 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 90 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 90(4) in force at 14.9.2005 by S.S.I. 2005/428, **art. 2**, Sch.; s. 90(1)-(3) in force at 5.12.2005 by S.S.I. 2005/604, **art. 2(b)**

91 Early registration

[F186(1)**]** **[**F187Where the district registrar**]** receives a request in writing from one or both of two intended civil partners that they should be registered as civil partners of each other on a date specified in the request (being a date **[**F188**]**28 days**]** or fewer after publicisation by the district registrar under subsection (1) of section 90) **[**F189the district registrar**]** may, provided that he is authorised to do so by the Registrar General, fix that date as the date for registration; and if a date is so fixed, paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of that section is to be construed as if it were a reference to that date.

[F190(1A) Unless subsection (1B) applies, if a proposed civil partnership is referred to the Secretary of State under section 88F ("the referred civil partnership") the Registrar General may not authorise the district registrar to fix the specified date mentioned in subsection (1) as the date for registration of the referred civil partnership without the consent of the Secretary of State.

(1B) This subsection applies if the request made under subsection (1) is made because a party to the referred civil partnership is gravely ill and not expected to recover.**]**

[F191(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), a request which is made by electronic means is to be treated as in writing if it is received in a form which is legible and capable of being used for subsequent reference.**]**

Textual Amendments

F186 S. 91(1): s. 91 renumbered as s. 91(1) (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(8)(a)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

F187 Words in s. 91(1) substituted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(8)(b)(i)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

F188 Words in s. 91(1) substituted (1.3.2015) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(8)(b)(ii)**, 36; S.S.I. 2015/14, art. 2, sch. (with art. 3(2))

F189 Words in s. 91(1) inserted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(8)(b)(iii)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

F190 S. 91(1A)(1B) inserted for specified purposes (1.3.2015) by The Referral and Investigation of Proposed Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Scotland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/396), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 5(2)** (with art. 1(3))

F191 S. 91(2) inserted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(8)(c)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

92 Objections to registration

(1) Any person may at any time before the registration in Scotland of two people as civil partners of each other submit in writing an objection to such registration to the district registrar.

[F192(1A) For the purpose of subsection (1), an objection which is submitted to the registrar by electronic means is to be treated as in writing if it is received in a form which is legible and capable of being used for subsequent reference.**]**

(2) But where the objection is that the intended civil partners are not eligible to be in civil partnership with each other because either is incapable of—

(a) understanding the nature of civil partnership, or

(b) validly consenting to its formation,

it shall **[**F193not be treated as submitted until there has also been produced to the registrar**]** a supporting certificate **[**F194attested in the prescribed manner**]** by a registered medical practitioner.

(3) A person claiming that he may have reason to submit such an objection may, free of charge and at any time when the registration office **[**F195of the district registrar**]** is open for public business, inspect any relevant entry in the civil partnership book.

(4) Where the district registrar receives an objection in accordance with subsection (1) he must—

(a) in any case where he is satisfied that the objection relates to no more than a misdescription or inaccuracy in a notice submitted under section 88(1)—

(i) notify the intended civil partners of the nature of the objection and make such enquiries into the matter mentioned in it as he thinks fit, and

(ii) subject to the approval of the Registrar General, make any necessary correction to any document relating to the proposed civil partnership, or

(b) in any other case—

(i) at once notify the Registrar General of the objection, F196...

(ii) pending consideration of the objection by the Registrar General, suspend the completion or issue of the civil partnership schedule in respect of the proposed civil partnership**[**F197, and

(iii) where, in the case of a civil partnership to be registered by an approved celebrant, the civil partnership schedule has already been issued to the parties, if possible notify that celebrant of the objection

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

and advise the celebrant not to register the civil partnership pending consideration of the objection.**]**

(5) If the Registrar General is satisfied, on consideration of an objection of which he has received notification under subsection (4)(b)(i) that—

(a) there is a legal impediment to registration, he must direct the district registrar **[**F198to take all reasonable steps to ensure that the registration of the civil partnership does not take place and must notify, or direct the district registrar to notify, the intended civil partners**]** accordingly, or

(b) there is no such impediment, he must inform the district registrar to that effect.

(6) For the purposes of this section and section 94, there is a legal impediment to registration where the intended civil partners are not eligible to be in civil partnership with each other.

Textual Amendments

F192 S. 92(1A) inserted (1.10.2006 for certain purposes and otherwise 1.1.2007) by Local Electoral Administration and Registration Services (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 14), **ss. 52(4)(a)**, 63(2); S.S.I. 2006/469, **arts. 2**, **3**, Schs. 1, 2

F193 Words in s. 92(2) substituted (1.10.2006 for certain purposes and otherwise 1.1.2007) by Local Electoral Administration and Registration Services (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 14), **ss. 52(4)(b)(i)**, 63(2); S.S.I. 2006/469, **arts. 2**, **3**, Schs. 1, 2

F194 Words in s. 92(2) substituted (1.10.2006 for certain purposes and otherwise 1.1.2007) by Local Electoral Administration and Registration Services (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 14), **ss. 52(4)(b)(ii)**, 63(2); S.S.I. 2006/469, **arts. 2**, **3**, Schs. 1, 2

F195 Words in s. 92(3) substituted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(9)(a)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

F196 Word in s. 92(4)(b) repealed (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(9)(b)(i)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

F197 S. 92(4)(b)(iii) and word inserted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(9)(b)(ii)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

F198 Words in s. 92(5)(a) substituted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(9)(c)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

93 **[**F199**Place of civil registration of civil partnerships]**

(1) Two people may be registered **[**F200by an authorised registrar**]** as civil partners of each **[**F201other—

(a) at the registration office of the authorised registrar,

(b) at an appropriate place in the registration district of the authorised registrar, or

(c) with the approval of the Registrar General, at—

(i) the registration office of another authorised registrar,

(ii) an appropriate place in the registration district of another authorised registrar, or

(iii) an appropriate place in Scottish waters.**]**

[F202(1A) In this section—

"appropriate place" means a place which—

(a) the parties to the intended civil partnership and the local registration authority agree is to be the place of registration, and

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) is not religious premises,

"local registration authority" means—

(a) the local registration authority for the registration district which includes the place, or

(b) where the place is in Scottish waters, the local registration authority for the authorised registrar's registration district,

"religious premises" means premises which—

(a) are used solely or mainly for religious purposes, or

(b) have been so used and have not subsequently been used solely or mainly for other purposes.**]**

F203(2) . . . . . .

F203(3) . . . . . .

(4) "Local registration authority" has the meaning given by section 5(3) of the 1965 Act.

[F204(5) "Scottish Waters" has the meaning given by section 26(2) of the Marriage (Scotland) Act 1977 (c. 15).**]**

Textual Amendments

F199 S. 93 title substituted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(10)(d)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

F200 Words in s. 93(1) inserted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(10)(a)(i)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

F201 Words in s. 93(1) substituted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(10)(a)(ii)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

F202 S. 93(1A) inserted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(10)(b)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

F203 S. 93(2)(3) repealed (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(10)(c)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

F204 S. 93(5) inserted (1.1.2007) by Local Electoral Administration and Registration Services (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 14), **ss. 51(b)**, 63(2); S.S.I. 2006/469, **art. 3**, Sch. 2 (with art. 4)

[F205**93A Date and place of registration of religious or belief civil partnerships**

(1) A religious or belief civil partnership may be registered only on the date and at the place specified in the civil partnership schedule.

(2) But if, for any reason, the civil partnership cannot be registered on that date or at that place and a new date or place is fixed for the registration, the district registrar must—

(a) issue another civil partnership schedule under section 94(2) in place of that already issued, specifying the new date or place, or

(b) substitute, or direct the approved celebrant to substitute, the new date or place in the civil partnership schedule already issued.

(3) Subsection (2) does not apply where—

(a) the new date is more than 3 months after the date for the registration specified in the civil partnership schedule already issued, or

(b) the new place is in a different registration district, is in Scottish waters instead of a registration district or is in a registration district instead of Scottish waters.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(4) In a case falling within subsection (3)(a) or (b) the Registrar General may, according to the circumstances—

(a) direct the district registrar—

(i) to issue another civil partnership schedule under section 94(2) in place of that already issued, specifying the new date or place, or

(ii) to substitute, or direct the approved celebrant to substitute, the new date or place in the civil partnership schedule already issued,

(whichever the Registrar General considers the more appropriate), or

(b) direct each party to the civil partnership to submit to the district registrar a new notice of proposed civil partnership.**]**

Textual Amendments

F205 S. 93A inserted (S.) (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(11)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

94 The civil partnership schedule

[F206(1)**]** Where—

(a) the district registrar has received a notice of proposed civil partnership in respect of each of the intended civil partners and—

(i) is satisfied that there is no legal impediment to their registration as civil partners of each other, or

(ii) as the case may be, is informed under section 92(5)(b) that there is no such impediment,

(b) the **[**F207 28 days**]** mentioned in paragraph (b) of section 90(2) have expired (or as the case may be the date which, by virtue of section **[**F208 91(1)**]**, that paragraph is to be construed as a reference to has been reached), and

(c) the period which has elapsed since the day of receipt of the notices by him (or, if the two notices were not received on the same day, since the day of receipt of the later) does not exceed 3 months,

he is to complete a civil partnership schedule in the prescribed form.

[F209(2) In the case of a civil partnership to be registered by an approved celebrant, the civil partnership schedule completed in accordance with subsection (1) is to be issued by the district registrar to one or both of the parties to the intended civil partnership.

(3) The district registrar may not issue the civil partnership schedule on a date earlier than 7 days before the date of the intended civil partnership unless authorised to do so by the Registrar General.**]**

Textual Amendments

F206 S. 94 renumbered as s. 94(1) (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(12)(a)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

F207 Words in s. 94(1)(b) substituted (1.3.2015) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(12)(b)(i)**, 36; S.S.I. 2015/14, art. 2, sch. (with art. 3(2))

F208 Words in s. 94(1)(b) substituted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(12)(b)(ii)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

F209 S. 94(2)(3) inserted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(12)(c)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

Commencement Information

I19 S. 94 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 94 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 94 in force at 14.9.2005 for certain purposes by S.S.I. 2005/428, **art. 2**, Sch. and otherwise 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.S.I. 2005/604, **art. 2(b)**

[F210 94A Persons who may register civil partnerships

(1) A civil partnership **[**F211between persons of the same sex**]** may be registered by and only by—

(a) a person who is—

(i) a celebrant of a religious or belief body prescribed by regulations made by the Scottish Ministers, or who, not being a celebrant, is recognised by a religious or belief body so prescribed as entitled to register civil partnerships **[**F212between persons of the same sex**]** on its behalf,

(ii) registered under section 94B **[**F213to register civil partnerships between persons of the same sex**]**, or

(iii) temporarily authorised under section 94E **[**F214to register civil partnerships between persons of the same sex**]**, or

(b) a person who is a district registrar or assistant registrar appointed under section 87.

(2) The Scottish Ministers may prescribe a religious or belief body under subsection (1)(a)(i) only if—

(a) the body requests them to do so, and

(b) the Scottish Ministers are satisfied that the body meets the qualifying requirements.

[F215(2A) A civil partnership between persons of different sexes may be registered by and only by—

(a) a person who is—

(i) a celebrant of a religious or belief body prescribed by regulations made by the Scottish Ministers, or who, not being a celebrant, is recognised by a religious or belief body so prescribed as entitled to register civil partnerships between persons of different sexes on its behalf,

(ii) registered under section 94B to register civil partnerships between persons of different sexes, or

(iii) temporarily authorised under section 94E to register civil partnerships between persons of different sexes, or

(b) a person who is a district registrar or assistant registrar appointed under section 87.

(2B) The Scottish Ministers may prescribe a religious or belief body under subsection (2A)(a)(i) only if—

(a) the body requests them to do so, and

(b) the Scottish Ministers are satisfied that the body meets the qualifying requirements.**]**

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(3) For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in subsection (1)(a) **[**F216, (2)(a), (2A)(a) or (2B)(a)**]**—

(a) imposes a duty on any religious or belief body to make a request referred to in subsection (2)(a) **[**F217or subsection (2B)(a)**]**,

(b) imposes a duty on any such body to nominate under section 94B any of its members to be registered as empowered to register civil partnerships **[**F218between persons of the same sex or between persons of different sexes**]**,

(c) imposes a duty on any person to apply for temporary authorisation under section 94E to register civil partnerships **[**F219between persons of the same sex or between persons of different sexes**]**,

(d) imposes a duty on any person who is an approved celebrant in relation to civil partnerships to register civil partnerships **[**F220between persons of the same sex or between persons of different sexes**]**.

(4) In this Part—

(a) any such person as is mentioned in subsection (1)(a) **[**F221or (2A)(a)**]** is referred to as an "approved celebrant",

(b) a civil partnership registered by an approved celebrant is referred to as a "religious or belief civil partnership",

(c) a civil partnership registered by an authorised registrar is referred to as a "civil registration".

(5) In subsection (2)(b), the "qualifying requirements" are such requirements as may be set out in regulations made by the Scottish Ministers.

Textual Amendments

F210 Ss. 94A-94E inserted (1.9.2014 for specified purposes, 16.12.2014 in so far as not already in force for the insertion of ss. 94A(1)(2)(a)(3)(4), 94B(1)(2)(a)-(c)(4)-(11), 94C, 94D, 94E(1)(3)(5) and otherwise prosp.) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(13)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/212, art. 2, **sch.** (as amended (1.9.2014) by S.S.I. 2014/218, art. 2(3), **sch.**); S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, **sch.**

F211 Words in s. 94A(1) inserted (1.6.2021) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 7(2)(a)(i)**, 16; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

F212 Words in s. 94A(1)(a)(i) inserted (1.6.2021) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 7(2)(a)(ii)**, 16; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

F213 Words in s. 94A(1)(a)(ii) inserted (1.6.2021) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 7(2)(a)(iii)**, 16; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

F214 Words in s. 94A(1)(a)(iii) inserted (1.6.2021) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 7(2)(a)(iv)**, 16; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

F215 S. 94A(2A)(2B) inserted (18.1.2021 for specified purposes, 1.6.2021 for specified purposes) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 7(2)(b)**, 16; S.S.I. 2020/457, reg. 2(b); S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

F216 Words in s. 94A(3) substituted (1.6.2021) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 7(2)(c)(i)**, 16; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

F217 Words in s. 94A(3)(a) inserted (1.6.2021) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 7(2)(c)(ii)**, 16; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

F218 Words in s. 94A(3)(b) inserted (1.6.2021) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 7(2)(c)(iii)**, 16; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

F219 Words in s. 94A(3)(c) inserted (1.6.2021) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 7(2)(c)(iv)**, 16; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

F220 Words in s. 94A(3)(d) inserted (1.6.2021) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 7(2)(c)(v)**, 16; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

F221 Words in s. 94A(4)(a) inserted (1.6.2021) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 7(2)(d)**, 16; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C14 S. 94A: a second version of s. 94A inserted for specified purposes (1.3.2015) by The Referral and Investigation of Proposed Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Scotland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/396), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 6** (with art. 1(3))

94B Registration of nominated persons as celebrants

(1) A religious or belief body, not being prescribed by virtue of section 94A(1)(a)(i), may nominate to the Registrar General any of its members who it desires should be registered under this section as empowered to register civil partnerships **[**F222between persons of the same sex**]**.

[F223(1A) A religious or belief body, not being prescribed by virtue of section 94A(2A)(a)(i), may nominate to the Registrar General any of its members who it desires should be registered under this section as empowered to register civil partnerships between persons of different sexes.**]**

(2) The Registrar General must reject a nomination under subsection (1) **[**F224or (1A)**]** if in the Registrar General's opinion—

(a) the nominating body is not a religious or belief body,

(b) the nominee is not a fit and proper person to register a civil partnership,

(c) there are already registered under this section sufficient members of the same body as the nominee to meet the needs of that body **[**F225in relation to registering civil partnerships between persons of the same sex or, as the case may be, civil partnerships between persons of different sexes**]**, or

(d) the nominating body does not meet the qualifying requirements.

(3) In subsection (2)(d), the "qualifying requirements" are such requirements as may be set out in regulations made by the Scottish Ministers.

(4) Where the Registrar General accepts a nomination made under subsection (1), the Registrar General—

(a) must determine the period during which the nominee is empowered to register civil partnerships, being a period of not more than 3 years,

(b) may determine that the nominee is empowered to register civil partnerships only in such area or place as the Registrar General may specify, and

(c) may make acceptance of the nominee's registration subject to such other conditions as the Registrar General thinks fit.

(5) Nothing in subsection (4)(a) prevents the Registrar General from accepting a further nomination of that nominee, in accordance with this section, to take effect at any time after the end of the period determined by the Registrar General under subsection (4)(a).

(6) The Registrar General must—

(a) if accepting a nomination made under subsection (1) **[**F226or (1A)**]**—

(i) so inform the nominee and the nominating body, specifying the period during which the acceptance has effect and any condition to which the acceptance is subject,

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(ii) enter the name of the nominee, the nominating body and such other particulars as the Registrar General thinks fit in a register which the Registrar General must establish and maintain and which must be made available for public inspection at all reasonable times free of charge,

(b) if rejecting a nomination made under subsection (1) **[**F227or (1A)**]**, by notice in writing inform the nominating body of the reasons for that rejection.

[The register mentioned in subsection (6)(a)(ii) is to be in two parts—

F228(6A) (a) the first part containing the details mentioned in subsection (6)(a)(ii) in relation to persons nominated by religious or belief bodies to register civil partnerships between persons of the same sex, and

(b) the second part containing those details in relation to persons nominated by religious or belief bodies to register civil partnerships between persons of different sexes.**]**

(7) For the purposes of subsection (6)(b), notice which is given by electronic means is to be treated as in writing if it is received in a form which is legible and capable of being used for subsequent reference.

(8) If the nominating body is aggrieved by a rejection under this section it may, within 28 days of receiving notice of the rejection, appeal to the Scottish Ministers.

(9) On any such appeal the Scottish Ministers may—

(a) direct the Registrar General to accept the nomination, or

(b) confirm the rejection of the nomination,

and must inform the nominating body of their decision and the reason for it; and their decision is final.

(10) If a reason given for confirming the rejection of a nomination is that the nominating body is not a religious or belief body, the body may, within 42 days of receiving notice of the confirmation, appeal against the decision to the Court of Session and seek the determination of that court as to whether the body is a religious or belief body.

(11) If—

(a) the Court determines that the nominating body is a religious or belief body, and

(b) the reason mentioned in subsection (10) was the only reason given for confirming the rejection of the nomination,

the Registrar General must give effect to the determination as if it were a direction under subsection (9)(a) to accept the nomination.

Textual Amendments

F210 Ss. 94A-94E inserted (1.9.2014 for specified purposes, 16.12.2014 in so far as not already in force for the insertion of ss. 94A(1)(2)(a)(3)(4), 94B(1)(2)(a)-(c)(4)-(11), 94C, 94D, 94E(1)(3)(5) and otherwise prosp.) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(13)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/212, art. 2, **sch.** (as amended (1.9.2014) by S.S.I. 2014/218, art. 2(3), **sch.**); S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, **sch.**

F222 Words in s. 94B(1) inserted (1.6.2021) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 8(2)(a)**, 16; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

F223 S. 94B(1A) inserted (1.6.2021) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 8(2)(b)**, 16; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

F224 Words in s. 94B(2) inserted (1.6.2021) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 8(2)(c)(i)**, 16; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

F225 Words in s. 94B(2) inserted (1.6.2021) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 8(2)(c)(ii)**, 16; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

F226 Words in s. 94B(6)(a) inserted (1.6.2021) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 8(2)(d)(i)**, 16; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

F227 Words in s. 94B(6)(b) inserted (1.6.2021) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 8(2)(d)(ii)**, 16; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

F228 S. 94B(6A) inserted (1.6.2021) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 8(2)(e)**, 16; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

94C Removal of celebrant's name from register

(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, the Registrar General may remove the name of a person registered under section 94B from the register on the ground that—

(a) the person has requested that the person's name should be so removed,

(b) the body which nominated the person under section 94B(1) **[**F229or (1A)**]** no longer desires that the person should be so registered,

(c) the person—

(i) has, while registered as an approved celebrant, been convicted of an offence under this Part,

(ii) has, for the purpose of profit or gain, been carrying on a business of registering civil partnerships,

(iii) is not a fit and proper person to register civil partnerships, or

(iv) for any other reason, should not be registered as an approved celebrant.

(2) The Registrar General may not remove the name of a person from the register on any ground mentioned in subsection (1)(c) unless the Registrar General has given the person at least 21 days notice in writing of the intention to do so.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (2), notice which is given by electronic means is to be treated as in writing if it is received in a form which is legible and capable of being used for subsequent reference.

(4) The Registrar General must—

(a) in the notice given under subsection (2), specify the ground of removal and call upon the person to give any reasons, within the period specified in the notice, why the person's name should not be removed from the register, and

(b) consider any representations made within that period by the person.

(5) Where a person's name has been removed from the register on any of the grounds mentioned in paragraph (c) of subsection (1), the person or the body which nominated the person under section 94B(1) **[**F230or (1A)**]** may, if aggrieved by the removal, within 28 days of receiving notice of the removal appeal to the Scottish Ministers.

(6) On an appeal under subsection (5) the Scottish Ministers may give any direction they think proper to the Registrar General as to the removal from, or restoration to, the register of the person's name; and such direction is final.

(7) Where a person has received a notice in pursuance of subsection (2), the person must not register a civil partnership unless and until the person's name is restored to the

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

register or, as the case may be, the Registrar General has decided not to remove the person's name from the register.

Textual Amendments

F210 Ss. 94A-94E inserted (1.9.2014 for specified purposes, 16.12.2014 in so far as not already in force for the insertion of ss. 94A(1)(2)(a)(3)(4), 94B(1)(2)(a)-(c)(4)-(11), 94C, 94D, 94E(1)(3)(5) and otherwise prosp.) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(13)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/212, art. 2, **sch.** (as amended (1.9.2014) by S.S.I. 2014/218, art. 2(3), **sch.**); S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, **sch.**

F229 Words in s. 94C(1)(b) inserted (1.6.2021) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 8(3)(a)**, 16; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

F230 Words in s. 94C(5) inserted (1.6.2021) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 8(3)(b)**, 16; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

94D Alterations to register maintained under section 94B

(1) A body registered in pursuance of section 94B(6)(a)(ii) must notify the Registrar General of any of the following events (if practicable, within 21 days of its occurrence) —

(a) any change in the name or the address of the body or any amalgamation with any other religious or belief body, giving the name and address of any approved celebrant who is a member of the body so registered,

(b) the death of an approved celebrant who is a member of the body so registered,

(c) any change of name, address or designation of an approved celebrant who is a member of the body so registered,

(d) the cessation of an approved celebrant who is a member of the body so registered from exercising the functions of an approved celebrant, giving the person's name and address.

(2) The Registrar General must, on receipt of any such notification, make whatever alteration to the register maintained under section 94B the Registrar General considers necessary or desirable.

Textual Amendments

F210 Ss. 94A-94E inserted (1.9.2014 for specified purposes, 16.12.2014 in so far as not already in force for the insertion of ss. 94A(1)(2)(a)(3)(4), 94B(1)(2)(a)-(c)(4)-(11), 94C, 94D, 94E(1)(3)(5) and otherwise prosp.) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(13)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/212, art. 2, **sch.** (as amended (1.9.2014) by S.S.I. 2014/218, art. 2(3), **sch.**); S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, **sch.**

94E Temporary authorisation of celebrants

(1) The Registrar General may, in accordance with such terms and conditions as may be specified in the authorisation, grant to any member of a religious or belief body a temporary written authorisation to register—

(a) a civil partnership or partnerships specified in the authorisation, or

(b) civil partnerships during such period as is specified in the authorisation.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(2) The Registrar General may grant an authorisation to a person under subsection (1) only if satisfied that the religious or belief body of which the person is a member meets the qualifying requirements.

[F231(2A) An authorisation under subsection (1)(b) may be granted in relation to—

(a) civil partnerships between persons of the same sex only,

(b) civil partnerships between persons of different sexes only, or

(c) both.**]**

(3) The Registrar General may grant an authorisation to a person under subsection (1)(b) **[**F232in relation to civil partnerships between persons of the same sex**]** only if the religious or belief body of which the person is a member—

(a) is prescribed by virtue of section 94A(1)(a)(i), or

(b) has nominated members (whether or not including that person) under section 94B(1).

[F233(3A) The Registrar General may grant an authorisation to a person under subsection (1)(b) in relation to civil partnerships between persons of different sexes only if the religious or belief body of which the person is a member—

(a) is prescribed by virtue of section 94A(2A)(a)(i), or

(b) has nominated members (whether or not including that person) under section 94B(1A).**]**

(4) In subsection (2), the "qualifying requirements" are such requirements as may be set out in regulations made by the Scottish Ministers.

(5) For the purposes of subsection (1), an authorisation which is issued by electronic means is to be treated as written if it is received in a form which is legible and capable of being used for subsequent reference.**]**

Textual Amendments

F210 Ss. 94A-94E inserted (1.9.2014 for specified purposes, 16.12.2014 in so far as not already in force for the insertion of ss. 94A(1)(2)(a)(3)(4), 94B(1)(2)(a)-(c)(4)-(11), 94C, 94D, 94E(1)(3)(5) and otherwise prosp.) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(13)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/212, art. 2, **sch.** (as amended (1.9.2014) by S.S.I. 2014/218, art. 2(3), **sch.**); S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, **sch.**

F231 S. 94E(2A) inserted (1.6.2021) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 9(2)(a)**, 16; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

F232 Words in s. 94E(3) inserted (1.6.2021) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 9(2)(b)**, 16; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

F233 S. 94E(3A) inserted (1.6.2021) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 9(2)(c)**, 16; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

95 Further provision as to registration

(1) Before the persons present sign in accordance with section 85 **[**F234the approved celebrant or, as the case may be,**]** the authorised registrar is to require the intended civil partners to confirm that (to the best of their knowledge) the particulars set out in the civil partnership schedule are correct.

[F235(1A) In the case of a religious or belief civil partnership, the parties to the civil partnership must, within 3 days of signing the civil partnership schedule in accordance with

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

section 85(4), deliver the civil partnership schedule, or send it by post or arrange that it is delivered, to the district registrar.**]**

(2) As soon as practicable **[**[F236]after—

(a) in the case of a civil registration, the civil partnership schedule has been signed in accordance with section 85, or

(b) in the case of a religious or belief civil partnership, the district registrar receives the civil partnership schedule,

the district registrar**]** must cause those particulars to be entered in a register (to be known as the "civil partnership register") supplied to him for that purpose by the Registrar General.

(3) The form and content of any page of that register is to be prescribed.

[[F237](3ZA) A civil partnership register may, if the Registrar General so determines, be electronic rather than paper-based.**]**

[[F238](3A) The district registrar must not enter the particulars set out in the civil partnership schedule relating to a religious or belief civil partnership in the civil partnership register unless and until the registrar receives a duly signed civil partnership schedule in respect of that civil partnership.

(3B) Where the Registrar General is satisfied that—

(a) a civil partnership has been properly registered, and

(b) the civil partnership schedule in respect of the civil partnership has been duly signed but has been lost or destroyed,

the Registrar General may direct the district registrar to complete an exact copy of the original civil partnership schedule and, so far as practicable, to arrange for its signature by those persons who signed the original schedule.

(3C) As soon as possible after the copy schedule has been signed, the district registrar must cause the particulars as set out in it to be entered into the civil partnership register.**]**

(4) A fee payable by the intended civil partners for their **[**[F239]civil**]** registration as civil partners of each other is to be prescribed.

Textual Amendments

F234 Words in s. 95(1) inserted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(14)(a)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

F235 S. 95(1A) inserted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(14)(b)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

F236 Words in s. 95(2) substituted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(14)(c)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

F237 S. 95(3ZA) inserted (25.1.2023) by Coronavirus (Recovery and Reform) (Scotland) Act 2022 (asp 8), **ss. 29(2)**, 59(4)(5); S.S.I. 2023/3, reg. 2

F238 S. 95(3A)-(3C) inserted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(14)(d)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

F239 Word in s. 95(4) inserted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(14)(e)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Commencement Information

I20 S. 95 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 95 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 95(3)(4) in force at 14.9.2005 by S.S.I. 2005/428, **art. 2**, Sch.; s. 95(1)(2) in force at 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.S.I. 2005/604, **art. 2(b)**

[F240 95ZA Registrar's power to require delivery of civil partnership schedule

(1) Where the civil partnership schedule is not delivered to the district registrar within 21 days from the date of registration as entered in the schedule, the registrar may serve a notice in the prescribed form on either of the parties to the civil partnership requiring that party within 8 days from the date of service to deliver the schedule, or send it by post, to the registrar.

(2) If a person on whom a notice has been served under subsection (1) fails to comply with the notice, the district registrar may serve on the person a second notice in the prescribed form requiring the person to attend personally at the registration office of the district registrar, within 8 days from the date of service of the second notice, for the purpose of delivering the civil partnership schedule to the district registrar to enable the registrar to enter the civil partnership in the civil partnership register.**]**

Textual Amendments

F240 S. 95ZA inserted (S.) (1.9.2014 for specified purposes, 16.12.2014 so far as not already in force) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(15)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/212, art. 2, sch. (as amended (1.9.2014) by S.S.I. 2014/218, art. 2(3), sch.); S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

[F241 95A Validity following entry in civil partnership register

(1) Subsection (2) applies where the particulars set out in a civil partnership schedule signed in accordance with section 85 are entered in the civil partnership register in pursuance of section 95(2) **[**F242 or (3C)**]**.

(2) The validity of the registration as civil partners to which the schedule relates is not to be questioned in any legal proceedings on the ground of failure to comply with a requirement or restriction imposed by or under this Part.

(3) Subsection (2)—

(a) is subject to section 85(2), and

(b) does not prejudice section 100.**]**

Textual Amendments

F241 S. 95A inserted (1.10.2006) by Local Electoral Administration and Registration Services (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 14), **ss. 52(5)**, 63(2); S.S.I. 2006/469, **art. 2**, Sch. 1

F242 Words in s. 95A(1) inserted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(16)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

96 Civil partnership with former spouse

(1) Where an intended civil partner has a full gender recognition certificate issued under section 5(1) of the Gender Recognition Act 2004 (c. 7) and the other intended civil partner was the other party in the proceedings in which the certificate was issued, the procedures for their registration as civil partners of each other may—

(a) if they so elect, and

(b) if each of them submits a notice under section 88(1) within 30 days after the certificate is issued,

be expedited as follows.

(2) The registration may take place on any of the 30 days immediately following—

(a) that on which the notices are submitted, or

(b) (if the two notices are not submitted on the same day) that on which the later is submitted.

(3) And accordingly there are to be disregarded—

(a) in section 90—

(i) in subsection (2)(b), the words from "being" to the end, and

(ii) subsection (3),

(b) section **[**F243 91(1)**]**, and

(c) in section 94, **[**F244 subsection (1)(b)**]**.

Textual Amendments

F243 Words in s. 96(3)(b) substituted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(17)(a)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

F244 Words in s. 96(3)(c) substituted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(17)(b)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

97 Certificates of no impediment for Part 2 purposes

(1) This section applies where—

(a) two people propose to register as civil partners of each other under Chapter 1 of Part 2, and

(b) one of them ("A") resides in Scotland but the other ("B") resides in England or Wales.

(2) A may submit a notice of intention to register under section 88 as if A and B intended to register as civil partners in the district in which A resides.

(3) If the district registrar is satisfied (after consultation, if he considers it necessary, with the Registrar General) that there is no impediment (in terms of section 92(6)) to A registering as B's civil partner, he must issue a certificate to A in the prescribed form that there is not known to be any such impediment.

(4) But the certificate may not be issued to A earlier than **[**F245 28 days**]** after the receipt (as entered in the civil partnership notice book) of the notice under subsection (2) unless—

(a) the circumstances are as mentioned in section 96(1), and

(b) A makes an election for the certificate to be issued as soon as possible.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(5) Any person may, at any time before a certificate is issued under subsection (3), submit to the district registrar an objection in writing to its issue.

[[F246](5A) For the purposes of subsection (5), an objection which is submitted by electronic means is to be treated as in writing if it is received in a form which is legible and capable of being used for subsequent reference.**]**

(6) Any objection made under subsection (5) must be taken into account by the district registrar in deciding whether he is satisfied that there is no legal impediment to A registering as B's civil partner.

Textual Amendments

F245 Words in s. 97(4) substituted (1.3.2015) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(18)(a)**, 36; S.S.I. 2015/14, art. 2, sch. (with art. 3(4))

F246 S. 97(5A) inserted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(18)(b)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

Commencement Information

I21 S. 97 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 97 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 97(3) in force at 14.9.2005 by S.S.I. 2005/428, **art. 2**, Sch. and otherwise 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.S.I. 2005/604, **art. 2(b)**; s. 97(1)(2)(4)-(6) in force at 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.S.I. 2005/604, **art. 2(b)**

[[F247]97A Second civil partnership registration

(1) Subsection (2) applies where—

(a) two people have registered a specified relationship (within the meaning of section 213) or a relationship which meets the general conditions (within the meaning of section 214), whether before or after section 10 of the Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 comes into force, and

(b) that relationship would result in them being treated as having formed a civil partnership under the law of Scotland (by virtue of section 1(1)(b) and Chapter 2 of Part 5) but for the fact that they cannot prove that the relationship has been registered as mentioned in section 212(1)(b).

(2) An authorised registrar may, on an application made by the parties to the relationship, subject to the approval of the Registrar General and to subsection (3), register their civil partnership as if they had not already registered that relationship with each other.

(3) Sections 85 to 100 apply for the purpose of registering a civil partnership under this section as they apply to registering a civil partnership under section 1, subject to the modifications set out in subsections (4) to (11).

(4) Section 85 (formation of civil partnership by registration) applies as if the words "the approved celebrant or, as the case may be,", in both places where they occur, were omitted.

(5) Section 86 (eligibility) does not apply in respect of the parties already being in civil partnership with each other.

(6) Section 88 (notice of proposed civil partnership) applies as if after subsection (1) there were inserted—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

"(1A) Both parties must submit to the authorised registrar a statutory declaration—

(a) stating that they have previously registered their relationship, and

(b) specifying the date, place and country or territory at which, and the circumstances in which, they did so.".

(7) Section 93A does not apply.

(8) Section 94 (the civil partnership schedule) applies as if after subsection (1) there were inserted—

"(1A) In the case of a civil partnership to be registered under section 97A, the civil partnership schedule is to contain such modifications as the Registrar General may direct to indicate that the parties have previously entered into a civil partnership with each other.".

(9) Section 94A (persons who may register civil partnerships) applies as if subsections (1)(a), (2), (2A)(a), (2B), (3), (4)(a) and (b) and (5) were omitted.

(10) Sections 94B to 94E do not apply.

(11) Section 95 (further provision as to registration) applies as if after subsection (2) there were inserted—

"(2A) As soon as practicable after the civil partnership schedule has been signed in accordance with section 85, the authorised registrar must make an endorsement on it in the following terms—

"This civil partnership registration was carried out under section 97A of the Civil Partnership Act 2004, following a statutory declaration by the parties that they registered a relationship with each other on [*date*] at [*place*] in [*country or territory*].".".**]**

Textual Amendments

F247 S. 97A inserted (30.11.2021) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 10(2)**, 16; S.S.I. 2021/351, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

[F248 98 Application of certain provisions to civil partnerships

(1) The following sections of the 1965 Act apply in relation to the civil partnership register as they apply in relation to the registers of births, marriages and deaths—

(a) section 34 (examination and transmission of registers),

(b) section 38(1) and (2) (search of indexes kept by Registrar General),

(c) section 39C (provision of information to district registrars), and

(d) section 44 (Register of Corrections Etc.).

(2) Section 39A of the 1965 Act (notice of registration events to third parties) applies in relation to a civil partnership as it applies in relation to a marriage.

(3) In that application, the reference in section 39A(2)(c) to the marriage having been registered in accordance with section 15 or 19 of the Marriage (Scotland) Act 1977 (c. 15) is to be read as a reference to the particulars of the formation of the civil

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

partnership having been entered in the civil partnership register under section 95(2) of this Act.**]**

Textual Amendments

F248 S. 98 substituted (1.10.2006 for certain purposes and 1.1.2007 for further certain purposes and otherwise prosp.) by Local Electoral Administration and Registration Services (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 14), **ss. 52(6)**, 63(2); S.S.I. 2006/469, **arts. 2**, **3**, Sch. 1, Sch. 2

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C15 S. 98 modified (24.3.2016) by The Gender Recognition (Marriage and Civil Partnership Registration) (Modification) (Scotland) Order 2016 (S.S.I. 2016/67), arts. 1, **4** (as amended (23.9.2022) by The Gender Recognition (Marriage and Civil Partnership Registration) (Modification) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2022 (S.S.I. 2022/202), arts. 1, **2(2)**)

99 Correction of errors in civil partnership register

(1) No alteration is to be made in the civil partnership register except as authorised by or under this or any other Act ("Act" including an Act of the Scottish Parliament).

(2) Any clerical error in the register or error in it of a kind prescribed may be corrected by the district registrar.

(3) The Registrar General may authorise district examiners ("district examiner" having the meaning given by section 2(1) of the 1965 Act) to correct any error in the register of a type specified by him which they discover during an examination under section 34 of the 1965 Act.

Commencement Information

I22 S. 99 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 99 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 99(2) in force at 14.9.2005 for certain purposes by S.S.I. 2005/428, **art. 2**, Sch. and otherwise 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.S.I. 2005/604, **art. 2(b)**; s. 99(1)(3) in force at 5.12.2005 by S.S.I. 2005/604, **art. 2(b)**

100 Offences

(1) A person ("A") commits an offence who **[**[F249]purports to register**]** in Scotland as the civil partner of another person ("B") knowing that either or both—

(a) A is already married to or in civil partnership with a person other than B, or

(b) B is already married to or in civil partnership with a person other than A.

(2) A person commits an offence who knowingly—

(a) falsifies or forges any civil partnership document (that is to say, any document issued or made, or purporting to be issued or made, or required, under this Part),

(b) uses, or gives or sends to any person as genuine, any false or forged civil partnership document,

(c) being **[**[F250]an approved celebrant or, as the case may be,**]** an authorised registrar, purports to register two people as civil partners of each other before

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

any civil partnership schedule available to him at the time of registration has been duly completed,

(d) not being **[**F250an approved celebrant or, as the case may be,**]** an authorised registrar, conducts himself in such a way as to lead intended civil partners to believe that he is authorised to register them as civil partners of each other,

(e) being **[**F250an approved celebrant or, as the case may be,**]** an authorised registrar, purports to register two people as civil partners of each other without both of them being present, or

(f) being an authorised registrar, purports to register two people as civil partners of each other in a place other than **[**F251in accordance with section 93**]**.

(3) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (1) or (2) is liable—

(a) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to a fine (or both);

(b) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to a fine not exceeding **[**F252the statutory maximum**]** (or both).

[F253(3A) A person commits an offence if the person—

(a) registers a civil partnership in an area or place in which by virtue of section 94B(4)(b) the person is not permitted to register a civil partnership,

(b) registers a civil partnership in contravention of section 94C(7),

(c) being a person temporarily authorised under section 94E—

(i) if authorised under subsection (1)(a) of that section, registers a civil partnership not specified in the authorisation,

(ii) if authorised under subsection (1)(b) of that section, registers a civil partnership outwith the period specified in the authorisation,

(iii) in either case, registers a civil partnership otherwise than in accordance with such terms and conditions as may be specified in the authorisation,

(d) being a party to a civil partnership, fails to comply with a notice served under section 95ZA(2).

(3B) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (3A) is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.**]**

(4) Summary proceedings for an offence under subsection (1)**[**F254, (2) or (3A)**]** may be commenced at any time within 3 months after evidence sufficient in the opinion of the Lord Advocate to justify the proceedings comes to his knowledge or within 12 months after the offence is committed (whichever period last expires).

(5) Subsection (3) of section 136 of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 (c. 46) (time limits) has effect for the purposes of this section as it has for the purposes of that section.

Textual Amendments

F249 Words in s. 100(1) substituted (1.9.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 28(2)(a)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/212, art. 2, sch. (as amended (1.9.2014) by S.S.I. 2014/218, art. 2(3), sch.)

F250 Words in s. 100(2)(c)(d)(e) inserted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(19)(a)(i)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

F251 Words in s. 100(2)(f) substituted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(19)(a)(ii)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

F252 Words in s. 100(3)(b) substituted (1.9.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 28(2)(b)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/212, art. 2, sch. (as amended (1.9.2014) by S.S.I. 2014/218, art. 2(3), sch.)

F253 S. 100(3A)(3B) inserted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(19)(b)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

F254 Words in s. 100(4) substituted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(19)(c)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

CHAPTER 3

OCCUPANCY RIGHTS AND TENANCIES

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C16 Pt. 3 Ch. 3 excluded by 2002 c. 29, s. 269A(5) (as inserted (27.4.2017 for specified purposes, 31.1.2018 for E.W.S. in so far as not already in force) by Criminal Finances Act 2017 (c. 22), **ss. 29(5)**, 58(1)(6); S.I. 2018/78, reg. 3(l))

Occupancy rights

101 Occupancy rights

(1) Where, apart from the provisions of this Chapter, one civil partner in a civil partnership is entitled, or permitted by a third party, to occupy a family home of the civil partnership (that civil partner being referred in this Chapter as an "entitled partner") and the other civil partner is not so entitled or permitted (a "non-entitled partner"), the non-entitled partner has, subject to the provisions of this Chapter, the following rights—

(a) if in occupation, a right to continue to occupy the family home;

(b) if not in occupation, a right to enter into and occupy the family home.

(2) The rights conferred by subsection (1) to continue to occupy or, as the case may be, to enter and occupy the family home include, without prejudice to their generality, the right to do so together with any child of the family.

(3) In subsection (1), an "entitled partner" includes a civil partner who is entitled, or permitted by a third party, to occupy the family home along with an individual who is not the other civil partner only if that individual has waived a right of occupation in favour of the civil partner so entitled or permitted.

(4) If the entitled partner refuses to allow the non-entitled partner to exercise the right conferred by subsection (1)(b), the non-entitled partner may exercise that right only with the leave of the Court of Session or the sheriff under section 103(3) or (4).

(5) A non-entitled partner may renounce in writing the rights mentioned in paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1) only—

(a) in a particular family home, or

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) in a particular property which it is intended by the civil partners will become their family home.

(6) A renunciation under subsection (5) has effect only if, at the time of making the renunciation, the non-entitled partner swears or affirms before a notary public that it is made freely and without coercion of any kind.

[F255(6A) Subject to subsection (5), if—

(a) there has been no cohabitation between an entitled partner and a non-entitled partner during a continuous period of two years, and

(b) during that period the non-entitled partner has not occupied the family home,

the non-entitled partner shall, on the expiry of that period, cease to have occupancy rights in the family home.

(6B) A non-entitled partner who has ceased to have occupancy rights by virtue of subsection (6A) may not apply to the court for an order under section 103(1).**]**

(7) In this Part—

"child of the family" means **[**F256any child or grandchild of either civil partner, and any person who has been brought up or treated by either civil partner as if the person were a child of that partner, whatever the age of such a child, grandchild or person**]**, and

"family" means the civil partners in the civil partnership, together with any child **[**F257, grandchild or person so treated**]** by them.

(8) In subsection (6), "notary public" includes any person duly authorised, by the law of the country other than Scotland in which the swearing or affirmation takes place, to administer oaths or receive affirmations in that other country.

Textual Amendments

F255 S. 101(6A)(6B) inserted (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 33, 46(2), **Sch. 1 para. 3(a)**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

F256 Words in s. 101(7) substituted (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 33, 46(2), **Sch. 1 para. 3(b)(i)**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

F257 Words in s. 101(7) substituted (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 33, 46(2), **Sch. 1 para. 3(b)(ii)**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

102 Occupancy: subsidiary and consequential rights

(1) For the purpose of securing the occupancy rights of a non-entitled partner, that partner is, in relation to a family home, entitled without the consent of the entitled partner—

(a) to make any payment due by the entitled partner in respect of rent, rates, secured loan instalments, interest or other outgoings (not being outgoings on repairs or improvements);

(b) to perform any other obligation incumbent on the entitled partner (not being an obligation in respect of non-essential repairs or improvements);

(c) to enforce performance of an obligation by a third party which that third party has undertaken to the entitled partner to the extent that the entitled partner may enforce such performance;

(d) to carry out such essential repairs as the entitled partner may carry out;

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(e) to carry out such non-essential repairs or improvements as may be authorised by an order of the court, being such repairs or improvements as the entitled partner may carry out and which the court considers to be appropriate for the reasonable enjoyment of the occupancy rights;

(f) to take such other steps, for the purpose of protecting the occupancy rights of the non-entitled partner, as the entitled partner may take to protect the occupancy rights of the entitled partner.

(2) Any payment made under subsection (1)(a) or any obligation performed under subsection (1)(b) has effect in relation to the rights of a third party as if the payment were made or the obligation were performed by the entitled partner; and the performance of an obligation which has been enforced under subsection (1)(c) has effect as if it had been enforced by the entitled partner.

(3) Where there is an entitled and a non-entitled partner, the court, on the application of either of them, may, having regard in particular to the respective financial circumstances of the partners, make an order apportioning expenditure incurred or to be incurred by either partner—

(a) without the consent of the other partner, on any of the items mentioned in paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (1);

(b) with the consent of the other partner, on anything relating to a family home.

(4) Where both partners are entitled, or permitted by a third party, to occupy a family home—

(a) either partner is entitled, without the consent of the other partner, to carry out such non-essential repairs or improvements as may be authorised by an order of the court, being such repairs or improvements as the court considers to be appropriate for the reasonable enjoyment of the occupancy rights;

(b) the court, on the application of either partner, may, having regard in particular to the respective financial circumstances of the partners, make an order apportioning expenditure incurred or to be incurred by either partner, with or without the consent of the other partner, on anything relating to the family home.

(5) Where one partner ("A") owns or hires, or is acquiring under a hire-purchase or conditional sale agreement, furniture and plenishings in a family home—

(a) the other partner may, without the consent of A—

(i) make any payment due by A which is necessary, or take any other step which A is entitled to take, to secure the possession or use of any such furniture and plenishings (and any such payment is to have effect in relation to the rights of a third party as if it were made by A), or

(ii) carry out such essential repairs to the furniture and plenishings as A is entitled to carry out;

(b) the court, on the application of either partner, may, having regard in particular to the respective financial circumstances of the partners, make an order apportioning expenditure incurred or to be incurred by either partner—

(i) without the consent of the other partner, in making payments under a hire, hire-purchase or conditional sale agreement, or in paying interest charges in respect of the furniture and plenishings, or in carrying out essential repairs to the furniture and plenishings, or

(ii) with the consent of the other partner, on anything relating to the furniture or plenishings.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(6) An order under subsection (3), (4)(b) or (5)(b) may require one partner to make a payment to the other partner in implementation of the apportionment.

(7) Any application under subsection (3), (4)(b) or (5)(b) is to be made within 5 years after the date on which any payment in respect of such incurred expenditure was made.

(8) Where—

(a) the entitled partner is a tenant of a family home,

(b) possession of it is necessary in order to continue the tenancy, and

(c) the entitled partner abandons such possession,

the tenancy is continued by such possession by the non-entitled partner.

[F258(8A) In subsection (1)(a), "secured loan" includes secured obligation (construed in accordance with section 43(1) of the Moveable Transactions (Scotland) Act 2023).**]**

(9) In this section "improvements" includes alterations and enlargement.

Textual Amendments

F258 S. 102(8A) inserted (1.4.2025) by Moveable Transactions (Scotland) Act 2023 (asp 3), **ss. 56(2)**, 121(2); S.S.I. 2024/378, **reg. 2**

103 Regulation by court of rights of occupancy of family home

(1) **[**F259Subject to section 101(6A),**]** Where there is an entitled and a non-entitled partner, or where both partners are entitled, or permitted by a third party, to occupy a family home, either partner may apply to the court for an order—

(a) declaring the occupancy rights of the applicant partner;

(b) enforcing the occupancy rights of the applicant partner;

(c) restricting the occupancy rights of the non-applicant partner;

(d) regulating the exercise by either partner of his or her occupancy rights;

(e) protecting the occupancy rights of the applicant partner in relation to the other partner.

(2) Where one partner owns or hires, or is acquiring under a hire-purchase or conditional sale agreement, furniture and plenishings in a family home and the other partner has occupancy rights in that home, that other person may apply to the court for an order granting to the applicant the possession or use in the family home of any such furniture and plenishings; but, subject to section 102, an order under this subsection does not prejudice the rights of any third party in relation to the non-performance of any obligation under such hire-purchase or conditional sale agreement **[**F260or the rights of any secured creditor in relation to the non-performance of a secured obligation.**]**

(3) The court is to grant an application under subsection (1)(a) if it appears to the court that the application relates to a family home; and, on an application under any of paragraphs (b) to (e) of subsection (1) or under subsection (2), the court may make such order relating to the application as appears to it to be just and reasonable having regard to all the circumstances of the case including—

(a) the conduct of the partners, whether in relation to each other or otherwise,

(b) the respective needs and financial resources of the partners,

(c) the needs of any child of the family,

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(d) the extent (if any) to which—

(i) the family home, and

(ii) in relation only to an order under subsection (2), any item of furniture and plenishings referred to in that subsection, is used in connection with a trade, business or profession of either partner, and

(e) whether the entitled partner offers or has offered to make available to the non-entitled partner any suitable alternative accommodation.

(4) Pending the making of an order under subsection (3), the court, on the application of either partner, may make such interim order as it considers necessary or expedient in relation to—

(a) the residence of either partner in the home to which the application relates,

(b) the personal effects of either partner or of any child of the family, or

(c) the furniture and plenishings,

but an interim order may be made only if the non-applicant partner has been afforded an opportunity of being heard by or represented before the court.

(5) The court is not to make an order under subsection (3) or (4) if it appears that the effect of the order would be to exclude the non-applicant partner from the family home.

(6) If the court makes an order under subsection (3) or (4) which requires the delivery to one partner of anything which has been left in or removed from the family home, it may also grant a warrant authorising a messenger-at-arms or sheriff officer to enter the family home or other premises occupied by the other partner and to search for and take possession of the thing required to be delivered, (if need be by opening shut and lockfast places) and to deliver the thing in accordance with the order.

(7) A warrant granted under subsection (6) is to be executed only after expiry of such period as the court is to specify in the order for delivery.

(8) Where it appears to the court—

(a) on the application of a non-entitled partner, that the applicant has suffered a loss of occupancy rights or that the quality of the applicant's occupation of a family home has been impaired, or

(b) on the application of a partner who has been given the possession or use of furniture and plenishings by virtue of an order under subsection (3), that the applicant has suffered a loss of such possession or use or that the quality of the applicant's possession or use of the furniture and plenishings has been impaired,

in consequence of any act or default on the part of the other partner which was intended to result in such loss or impairment, it may order that other partner to pay to the applicant such compensation as it considers just and reasonable in respect of that loss or impairment.

(9) A partner may renounce in writing the right to apply under subsection (2) for the possession or use of any item of furniture and plenishings.

[[F261](10) In subsection (2)—

"secured creditor" has the meaning given by section 113(1) of the Moveable Transactions (Scotland) Act 2023, and

"secured obligation" is to be construed in accordance with section 43(1) of the Moveable Transactions (Scotland) Act 2023.**]**

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F259 Words in s. 103(1) inserted (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 33, 46(2), **Sch. 1 para. 4**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

F260 Words in s. 103(2) inserted (1.4.2025) by Moveable Transactions (Scotland) Act 2023 (asp 3), **ss. 56(3)**, 121(2); S.S.I. 2024/378, reg. 2

F261 S. 103(10) inserted (1.4.2025) by Moveable Transactions (Scotland) Act 2023 (asp 3), **ss. 56(5)**, 121(2); S.S.I. 2024/378, reg. 2

104 Exclusion orders

(1) Where there is an entitled and non-entitled partner, or where both partners are entitled, or permitted by a third party, to occupy a family home, either partner, whether or not that partner is in occupation at the time of the application, may apply to the court for an order (in this Chapter referred to as "an exclusion order") suspending the occupancy rights of the other partner ("the non-applicant partner") in a family home.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), the court is to make an exclusion order if it appears to it that to do so is necessary for the protection of the applicant or any child of the family from any conduct, or threatened or reasonably apprehended conduct, of the non-applicant partner which is or would be injurious to the physical or mental health of the applicant or child.

(3) The court is not to make an exclusion order if it appears to it that to do so would be unjustified or unreasonable—

(a) having regard to all the circumstances of the case including the matters specified in paragraphs (a) to (e) of section 103(3), and

(b) where the family home—

(i) is, or is part of, an agricultural holding within the meaning of section 1 of the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 1991 (c. 55), or

(ii) is let, or is a home in respect of which possession is given, to the non-applicant partner or to both partners by an employer as an incident of employment,

having regard to any requirement that the non-applicant partner, or, as the case may be, both partners must reside in the family home and to the likely consequences of the exclusion of the non-applicant partner from the family home.

(4) In making an exclusion order the court is, on the application of the applicant partner—

(a) to grant a warrant for the summary ejection of the non-applicant partner from the family home unless the non-applicant partner satisfies the court that it is unnecessary for it to grant such a remedy,

(b) to grant an interdict prohibiting the non-applicant partner from entering the family home without the express permission of the applicant, and

(c) to grant an interdict prohibiting the removal by the non-applicant partner, except with the written consent of the applicant or by a further order of the court, of any furniture and plenishings in the family home unless the non-applicant partner satisfies the court that it is unnecessary for it to grant such a remedy.

(5) In making an exclusion order the court may—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) grant an interdict prohibiting the non-applicant partner from entering or remaining in a specified area in the vicinity of the family home;

(b) where the warrant for the summary ejection of the non-applicant partner has been granted in that partner's absence, give directions as to the preservation of that partner's goods and effects which remain in the family home;

(c) on the application of either partner, make the exclusion order or the warrant or interdict mentioned in paragraph (a), (b) or (c) of subsection (4) or paragraph (a) of this subsection subject to such terms and conditions as the court may prescribe;

(d) on the application of either partner, make such other order as it considers necessary for the proper enforcement of an order made under subsection (4) or paragraph (a), (b) or (c).

(6) Pending the making of an exclusion order, the court may, on the application of the applicant partner, make an interim order suspending the occupancy rights of the non-applicant partner in the family home to which the application for the exclusion order relates; and subsections (4) and (5) apply to such an interim order as they apply to an exclusion order.

(7) But an interim order may be made only if the non-applicant partner has been afforded an opportunity of being heard by or represented before the court.

(8) Without prejudice to subsections (1) and (6), where both partners are entitled, or permitted by a third party, to occupy a family home, it is incompetent for one partner to bring an action of ejection from the family home against the other partner.

105 Duration of orders under sections 103 and 104

(1) The court may, on the application of either partner, vary or recall any order made by it under section 103 or 104.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), any such order, unless previously so varied or recalled, ceases to have effect—

(a) on the dissolution of the civil partnership,

(b) subject to section 106(1), where there is an entitled and non-entitled partner, on the entitled partner ceasing to be an entitled partner in respect of the family home to which the order relates, or

(c) where both partners are entitled, or permitted by a third party, to occupy the family home, on both partners ceasing to be so entitled or permitted.

(3) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (2), an order under section 103(3) or (4) which grants the possession or use of furniture and plenishings ceases to have effect if the furniture and plenishings cease to be permitted by a third party to be retained in the family home.

106 Continued exercise of occupancy rights after dealing

(1) Subject to subsection (3)—

(a) the continued exercise of the rights conferred on a non-entitled partner by the provisions of this Chapter in respect of a family home are not prejudiced by reason only of any dealing of the entitled partner relating to that home, and

(b) a third party is not by reason only of such a dealing entitled to occupy that home or any part of it.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

[F262(1A) The occupancy rights of a non-entitled partner in relation to a family home shall not be exercisable in relation to the home where, following a dealing of the entitled partner relating to the home—

(a) a person acquires the home, or an interest in it, in good faith and for value from a person other than the person who is or, as the case may be, was the entitled partner, or

(b) a person derives title to the home from a person who acquired title as mentioned in paragraph (a).**]**

(2) In this section and section 107—

"dealing" includes the grant of a heritable security **[**F263, the grant of a statutory pledge**]** and the creation of a trust but does not include a conveyance under section 80 of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act 1845 (c. 18);

"entitled partner" does not include a civil partner who, apart from the provisions of this Chapter—

(a) is permitted by a third party to occupy a family home, or

(b) is entitled to occupy a family home along with an individual who is not the other civil partner whether or not that individual has waived a right of occupation in favour of the civil partner so entitled,

("non-entitled partner" being construed accordingly).

(3) This section does not apply in any case where—

(a) the non-entitled partner in writing either—

(i) consents or has consented to the dealing (any consent being in such form as the Scottish Ministers may, by regulations made by statutory instrument, prescribe), or

(ii) renounces or has renounced occupancy rights in relation to the family home or property to which the dealing relates,

(b) the court has made an order under section 107 dispensing with the consent of the non-entitled partner to the dealing,

(c) the dealing occurred, or implements a binding obligation entered into by the entitled partner, before the registration of the civil partnership,

(d) the dealing occurred, or implements a binding obligation entered into, before the commencement of this section,

(e) the dealing comprises a **[**F264transfer for value**]** to a third party who has acted in good faith, if there is produced to the third party by the **[**F265transferor—

(i) a written declaration signed by the transferor, or a person acting on behalf of the transferor under a power of attorney or as a guardian (within the meaning of the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000 (asp 4)), that the subjects of the transfer are not, or were not at the time of the dealing, a family home in relation to which a civil partner of the transferor has or had occupancy rights, or

(ii) a renunciation of occupancy rights or consent to the dealing which bears to have been properly made or given by the non-entitled partner or a person acting on behalf of the non-entitled partner under a power of attorney or as a guardian (within the meaning of the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000 (asp 4)).**]**

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(f) the entitled partner has permanently ceased to be entitled to occupy the family home, and at any time after that a continuous period of **[**F266**2]** years has elapsed during which the non-entitled partner has not occupied the family home.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3)(e), the time of the dealing, in the case of the sale of an interest in heritable property, is the date of delivery to the purchaser of the deed transferring title to that interest.

Textual Amendments

F262 S. 106(1A) inserted (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 33, 46(2), **Sch. 1 para. 5(a)**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

F263 Words in s. 106(2) inserted (1.4.2025) by Moveable Transactions (Scotland) Act 2023 (asp 3), **ss. 56(6)**, 121(2); S.S.I. 2024/378, reg. 2

F264 Words in s. 106(3)(e) substituted (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 33, 46(2), **Sch. 1 para. 5(b)(i)**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

F265 Words in s. 106(3)(e) substituted (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 33, 46(2), **Sch. 1 para. 5(b)(ii)**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

F266 Word in s. 106(3)(f) substituted (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 33, 46(2), **Sch. 1 para. 5(b)(iii)**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

107 Dispensation with civil partner's consent to dealing

(1) **[**F267Subject to subsections (1A) and (1C),**]** The court may, on the application of an entitled partner or any other person having an interest, make an order dispensing with the consent of a non-entitled partner to a dealing which has taken place or a proposed dealing, if—

(a) such consent is unreasonably withheld,

(b) such consent cannot be given by reason of physical or mental disability, or

(c) the non-entitled partner cannot be found after reasonable steps have been taken to trace that partner.

[F268(1A) Subsection (1B) applies if, in relation to a proposed sale—

(a) negotiations with a third party have not begun, or

(b) negotiations have begun but a price has not been agreed.

(1B) An order under subsection (1) dispensing with consent may be made only if—

(a) the price agreed for the sale is no less than such amount as the court specifies in the order, and

(b) the contract for the sale is concluded before the expiry of such period as may be so specified.

(1C) Subsection (1D) applies if the proposed dealing is the grant of a heritable security.

(1D) An order under subsection (1) dispensing with consent may be made only if—

(a) the heritable security is granted for a loan of no more than such amount as the court specifies in the order, and

(b) the security is executed before the expiry of such period as may be so specified.**]**

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1)(a), a non-entitled partner has unreasonably withheld consent to a dealing which has taken place or a proposed dealing, where it appears to the court either—

(a) that the non-entitled partner—

(i) has led the entitled partner to believe that the non-entitled partner would consent to the dealing, and

(ii) would not be prejudiced by any change in the circumstances of the case since the conduct which gave rise to that belief occurred, or

(b) that the entitled partner has, having taken all reasonable steps to do so, been unable to obtain an answer to a request for consent.

(3) The court, in considering whether to make an order under subsection (1), is to have regard to all the circumstances of the case including the matters specified in paragraphs (a) to (e) of section 103(3).

[[F269](3A) If the court refuses an application for an order under subsection (1), it may make an order requiring a non-entitled partner who is or becomes the occupier of the family home—

(a) to make such payments to the owner of the home in respect of that partner's occupation of it as may be specified in the order,

(b) to comply with such other conditions relating to that partner's occupation of the family home as may be so specified.**]**

(4) Where—

(a) an application is made for an order under this section, and

(b) an action is or has been raised by a non-entitled partner to enforce occupancy rights,

the action is to be sisted until the conclusion of the proceedings on the application.

Textual Amendments

F267 Words in s. 107(1) inserted (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 33, 46(2), **Sch. 1 para. 6(a)**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

F268 S. 107(1A)-(1D) inserted (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 33, 46(2), **Sch. 1 para. 6(b)**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

F269 S. 107(3A) inserted (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 33, 46(2), **Sch. 1 para. 6(c)**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

108 [F270Interests of creditors]

(1) The rights of a third party with an interest in the family home as a creditor under a secured loan in relation to the non-performance of any obligation under the loan are not prejudiced by reason only of the occupancy rights of the non-entitled partner; but where a non-entitled partner has or obtains occupation of a family home and—

(a) the entitled partner is not in occupation, and

(b) there is a third party with such an interest in the family home,

the court may, on the application of the third party, make an order requiring the non-entitled partner to make any payment due by the entitled partner in respect of the loan.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(2) This section does not apply to secured loans in respect of which the security was granted prior to the commencement of section 13 of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Act 1985 (c. 73) unless the third party in granting the secured loan acted in good faith and there was produced to the third party by the entitled partner—

(a) **[**F271a written declaration signed**]** by the entitled partner declaring that there is no non-entitled partner, or

(b) a renunciation of occupancy rights or consent to the taking of the loan which bears to have been properly made or given by the non-entitled partner.

(3) This section does not apply to secured loans in respect of which the security was granted after the commencement of section 13 of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Act 1985 (c. 73) unless the third party in granting the secured loan acted in good faith and there was produced to the third party by the grantor—

(a) **[**F272a written declaration signed**]** by the grantor declaring that the security subjects are not or were not at the time of the granting of the security a family home in relation to which a civil partner of the grantor has or had occupancy rights, or

(b) a renunciation of occupancy rights or consent to the granting of the security which bears to have been properly made or given by the non-entitled partner.

(4) For the purposes of subsections (2) and (3), the time of granting a security, in the case of a heritable security, is the date of delivery of the deed creating the security.

[F273(5) For the purposes of subsection (3), the time of granting a security, in the case of a statutory pledge, is—

(a) the date of delivery of the constitutive document of the statutory pledge, or

(b) where the statutory pledge is granted in an amendment document, the date of delivery of that document.**]**

Textual Amendments

F270 S. 108 heading substituted (1.4.2025) by Moveable Transactions (Scotland) Act 2023 (asp 3), **ss. 56(9)**, 121(2); S.S.I. 2024/378, reg. 2

F271 Words in s. 108(2)(a) substituted (30.6.2006) by The Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (Consequential Modifications) Order 2006 (S.S.I. 2006/384), **art. 9**

F272 Words in s. 108(3)(a) substituted (30.6.2006) by The Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (Consequential Modifications) Order 2006 (S.S.I. 2006/384), **art. 9**

F273 S. 108(5) inserted (1.4.2025) by Moveable Transactions (Scotland) Act 2023 (asp 3), **ss. 56(8)**, 121(2); S.S.I. 2024/378, reg. 2

109 Provisions where both civil partners have title

(1) Subject to subsection (2), where, apart from the provisions of this Chapter, both civil partners are entitled to occupy a family home—

(a) the rights in that home of one civil partner are not prejudiced by reason only of any dealing of the other civil partner, and

(b) a third party is not by reason only of such a dealing entitled to occupy that home or any part of it.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(2) Sections 106(3) and 107 and the definition of "dealing" in section 106(2) apply for the purposes of subsection (1) as they apply for the purposes of section 106(1) but subject to the following modifications—

(a) any reference to the entitled partner and to the non-entitled partner is to be construed as a reference to a civil partner who has entered into, or as the case may be proposes to enter into, a dealing and to the other civil partner respectively, and

(b) in paragraph (b) of section 107(4) the reference to occupancy rights is to be construed as a reference to any rights in the family home.

110 Rights of occupancy in relation to division and sale

Where a civil partner brings an action for the division and sale of a family home owned in common with the other civil partner, the court, after having regard to all the circumstances of the case including—

(a) the matters specified in paragraphs (a) to (d) of section 103(3), and

(b) whether the civil partner bringing the action offers or has offered to make available to the other civil partner any suitable alternative accommodation,

may refuse to grant decree in that action or may postpone the granting of decree for such period as it considers reasonable in the circumstances or may grant decree subject to such conditions as it may prescribe.

111 Adjudication

(1) Where a family home as regards which there is an entitled partner and a non-entitled partner is adjudged, the Court of Session, on the application of the non-entitled partner made within 40 days after the date of the decree of adjudication, may—

(a) order the reduction of the decree, or

(b) make such order as it thinks appropriate to protect the occupancy rights of the non-entitled partner,

if satisfied that the purpose of the diligence was wholly or mainly to defeat the occupancy rights of the non-entitled partner.

(2) Section 106(2) applies in construing "entitled partner" and "non-entitled partner" for the purposes of subsection (1).

[F274 111A Effect of court action under section 103, 104 or 105 on reckoning of periods in sections 101 and 106

(1) Subsection (2) applies where an application is made under section 103(1), 104(1) or 105(1).

(2) In calculating the period of two years mentioned in section 101(6A)(a) or 106(3)(f), no account shall be taken of the period mentioned in subsection (3).

(3) The period is the period beginning with the date on which the application is made and—

(a) in the case of an application under section 103(1) or 104(1), ending on the date on which—

(i) an order under section 103(3) or, as the case may be, 104(2) is made, or

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(ii) the application is otherwise finally determined or abandoned,

(b) in the case of an application under section 105(1), ending on the date on which—

(i) the order under section 103(3) or, as the case may be, 104(2) is varied or recalled, or

(ii) the application is otherwise finally determined or abandoned.**]**

Textual Amendments

F274 S. 111A inserted (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 33, 46(2), **Sch. 1 para. 7**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

Transfer of tenancy

112 Transfer of tenancy

(1) The court may, on the application of a non-entitled partner, make an order transferring the tenancy of a family home to that partner and providing, subject to subsection (12), for the payment by the non-entitled partner to the entitled partner of such compensation as seems to it to be just and reasonable in all the circumstances of the case.

(2) In an action—

(a) for dissolution of a civil partnership, the Court of Session or the sheriff,

(b) for declarator of nullity of a civil partnership, the Court of Session,

may, on granting decree or within such period as the court may specify on granting decree, make an order granting an application under subsection (1).

(3) In determining whether to grant an application under subsection (1), the court is to have regard to all the circumstances of the case including the matters specified in paragraphs (a) to (e) of section 103(3) and the suitability of the applicant to become the tenant and the applicant's capacity to perform the obligations under the lease of the family home.

(4) The non-entitled partner is to serve a copy of an application under subsection (1) on the landlord and, before making an order under subsection (1), the court is to give the landlord an opportunity of being heard by it.

(5) On the making of an order granting an application under subsection (1), the tenancy vests in the non-entitled partner without intimation to the landlord, subject to all the liabilities under the lease (other than liability for any arrears of rent for the period before the making of the order).

(6) The arrears mentioned in subsection (5) are to remain the liability of the original entitled partner.

(7) The clerk of court is to notify the landlord of the making of an order granting an application under subsection (1).

(8) It is not competent for a non-entitled partner to apply for an order under subsection (1) where the family home—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) is let to the entitled partner by the entitled partner's employer as an incident of employment, and the lease is subject to a requirement that the entitled partner must reside there,

(b) is or is part of an agricultural holding,

(c) is on, or pertains to—

(i) a croft,

(ii) the subject of a cottar, or

(iii) the holding of a landholder or of a statutory small tenant,

(d) is let on a long lease, or

(e) is part of the tenancy land of a tenant-at-will.

(9) In subsection (8)—

"agricultural holding" has the same meaning as in section 1 of the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 1991 (c. 55),

"cottar" has the same meaning as in section 12(5) of the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993 (c. 44),

"croft" has the same meaning as in that Act of 1993,

"holding", in relation to a landholder and a statutory small tenant, "landholder" and "statutory small tenant" have the same meanings respectively as in sections 2(1), 2(2) and 32(1) of the Small Landholders (Scotland) Act 1911 (c. 49),

"long lease" has the same meaning as in section **[**F2759(2) of the Land Registration etc. (Scotland) Act 2012 (asp 5)**]**, and

"tenant-at-will" has the same meaning as in section 20(8) of that Act of 1979.

(10) Where both civil partners are joint or common tenants of a family home, the court may, on the application of one of the civil partners, make an order vesting the tenancy in that civil partner solely and providing, subject to subsection (12), for the payment by the applicant to the other partner of such compensation as seems just and reasonable in the circumstances of the case.

(11) Subsections (2) to (9) apply for the purposes of an order under subsection (10) as they apply for the purposes of an order under subsection (1) but subject to the following modifications—

(a) in subsection (3), for "tenant" there is substituted " sole tenant ";

(b) in subsection (4), for "non-entitled" there is substituted " applicant ";

(c) in subsection (5), for "non-entitled" there is substituted " applicant ",

(d) in subsection (6), for "liability of the original entitled partner" there is substituted " joint and several liability of both partners ";

(e) in subsection (8)—

(i) for "a non-entitled" there is substituted " an applicant ",

(ii) for paragraph (a) there is substituted—

"(a) is let to both partners by their employer as an incident of employment, and the lease is subject to a requirement that both partners must reside there;", and

(iii) paragraphs (c) and (e) are omitted.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(12) Where the family home is a Scottish secure tenancy within the meaning of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 (asp 10), no account is to be taken, in assessing the amount of any compensation to be awarded under subsection (1) or (10), of the loss, by virtue of the transfer of the tenancy of the home, of a right to purchase the home under Part 3 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 (c. 26).

Textual Amendments

F275 Words in s. 112(9) substituted (8.12.2014) by Land Registration etc. (Scotland) Act 2012 (asp 5), ss. 122, 123, **sch. 5 para. 44** (with s. 121, sch. 4 paras. 13, 16); S.S.I. 2014/127, art. 2

CHAPTER 4

INTERDICTS

113 Civil partners: competency of interdict

(1) It shall not be incompetent for the Court of Session or the sheriff to entertain an application by one civil partner in a civil partnership for a relevant interdict by reason only that the civil partners are living together in civil partnership.

(2) In subsection (1) [F276]. . . , "relevant interdict" means an interdict, including an interim interdict, which—

(a) restrains or prohibits any conduct of one civil partner towards the other civil partner or a child of the family, or

[[F277](b) subject to subsection (3), prohibits a civil partner from entering or remaining in—

(i) a family home,

(ii) any other residence occupied by the applicant civil partner,

(iii) any place of work of the applicant civil partner,

(iv) any school attended by a child in the permanent or temporary care of the applicant civil partner**]**

[[F278](3) Subsection (4) applies if in relation to a family home the non-applicant civil partner—

(a) is an entitled partner, or

(b) has occupancy rights.

(4) Except where subsection (5) applies, the court may not grant a relevant interdict prohibiting the non-applicant civil partner from entering or remaining in the family home.

(5) This subsection applies if—

(a) the interdict is ancillary to an exclusion order, or

(b) by virtue of section 101(4), the court refuses leave to exercise occupancy rights.

(6) In this section [F279]. . . , "applicant civil partner" means the civil partner who has applied for the interdict; and "non-applicant civil partner" is to be construed accordingly.**]**

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F276 Words in s. 113(2) repealed (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 45(2), 46(2), **Sch. 3**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

F277 S. 113(2)(b) substituted (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 33, 46(2), **Sch. 1 para. 8(a)**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

F278 S. 113(3)-(6) inserted (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 33, 46(2), **Sch. 1 para. 8(b)**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

F279 Words in s. 113(6) repealed (30.6.2006) by The Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (Consequential Modifications) Order 2006 (S.S.I. 2006/384), **art. 10**

114 . . . . . .

F280 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F280 S. 114 repealed (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 45(2), 46(2), **Sch. 3**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

115 . . . . . .

F281 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F281 S. 115 repealed (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 45(2), 46(2), **Sch. 3**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

116 . . . . . .

F282 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F282 S. 116 repealed (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 45(2), 46(2), **Sch. 3**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C17 S. 116 saving for effect of 2006 asp 2, sch. 3 (25.1.2018) by The Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 (Modification of Part 1 and Ancillary Provision) Regulations 2017 (S.S.I. 2017/453), reg. 1, **sch. para. 4**

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

CHAPTER 5

DISSOLUTION, SEPARATION AND NULLITY

Dissolution and separation

117 Dissolution

(1) An action for the dissolution of a civil partnership may be brought in the Court of Session or in the sheriff court.

(2) In such an action the court may grant decree, if, but only if, it is established that—

(a) the civil partnership has broken down irretrievably, or

(b) **[**F283subject to subsection (3A),**]** an interim gender recognition certificate under the Gender Recognition Act 2004 (c. 7) has, after the date of registration of the civil partnership, been issued to either of the civil partners.

(3) The irretrievable breakdown of a civil partnership is taken to be established if—

(a) since the date of registration of the civil partnership the defender has at any time behaved (whether or not as a result of mental abnormality and whether such behaviour has been active or passive) in such a way that the pursuer cannot reasonably be expected to cohabit with the defender,

(b) F284. . . . . .

(c) there has been no cohabitation between the civil partners at any time during a continuous period of **[**F285one year**]** after the date of registration of the civil partnership and immediately preceding the bringing of the action and the defender consents to the granting of decree of dissolution of the civil partnership, or

(d) there has been no cohabitation between the civil partners at any time during a continuous period of **[**F286two**]** years after that date and immediately preceding the bringing of the action.

[F287(3A) Subsection (2)(b)—

(a) does not apply where, under the Gender Recognition Act 2004, a Gender Recognition Panel issues a full gender recognition certificate to the person to whom the interim gender recognition certificate was issued, but

(b) continues to apply despite a full gender recognition certificate being issued to that person by the sheriff under section 4E of that Act.**]**

(4) Provision is to be made by act of sederunt—

(a) for the purpose of ensuring that, in an action to which paragraph (c) of subsection (3) relates, the defender has been given such information as enables that civil partner to understand—

(i) the consequences of consenting to the granting of decree, and

(ii) the steps which must be taken to indicate such consent, and

(b) as to the manner in which the defender in such an action is to indicate such consent, and any withdrawal of such consent,

and where the defender has indicated (and not withdrawn) such consent in the prescribed manner, that indication is sufficient evidence of such consent.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(5) Provision is to be made by act of sederunt for the purpose of ensuring that, where in an action for the dissolution of a civil partnership the defender is suffering from mental illness, the court appoints a curator ad litem to the defender.

(6) [F288] . . . . . .

(7) [F289] . . . . . .

(8) In an action for dissolution of a civil partnership the standard of proof required to establish the ground of action is on balance of probability.

Textual Amendments

F283 Words in s. 117(2)(b) inserted (30.11.2021) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), s. 16, **sch. 2 para. 6(2)(a)**; S.S.I. 2021/351, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

F284 S. 117(3)(b) repealed (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 45(2), 46(2), **Sch. 3**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

F285 Words in s. 117(3)(c) substituted (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 33, 46(2), **Sch. 1 para. 9(a)**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

F286 Word in s. 117(3)(d) substituted (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 33, 46(2), **Sch. 1 para. 9(b)**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

F287 S. 117(3A) inserted (30.11.2021) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), s. 16, **sch. 2 para. 6(2)(b)**; S.S.I. 2021/351, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

F288 S. 117(6) repealed (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 45(2), 46(2), **Sch. 3**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

F289 S. 117(7) repealed (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 45(2), 46(2), **Sch. 3**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

118 Encouragement of reconciliation

(1) At any time before granting decree in an action by virtue of paragraph (a) of section 117(2) for dissolution of a civil partnership, if it appears to the court that there is a reasonable prospect of a reconciliation between the civil partners it must continue, or further continue, the action for such period as it thinks proper to enable attempts to be made to effect such a reconciliation.

(2) If during any such continuation the civil partners cohabit with one another, no account is to be taken of such cohabitation for the purposes of that action.

119 Effect of resumption of cohabitation

(1) [F290] . . . . . .

(2) [F291] . . . . . .

(3) In considering whether any period mentioned in paragraph [F292]. . . , (c) or (d) of section 117(3) has been continuous, no account is to be taken of any period or periods not exceeding 6 months in all during which the civil partners cohabited with one another; but no such period or periods during which the civil partners cohabited with one another is to count as part of the period of non-cohabitation required by any of those paragraphs.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F290 S. 119(1) repealed (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 45(2), 46(2), **Sch. 3**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

F291 S. 119(2) repealed (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 45(2), 46(2), **Sch. 3**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

F292 Word in s. 119(3) repealed (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 45(2), 46(2), **Sch. 3**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

120 Separation

(1) An action for the separation of the civil partners in a civil partnership may be brought in the Court of Session or in the sheriff court.

(2) In such an action the court may grant decree if satisfied that the circumstances set out in any of paragraphs (a) to (d) of section 117(3) are established.

121 Dissolution following on decree of separation

(1) The court may grant decree in an action for the dissolution of a civil partnership even though decree of separation has previously been granted to the pursuer on the same, or substantially the same, facts as those averred in support of that action; and in any such action the court may treat an extract decree of separation lodged in process as sufficient proof of the facts under which that decree was granted.

(2) Nothing in this section entitles a court to grant decree of dissolution of a civil partnership without receiving evidence from the pursuer.

[F293 121A Postponement of decree of dissolution where religious impediment to marry exists

(1) Notwithstanding that irretrievable breakdown of a civil partnership has been established in an action for dissolution, the court may—

(a) on the application of a party ("the applicant"), and

(b) if satisfied—

(i) that subsection (2) applies, and

(ii) that it is just and reasonable to do so,

postpone the grant of decree in the action until it is satisfied that the other party has complied with subsection (3).

(2) This subsection applies where—

(a) the applicant is prevented from entering into a religious marriage by virtue of a requirement of the religion of that marriage, and

(b) the other party can act so as to remove, or enable or contribute to the removal of, the impediment which prevents that marriage.

(3) A party complies with this subsection by acting in the way described in subsection (2)(b).

(4) The court may, whether or not on the application of a party and notwithstanding that subsection (2) applies, recall a postponement under subsection (1).

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(5) The court may, before recalling a postponement under subsection (1), order the other party to produce a certificate from the relevant religious body confirming that the other party has acted in the way described in subsection (2)(b).

(6) For the purposes of subsection (5), a religious body is "relevant" if the applicant considers the body competent to provide the confirmation referred to in that subsection.

(7) In this section—

"religious marriage" means a marriage solemnised by a marriage celebrant of a specified religious body, and "religion of that marriage" is to be construed accordingly,

"specified" means specified by regulations made by the Scottish Ministers.

(8) Any reference in this section to a marriage celebrant of a specified religious body is a reference to—

(a) a minister, clergyman, pastor or priest of such a body,

(b) a person who has, on the nomination of such a body, been registered under section 9 of the Marriage (Scotland) Act 1977 as empowered to solemnise marriages,

(c) any person who is recognised by such a body as entitled to solemnise marriages on its behalf.**]**

Textual Amendments

F293 S. 121A inserted (1.2.2021 for specified purposes, 1.6.2021 in so far as not already in force) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 11(2)**, 16; S.S.I. 2020/414, reg. 2(1)(c); S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

122 [F294Registration of dissolutions and declarators of nullity of civil partnerships]

(1) The Registrar General is to maintain at the General Register Office a register of decrees of dissolution **[**F295and of declarator of nullity**]** of civil partnership (a register which shall be known as the "Register of Dissolutions of Civil Partnership").

(2) The Registrar General is to cause to be made and kept at the General Register Office an alphabetical index of the entries in that register.

(3) The register is to be in such form as may be prescribed.

(4) On payment to him of such fee or fees as may be prescribed, the Registrar General must, at any time when the General Register Office is open for that purpose—

(a) cause a search of the index to be made on behalf of any person or permit any person to search the index himself,

(b) issue to any person an extract of any entry in the register which that person may require.

(5) An extract of any entry in the register is to be sufficient evidence of the decree of dissolution **[**F296or, as the case may be, of the declarator of nullity of civil partnership**]** to which it relates.

(6) The Registrar General may—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) delete,
(b) amend, or
(c) substitute another entry for,

any entry in the register.

[F297(7) Section 39C of the 1965 Act applies in relation to the Register of Dissolutions of Civil Partnership as it applies in relation to the Register of Divorces.**]**

Textual Amendments

F294 S. 122 heading substituted (30.11.2023) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), s. 16, **sch. 2 para. 6(3)(c)**; S.S.I. 2023/146, reg. 2, sch.

F295 Words in s. 122(1) inserted (30.11.2023) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), s. 16, **sch. 2 para. 6(3)(a)**; S.S.I. 2023/146, reg. 2, sch.

F296 Words in s. 122(5) inserted (30.11.2023) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), s. 16, **sch. 2 para. 6(3)(b)**; S.S.I. 2023/146, reg. 2, sch.

F297 S. 122(7) inserted (1.10.2006) by Local Electoral Administration and Registration Services (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 14), **ss. 52(7)**, 63(2); S.S.I. 2006/469, **art. 2**, Sch. 1

Commencement Information

I23 S. 122 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 122 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 122(3) in force at 14.9.2005 by S.S.I. 2005/428, **art. 2**, Sch.; s. 122(4) in force at 14.9.2005 for certain purposes by S.S.I. 2005/428, **art. 2**, Sch. and otherwise 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.S.I. 2005/604, **art. 2(b)**; s. 122(1)(2)(5)(6) in force at 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.S.I. 2005/604, **art. 2(b)**

Nullity

123 Nullity

[F298(1)**]** Where two people register in Scotland as civil partners of each other, the civil partnership is void if, and only if—

(a) they were not eligible to do so, F299. . .
(b) though they were so eligible, either of them did not F300. . . consent to its formation **[**F301, or.
(c) at the time of registration one of them who was capable of consenting to the formation of the civil partnership purported to give consent but did so by reason only of duress or error.**]**

[F302(2) In this section "error" means—

(a) error as to the nature of civil partnership, or
(b) a mistaken belief held by a person ("A") that the other person with whom A purported to register a civil partnership was the person with whom A had agreed to register a civil partnership.**]**

Textual Amendments

F298 S. 123 renumbered as s. 123(1) (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 33, 46(2), **Sch. 1 para. 10**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

F299 Word in s. 123(1) repealed (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 33, 46(2), **Sch. 1 para. 10(a)**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

F300 Word in s. 123(1)(b) repealed (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 33, 46(2), **Sch. 1 para. 10(b)**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

F301 S. 123(1)(c) and word inserted (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 33, 46(2), **Sch. 1 para. 10(c)**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

F302 S. 123(2) added (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 33, 46(2), **Sch. 1 para. 10(d)**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

124 Validity of civil partnerships registered outside Scotland

(1) Where two people register as civil partners of each other in England and Wales—

(a) the civil partnership is void if it would be void in England and Wales under section 49, and

(b) the civil partnership is voidable if it would be voidable there under section 50(1)(a), (b), (c) or (e).

(2) Where two people register as civil partners of each other in Northern Ireland, the civil partnership is—

(a) void, if it would be void in Northern Ireland under section 173, and

(b) voidable, if it would be voidable there under section 174(1)(a), (b), (c) or (e).

(3) Subsection (4) applies where two people register as civil partners of each other under an Order in Council under—

(a) section 210 (registration at British consulates etc.), or

(b) section 211 (registration by armed forces personnel),

("the relevant section").

(4) The civil partnership is—

(a) void, if—

(i) the condition in subsection (2)(a) or (b) of the relevant section is not met, or

(ii) a requirement prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph by an Order in Council under the relevant section is not complied with, and

(b) voidable, if—

(i) the appropriate part of the United Kingdom is England and Wales and the circumstances fall within section 50(1)(a), (b), (c) or (e), or

(ii) the appropriate part of the United Kingdom is Northern Ireland and the circumstances fall within section 174(1)(a), (b), (c) or (e).

(5) The appropriate part of the United Kingdom is the part by reference to which the condition in subsection (2)(b) of the relevant section is met.

(6) Subsections (7) and (8) apply where two people have registered an apparent or alleged overseas relationship.

(7) The civil partnership is void if—

(a) the relationship is not an overseas relationship, or

(b) (even though the relationship is an overseas relationship), the parties are not treated under Chapter 2 of Part 5 as having formed a civil partnership.

(8) The civil partnership is voidable if—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) the overseas relationship is voidable under the relevant law,

(b) where either of the parties was domiciled in England and Wales at the time when the overseas relationship was registered, the circumstances fall within section 50(1)(a), (b), (c) or (e), or

(c) where either of the parties was domiciled in Northern Ireland at the time when the overseas relationship was registered, the circumstances fall within section 174(1)(a), (b), (c) or (e).

(9) Section 51 or (as the case may be) section 175 applies for the purposes of—

(a) subsections (1)(b), (2)(b) and (4)(b),

(b) subsection (8)(a), in so far as applicable in accordance with the relevant law, and

(c) subsection (8)(b) and (c).

(10) In subsections (8)(a) and (9)(b) "the relevant law" means the law of the country or territory where the overseas relationship was registered (including its rules of private international law).

(11) For the purposes of subsections (8) and (9)(b) and (c), references in sections 50 and 51 or (as the case may be) sections 174 and 175 to the formation of the civil partnership are to be read as references to the registration of the overseas relationship.

[F303 Special destinations: revocation on dissolution or annulment

Textual Amendments

F303 S. 124A inserted (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 33, 46(2), **Sch. 1 para. 11**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

F304 124A Special destination: revocation on dissolution or annulment

. . . . . .]

Textual Amendments

F304 S. 124A repealed (1.11.2016) by Succession (Scotland) Act 2016 (asp 7), s. 31(2), **sch. para. 3**; S.S.I. 2016/210, reg. 2(1)(a)(2)

Financial provision after overseas proceedings

125 Financial provision after overseas dissolution or annulment

Schedule 11 relates to applications for financial provision in Scotland after a civil partnership has been dissolved or annulled in a country or territory outside the British Islands.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

CHAPTER 6

MISCELLANEOUS AND INTERPRETATION

Miscellaneous

126 Regulations

(1) In this Chapter and in Chapters 2 **[**F305(except in section 88F)**]** and 5, "prescribed" means prescribed by regulations made by the Registrar General.

(2) Regulations so made may make provision (including provision as to fees) supplementing, in respect of the provision of services by or on behalf of the Registrar General or by local registration authorities (as defined by section 5(3) of the 1965 Act), the provisions of Chapter 2 of this Part.

(3) Any power to make regulations under subsection (1) or (2) is exercisable by statutory instrument; and no such regulations are to be made except with the approval of the Scottish Ministers.

(4) A statutory instrument containing regulations under subsection (1) or (2), or regulations under section **[**F306**]**94A(1)(a)(i) **[**F307, (2A)(a)(i)**]** or (5), 94B(3), 94E(4)**][**F308, 106(3)(a)(i) or 121A(7)**]**, is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of the Scottish Parliament.

Textual Amendments

F305 Words in s. 126(1) inserted for specified purposes (1.3.2015) by The Referral and Investigation of Proposed Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Scotland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/396), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 7** (with art. 1(3))

F306 Words in s. 126(4) inserted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(20)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

F307 Words in s. 126(4) inserted (18.1.2021 for specified purposes, 1.6.2021 in so far as not already in force) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 7(2)(f)**, 16; S.S.I. 2020/457, reg. 2(b); S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

F308 Words in s. 126(4) substituted (1.2.2021 for specified purposes, 1.6.2021 in so far as not already in force) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 11(3)**, 16; S.S.I. 2020/414, reg. 2(1)(c); S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

127 Attachment

Where an attachment has been executed of furniture and plenishings of which the debtor's civil partner has the possession or use by virtue of an order under section 103(3) or (4), the sheriff, on the application of that civil partner made within 40 days after the execution of the attachment, may—

(a) declare the attachment null, or

(b) make such order as he thinks appropriate to protect such possession or use by that civil partner,

if satisfied that the purpose of the attachment was wholly or mainly to prevent such possession or use.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

128 Promise or agreement to enter into civil partnership

No promise or agreement to enter into civil partnership creates any rights or obligations under the law of Scotland; and no action for breach of such a promise or agreement may be brought in any court in Scotland, whatever the law applicable to the promise or agreement.

129 Lord Advocate as party to action for nullity or dissolution of civil partnership

F309 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F309 S. 129 repealed (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp. 2), ss. 45(2), 46(2), **Sch. 3**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

130 Civil partner of accused a competent witness

F310 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F310 S. 130 repealed (28.3.2011 with effect as mentioned in the Schedule to the commencing instrument) by Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 (asp 13), **ss. 86(2)**, 206(1); S.S.I. 2011/178, **art. 2**, Sch.

131 Succession: legal rights arising by virtue of civil partnership

(1) Where a person dies survived by a civil partner then, unless the circumstance is as mentioned in subsection (2), the civil partner has right to half of the moveable net estate belonging to the deceased at the time of death.

(2) That circumstance is that the person is also survived by issue, in which case the civil partner has right to a third of that moveable net estate and those issue have right to another third of it.

(3) In this section—

"issue" means issue however remote, and

"net estate" has the meaning given by section 36(1) (interpretation) of the Succession (Scotland) Act 1964 (c. 41).

(4) Every testamentary disposition executed after the commencement of this section by which provision is made in favour of the civil partner of the testator and which does not contain a declaration to the effect that the provision so made is in full and final satisfaction of the right to any share in the testator's estate to which the civil partner is entitled by virtue of subsection (1) or (2), has effect (unless the disposition contains an express provision to the contrary) as if it contained such a declaration.

(5) In section 36(1) of the Succession (Scotland) Act 1964 (c. 41), in the definition of "legal rights", for "and legitim" substitute " legitim and rights under section 131 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004 ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

132 Assurance policies

Section 2 of the Married Women's Policies of Assurance (Scotland) Act 1880 (c. 26) (which provides that a policy of assurance may be effected in trust for a person's spouse, children or spouse and children) applies in relation to a policy of assurance—

(a) effected by a civil partner (in this section referred to as "A") on A's own life, and

(b) expressed upon the face of it to be for the benefit of A's civil partner, or of A's children, or of A's civil partner and children,

as it applies in relation to a policy of assurance effected as, and expressed upon the face of it to be for such benefit as, is mentioned in that section.

133 Council Tax: liability of civil partners

After section 77 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (c. 14), insert—

"**77A Liability of civil partners**

(1) Where—

(a) a person who is liable to pay council tax in respect of any chargeable dwelling and any day is in civil partnership with another person or living with another person in a relationship which has the characteristics of the relationship between civil partners; and

(b) that other person is also a resident of the dwelling on that day but would not, apart from this section, be so liable,

those persons shall be jointly and severally liable to pay the council tax payable in respect of that dwelling and that day.

(2) Subsection (1) above shall not apply as respects any day on which the other person there mentioned falls to be disregarded for the purposes of discount—

(a) by virtue of paragraph 2 of Schedule 1 to this Act (the severely mentally impaired); or

(b) being a student, by virtue of paragraph 4 of that Schedule."

134 General provisions as to fees

(1) Subject to such exceptions as may be prescribed, a district registrar may refuse to comply with any application voluntarily made to him under this Part until the appropriate fee, if any, provided for by or under this Part is paid to him; and any such fee, if not prepaid, is recoverable by the registrar to whom it is payable.

(2) Circumstances, of hardship or otherwise, may be prescribed in which fees provided for by or under this Part may be remitted by the Registrar General.

Commencement Information

I24 S. 134 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 134 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 134 in force at 14.9.2005 for certain purposes by S.S.I. 2005/428, **art. 2**, Sch. and otherwise 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.S.I. 2005/604, **art. 2(b)**

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Interpretation

135 Interpretation of this Part

[F311(1)**]** In this Part, unless the context otherwise requires—

"the 1965 Act" means the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages (Scotland) Act 1965 (c. 49);

[F312"2014 Act" means the Immigration Act 2014;**]**

[F313"approved celebrant" has the meaning given by section 94A(4)(a);**]**

"authorised registrar" has the meaning given by section 87;

"caravan" means a caravan which is mobile or affixed to land;

"child of the family" has the meaning given by section 101(7);

"civil partnership book" has the meaning given by section 89;

"civil partnership schedule" has the meaning given by section 94;

[F314"civil registration" has the meaning given by section 94A(4)(c);**]**

"civil partnership register" has the meaning given by section 95(2);

"the court" means the Court of Session or the sheriff;

"district" means a registration district as defined by section 5(1) of the 1965 Act;

"district registrar" has the meaning given by section 7(12) of the 1965 Act;

"entitled partner" and "non-entitled partner", subject to sections 106(2) and 111(2), have the meanings respectively assigned to them by section 101(1);

"exclusion order" has the meaning given by section 104(1);

"family" has the meaning given by section 101(7);

"family home" means **[**F315, subject to subsection (2),**]** any house, caravan, houseboat or other structure which has been provided or has been made available by one or both of the civil partners as, or has become, a family residence and includes any garden or other ground or building F316. . . usually occupied with, or otherwise required for the amenity or convenience of, the house, caravan, houseboat or other structure but does not include a residence provided or made available by **[**F317a person for one**]** civil partner to reside in, whether with any child of the family or not, separately from the other civil partner;

"furniture and plenishings" means any article situated in a family home of civil partners which—

(a) is owned or hired by either civil partner or is being acquired by either civil partner under a hire-purchase agreement or conditional sale agreement, and

(b) is reasonably necessary to enable the home to be used as a family residence,

but does not include any vehicle, caravan or houseboat or such other structure as is mentioned in the definition of "family home";

"notice of proposed civil partnership" has the meaning given by section 88(1);

"occupancy rights" means the rights conferred by section 101(1);

"Registrar General" means the Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages for Scotland;

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

"registration office" means a registration office provided under section 8(1) of the 1965 Act;

[[F318]"relevant national" has the same meaning as in section 30A;**]**

[[F319]"religious or belief body" means an organised group of people—

(a) which meets regularly for religious worship, or

(b) the principal object (or one of the principal objects) of which is to uphold or promote philosophical beliefs and which meets regularly for that purpose;**]**

[[F319]"religious or belief civil partnership" has the meaning given by section 94A(4)(b);**]**

"tenant" includes—

(a) a sub-tenant,

(b) a statutory tenant as defined in section 3 of the Rent (Scotland) Act 1984 (c. 58), and

(c) a statutory assured tenant as defined in section 16(1) of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1988 (c. 43),

and "tenancy" is to be construed accordingly.

[[F320](2) If—

(a) the tenancy of a family home is transferred from one civil partner to the other by agreement or under any enactment, and

(b) following the transfer, the civil partner to whom the tenancy was transferred occupies the home but the other civil partner does not,

the home shall, on such transfer, cease to be a family home.**]**

Textual Amendments

F311 S. 135 renumbered as s. 135(1) (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 33, 46(2), **Sch. 1 para. 12**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

F312 Words in s. 135(1) inserted for specified purposes (1.3.2015) by The Referral and Investigation of Proposed Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Scotland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/396), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 8(a)** (with art. 1(3))

F313 Words in s. 135(1) inserted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(21)(a)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

F314 Words in s. 135(1) inserted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(21)(b)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

F315 Words in s. 135(1) inserted (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 33, 46(2), **Sch. 1 para. 12(a)(i)**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

F316 Words in s. 135 repealed (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 45(2), 46(2), **Sch. 3**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

F317 Words in s. 135(1) substituted (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 33, 46(2), **Sch. 1 para. 12(a)(ii)**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

F318 Words in s. 135(1) inserted for specified purposes (1.3.2015) by The Referral and Investigation of Proposed Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Scotland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/396), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 8(b)** (with art. 1(3))

F319 Words in s. 135(1) inserted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(21)(c)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

F320 S. 135(2) inserted (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 33, 46(2), **Sch. 1 para. 12(b)**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

136 The expression "relative" in the 1965 Act

In section 56(1) of the 1965 Act (interpretation), in the definition of "relative", at the end insert " , a civil partner and anyone related to the civil partner of the person as regards whom the expression is being construed ".

PART 4

CIVIL PARTNERSHIP: NORTHERN IRELAND

CHAPTER 1

REGISTRATION

Formation and eligibility

137 Formation of civil partnership by registration

(1) For the purposes of section 1, two people are to be regarded as having registered as civil partners of each other once each of them has signed the civil partnership schedule in the presence of—

(a) each other,

(b) two witnesses both of whom profess to be 16 or over, and

(c) the registrar.

(2) Subsection (1) applies regardless of whether subsections (3) and (4) are complied with.

(3) After the civil partnership schedule has been signed under subsection (1), it must also be signed, in the presence of the civil partners and each other, by—

(a) each of the two witnesses, and

(b) the registrar.

(4) After the witnesses and the registrar have signed the civil partnership schedule, the registrar must cause the registration of the civil partnership to be recorded as soon as practicable.

(5) No religious service is to be used while the registrar is officiating at the signing of a civil partnership schedule.

138 Eligibility

(1) Two people are not eligible to register as civil partners of each other if—

F321(a) . . . . . .

(b) either of them is already a civil partner or lawfully married,

(c) either of them is under 16,

(d) they are within prohibited degrees of relationship, or

(e) either of them is incapable of understanding the nature of civil partnership.

(2) Schedule 12 contains provisions for determining when two people are within prohibited degrees of relationship.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F321 S. 138(1)(a) omitted (13.1.2020) by virtue of The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), **16(3)** (with regs. 6-9)

Preliminaries to registration

139 Notice of proposed civil partnership

(1) For two people to register as civil partners of each other under this Chapter, each of them must give the registrar a notice of proposed civil partnership (a "civil partnership notice").

(2) A civil partnership notice must be—

(a) in the prescribed form, and

(b) accompanied by the prescribed fee and such documents and other information as may be prescribed.

(3) In prescribed cases a civil partnership notice must be given to the registrar by each party in person.

Commencement Information

I25 S. 139 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 139 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 139(2)(3) in force at 5.9.2005 for certain purposes by S.I. 2005/2399, **art. 2**, Sch. and otherwise 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.; s. 139(1) in force at 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.

[F322 139A Additional information if party not relevant national

(1) This section applies to a civil partnership notice given to a registrar in accordance with section 139 if one, or each, of the parties to the proposed civil partnership is not a relevant national.

(2) For each party to the proposed civil partnership who is not a relevant national, the notice must be accompanied by whichever of statements A, B or C is applicable to that person.

(3) Statement A is a statement that the person has the appropriate immigration status.

(4) Statement B is a statement that the person holds a relevant visa in respect of the proposed civil partnership.

(5) Statement C is a statement that the person neither—

(a) has the appropriate immigration status, nor

(b) holds a relevant visa in respect of the proposed civil partnership.

(6) If the notice is accompanied by the statement referred to in the first column of an entry in this table, the notice must also be accompanied by the information and photographs referred to in the second column of that entry (insofar as that entry is applicable to the parties to the proposed civil partnership)—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

If the notice is accompanied by this statement....	*...the notice must also be accompanied by....*
Statement A (in respect of one or both of the parties to the proposed civil partnership)	For each party in respect of whom statement A is made, details of the particular immigration status which that party has
Statement B (in respect of one or both of the parties to the proposed civil partnership)	1. For each party, a specified photograph of that party 2. For each party in respect of whom statement B is made, details of the relevant visa which that party has
Statement C (in respect of one or both of the parties to the proposed civil partnership)	1. For each party, a specified photograph of that party 2. For each party, the usual address of that party 3. For each party who has previously used any name or names other than the person's name stated in the civil partnership notice, a statement of the other name or names 4. For each party who currently uses, or has previously used, an alias or aliases, a statement of the alias or aliases.

(7) If the notice is accompanied by more than one of statements A, B and C, subsection (6) must be complied with in relation to each of those statements; but where the notice is accompanied by statements B and C, subsection (6) does not require the notice to be accompanied by more than one specified photograph of each party.

(8) If the notice is accompanied by statement C for a party to the proposed civil partnership—

(a) the notice may also be accompanied by a statement ("statement D") of that person's immigration position in the United Kingdom;

(b) if the notice is accompanied by statement D for a party to the proposed civil partnership, the person may provide the registrar with details of his or her immigration position in the United Kingdom; and

(c) if any such details are provided, the registrar must record them.

(9) In this section and section 139B—

(a) a reference—

(i) to a person having the appropriate immigration status, or

(ii) to a person holding a relevant visa,

is to be construed in accordance with section 49 of the 2014 Act;

(b) a reference to the particular immigration status which a person has is a reference to the immigration status set out in any of paragraphs (a) to (c) of section 49(2) of that Act which the person has;

(c) a reference to a person's immigration position in the United Kingdom includes a reference to the person's not being entitled to be in the United Kingdom.

(10) In this section "specified photograph" means a photograph that is in accordance with regulations made by the Secretary of State under section 54(2) of, and paragraph 3 of

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Schedule 5 to, the 2014 Act (and for this purpose "photograph" includes other kinds of images).

Textual Amendments

F322 Ss. 139A-139E inserted (1.3.2015) by The Referral and Investigation of Proposed Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Northern Ireland and Miscellaneous Provisions) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/395), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 2** (with art. 1(3))

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C18 S. 139A(9) applied (2.3.2015) by The Sham Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland and Northern Ireland) (Administrative) Regulations 2015 (S.I. 2015/404), regs. 1(2), **18(4)(b)**

139B. Additional evidence if party not relevant national

(1) If a civil partnership notice to which section 139A applies ("the notice") is accompanied by statement A (referred to in section 139A(3)), and accordingly is also accompanied by details of the particular immigration status which a party to the proposed civil partnership has, the notice must also be accompanied by specified evidence of that status.

(2) If the notice is accompanied by statement B (referred to in section 139A(4)), the notice must also be accompanied by specified evidence of the holding of the relevant visa by the party to the proposed civil partnership.

(3) If, in accordance with section 139A(6), the notice is accompanied by the usual address of a party to the proposed civil partnership, the notice must also be accompanied by specified evidence that it is that party's usual address.

(4) If the notice is accompanied by statement D (referred to in section 139A(8)), the notice may also be accompanied by evidence of the person's immigration position in the United Kingdom.

(5) If subsection (1) or (2) applies to the notice, and the notice is not accompanied by the specified evidence required by that subsection, the notice must be accompanied by—

(a) photographs and addresses of the kinds referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 in the relevant entry in section 139A(6);

(b) as respects the usual address of each party that is provided in accordance with sub-paragraph (a), specified evidence that the address provided is that party's usual address; and

(c) names and aliases of the kinds referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4 in the relevant entry in section 139A(6) (insofar as those paragraphs are applicable to the parties to the proposed civil partnership).

(6) In this section—

"relevant entry in section 139A(6)" means the second column of the last entry in the table in section 139A(6);

"specified evidence" means evidence that is in accordance with regulations made by the Secretary of State under section 54(2) of, and paragraph 3 of Schedule 5 to, the 2014 Act.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F322 Ss. 139A-139E inserted (1.3.2015) by The Referral and Investigation of Proposed Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Northern Ireland and Miscellaneous Provisions) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/395), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 2** (with art. 1(3))

139C. Declaration to accompany information and evidence

Where information and evidence accompany the civil partnership notice in accordance with sections 139A and 139B that information and evidence must also be accompanied by a declaration in writing and signed by the party who makes it that the party believes all of the information and evidence accompanying the notice to be true.

Textual Amendments

F322 Ss. 139A-139E inserted (1.3.2015) by The Referral and Investigation of Proposed Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Northern Ireland and Miscellaneous Provisions) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/395), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 2** (with art. 1(3))

139D. Rejection of false information or evidence

(1) A registrar may reject—

(a) any information or photograph provided under section 139A or 139B,

(b) any evidence provided under section 139B, or

(c) any evidence relating to a party's nationality provided in accordance with section 141,

if (in particular) the registrar has reasonable grounds for suspecting that the information, photograph or evidence is false.

(2) If the registrar rejects any information, photograph or evidence, the registrar may proceed under this Act as if the rejected information, photograph or evidence had not been provided.

(3) This section does not limit the powers of the registrar to reject anything provided under any other statutory provision.

Textual Amendments

F322 Ss. 139A-139E inserted (1.3.2015) by The Referral and Investigation of Proposed Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Northern Ireland and Miscellaneous Provisions) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/395), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 2** (with art. 1(3))

139E. Referral of proposed civil partnership to the Secretary of State

(1) On every occasion when a civil partnership notice is given under section 139, a registrar must decide whether or not each of the parties to the proposed civil partnership is an exempt person.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(2) In making a decision under subsection (1) about a party to a proposed civil partnership, a registrar may rely on any advice given in relation to that decision by the Secretary of State.

(3) In a case where—

(a) section 139A applies to the civil partnership notice, and

(b) specified evidence required by section 139B(1) or (2) in relation to a party to the proposed civil partnership is not produced in accordance with that section,

the registrar must decide that that party to the proposed civil partnership is not an exempt person.

(4) If the registrar decides that either of the parties is not an exempt person, or that both of the parties are not exempt persons, the registrar must—

(a) refer the proposed civil partnership to the Secretary of State;

(b) notify the parties to the proposed civil partnership that the proposed civil partnership must be referred to the Secretary of State;

(c) give the parties to the proposed civil partnership prescribed information about—

(i) the effects of the referral;

(ii) the requirement under regulations to notify the Secretary of State of changes of address.

(5) The registrar must act in accordance with regulations when complying with the duty in subsection (4)(a) to refer a proposed civil partnership to the Secretary of State.

(6) If the registrar refers the proposed civil partnership to the Secretary of State, this Act has effect in relation to the proposed civil partnership subject to the modifications in Schedule 13A.

(7) In this section—

(a) a reference to a person being an exempt person has the same meaning as in section 49 of the 2014 Act;

(b) "prescribed information" means information prescribed in regulations;

(c) "regulations" means regulations made by the Secretary of State under section 54(2) of, and Schedule 5 to, the 2014 Act.**]**

Textual Amendments

F322 Ss. 139A-139E inserted (1.3.2015) by The Referral and Investigation of Proposed Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Northern Ireland and Miscellaneous Provisions) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/395), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 2** (with art. 1(3))

140 Civil partnership notice book and list of intended civil partnerships

(1) The registrar must keep a record of—

(a) such particulars as may be prescribed, taken from each civil partnership notice received by him, and

(b) the date on which each civil partnership notice is received by him.

(2) In this Chapter "civil partnership notice book" means the record kept under subsection (1).

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

[[F323](2A) But the registrar must not enter the particulars relating to the civil partnership in the civil partnership notice book in a case where any of the requirements imposed by or under any of the following provisions of this Act is applicable but not complied with—

(a) section 139A(2) to (7);

(b) section 139B(3) or (5);

(c) section 141 so far as that requirement relates to evidence of nationality;

(d) paragraph 13 of Schedule 23.

(2B) Where the registrar may not enter the particulars relating to the civil partnership notice book as mentioned in subsection (2A) the parties are to be taken not to have given notice under section 139.**]**

(3) The registrar must, in accordance with any guidance issued by the Registrar General, place on public display a list containing in relation to each proposed civil partnership in respect of which the registrar has received a civil partnership notice—

(a) the names of the proposed civil partners, and

(b) the date on which it is intended to register them as civil partners of each other.

(4) As soon as practicable after the date mentioned in subsection (3) the registrar must remove from the list the names and the date mentioned in that subsection.

(5) Any person claiming that he may have reason to make an objection to a proposed civil partnership may inspect any entry relating to the civil partnership in the civil partnership notice book without charge.

Textual Amendments

F323 S. 140(2A)(2B) inserted (1.3.2015) by The Referral and Investigation of Proposed Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Northern Ireland and Miscellaneous Provisions) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/395), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 4** (with art. 1(3))

Commencement Information

I26 S. 140 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 140 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 140(1)(a) in force at 5.9.2005 for certain purposes by S.I. 2005/2399, **art. 2**, Sch. and otherwise 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.; s. 140 in force at 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.

141 Power to require evidence of name etc.

(1) A registrar to whom a civil partnership notice is given may require the person giving it to provide him with specified evidence relating to each proposed civil partner.

(2) Such a requirement may be imposed at any time before the registrar issues the civil partnership schedule under section 143.

(3) "Specified evidence", in relation to a person, means such evidence as may be specified in guidance issued by the Registrar General—

(a) of the person's name and surname,

(b) of the person's age,

(c) as to whether the person is or has been a civil partner or lawfully married, and

(d) of the person's nationality.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

142 Objections

(1) Any person may at any time before the formation of a civil partnership in Northern Ireland make an objection in writing to the registrar.

(2) An objection on the ground that one of the proposed civil partners is incapable of understanding the nature of civil partnership must be accompanied by a supporting certificate signed by a medical practitioner.

(3) If the registrar is satisfied that the objection relates to no more than a misdescription or inaccuracy in the civil partnership notice, he must—

(a) notify the proposed civil partners,

(b) make such inquiries as he thinks fit, and

(c) subject to the approval of the Registrar General, make any necessary correction to any document relating to the proposed civil partnership.

(4) In any other case the registrar must notify the Registrar General of the objection.

(5) If the Registrar General is satisfied that there is a legal impediment to the formation of the civil partnership, he must direct the registrar to—

(a) notify the parties, and

(b) take all reasonable steps to ensure that the formation of the civil partnership does not take place.

(6) If subsection (5) does not apply, the Registrar General must direct the registrar to proceed under section 143.

(7) For the purposes of this section and section 143 there is a legal impediment to the formation of a civil partnership where the proposed civil partners are not eligible to be registered as civil partners of each other.

(8) A person who has submitted an objection may withdraw it at any time, but the Registrar General may have regard to an objection which has been withdrawn.

143 Civil partnership schedule

After the registrar receives a civil partnership notice from each of the proposed civil partners, he must complete a civil partnership schedule in the prescribed form, if—

(a) he is satisfied that there is no legal impediment to the formation of the civil partnership, or

(b) the Registrar General has directed him under section 142(6) to proceed under this section.

Commencement Information

I27 S. 143 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 143 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 143 in force at 5.9.2005 for certain purposes by S.I. 2005/2399, **art. 2**, Sch. and otherwise 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.

[F324 143A Civil partnership notice: false information or evidence

(1) A registrar may refuse to complete a civil partnership schedule under section 143 (or where one has already been completed, may cancel it) in a case where—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) notice of a proposed civil partnership has been given under section 139, and

(b) the registrar has reasonable grounds for suspecting that a relevant decision was made incorrectly because of the provision of false information or evidence in or accompanying that notice.

(2) If the registrar refuses to complete (or cancels) a civil partnership schedule under subsection (1), the parties to the proposed civil partnership are to be taken not to have given notice under section 139; but that does not prevent criminal proceedings from being brought against either party, or any other person, in relation to the giving of the notice.

(3) This section does not limit the powers of the registrar to refuse to complete (or, as the case may be, cancel) a civil partnership schedule.

(4) In this section—

"evidence" includes a photograph or other image;

"exempt person" has the same meaning as in section 139E;

"relevant decision" means a decision of a registrar that a party to the proposed civil partnership is an exempt person.**]**

Textual Amendments

F324 S. 143A inserted (1.3.2015) by The Referral and Investigation of Proposed Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Northern Ireland and Miscellaneous Provisions) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/395), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 5** (with art. 1(3))

144 Place of registration

(1) The place at which two people may register as civil partners of each other must be—

(a) a registration office, or

(b) a place approved under subsection (3).

(2) Subsection (1) is subject to subsections (5) and (7).

(3) A local registration authority may, in accordance with regulations under subsection (4), approve places where civil partnerships may be registered in its district.

(4) Regulations under section 159 may make provision for or in connection with the approval of places under subsection (3), including provision as to—

(a) the kinds of place in respect of which approvals may be granted,

(b) the procedure to be followed in relation to applications for approval,

(c) the considerations to be taken into account in determining whether to approve any places,

(d) the duration and renewal of approvals (whether for one occasion or for a period),

(e) the conditions that must or may be imposed on granting or renewing an approval,

(f) the determination and charging of fees in respect of[en rule]

(i) applications for the approval of places,

(ii) the renewal of approvals, and

(iii) the attendance by registrars at places approved under the regulations,

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(g) the circumstances in which a local registration authority must or may revoke or suspend an approval or vary any of the conditions imposed in relation to an approval,

(h) the renewal of decisions made by virtue of the regulations,

(i) appeals to a county court from decisions made by virtue of the regulations,

(j) the notification to the Registrar General of all approvals granted, renewed, revoked, suspended or varied,

(k) the notification to the registrar for the district in which a place approved under the regulations is situated of all approvals relating to such a place which are granted, renewed, revoked, suspended or varied,

(l) the keeping by the Registrar General, registrars and local registration authorities of registers of places approved under the regulations, and

(m) the issue by the Registrar General of guidance supplementing the provision made by the regulations.

(5) If either of the parties to a proposed civil partnership gives the registrar a medical statement, the civil partnership may, with the approval of the Registrar General, be registered at any place where that party is.

(6) In subsection (5) "medical statement", in relation to any person, means a statement made in the prescribed form by a registered medical practitioner that in his opinion at the time the statement is made—

(a) by reason of serious illness or serious bodily injury, that person ought not to move or be moved from the place where he is at that time, and

(b) it is likely that it will be the case for at least the following 3 months that by reason of illness or disability the person ought not to move or be moved from that place.

(7) If the Registrar General so directs, a registrar must register a civil partnership in a place specified in the direction.

Commencement Information

I28 S. 144 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 144 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 144(4)(6) in force at 5.9.2005 for certain purposes by S.I. 2005/2399, **art. 2**, Sch. and otherwise 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.; s. 144(1)-(3)(5)(7) in force at 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.

Young persons

145 Parental etc. consent where proposed civil partner under 18

(1) The consent of the appropriate persons is required before a young person and another person may register as civil partners of each other.

(2) Schedule 13 contains provisions—

(a) for determining who are the appropriate persons for the purposes of this section (see Part 1 of the Schedule);

(b) for orders dispensing with consent and for recording consents and orders (see Parts 2 and 3 of the Schedule).

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(3) Each consent required by subsection (1) must be—

(a) in the prescribed form; and

(b) produced to the registrar before the issue of the civil partnership schedule.

(4) Nothing in this section affects any need to obtain the consent of the High Court before a ward of court and another person may register as civil partners of each other.

(5) In this section and Schedule 13 "young person" means a person who is under 18.

Commencement Information

I29 S. 145 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 145 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 145(3) in force at 5.9.2005 for certain purposes by S.I. 2005/2399, **art. 2**, Sch. and otherwise 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.; s. 145 in force at 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.

Supplementary

146 Validity of registration

(1) This section applies to any legal proceedings commenced at any time after the registration of a civil partnership is recorded under section 137.

(2) The validity of the civil partnership must not be questioned in any such proceedings on the ground of any contravention of a provision of, or made under, this Act.

147 Corrections and cancellations

(1) Regulations under section 159 may make provision for the making of corrections by the Registrar General or any registrar.

(2) The Registrar General must cancel the registration of a void civil partnership or direct the registrar to do so.

[F325(3) Subsection (4) applies in relation to a civil partnership formed in Northern Ireland before, on or after 13th January 2020 where, before the civil partnership is formed, a full gender recognition certificate has been issued under the Gender Recognition Act 2004 to either or each of the parties.

(4) The Registrar General, after consulting the parties, may—

(a) modify, or direct a registrar to modify, the recorded status of either or both of the parties in the registration of the civil partnership, or

(b) direct a registrar to modify the way in which the status of either or both of the parties is to be recorded when registering the civil partnership,

for the purpose of reducing the risk that the recorded status of the parties in the registration of the civil partnership will disclose the issue of the gender recognition certificate or either of the certificates.**]**

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F325 S. 147(3)(4) inserted (13.1.2020) by The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), **50(2)** (with regs. 6-9)

Commencement Information

I30 S. 147 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 147 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 147(1) in force at 5.9.2005 for certain purposes by S.I. 2005/2399, **art. 2**, Sch. and otherwise 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.; s. 147(2) in force at 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.

148 Interpreters

(1) If the registrar considers it necessary or desirable, he may use the services of an interpreter (not being one of the civil partners or a witness).

(2) The interpreter must—

(a) before the registration of the civil partnership, sign a statement in English that he understands, and is able to converse in, any language in respect of which he is to act as an interpreter, and

(b) immediately after the registration of the civil partnership, give the registrar a certificate written in English and signed by the interpreter that he has faithfully acted as the interpreter.

149 Detained persons

(1) If—

(a) one of the parties to a proposed civil partnership is detained in a prison or as a patient in a hospital, and

(b) the civil partnership is to be registered in that prison or hospital,

the civil partnership notice given by that party must be accompanied by a statement to which subsection (2) applies.

(2) This subsection applies to a statement which—

(a) is made in the prescribed form by the responsible authority not more than 21 days before the date on which the civil partnership notice is given,

(b) identifies the establishment where the person is detained, and

(c) states that the responsible authority has no objection to that establishment being the place of registration for that civil partnership.

(3) In subsection (2) "responsible authority" means—

(a) if the person named in the statement is detained in a prison, the governor or other officer in charge of that prison;

(b) if the person named in the statement is detained in a hospital or special accommodation, the **[**[F326]Health and Social Care trust**]** administering that hospital or the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, respectively;

(c) if the person named in the statement is detained in a private hospital, the person in charge of that hospital.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(4) After the registrar receives a civil partnership notice accompanied by a statement to which subsection (2) applies, he must notify the Registrar General and not complete a civil partnership schedule unless the Registrar General directs him to proceed under section 143.

(5) In this section—

(a) "prison" includes a remand centre and a young offenders centre, and

(b) "hospital", "patient", "private hospital" and "special accommodation" have the same meaning as in the Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 (S.I. 1986/595 (N.I. 4)).

Textual Amendments

F326 Words in s. 149(3)(b) substituted (1.4.2022) by Health and Social Care Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (c. 3 (N.I.)), s. 8(1)(b), **Sch. 1 para. 209(2)**; S.R. 2022/102, **art. 2(b)**

Commencement Information

I31 S. 149 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 149 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 149(2)(a) in force at 5.9.2005 for certain purposes by S.I. 2005/2399, **art. 2**, Sch. and otherwise 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.; s. 149 in force at 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.

150 Certificates of no impediment for Part 2 purposes

F327 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F327 S. 150 omitted (5.12.2005) by virtue of The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 16** (subject to art. 1(3))

151 Registration districts and registration authorities

(1) Each local government district shall be a registration district and the district council shall be the local registration authority for the purposes of this Part.

(2) A district council shall, in the exercise of functions conferred on it as a local registration authority—

(a) act as agent for the Department of Finance and Personnel, and

(b) act in accordance with such directions as that Department may give to the council.

(3) Any expenditure to be incurred by the district council in the exercise of functions conferred on it as a local registration authority shall be subject to the approval of the Registrar General.

(4) The Department of Finance and Personnel shall retain or, as the case may be, defray in respect of each financial year the amount of the difference between—

(a) the aggregate of the amounts of salaries, pension provision and other expenses payable by virtue of this Part in respect of any registration district, and

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) the aggregate of the amounts received in that registration district under any statutory provision or otherwise by way of fees or other expenses.

152 Registrars and other staff

(1) A local registration authority shall, with the approval of the Registrar General, appoint—

(a) a registrar of civil partnerships, and

(b) one or more deputy registrars of civil partnerships.

(2) A person holding an appointment under subsection (1) may with the approval of, and shall at the direction of, the Registrar General be removed from his office of registrar or deputy registrar by the local registration authority.

(3) A local registration authority shall, at the direction of the Registrar General, appoint additional persons to register civil partnerships and carry out other functions for the purposes of this Part.

(4) A person shall not be appointed under subsection (1) or (3) if he is under the age of 21.

(5) Regulations under section 159 may confer additional functions on a person holding an appointment under subsection (1).

(6) A person holding an appointment under subsection (1) shall, in exercising his functions under this Part or any other statutory provision, be subject to such instructions or directions as the Registrar General may give.

Commencement Information

I32 S. 152 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 152 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 152(5) in force at 5.9.2005 by S.I. 2005/2399, **art. 2**, Sch.; s. 152 in force at 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.

153 Records and documents to be sent to Registrar General

If the Registrar General directs him to do so, a person must send to the Registrar General any record or document relating to civil partnerships in accordance with the Registrar General's directions.

154 Annual report

(1) The Registrar General must send to the Department of Finance and Personnel an annual report of the number of civil partnerships registered during each year, together with such other information as he considers it appropriate to include.

(2) The Department of Finance and Personnel must lay the report before the Northern Ireland Assembly.

155 Searches

(1) The Registrar General must provide indexes to civil partnership registration records in his custody for inspection by the public.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(2) A registrar must provide indexes to civil partnership registration records in his custody for inspection by the public.

(3) Any person may, on payment of the prescribed fee—

(a) search any index mentioned in subsection (1) or (2), and

(b) require the Registrar General or, as the case may be, the registrar to give him a document in the prescribed form relating to the registration of a civil partnership.

(4) The Registrar General must cause any document given by him under this section or section 156 to be stamped with the seal of the General Register Office.

(5) Judicial notice shall be taken of any document so stamped.

[F328(6) Regulations under section 159 may make provision for any person to have access, on payment of the prescribed fee, to any information contained in any civil partnership registration records.

(7) Regulations under section 159 may provide that the relevant period must have expired in relation to the information.

(8) In subsection (7) "the relevant period" in relation to a civil partnership means the period of 75 years from the date on which the civil partnership was registered or such other period as may be prescribed.

(9) Regulations under section 159 may provide for the Registrar General—

(a) to make arrangements with any person for the purpose of providing access to information as mentioned in subsection (6); and

(b) for that purpose to transfer information to that person subject to conditions (including conditions as to the making of payments by that person to the Registrar General).**]**

Textual Amendments

F328 S. 155(6)-(9) added (16.11.2012) by Civil Registration Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (c. 20), **ss. 23(2)**, 34; S.R. 2012/406, art. 2, Sch.

Commencement Information

I33 S. 155 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 155 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 155(3) in force at 5.9.2005 for certain purposes by S.I. 2005/2399, **art. 2**, Sch. and otherwise 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.; s. 155 in force at 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.

[F329**155ANotification of registration**

(1) The Registrar General may notify such persons as the Registrar General considers appropriate of the registration of a civil partnership.

(2) An application may be made in the prescribed form to the Registrar General as to persons to be notified by the Registrar General under subsection (1) by either civil partner.

(3) The prescribed fee shall be payable to the Registrar General by the applicant.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(4) Any notification under subsection (1) shall be subject to such conditions as the Registrar General considers appropriate.

(5) The power conferred by subsection (1) may be exercised whether or not an application has been made under subsection (2).**]**

Textual Amendments

F329 S. 155A inserted (N.I.) (16.11.2012) by Civil Registration Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (c. 20), **ss. 24(2)**, 34; S.R. 2012/406, art. 2, Sch.

156 Proof of civil partnership for purposes of certain statutory provisions

(1) Where the civil partnership of a person is required to be proved for the purposes of any prescribed statutory provision, any person—

(a) on application to the Registrar General, and

(b) on payment of the prescribed fee,

is entitled to a document in the prescribed form relating to the registration of the civil partnership of that person.

(2) An application under subsection (1) must be in such form and accompanied by such particulars as the Registrar General may require.

(3) The Registrar General or any registrar may, on payment of the prescribed fee, issue such information (including a document as mentioned in subsection (1)) as may be required for the purposes of any prescribed statutory provision.

Commencement Information

I34 S. 156 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 156 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 156(1)(3) in force at 5.9.2005 for certain purposes by S.I. 2005/2399, **art. 2**, Sch. and otherwise 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.; s. 156 in force at 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.

157 Fees

(1) The Department of Finance and Personnel may by order prescribe—

(a) any fee which is required to be prescribed for the purposes of this Chapter;

(b) fees for such other matters as that Department considers necessary or expedient for the purposes of this Chapter.

(2) The power to make an order under subsection (1) is exercisable by statutory rule for the purposes of the Statutory Rules (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 (S.I. 1979/1573 (N.I. 12)).

(3) An order under subsection (1) may only be made if a draft has been laid before and approved by resolution of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

158 Offences

(1) Any registrar who signs a civil partnership schedule in the absence of the civil partners is guilty of an offence.

(2) Any person who is not a registrar but officiates at the signing of a civil partnership schedule in such a way as to lead the civil partners to believe that he is a registrar is guilty of an offence.

(3) A person who is guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

(4) Notwithstanding anything in Article 19(1) of the Magistrates' Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 (S.I. 1981/1675 (N.I. 26)) (limitation of time for taking proceedings), proceedings for an offence under this section may be instituted at any time within 3 years after the commission of the offence.

159 Regulations

(1) The Department of Finance and Personnel may by regulations make such provision as appears to it necessary or expedient for the registration of civil partnerships in Northern Ireland.

(2) The power to make regulations under subsection (1) is exercisable by statutory rule for the purposes of the Statutory Rules (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 (S.I. 1979/1573 (N.I. 12)).

(3) Regulations under subsection (1) shall be subject to negative resolution (within the meaning of section 41(6) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954 (1954 c. 33 (N.I.))).

160 Interpretation

In this Chapter—

[[F330]"2014 Act" means the Immigration Act 2014;**]**

"civil partnership notice" means a notice of proposed civil partnership under section 139;

"civil partnership notice book" has the meaning given by section 140;

"prescribed", except in relation to a fee, means prescribed by regulations under section 159 and, in relation to a fee, means prescribed by order under section 157;

"registrar" means such person appointed under section 152(1)(a) or (b) or (3) as may be prescribed;

"Registrar General" means the Registrar General for Northern Ireland;

[[F331]"relevant national" has the same meaning as in section 30A;**]**

"statutory provision" has the meaning given by section 1(f) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954 (1954 c. 33 (N.I.)).

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F330 Words in s. 160 inserted (1.3.2015) by The Referral and Investigation of Proposed Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Northern Ireland and Miscellaneous Provisions) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/395), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 6(a)** (with art. 1(3))

F331 Words in s. 160 inserted (1.3.2015) by The Referral and Investigation of Proposed Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Northern Ireland and Miscellaneous Provisions) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/395), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 6(b)** (with art. 1(3))

CHAPTER 2

DISSOLUTION, NULLITY AND OTHER PROCEEDINGS

Introduction

161 Powers to make orders and effect of orders

(1) The court may, in accordance with this Chapter—

(a) make an order (a "dissolution order") which dissolves a civil partnership on the ground that it has broken down irretrievably;

(b) make an order (a "nullity order") which annuls a civil partnership which is void or voidable;

(c) F332 . . . . . .

(d) make an order (a "separation order") which provides for the separation of the civil partners.

(2) Every **[**F333dissolution order or nullity order**]**—

(a) is, in the first instance, a conditional order, and

(b) may not be made final before the end of the prescribed period (see section 162);

and any reference in this Chapter to a conditional order is to be read accordingly.

(3) A nullity order made where a civil partnership is voidable annuls the civil partnership only as respects any time after the order has been made final, and the civil partnership is to be treated (despite the order) as if it had existed up to that time.

(4) In this Chapter "the court" has the meaning given by section 188.

(5) This Chapter is subject to section 219 and sections 228 to 232 (jurisdiction of the court).

Textual Amendments

F332 S. 161(1)(c) repealed (9.11.2009) by Presumption of Death Act (Northern Ireland) 2009 (c. 6 (N.I.)), ss. 19(1), (2), 20, Sch. 2, {Sch. 3}; S.R. 2009/356, **art. 2**

F333 Words in s. 161(2) substituted (9.11.2009) by Presumption of Death Act (Northern Ireland) 2009 (c. 6 (N.I.)), ss. 19(1), 20, **Sch. 2**; S.R. 2009/356, **art. 2**

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

162 The period before conditional orders may be made final

(1) Subject to subsection (2), the prescribed period for the purposes of section 161(2)(b) is 6 weeks from the making of the conditional order.

(2) In a particular case the court dealing with the case may by order shorten the prescribed period.

163 Intervention by the Crown Solicitor

(1) This section applies if an application has been made for a **[**[F334]dissolution order or nullity order**]**.

(2) The court may, if it thinks fit, direct that all necessary papers in the matter are to be sent to the Crown Solicitor who must under the directions of the Attorney General instruct counsel to argue before the court any question in relation to the matter which the court considers it necessary or expedient to have fully argued.

(3) If any person at any time—

(a) during the progress of the proceedings, or

(b) before the conditional order is made final,

gives information to the Crown Solicitor on any matter material to the due decision of the case, the Crown Solicitor may take such steps as the Attorney General considers necessary or expedient.

(4) If the Crown Solicitor intervenes or shows cause against the making of the conditional order in any proceedings relating to its making, the court may make such order as may be just as to—

(a) the payment by other parties to the proceedings of the costs incurred by him in doing so, or

(b) the payment by the Crown Solicitor of any costs incurred by any of those parties because of his doing so.

(5) In this Chapter—

"the Attorney General" means the Attorney General for Northern Ireland; and

"the Crown Solicitor" means the Crown Solicitor for Northern Ireland.

Textual Amendments

F334 Words in s. 163(1) substituted (9.11.2009) by Presumption of Death Act (Northern Ireland) 2009 (c. 6 (N.I.)), ss. 19(1), 20, **Sch. 2**; S.R. 2009/356, **art. 2**

164 Proceedings before order has been made final

(1) This section applies if—

(a) a conditional order has been made, and

(b) the Crown Solicitor, or any person who has not been a party to proceedings in which the order was made, shows cause why the order should not be made final on the ground that material facts have not been brought before the court.

(2) This section also applies if—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) a conditional order has been made,
(b) 3 months have elapsed since the earliest date on which an application could have been made for the order to be made final,
(c) no such application has been made by the civil partner who applied for the conditional order, and
(d) the other civil partner makes an application to the court under this subsection.

(3) The court may—
(a) make the order final,
(b) rescind the order,
(c) require further inquiry, or
(d) otherwise deal with the case as it thinks fit.

(4) Subsection (3)(a)—
(a) applies despite section 161(2) (period before conditional orders may be made final), but
(b) is subject to section 172(4) (protection for respondent in separation cases) and section 186 (restrictions on making of orders affecting children).

165 Time bar on applications for dissolution orders

(1) No application for a dissolution order may be made to the court before the end of the period of 2 years from the date of the formation of the civil partnership.

(2) Nothing in this section prevents the making of an application based on matters which occurred before the end of the 2 year period.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)
C19 S. 165 applied (with modifications) (N.I.) (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Treatment of Overseas Relationships) Order (Northern Ireland) 2005 (S.R. 2005/531), **art. 3(1)**
C20 S. 165 applied (with modifications) (N.I.) (13.1.2020) by The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), **171(1)** (with regs. 6-9)

166 Attempts at reconciliation of civil partners

(1) This section applies in relation to cases where an application is made for a dissolution or separation order.

(2) If at any stage of proceedings for the order it appears to the court that there is a reasonable possibility of a reconciliation between the civil partners, the court may adjourn the proceedings for such period as it thinks fit to enable attempts to be made to effect a reconciliation between them.

(3) If during any such adjournment the parties resume living with each other in the same household, no account is to be taken of the fact for the purposes of the proceedings.

(4) The power to adjourn under subsection (2) is additional to any other power of adjournment.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

167 Consideration by the court of certain agreements or arrangements

(1) This section applies to cases where—

(a) proceedings for a dissolution or separation order are contemplated or have begun, and

(b) an agreement or arrangement is made or proposed to be made between the civil partners which relates to, arises out of, or is connected with, the proceedings.

(2) Rules of court may make provision for enabling—

(a) the civil partners, or either of them, on application made either before or after the making of the application for a dissolution or separation order, to refer the agreement or arrangement to the court, and

(b) the court—

(i) to express an opinion, if it thinks it desirable to do so, as to the reasonableness of the agreement or arrangement, and

(ii) to give such directions, if any, in the matter as it thinks fit.

Dissolution of civil partnership

168 Dissolution of civil partnership which has broken down irretrievably

(1) Subject to section 165, an application for a dissolution order may be made to the court by either civil partner on the ground that the civil partnership has broken down irretrievably.

(2) On an application for a dissolution order the court must inquire, so far as it reasonably can, into—

(a) the facts alleged by the applicant, and

(b) any facts alleged by the respondent.

(3) The court hearing an application for a dissolution order must not hold that the civil partnership has broken down irretrievably unless the applicant satisfies the court of one or more of the facts described in subsection (5)(a), (b), (c) or (d).

(4) But if the court is satisfied of any of those facts, it must make a dissolution order unless it is satisfied on all the evidence that the civil partnership has not broken down irretrievably.

(5) The facts referred to in subsections (3) and (4) are—

(a) that the respondent has behaved in such a way that the applicant cannot reasonably be expected to live with the respondent;

(b) that—

(i) the applicant and the respondent have lived apart for a continuous period of at least 2 years immediately preceding the making of the application ("2 years' separation"), and

(ii) the respondent consents to a dissolution order being made;

(c) that the applicant and the respondent have lived apart for a continuous period of at least 5 years immediately preceding the making of the application ("5 years' separation");

(d) that the respondent has deserted the applicant for a continuous period of at least 2 years immediately preceding the making of the application.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(6) The court must not make a dissolution order without considering the oral testimony of the applicant unless for special reasons it orders that such testimony be dispensed with.

169 Supplemental provisions as to facts raising presumption of breakdown

(1) Subsection (2) applies if—

(a) in any proceedings for a dissolution order the applicant alleges, in reliance on section 168(5)(a), that the respondent has behaved in such a way that the applicant cannot reasonably be expected to live with the respondent, but

(b) after the date of the occurrence of the final incident relied on by the applicant and held by the court to support his allegation, the applicant and the respondent have lived together for a period (or periods) which does not, or which taken together do not, exceed 6 months.

(2) The fact that the applicant and respondent have lived together as mentioned in subsection (1)(b) must be disregarded in determining, for the purposes of section 168(5)(a), whether the applicant cannot reasonably be expected to live with the respondent.

(3) Subsection (4) applies in relation to cases where the applicant alleges, in reliance on section 168(5)(b), that the respondent consents to a dissolution order being made.

(4) Rules of court must make provision for the purpose of ensuring that the respondent has been given such information as will enable him to understand—

(a) the consequences to him of consenting to the order, and

(b) the steps which he must take to indicate his consent.

(5) For the purposes of section 168(5)(d) the court may treat a period of desertion as having continued at a time when the deserting civil partner was incapable of continuing the necessary intention, if the evidence before the court is such that, had he not been so incapable, the court would have inferred that the desertion continued at that time.

(6) In considering for the purposes of section 168(5) whether the period for which the civil partners have lived apart or the period for which the respondent has deserted the applicant has been continuous, no account is to be taken of—

(a) any one period not exceeding 6 months, or

(b) any two or more periods not exceeding 6 months in all,

during which the civil partners resumed living together.

(7) But no period during which the civil partners have lived with each other counts as part of the period during which the civil partners have lived apart or as part of the period of desertion.

(8) For the purposes of section 168(5)(b) and (c) and this section civil partners are to be treated as living apart unless they are living with each other in the same household, and references in this section to civil partners living with each other are to be read as references to their living with each other in the same household.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Commencement Information

I35 S. 169 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 169 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 169(3)(4) in force at 5.9.2005 by S.I. 2005/2399, **art. 2**, Sch.; s. 169 in force at 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.

170 Dissolution order not precluded by previous separation order etc.

(1) Subsections (2) and (3) apply if any of the following orders has been made in relation to a civil partnership—

(a) a separation order;

(b) an order under Schedule 16 (financial relief in court of summary jurisdiction etc.);

(c) an occupation order under Article 11 of the Family Homes and Domestic Violence (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 (S.I. 1998/1071 (N.I. 6) (occupation orders));

(d) an order under Article 15 of that Order (orders where neither civil partner entitled to occupy the home).

(2) Nothing prevents—

(a) either civil partner from applying for a dissolution order, or

(b) the court from making a dissolution order,

on the same facts, or substantially the same facts, as those proved in support of the making of the order referred to in subsection (1).

(3) On the application for the dissolution order, the court—

(a) may treat the order referred to in subsection (1) as sufficient proof of any desertion or other fact by reference to which it was made, but

(b) must not make the dissolution order without receiving evidence from the applicant.

(4) If—

(a) the application for the dissolution order follows a separation order or any order requiring the civil partners to live apart,

(b) there was a period of desertion immediately preceding the institution of the proceedings for the separation order, and

(c) the civil partners have not resumed living together and the separation order has been continuously in force since it was made,

the period of desertion is to be treated for the purposes of the application for the dissolution order as if it had immediately preceded the making of the application.

(5) For the purposes of section 168(5)(d) the court may treat as a period during which the respondent has deserted the applicant any period during which there is in force—

(a) an injunction granted by the High Court or a county court which excludes the respondent from the civil partnership home, or

(b) an order under Article 11 or 15 of the Family Homes and Domestic Violence (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 (S.I. 1998/1071 (N.I. 6)) which prohibits the respondent from occupying a dwelling-house in which the applicant and the respondent have, or at any time have had, a civil partnership home.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

171 Refusal of dissolution in 5 year separation cases on ground of grave hardship

(1) The respondent to an application for a dissolution order in which the applicant alleges 5 years' separation may oppose the making of an order on the ground that—

(a) the dissolution of the civil partnership will result in grave financial or other hardship to him, and

(b) it would in all the circumstances be wrong to dissolve the civil partnership.

(2) Subsection (3) applies if—

(a) the making of a dissolution order is opposed under this section,

(b) the court finds that the applicant is entitled to rely in support of his application on the fact of 5 years' separation and makes no such finding as to any other fact mentioned in section 168(5), and

(c) apart from this section, the court would make a dissolution order.

(3) The court must—

(a) consider all the circumstances, including the conduct of the civil partners and the interests of the civil partners and of any children or other persons concerned, and

(b) if it is of the opinion that the ground mentioned in subsection (1) is made out, dismiss the application for the dissolution order.

(4) "Hardship" includes the loss of the chance of acquiring any benefit which the respondent might acquire if the civil partnership were not dissolved.

172 Proceedings before order made final: protection for respondent in separation cases

(1) The court may, on an application made by the respondent, rescind a conditional dissolution order if—

(a) it made the order on the basis of a finding that the applicant was entitled to rely on the fact of 2 years' separation coupled with the respondent's consent to a dissolution order being made,

(b) it made no such finding as to any other fact mentioned in section 168(5), and

(c) it is satisfied that the applicant misled the respondent (whether intentionally or unintentionally) about any matter which the respondent took into account in deciding to give his consent.

(2) Subsections (3) to (5) apply if—

(a) the respondent to an application for a dissolution order in which the applicant alleged—

(i) 2 years' separation coupled with the respondent's consent to a dissolution order being made, or

(ii) 5 years' separation,

has applied to the court for consideration under subsection (3) of his financial position after the dissolution of the civil partnership, and

(b) the court—

(i) has made a conditional dissolution order on the basis of a finding that the applicant was entitled to rely in support of his application on the fact of 2 years' or 5 years' separation, and

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(ii) has made no such finding as to any other fact mentioned in section 168(5).

(3) The court hearing an application by the respondent under subsection (2) must consider all the circumstances, including—

(a) the age, health, conduct, earning capacity, financial resources and financial obligations of each of the parties, and

(b) the financial position of the respondent as, having regard to the dissolution, it is likely to be after the death of the applicant should the applicant die first.

(4) The court must not make the order final unless it has, by order, declared that it is satisfied that—

(a) the applicant should not be required to make any financial provision for the respondent,

(b) the financial provision made by the applicant for the respondent is—

(i) reasonable and fair, or

(ii) the best that can be made in the circumstances, or

(c) there are circumstances making it desirable that the order should be made final without delay.

(5) The court must not make an order declaring that it is satisfied as mentioned in subsection (4)(c) unless it has obtained a satisfactory undertaking from the applicant that he will bring the question of financial provision for the respondent before the court within a specified time.

(6) Subsection (7) applies if, following an application under subsection (2) which is not withdrawn, the court makes the order final without making an order under subsection (4).

(7) The final order is voidable at the instance of the respondent or of the court but no person is entitled to challenge the validity of the order after it is made final on the ground that subsections (4) and (5) were not satisfied.

(8) If the court refuses to make an order under subsection (4), it must, on an application by the applicant, make an order declaring that it is not satisfied as mentioned in that subsection.

Nullity

173 Grounds on which civil partnership is void

[[F335](1)**]** Where two people register as civil partners of each other in Northern Ireland, the civil partnership is void if—

(a) at the time when they do so, they are not eligible to register as civil partners of each other under Chapter 1 (see section 138), or

(b) at the time when they do so they both know—

(i) that due notice of proposed civil partnership has not been given,

(ii) that the civil partnership schedule has not been duly issued,

(iii) that the place of registration is a place other than that specified in the civil partnership schedule, or

(iv) that a registrar is not present.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

[F336(2) Subsection (3) applies in the case of a civil partnership which results from the conversion, or purported conversion, of a marriage into a civil partnership under Part 3, 4 or 5 of the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Northern Ireland) (No. 2) Regulations 2020.

(3) The civil partnership is void if (but only if) the marriage was void.**]**

Textual Amendments

F335 S. 173 renumbered as s. 173(1) (7.12.2020) by The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Northern Ireland) (No. 2) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/1143), regs. 1(2), **44(5)(a)**

F336 S. 173(2)(3) inserted (7.12.2020) by The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Northern Ireland) (No. 2) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/1143), regs. 1(2), **44(5)(b)**

174 Grounds on which civil partnership is voidable

(1) Where two people register as civil partners of each other in Northern Ireland, the civil partnership is voidable if—

(a) either of them did not validly consent to its formation (whether as a result of duress, mistake, unsoundness of mind or otherwise);

(b) at the time of its formation either of them, though capable of giving a valid consent, was suffering (whether continuously or intermittently) from mental disorder of such a kind or to such an extent as to be unfitted for civil partnership;

(c) at the time of its formation, the respondent was pregnant by some person other than the applicant;

(d) an interim gender recognition certificate under the Gender Recognition Act 2004 (c. 7) has, after the time of its formation, been issued to either civil partner;

(e) the respondent is a person whose gender at the time of its formation had become the acquired gender under the 2004 Act.

(2) In this section and section 175 "mental disorder" has the same meaning as in the Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 (S.I. 1986/595 (N.I. 4)).

[F337174A Civil partnership converted from a marriage: when voidable

(1) Subsections (2) and (3) apply in the case of a civil partnership which results from the conversion of a marriage into a civil partnership under Part 3, 4 or 5 of the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Northern Ireland) (No. 2) Regulations 2020.

(2) Section 174(1) applies in relation to the civil partnership, but does so as if—

(a) the reference in paragraph (a) to either party not validly consenting to the formation of the civil partnership were a reference to either party not validly consenting to the marriage, and

(b) a reference in paragraphs (b) to (e) to the time of the civil partnership's formation were a reference to the time of the marriage.

(3) Section 175 applies in relation to the civil partnership as if—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) the reference in subsection (1)(a) to obtaining a nullity order were a reference to obtaining a nullity order or (at times before the conversion) to having the marriage avoided,

(b) the reference in subsection (2) to the date of the formation of the civil partnership were a reference to the date of the marriage, and

(c) the reference in subsection (6) to the time of the formation of the civil partnership were a reference to the time of the marriage.**]**

Textual Amendments

F337 S. 174A inserted (7.12.2020) by The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Northern Ireland) (No. 2) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/1143), regs. 1(2), **44(6)**

175 Bars to relief where civil partnership is voidable

(1) The court must not make a nullity order on the ground that a civil partnership is voidable if the respondent satisfies the court—

(a) that the applicant, with knowledge that it was open to him to obtain a nullity order, conducted himself in relation to the respondent in such a way as to lead the respondent reasonably to believe that he would not seek to do so, and

(b) that it would be unjust to the respondent to make the order.

(2) Without prejudice to subsection (1), the court must not make a nullity order by virtue of section 174(1)(a), (b), (c) or (e) unless—

(a) it is satisfied that proceedings were instituted within 3 years from the date of the formation of the civil partnership, or

(b) leave for the institution of proceedings after the end of that 3 year period has been granted under subsection (3).

(3) A judge of the court may, on an application made to him, grant leave for the institution of proceedings if he—

(a) is satisfied that the applicant has at some time during the 3 year period suffered from mental disorder, and

(b) considers that in all the circumstances of the case it would be just to grant leave for the institution of proceedings.

(4) An application for leave under subsection (3) may be made after the end of the 3 year period.

(5) Without prejudice to subsection (1), the court must not make a nullity order by virtue of section 174(1)(d) unless it is satisfied that proceedings were instituted within the period of 6 months from the date of issue of the interim gender recognition certificate.

(6) Without prejudice to subsections (1) and (2), the court must not make a nullity order by virtue of section 174(1)(c) or (e) unless it is satisfied that the applicant was at the time of the formation of the civil partnership ignorant of the facts alleged.

176 Proof of certain matters not necessary to validity of civil partnership

Where two people have registered as civil partners of each other in Northern Ireland, it is not necessary in support of the civil partnership to give any proof—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) that any person whose consent to the civil partnership was required by section 145 (parental etc. consent) had given his consent;

(b) that the registrar was properly appointed under section 152;

[[F338](c) that, in the case of a civil partnership to which Schedule 13A applied, any of the events listed in paragraph 2(2) to (6) of that Schedule occurred;**]**

and no evidence is to be given to prove the contrary in any proceedings touching the validity of the civil partnership.

Textual Amendments

F338 S. 176(c) inserted (1.3.2015) by The Referral and Investigation of Proposed Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Northern Ireland and Miscellaneous Provisions) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/395), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 7** (with art. 1(3))

177 Validity of civil partnerships registered outside Northern Ireland

(1) Where two people register as civil partners of each other in England or Wales, the civil partnership is—

(a) void, if it would be void in England and Wales under section 49, and

(b) voidable, if the circumstances fall within any paragraph of section 174(1).

(2) Where two people register as civil partners of each other in Scotland, the civil partnership is—

(a) void, if it would be void in Scotland under section 123, and

(b) voidable, if the circumstances fall within section 174(1)(d).

(3) Subsection (4) applies where two people register as civil partners of each other under an Order in Council under—

(a) section 210 (registration at British consulates etc.), or

(b) section 211 (registration by armed forces personnel),

("the relevant section").

(4) The civil partnership is—

(a) void, if—

(i) the condition in subsection (2)(a) or (b) of the relevant section is not met, or

(ii) a requirement prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph by an Order in Council under the relevant section is not complied with, and

(b) voidable, if—

(i) the appropriate part of the United Kingdom is Northern Ireland or England and Wales and the circumstances fall within any paragraph of section 174(1), or

(ii) the appropriate part of the United Kingdom is Scotland and the circumstances fall within section 174(1)(d).

(5) The appropriate part of the United Kingdom is the part by reference to which the condition in subsection (2)(b) of the relevant section is met.

(6) Subsections (7) and (8) apply where two people have registered an apparent or alleged overseas relationship.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(7) The civil partnership is void if—

(a) the relationship is not an overseas relationship, or

(b) (even though the relationship is an overseas relationship) the parties are not treated under Chapter 2 of Part 5 as having formed a civil partnership.

(8) The civil partnership is voidable if—

(a) the overseas relationship is voidable under the relevant law,

(b) the circumstances fall within section 174(1)(d), or

(c) where either of the parties was domiciled in Northern Ireland or England and Wales at the time when the overseas relationship was registered, the circumstances fall within section 174(1)(a), (b), (c) or (e).

(9) Section 175 applies for the purposes of—

(a) subsections (1)(b), (2)(b) and (4)(b),

(b) subsection (8)(a), in so far as applicable in accordance with the relevant law, and

(c) subsection (8)(b) and (c).

(10) In subsections (8)(a) and (9)(b) "the relevant law" means the law of the country or territory where the overseas relationship was registered (including its rules of private international law).

(11) For the purposes of subsections (8) and (9)(b) and (c), references in sections 174 and 175 to the formation of a civil partnership are to be read as references to the registration of the overseas relationship.

Presumption of death orders

178 Presumption of death orders

F339 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F339 S. 178 repealed (9.11.2009) by Presumption of Death Act (Northern Ireland) 2009 (c. 6 (N.I.)), ss. 14(1)(b)(3), 19(2), 20, **Sch. 3**; S.R. 2009/356, **art. 2**

Separation orders

179 Separation orders

(1) An application for a separation order may be made to the court by either civil partner on the ground that any such fact as is mentioned in section 168(5)(a), (b), (c) or (d) exists.

(2) On an application for a separation order the court must inquire, so far as it reasonably can, into—

(a) the facts alleged by the applicant, and

(b) any facts alleged by the respondent,

but whether the civil partnership has broken down irretrievably is irrelevant.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(3) If the court is satisfied on the evidence of any such fact as is mentioned in section 168(5)(a), (b), (c) or (d) it must, subject to section 186, make a separation order.

(4) Section 169 (supplemental provisions as to facts raising presumption of breakdown) applies for the purposes of an application for a separation order alleging any such fact as it applies in relation to an application for a dissolution order alleging that fact.

180 Effect of separation order

If either civil partner dies intestate as respects all or any of his or her real or personal property while—

(a) a separation order is in force, and

(b) the separation order is continuing,

the property as respects which he or she died intestate devolves as if the other civil partner had then been dead.

Declarations

181 Declarations

(1) Any person may apply to the court for one or more of the following declarations in relation to a civil partnership specified in the application—

(a) a declaration that the civil partnership was at its inception a valid civil partnership;

(b) a declaration that the civil partnership subsisted on a date specified in the application;

(c) a declaration that the civil partnership did not subsist on a date so specified;

(d) a declaration that the validity of a dissolution, annulment or legal separation obtained in any country outside Northern Ireland in respect of the civil partnership is entitled to recognition in Northern Ireland;

(e) a declaration that the validity of a dissolution, annulment or legal separation so obtained in respect of the civil partnership is not entitled to recognition in Northern Ireland.

(2) Where an application under subsection (1) is made to the court by a person other than a civil partner in the civil partnership to which the application relates, the court must refuse to hear the application if it considers that the applicant does not have a sufficient interest in the determination of that application.

182 General provisions as to making and effect of declarations

(1) Where on an application for a declaration under section 181 the truth of the proposition to be declared is proved to the satisfaction of the court, the court must make the declaration unless to do so would be manifestly contrary to public policy.

(2) Any declaration under section 181 binds Her Majesty and all other persons.

(3) The court, on the dismissal of an application for a declaration under section 181, may not make any declaration for which an application has not been made.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(4) No declaration which may be applied for under section 181 may be made otherwise than under section 181 by any court.

(5) No declaration may be made by any court, whether under section 181 or otherwise, that a civil partnership was at its inception void.

(6) Nothing in this section affects the powers of any court to annul a civil partnership.

183 The Attorney General and proceedings for declarations

(1) On an application for a declaration under section 181 the court may at any stage of the proceedings, of its own motion or on the application of any party to the proceedings, direct that all necessary papers in the matter be sent to the Attorney General.

(2) The Attorney General, whether or not he is sent papers in relation to an application for a declaration under section 181, may—

(a) intervene in the proceedings on that application in such manner as he thinks necessary or expedient, and

(b) argue before the court any question in relation to the application which the court considers it necessary to have fully argued.

(3) Where any costs are incurred by the Attorney General in connection with any application for a declaration under section 181, the court may make such order as it considers just as to the payment of those costs by parties to the proceedings.

184 Supplementary provisions as to declarations

(1) Any declaration made under section 181, and any application for such a declaration, must be in the form prescribed by family proceedings rules.

(2) Family proceedings rules may make provision—

(a) as to the information required to be given by any applicant for a declaration under section 181;

(b) requiring notice of an application under section 181 to be served on the Attorney General and on persons who may be affected by any declaration applied for.

(3) No proceedings under section 181 affects any final judgment or order already pronounced or made by any court of competent jurisdiction.

(4) The court hearing an application under section 181 may direct that the whole or any part of the proceedings must be heard in private.

(5) An application for a direction under subsection (4) must be heard in private unless the court otherwise directs.

(6) Family proceedings rules must make provision for an appeal to the Court of Appeal from any declaration made by a county court under section 181 or from the dismissal of an application under that section, upon a point of law, a question of fact or the admission or rejection of any evidence.

(7) Subsection (6) does not affect Article 61 of the County Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1980 (S.I. 1980/397 (N.I. 3)) (cases stated).

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(8) In this section "family proceedings rules" means family proceedings rules made under Article 12 of the Family Law (Northern Ireland) Order 1993 (S.I. 1993/1576 (N.I. 6)).

Commencement Information

I36 S. 184 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 184 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 184(1) in force at 5.9.2005 for certain purposes by S.I. 2005/2399, **art. 2**, Sch. and otherwise 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.; s. 184(2)(6)(8) in force at 5.9.2005 by S.I. 2005/2399, **art. 2**, Sch.; s. 184(3)-(5)(7) in force at 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.

General provisions

185 Relief for respondent in dissolution proceedings

(1) If in any proceedings for a dissolution or separation order the respondent alleges and proves any such fact as is mentioned in section 168(5)(a), (b), (c) or (d) the court may give to the respondent the relief to which he would have been entitled if he had made an application seeking that relief.

(2) When applying subsection (1), treat—

(a) the respondent as the applicant, and

(b) the applicant as the respondent,

for the purposes of section 168(5).

186 Restrictions on making of orders affecting children

(1) In any proceedings for a dissolution, nullity or separation order, the court must consider—

(a) whether there are any children of the family to whom this section applies, and

(b) if there are any such children, whether (in the light of the arrangements which have been, or are proposed to be, made for their upbringing and welfare) it should exercise any of its powers under the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 (S.I. 1995/755 (N.I. 2)) with respect to any of them.

(2) If, in any case to which this section applies, it appears to the court that—

(a) the circumstances of the case require it, or are likely to require it, to exercise any of its powers under the 1995 Order with respect to any such child,

(b) it is not in a position to exercise the power or (as the case may be) those powers without giving further consideration to the case, and

(c) there are exceptional circumstances which make it desirable in the interests of the child that the court should give a direction under this section,

it may direct that the order is not to be made final, or (in the case of a separation order) is not to be made, until the court orders otherwise.

(3) This section applies to—

(a) any child of the family who has not reached 16 at the date when the court considers the case in accordance with the requirements of this section, and

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) any child of the family who has reached 16 at that date and in relation to whom the court directs that this section shall apply.

187 Parties to proceedings under this Chapter

(1) Rules of court may make provision with respect to—

(a) the joinder as parties to proceedings under sections 161 to 179 of persons involved in allegations of improper conduct made in those proceedings,

(b) the dismissal from such proceedings of any parties so joined, and

(c) the persons who are to be parties to proceedings on an application under section 181.

(2) Rules of court made under this section may make different provision for different cases.

(3) In every case in which the court considers, in the interest of a person not already a party to the proceedings, that the person should be made a party, the court may if it thinks fit allow the person to intervene upon such terms, if any, as the court thinks just.

Commencement Information

I37 S. 187 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 187 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 187(1)(2) in force at 5.9.2005 by S.I. 2005/2399, **art. 2**, Sch. ; s. 187 in force at 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.

The court

188 The court

(1) In this Chapter "the court" means—

(a) the High Court, or

[F340(b) a county court.**]**

(2) Subsection (1) is subject to the following provisions of this section.

(3) Subsection (1) does not apply where the context shows that "the court" means some particular court.

F341(4) . . . . . .

F341(4A) . . . . . .

F341(5) . . . . . .

F341(6) . . . . . .

(7) Any jurisdiction conferred on a **[**F342county court**]** is exercisable even though by reason of any amount claimed the jurisdiction would not but for this subsection be exercisable by a county court.

(8) The jurisdiction of a F343... county court to exercise any power under Schedule 15 (except a power under Part 8 of or paragraph 62 of that Schedule or a power under paragraph 57, 58 or 66 of that Schedule F343...) shall, except to the extent that rules

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

of court otherwise permit and, in particular, without prejudice to section 190(4) and (6), be exercisable only in connection with an application or order pending in or made by such a court.

F344(9) . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F340 S. 188(1)(b) substituted (31.10.2016) by Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (c. 9), s. 106(2), **Sch. 1 para. 124(1)(a)** (with Sch. 8 para. 1); S.R. 2016/387, art. 2(k) (with art. 3)

F341 S. 188(4)-(6) repealed (31.10.2016) by Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (c. 9), s. 106(2), Sch. 1 para. 124(1)(b), **Sch. 9 Pt. 1** (with Sch. 8 para. 1); S.R. 2016/387, art. 2(k)(m) (with art. 3)

F342 Words in s. 188(7) substituted (31.10.2016) by Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (c. 9), s. 106(2), **Sch. 1 para. 124(1)(c)** (with Sch. 8 para. 1); S.R. 2016/387, art. 2(k) (with art. 3)

F343 Words in s. 188(8) repealed (31.10.2016) by Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (c. 9), s. 106(2), Sch. 1 para. 124(1)(d), **Sch. 9 Pt. 1** (with Sch. 8 para. 1); S.R. 2016/387, art. 2(k)(m) (with art. 3)

F344 S. 188(9) repealed (31.10.2016) by Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (c. 9), s. 106(2), Sch. 1 para. 124(1)(b), **Sch. 9 Pt. 1** (with Sch. 8 para. 1); S.R. 2016/387, art. 2(k)(m) (with art. 3)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C21 S. 188: functions transferred (12.4.2010) by The Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/976), art. 15(1), **Sch. 17 para. 21(a)** (with arts. 15(6), 28-31)

189 Appeals

(1) Rules of court shall make provision for an appeal upon a point of law, a question of fact or the admission or rejection of any evidence to the Court of Appeal from—

(a) any order made by a judge of a F345... county court in the exercise of the jurisdiction conferred by a relevant provision, or

(b) the dismissal by a judge of a F345... county court of any application under a relevant provision.

(2) "Relevant provision" means any provision of—

(a) this Chapter or Schedule 15 (except paragraphs 56 to 58 and 66);

(b) the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 (S.I. 1995/755 (N.I. 2)).

(3) A person dissatisfied with—

(a) an order made by any county court in exercise of the jurisdiction conferred by paragraph 57, 58 or 66 of Schedule 15, or

(b) with the dismissal of any application made by him under any of those paragraphs,

is entitled to appeal from the order or dismissal as if the order or dismissal had been made in exercise of the jurisdiction conferred by Part 3 of the County Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1980 (S.I. 1980/397 (N.I. 3)) and the appeal brought under Part 6 of that Order and Articles 61 (cases stated by county court judge) and 62 (cases stated by High Court on appeal from county court) of that Order apply accordingly.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F345 Words in s. 189(1)(a)(b) repealed (31.10.2016) by Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (c. 9), s. 106(2), Sch. 1 para. 124(2), **Sch. 9 Pt. 1** (with Sch. 8 para. 1); S.R. 2016/387, art. 2(k)(m) (with art. 3)

Commencement Information

I38 S. 189 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 189 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 189(1) in force at 5.9.2005 by S.I. 2005/2399, **art. 2**, Sch.; s. 189(2) in force at 5.9.2005 for certain purposes by S.I. 2005/2399, **art. 2**, Sch. and otherwise 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.; s. 189 in force at 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.

190 Transfer of proceedings

(1) This section applies if an order is made under section 188.

(2) Rules of court—

(a) must provide for the transfer to the High Court—

(i) of any civil partnership cause pending in a **[**F346county court**]** which ceases to be undefended, and

(ii) of any civil partnership cause so pending, where the transfer appears to the **[**F346county court**]** to be desirable;

(b) may provide for the transfer to the High Court of any civil partnership cause which remains undefended;

(c) may provide for the transfer or retransfer from the High Court to a **[**F346county court**]** of any civil partnership cause which is, or again becomes, undefended;

(d) must define the circumstances in which any civil partnership cause is to be treated for the purposes of this subsection as undefended.

(3) "Civil partnership cause" means an action for the dissolution or annulment of a civil partnership or for the legal separation of civil partners.

(4) Rules of court may provide for the transfer or retransfer—

(a) from a civil partnership proceedings county court to the High Court, or

(b) from the High Court to a civil partnership proceedings county court,

of any proceedings for the exercise of a power under this Chapter or Schedule 15 (except proceedings on an application under paragraph 57, 58 or 66).

(5) The power conferred by subsections (2) and (4) includes power to provide for the removal of proceedings at the direction of the High Court; but nothing in this section affects—

(a) any other power of the High Court to remove proceedings to that court from a county court, or

(b) any power to remit proceedings from that court to a county court.

(6) A court has jurisdiction to entertain any proceedings transferred to the court by virtue of rules made in pursuance of subsection (4).

Textual Amendments

F346 Words in s. 190(2) substituted (31.10.2016) by Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (c. 9), s. 106(2), **Sch. 1 para. 124(3)** (with Sch. 8 para. 1); S.R. 2016/387, art. 2(k) (with art. 3)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Commencement Information

I39 S. 190 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 190 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 190(2)-(4) in force at 5.9.2005 for certain purposes by S.I. 2005/2399, **art. 2**, Sch. and otherwise 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.; s. 190 in force at 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.

CHAPTER 3

PROPERTY AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

191 Disputes between civil partners about property

(1) In any question between the civil partners in a civil partnership as to title to or possession of property, either civil partner may apply by summons or otherwise in a summary way to—

(a) the High Court, or

(b) a county court.

(2) On such an application, the court may make such order with respect to the property as it thinks fit (including an order for the sale of the property).

(3) Rules of court made for the purposes of this section may confer jurisdiction on county courts whatever the situation or value of the property in dispute.

Commencement Information

I40 S. 191 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 191 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 191(3) in force at 5.9.2005 for certain purposes by S.I. 2005/2399, **art. 2**, Sch. and otherwise 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.; s. 191 in force at 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.

192 Applications under section 191 where property not in possession etc.

(1) The right of a civil partner ("A") to make an application under section 191 includes the right to make such an application where A claims that the other civil partner ("B") has had in his possession or under his control—

(a) money to which, or to a share of which, A was beneficially entitled, or

(b) property (other than money) to which, or to an interest in which, A was beneficially entitled,

and that either the money or other property has ceased to be in B's possession or under B's control or that A does not know whether it is still in B's possession or under B's control.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1)(a) it does not matter whether A is beneficially entitled to the money or share—

(a) because it represents the proceeds of property to which, or to an interest in which, A was beneficially entitled, or

(b) for any other reason.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(3) Subsections (4) and (5) apply if, on such an application being made, the court is satisfied that B—

(a) has had in his possession or under his control money or other property as mentioned in subsection (1)(a) or (b), and

(b) has not made to A, in respect of that money or other property, such payment or disposition as would have been just and equitable in the circumstances.

(4) The power of the court to make orders under section 191 includes power to order B to pay to A—

(a) in a case falling within subsection (1)(a), such sum in respect of the money to which the application relates, or A's share of it, as the court considers appropriate, or

(b) in a case falling within subsection (1)(b), such sum in respect of the value of the property to which the application relates, or A's interest in it, as the court considers appropriate.

(5) If it appears to the court that there is any property which—

(a) represents the whole or part of the money or property, and

(b) is property in respect of which an order could (apart from this section) have been made under section 191,

the court may (either instead of or as well as making an order in accordance with subsection (4)) make any order which it could (apart from this section) have made under section 191.

(6) Any power of the court which is exercisable on an application under section 191 is exercisable in relation to an application made under that section as extended by this section.

193 Applications under section 191 by former civil partners

(1) Where a civil partnership has been dissolved or annulled or is void (whether or not it has been annulled), either party may make an application under section 191 (or under that section as extended by section 192) and references in those sections to a civil partner are to be read accordingly.

(2) An application under subsection (1) must—

(a) where the civil partnership has been dissolved or annulled, be made within the period of 3 years beginning with the date of the dissolution or annulment, and

(b) where a civil partnership is void but has not been annulled and the parties have ceased to live together in the same household, be made within the period of 3 years beginning with the date on which they ceased so to live together.

194 Assurance policy by civil partner for benefit of other civil partner etc.

Section 4 of the Law Reform (Husband and Wife) Act (Northern Ireland) 1964 (c. 23 (N.I.)) (money payable under policy of life assurance or endowment not to form part of the estate of the insured) applies in relation to a policy of life assurance or endowment—

(a) effected by a civil partner on his own life, and

(b) expressed to be for the benefit of his civil partner, or of his children, or of his civil partner and children, or any of them,

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

as it applies in relation to a policy of life assurance or endowment effected by a husband and expressed to be for the benefit of his wife, or of his children, or of his wife and children, or of any of them.

195 Wills, administration of estates and family provision

Schedule 14 amends enactments relating to wills, administration of estates and family provision so that they apply in relation to civil partnerships as they apply in relation to marriage.

196 Financial relief for civil partners and children of family

(1) Schedule 15 makes provision for financial relief in connection with civil partnerships that corresponds to the provision made for financial relief in connection with marriages by Part 3 of the Matrimonial Causes (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 (S.I. 1978/1045 (N.I. 15)).

(2) F347 . . . . . .

(3) Schedule 16 makes provision for financial relief in connection with civil partnerships that corresponds to provision made for financial relief in connection with marriages by the Domestic Proceedings (Northern Ireland) Order 1980 (S.I. 1980/563 (N.I. 5)).

(4) Schedule 17 makes provision for financial relief in Northern Ireland after a civil partnership has been dissolved or annulled, or civil partners have been legally separated, in a country outside the British Islands.

Textual Amendments

F347 S. 196(2) repealed (9.11.2009) by Presumption of Death Act (Northern Ireland) 2009 (c. 6 (N.I.)), ss. 14(1)(b)(3), 19(2), 20, **Sch. 3**; S.R. 2009/356, **art. 2**

CHAPTER 4

CIVIL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

197 Civil partnership agreements unenforceable

(1) A civil partnership agreement does not under the law of Northern Ireland have effect as a contract giving rise to legal rights.

(2) No action lies in Northern Ireland for breach of a civil partnership agreement, whatever the law applicable to the agreement.

(3) In this section and section 198 "civil partnership agreement" means an agreement between two people—

(a) to register as civil partners of each other—

(i) in Northern Ireland (under Part 4),

(ii) in England and Wales (under Part 2),

(iii) in Scotland (under Part 3), or

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(iv) outside the United Kingdom under an Order in Council made under Chapter 1 of Part 5 (registration at British consulates etc. or by armed forces personnel), or

(b) to enter into an overseas relationship.

(4) This section applies in relation to civil partnership agreements whether entered into before or after this section comes into force, but does not affect any action commenced before it comes into force.

198 Property where civil partnership agreement is terminated

(1) This section applies if a civil partnership agreement is terminated.

(2) Sections 191 and 192 (disputes between civil partners about property) apply to any dispute between, or claim by, one of the parties in relation to property in which either or both had a beneficial interest while the agreement was in force, as if the parties were civil partners of each other.

(3) An application made under section 191 or 192 by virtue of subsection (2) must be made within 3 years of the termination of the agreement.

(4) A party to a civil partnership agreement who makes a gift of property to the other party on the condition (express or implied) that it is to be returned if the agreement is terminated is not prevented from recovering the property merely because of his having terminated the agreement.

CHAPTER 5

CHILDREN

199 Parental responsibility, children of the family and relatives

(1) Amend the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 (S.I. 1995/755 (N.I. 2)) ("the 1995 Order") as follows.

(2) In Article 2(2) (interpretation), for the definition of "child of the family" in relation to the parties to a marriage, substitute—

""child of the family", in relation to parties to a marriage, or to two people who are civil partners of each other, means—

(a) a child of both of them, and

(b) any other child, other than a child placed with them as foster parents by an authority or voluntary organisation, who has been treated by both of them as a child of their family."

(3) In the definition of "relative" in Article 2(2), for "by affinity)" substitute " by marriage or civil partnership) ".

(4) In Article 7(1C) (acquisition of parental responsibility by step-parent), after "is married to" insert " , or a civil partner of, ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

200 Guardianship

In Article 161 of the 1995 Order (revocation of appointment), after paragraph (7) insert—

"(8) An appointment under paragraph (1) or (2) of Article 160 (including one made in an unrevoked will) is revoked if—

(a) the civil partnership of the person who made the appointment is dissolved or annulled, and

(b) the person appointed is his former civil partner.

(9) Paragraph (8) is subject to a contrary intention appearing from the appointment.

(10) In paragraph (8) "dissolved or annulled" means—

(a) dissolved by a dissolution order or annulled by a nullity order under Part 4 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004, or

(b) dissolved or annulled in any country or territory outside Northern Ireland by a dissolution or annulment which is entitled to recognition in Northern Ireland by virtue of Chapter 3 of Part 5 of that Act."

201 Entitlement to apply for residence or contact order

In Article 10(5) of the 1995 Order (persons entitled to apply for residence or contact order), after sub-paragraph (a) insert—

"(aa) any civil partner in a civil partnership (whether or not subsisting) in relation to whom the child is a child of the family;".

202 Financial provision for children

(1) Amend Schedule 1 to the 1995 Order (financial provision for children) as follows.

(2) For paragraph 1(2) (extended meaning of "parent") substitute—

"(2) In this Schedule, except paragraphs 3 and 17, "parent" includes—

(a) any party to a marriage (whether or not subsisting) in relation to whom the child concerned is a child of the family, and

(b) any civil partner in a civil partnership (whether or not subsisting) in relation to whom the child concerned is a child of the family;

and for this purpose any reference to either parent or both parents shall be read as a reference to any parent of his and to all of his parents."

(3) In paragraph 3(6) (meaning of "periodical payments order"), after paragraph (d) insert—

"(e) Part 1 or 8 of Schedule 15 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (financial relief in the High Court or county court etc.);

(f) Schedule 16 to the 2004 Act (financial relief in court of summary jurisdiction etc.);".

(4) In paragraph 17(2) (person with whom a child lives or is to live), after "husband or wife" insert " or civil partner ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

203 Adoption

(1) Amend the Adoption (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 (S.I. 1987/2203 (N.I. 22)) as follows.

(2) In Article 2 (interpretation), in the definition of "relative" in paragraph (2), for "affinity" substitute " marriage or civil partnership ".

(3) In Article 12 (adoption orders), in paragraph (5), after "married" insert " or who is or has been a civil partner ".

(4) In Article 15 (adoption by one person), in paragraph (1)(a), after "is not married" insert " or a civil partner ".

(5) In Article 33 (meaning of "protected child"), in paragraph (3)(g), after "marriage" insert " or forming a civil partnership ".

(6) In Article 40 (status conferred by adoption), in paragraph (3)(a), after "1984" insert " or for the purposes of Schedule 12 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 ".

(7) In Article 54 (disclosure of birth records of adopted children), in paragraph (2)—

(a) after "intending to be married" insert " or to form a civil partnership ";

(b) for "the person whom he intends to marry" substitute " the intended spouse or civil partner ";

(c) after "1984" insert " or Schedule 12 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 ".

(8) In Article 54A (Adoption Contact Register), in paragraph (13)(a), for "or marriage" substitute " , marriage or civil partnership ".

CHAPTER 6

MISCELLANEOUS

204 False statements etc. with reference to civil partnerships

(1) Amend Article 8 of the Perjury (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 (S.I. 1979/1714 (N.I. 19)) (false statements etc. with reference to marriage) as follows.

(2) After paragraph (1) insert—

"(1A) Any person who—

(a) for the purpose of procuring the formation of a civil partnership or a document mentioned in paragraph (1B)—

(i) makes or signs a declaration required under Part 4 or 5 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004; or

(ii) gives a notice or certificate required under Part 4 or 5 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004,

knowing that the declaration, notice or certificate is false;

(b) for the purpose of a record being made in any register relating to civil partnerships—

(i) makes a statement as to any information which is required to be registered under Part 4 or 5 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004; or

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(ii) causes such a statement to be made,

knowing that the statement is false;

(c) forbids the issue of a document mentioned in paragraph (1B)(a) or (b) by representing himself to be a person whose consent to a civil partnership between a child and another person is required under Part 4 or 5 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004, knowing the representation to be false,

shall be guilty of an offence.

(1B) The documents are[en rule]

(a) a civil partnership schedule;

(b) a document required by an Order in Council under section 210 or 211 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004 as an authority for two people to register as civil partners of each other;

(c) a certificate of no impediment under section 240 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004."

(3) In paragraph (2), after "paragraph (1)" insert " or (1A) ".

(4) In the heading to Article 8, after "marriage" insert " or civil partnership ".

[F348 204A Ceremonies and events to mark civil partnerships: protection from compulsion

(1) A religious body, or a person acting on behalf of or under the auspices of a religious body, may not be compelled—

(a) to provide, arrange or facilitate a ceremony or event to mark the formation of a civil partnership,

(b) to allow religious premises to be used as the place at which such a ceremony or event is held, or

(c) to participate in, or be present at, such a ceremony or event,

where the reason for not doing that thing is that the body or person does not wish to do things of that sort in relation to civil partnerships generally, in relation to civil partnerships between parties who are of the same sex or in relation to civil partnerships between parties who are not of the same sex.

(2) In this section—

"compelled" means compelled by any means (including by the enforcement of a contract or a statutory or other legal requirement);

"religious body" means an organised group of people meeting regularly for common religious worship;

"religious premises" means premises which—

(a) are owned, or controlled, by a religious body or a person acting on behalf of or under the auspices of a religious body, and

(b) are not premises where the sole or main purpose for which they are used is commercial.**]**

Textual Amendments

F348 S. 204A inserted (N.I.) (1.9.2020) by The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/742), regs. 1(2), **12**

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

205 Housing and tenancies

Schedule 18 amends certain enactments relating to housing and tenancies.

206 Family homes and domestic violence

Schedule 19 amends the Family Homes and Domestic Violence (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 (S.I. 1998/1071 (N.I. 6)) and related enactments so that they apply in relation to civil partnerships as they apply in relation to marriages.

207 Fatal accidents claims

(1) Amend the Fatal Accidents (Northern Ireland) Order 1977 (S.I. 1977/1251 (N.I. 18)) as follows.

(2) In Article 2(2) (meaning of "dependant"), after sub-paragraph (a) insert—

"(aa) the civil partner or former civil partner of the deceased;".

(3) In sub-paragraph (b)(iii) of Article 2(2), after "wife" insert " or civil partner ".

(4) After sub-paragraph (f) of Article 2(2) insert—

"(fa) any person (not being a child of the deceased) who, in the case of any civil partnership in which the deceased was at any time a civil partner, was treated by the deceased as a child of the family in relation to that civil partnership;".

(5) After Article 2(2A) insert—

"(2B) The reference to the former civil partner of the deceased in paragraph (2)(aa) includes a reference to a person whose civil partnership with the deceased has been annulled as well as a person whose civil partnership with the deceased has been dissolved."

(6) In Article 2(3)(b), for "by affinity" substitute " by marriage or civil partnership ".

(7) In Article 3A(2) (persons for whose benefit claim for bereavement damages may be made)—

(a) in sub-paragraph (a), after "wife or husband" insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) in sub-paragraph (b), after "was never married" insert " or a civil partner ".

(8) In Article 5 (assessment of damages), in paragraph (3A), after "wife" insert " or civil partner ".

208 Evidence

(1) Any enactment or rule of law relating to the giving of evidence by a spouse applies in relation to a civil partner as it applies in relation to the spouse.

(2) Subsection (1) is subject to any specific amendment made by or under this Act which relates to the giving of evidence by a civil partner.

(3) For the avoidance of doubt, in any such amendment, references to a person's civil partner do not include a former civil partner.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(4) References in subsections (1) and (2) to giving evidence are to giving evidence in any way (whether by supplying information, making discovery, producing documents or otherwise).

(5) Any rule of law—

(a) which is preserved by Article 22(1) of the Criminal Justice (Evidence) (Northern Ireland) Order 2004 (S.I. 2004/1501 (N.I. 10)), and

(b) under which in any proceedings evidence of reputation or family tradition is admissible for the purpose of proving or disproving the existence of a marriage,

is to be treated as applying in an equivalent way for the purpose of proving or disproving the existence of a civil partnership.

209 Restriction on publicity of reports of proceedings

Section 1 of the Matrimonial Causes (Reports) Act (Northern Ireland) 1966 (c. 29 (N.I.)) (restriction on publication of reports of proceedings) shall extend to proceedings—

(a) for the dissolution or annulment of a civil partnership or for the legal separation of civil partners,

(b) under section 181,

(c) under Part 8 of Schedule 15, or

(d) under Part 10 of Schedule 15 in relation to an order under Part 8 of that Schedule.

PART 5

CIVIL PARTNERSHIP FORMED OR DISSOLVED ABROAD ETC.

CHAPTER 1

REGISTRATION OUTSIDE UK UNDER ORDER IN COUNCIL

210 Registration at British consulates etc.

(1) Her Majesty may by Order in Council make provision for two people to register as civil partners of each other—

(a) in prescribed countries or territories outside the United Kingdom, and

(b) in the presence of **[**F349a registration officer**]** ,

in cases where the officer is satisfied that the conditions in subsection (2) are met.

(2) The conditions are that—

(a) at least one of the proposed civil partners is a United Kingdom national,

(b) the proposed civil partners would have been eligible to register as civil partners of each other in such part of the United Kingdom as is determined in accordance with the Order,

(c) the authorities of the country or territory in which it is proposed that they register as civil partners will not object to the registration, and

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(d) insufficient facilities exist for them to enter into an overseas relationship under the law of that country or territory.

(3) **[**F350A registration officer**]** is not required to allow two people to register as civil partners of each other if in his opinion the formation of a civil partnership between them would be inconsistent with international law or the comity of nations.

(4) An Order in Council under this section may make provision for appeals against a refusal, in reliance on subsection (3), to allow two people to register as civil partners of each other.

(5) An Order in Council under this section may provide that two people who register as civil partners of each other under such an Order are to be treated for the purposes of sections 221(1)(c)(i) and (2)(c)(i), 222(c), 224(b), 225(1)(c)(i) and (3)(c)(i), 229(1)(c)(i) and (2)(c)(i) **[**F351and section 232(b)**]** and section 1(3)(c)(i) of the Presumption of Death (Scotland) Act 1977 (c. 27) as if they had done so in the part of the United Kingdom determined as mentioned in subsection (2)(b).

[F352(6) "Registration officer" means—

(a) a consular officer in the service of Her Majesty's government in the United Kingdom, or

(b) in the case of registration in a country **[**F353or territory**]** in which Her Majesty's government in the United Kingdom has for the time being no consular representative, a person authorised by the Secretary of State in respect of registration of civil partnerships in that country **[**F353or territory**]** .**]**

Textual Amendments

F349 Words in s. 210(1)(b) substituted (5.12.2012) by The Legislative Reform (Civil Partnership) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/3100), arts. 1, **2(2)**

F350 Words in s. 210(3) substituted (5.12.2012) by The Legislative Reform (Civil Partnership) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/3100), arts. 1, **2(3)**

F351 Words in s. 210(5) substituted (9.11.2009) by Presumption of Death Act (Northern Ireland) 2009 (c. 6 (N.I.)), ss. 19(1), 20, **Sch. 2**; S.R. 2009/356, **art. 2**

F352 S. 210(6) inserted (5.12.2012) by The Legislative Reform (Civil Partnership) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/3100), arts. 1, **2(4)**

F353 Words in s. 210(6) inserted (13.3.2014) by Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 (c. 30), s. 21(3), **Sch. 7 para. 36**; S.I. 2014/93, art. 3(k)(iv)

Commencement Information

I41 S. 210 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 210 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 210(1)(2)(4)(5) in force at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 2; s. 210(3) in force at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 3**, Sch. 2

211 Registration by armed forces personnel

(1) Her Majesty may by Order in Council make provision for two people to register as civil partners of each other—

(a) in prescribed countries or territories outside the United Kingdom, and

(b) in the presence of an officer appointed by virtue of the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages (Special Provisions) Act 1957 (c. 58),

in cases where the officer is satisfied that the conditions in subsection (2) are met.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(2) The conditions are that—

(a) at least one of the proposed civil partners—

(i) is a member of a part of Her Majesty's forces serving in the country or territory,

(ii) is employed in the country or territory in such other capacity as may be prescribed, or

(iii) is a child of a person falling within sub-paragraph (i) or (ii) and has his home with that person in that country or territory,

(b) the proposed civil partners would have been eligible to register as civil partners of each other in such part of the United Kingdom as is determined in accordance with the Order, and

(c) such other requirements as may be prescribed are complied with.

(3) In determining for the purposes of subsection (2) whether one person is the child of another, a person who is or was treated by another as a child of the family in relation to—

(a) a marriage to which the other is or was a party, or

(b) a civil partnership in which the other is or was a civil partner,

is to be regarded as the other's child.

(4) An Order in Council under this section may provide that two people who register as civil partners of each other under such an Order are to be treated for the purposes of section 221(1)(c)(i) and (2)(c)(i), 222(c), 224(b), 225(1)(c)(i) and (3)(c)(i), 229(1)(c)(i) and (2)(c)(i) **[**F354and section 232(b)**]** and section 1(3)(c)(i) of the Presumption of Death (Scotland) Act 1977 (c. 27) as if they had done so in the part of the United Kingdom determined in accordance with subsection (2)(b).

(5) Any references in this section—

(a) to a country or territory outside the United Kingdom,

(b) to forces serving in such a country or territory, and

(c) to persons employed in such a country or territory,

include references to ships which are for the time being in the waters of a country or territory outside the United Kingdom, to forces serving in any such ship and to persons employed in any such ship.

Textual Amendments

F354 Words in s. 211(4) substituted (9.11.2009) by Presumption of Death Act (Northern Ireland) 2009 (c. 6 (N.I.)), ss. 19(1), 20, **Sch. 2**; S.R. 2009/356, **art. 2**

CHAPTER 2

OVERSEAS RELATIONSHIPS TREATED AS CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

212 Meaning of "overseas relationship"

(1) For the purposes of this Act an overseas relationship is a relationship which—

(a) is either a specified relationship or a relationship which meets the general conditions, and

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) is registered (whether before or after the passing of this Act) with a responsible authority in a country or territory outside the United Kingdom, by two people—

F355(i) . . . . . .

(ii) neither of whom is already a civil partner or lawfully married.

[F356(1A) But, for the purposes of the application of this Act to England and Wales **[**F357or to Northern Ireland**]**, marriage is not an overseas relationship.**]**

(2) In this Chapter, "the relevant law" means the law of the country or territory where the relationship is registered (including its rules of private international law).

Textual Amendments

F355 S. 212(1)(b)(i) omitted (E.W.) (2.12.2019) by virtue of The Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1458), regs. 1(2), **5(2)**; (N.I.) (13.1.2020) by virtue of The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), **17(2)(a)** (with regs. 6-9); and (S.) (1.2.2021 for specified purposes, 1.6.2021 in so far as not already in force) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 2(2)**, 16; S.S.I. 2020/414, **reg. 2(1)(a)(2)**; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, **sch.** (with reg. 3)

F356 S. 212(1A) inserted (13.3.2014) by The Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 (Consequential and Contrary Provisions and Scotland) Order 2014 (S.I. 2014/560), art. 1(2), **Sch. 1 para. 29(2)**

F357 Words in s. 212(1A) inserted (13.1.2020) by The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), **17(2)(b)** (with regs. 6-9)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C22 S. 212 applied (with modifications) (E.W.) (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Treatment of Overseas Relationships) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3042), **art. 5**
S. 212 applied (with modifications) (N.I.) (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Treatment of Overseas Relationships) Order (Northern Ireland) 2005 (S.R. 2005/531), **art. 5(1)**
S. 212 applied (with modifications) (S.) (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Overseas Relationships) (Scotland) Order 2005 (S.S.I. 2005/573), **art. 3**

C23 S. 212(1)(b) modified (N.I.) (13.1.2020) by The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), **173(2)** (with regs. 6-9)

C24 S. 212 modified (S.) (1.2.2021) by The Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (Commencement No. 3, Saving and Transitional Provision) Regulations 2021 (S.S.I. 2021/23), regs. 1(2), **4**

213 Specified relationships

(1) A specified relationship is a relationship which is specified for the purposes of section 212 **[**F358—

(a) in the case of a relationship registered by two people who under the relevant law are of the same sex when the relationship is registered, by Part 1 of Schedule 20,

(b) in the case of a relationship registered by two people who under the relevant law are not of the same sex when the relationship is registered, by Part 2 of Schedule 20.**]**

(2) The **[**F359Secretary of State**]** may by order amend **[**F360Part 1 of**]** Schedule 20 by—

(a) adding a relationship,

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) amending the description of a relationship, or

(c) omitting a relationship.

(3) No order may be made under this section **[**F361amending Part 1 of Schedule 20**]** without the consent of the Scottish Ministers and the Department of Finance and Personnel.

[F362(3A) No order may be made under this section amending Part 2 of Schedule 20 without the consent of the Department of Finance.**]**

(4) The power to make an order under this section is exercisable by statutory instrument.

(5) An order which contains any provision (whether alone or with other provisions) amending **[**F363Part 1 of**]** Schedule 20 by—

(a) amending the description of a relationship, or

(b) omitting a relationship,

may not be made unless a draft of the statutory instrument containing the order is laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament.

(6) A statutory instrument containing any other order under this section **[**F364amending Part 1 of Schedule 20**]** is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

[F365(7) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations amend Part 2 of Schedule 20 by—

(a) adding a relationship,

(b) amending the description of a relationship,

(c) omitting a relationship.

(8) Regulations under subsection (7)—

(a) amending the description of a relationship or omitting a relationship, are subject to the affirmative procedure,

(b) adding a relationship, are subject to the negative procedure.**]**

Textual Amendments

F358 Words in s. 213(1) substituted (E.W.) (2.12.2019) by The Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1458), regs. 1(2), **5(3)(a)**; (N.I.) (13.1.2020) by The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), **17(3)(a)** (with regs. 6-9); and (S.) (1.2.2021 for specified purposes, 1.6.2021 in so far as not already in force) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 2(3)(a)**, 16; S.S.I. 2020/414, reg. 2(1)(a)(2); S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

F359 Words in s. 213(2) substituted (18.8.2010) by The Transfer of Functions (Equality) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/1839), art. 7, **Sch. para. 6**

F360 Words in s. 213(2) inserted (S.) (1.2.2021 for specified purposes, 1.6.2021 in so far as not already in force) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 2(3)(b)**, 16; S.S.I. 2020/414, reg. 2(1)(a)(2); S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

F361 Words in s. 213(3) inserted (E.W.) (2.12.2019) by The Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1458), regs. 1(2), **5(3)(b)**; (N.I.) (13.1.2020) by The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), **17(3)(b)** (with regs. 6-9); and (S.) (1.2.2021 for specified purposes, 1.6.2021 in so far as not already in force) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 2(3)(c)**, 16; S.S.I. 2020/414, reg. 2(1)(a)(2); S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

F362 S. 213(3A) inserted (N.I.) (13.1.2020) by The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), **17(3)(c)** (with regs. 6-9)

F363 Words in s. 213(5) inserted (S.) (1.2.2021 for specified purposes, 1.6.2021 in so far as not already in force) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 2(3)(d)**, 16; S.S.I. 2020/414, reg. 2(1)(a)(2); S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

F364 Words in s. 213(6) inserted (S.) (1.2.2021 for specified purposes, 1.6.2021 in so far as not already in force) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 2(3)(e)**, 16; S.S.I. 2020/414, reg. 2(1)(a)(2); S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

F365 S. 213(7)(8) inserted (18.1.2021 for specified purposes, 1.2.2021 for specified purposes, 1.6.2021 in so far as not already in force) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 2(3)(f)**, 16; S.S.I. 2020/414, reg. 2(1)(a)(2); S.S.I. 2020/457, reg. 2(a); S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C25 S. 213: functions transferred (12.10.2007) by The Transfer of Functions (Equality) Order 2007 (S.I. 2007/2914), **art. 3(2)(e)**

C26 S. 213: functions transferred (18.8.2010) by The Transfer of Functions (Equality) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/1839), **art. 3(1)(e)**

Commencement Information

I42 S. 213 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 213(2)-(6) in force at Royal Assent, see s. 263(5)(6); s. 213(1) in force at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 3**, Sch. 2

214 The general conditions

The general conditions are that, under the relevant law—

(a) the relationship may not be entered into if either of the parties is already a party to a relationship of that kind or lawfully married,

(b) the relationship is of indeterminate duration, and

[F366(ba) the relationship is not one of marriage,**]**

(c) the effect of entering into it is that the parties are—

(i) treated as a couple either generally or for specified purposes, **[**F367but are not treated as married**][**F367or

Textual Amendments

F366 S. 214(ba) inserted (S.) (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 26(2)(a)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch. (with art. 5)

F367 Words in s. 214(c) substituted (S.) (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 26(2)(b)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch. (with art. 5)

215 Overseas relationships treated as civil partnerships: the general rule

(1) Two people are to be treated as having formed a civil partnership as a result of having registered an overseas relationship if, under the relevant law, they—

(a) had capacity to enter into the relationship, and

(b) met all requirements necessary to ensure the formal validity of the relationship.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(2) Subject to **[**F368subsections (3) and (5F)**][**F369subsections (3) and (5B)**][**F370subsections (3) and (3A)**]**, the time when they are to be treated as having formed the civil partnership is the time when the overseas relationship is registered (under the relevant law) as having been entered into.

(3) If the overseas relationship is registered (under the relevant law) as having been entered into before this section comes into force, the time when they are to be treated as having formed a civil partnership is the time when this section comes into force.

[F371(3A) In its application to an overseas relationship between persons of different sexes entered into before this subsection comes into force, subsection (2) is subject to—

(a) any provision to the contrary made by or under any enactment,

(b) regulations under subsection (3B).

(3B) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations provide for subsection (2)—

(a) to have effect subject to provision made by the regulations, or

(b) not to apply in cases specified in the regulations.

(3C) Regulations under subsection (3B)—

(a) may include consequential, supplementary, incidental, transitional, transitory or saving provision,

(b) are subject to the negative procedure.**]**

(4) But if—

(a) before this section comes into force, a dissolution or annulment of the overseas relationship was obtained outside the United Kingdom, and

(b) the dissolution or annulment would be recognised under Chapter 3 if the overseas relationship had been treated as a civil partnership at the time of the dissolution or annulment,

subsection (3) does not apply and subsections (1) and (2) have effect subject to subsection (5).

(5) The overseas relationship is not to be treated as having been a civil partnership for the purposes of any provisions except—

(a) Schedules 7, 11 and 17 (financial relief in United Kingdom after dissolution or annulment obtained outside the United Kingdom);

(b) such provisions as are specified (with or without modifications) in an order under section 259;

(c) Chapter 3 (so far as necessary for the purposes of paragraphs (a) and (b)).

[F372(5A) In the case of a relationship that is—

(a) an overseas relationship treated as a civil partnership for the purposes of this Act only as a result of the amendments made by the Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) Regulations 2019 ("the 2019 Regulations"), and

(b) registered (under the relevant law) as having been entered into before the 2019 Regulations come into force,

subsection (5B) or (as the case may be) subsections (5C) and (5D) apply in place of subsections (3) to (5).

(5B) The time when the two people are treated as having formed a civil partnership is the time when the 2019 Regulations come into force.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(5C) But if—

(a) before the 2019 Regulations come into force, a dissolution or annulment of the overseas relationship was obtained outside the United Kingdom, and

(b) the dissolution or annulment would be recognised under Chapter 3 if the overseas relationship had been treated as a civil partnership at the time of the dissolution or annulment,

subsection (5B) does not apply and subsections (1) and (2) have effect subject to subsection (5D).

(5D) The overseas relationship is not to be treated as having been a civil partnership for the purposes of any provision except—

(a) Schedules 7, 11 and 17 (financial relief in United Kingdom after dissolution or annulment obtained outside the United Kingdom);

(b) such provisions as are specified (with or without modifications) in regulations under section 2 or 5 of the Civil Partnerships, Marriages and Deaths (Registration etc) Act 2019;

(c) Chapter 3 (so far as necessary for the purposes of paragraphs (a) and (b)).**]**

[[F373](5E) In the case of a relationship that is—

(a) an overseas relationship treated as a civil partnership for the purposes of this Act only as a result of the amendments made by the Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019, and

(b) registered (under the relevant law) as having been entered into before 13 January 2020,

subsection (5F) or (as the case may be) subsections (5G) and (5H) apply in place of subsections (3) to (5).

(5F) The time when the two people are treated as having formed a civil partnership is the start of 13 January 2020.

(5G) But if—

(a) before 13 January 2020, a dissolution or annulment of the relationship was obtained outside the United Kingdom, and

(b) the dissolution or annulment would be recognised under Chapter 3 if the overseas relationship had been treated as a civil partnership at the time of the dissolution or annulment,

subsection (5F) does not apply and subsections (1) and (2) have effect subject to subsection (5H).

(5H) The overseas relationship is not to be treated as having been a civil partnership for the purposes of any provision except—

(a) Schedules 7, 11 and 17;

(b) such provisions as are specified (with or without modifications) in regulations under section 8 of the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation etc) Act 2019;

(c) Chapter 3 (so far as necessary for the purposes of paragraphs (a) and (b)).**]**

(6) This section is subject to sections [F374]... 217 and 218.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F368 Words in s. 215(2) substituted for "subsection (3)" (E.W.) (2.12.2019) by The Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1458), regs. 1(2), **5(4)(a)**

F369 S. 215(2): the words "subsections (3) and (5B)" substituted for the words "subsection (3)" (N.I.) (13.1.2020) by The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), **17(4)(a)** (with regs. 6-9)

F370 S. 215(2): the words "subsections (3) and (3A)" substituted for the words "subsection (3)" (S.) (1.2.2021 for specified purposes, 1.6.2021 in so far as not already in force) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 2(4)(a)**, 16; S.S.I. 2020/414, **reg. 2(1)(a)(2)**; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, **sch.** (with reg. 3)

F371 S. 215(3A)-(3C) inserted (S.) (18.1.2021 for specified purposes, 1.2.2021 for specified purposes) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 2(4)(b)**, 16; S.S.I. 2020/414, reg. 2(1)(a)(2); S.S.I. 2020/457, reg. 2(a)

F372 S. 215(5A)-(5D) inserted (E.W.) (2.12.2019) by The Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1458), regs. 1(2), **5(4)(b)** (with Sch. 2 para. 3)

F373 S. 215(5E)-(5H) inserted (N.I.) (13.1.2020) by The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), **17(4)(b)** (with regs. 6-9)

F374 Word in s. 215(6) omitted (E.W.) (2.12.2019) by virtue of The Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1458), regs. 1(2), **5(4)(c)**; (N.I.) (13.1.2020) by virtue of The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), **17(4)(c)** (with regs. 6-9); and (S.) (1.2.2021 for specified purposes, 1.6.2021 in so far as not already in force) by virtue of Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 2(4)(c)**, 16; S.S.I. 2020/414, **reg. 2(1)(a)(2)**; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, **sch.** (with reg. 3)

F375 216 The same-sex requirement

. . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F375 S. 216 omitted (E.W.) (2.12.2019) by virtue of The Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1458), regs. 1(2), **5(5)**; (N.I.) (13.1.2020) by virtue of The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), **17(5)** (with regs. 6-9); and (S.) (1.2.2021 for specified purposes, 1.6.2021 in so far as not already in force) by virtue of Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 2(5)**, 16; S.S.I. 2020/414, **reg. 2(1)(a)(2)**; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, **sch.** (with reg. 3)

217 Person domiciled in a part of the United Kingdom

(1) Subsection (2) applies if an overseas relationship has been registered by a person who was at the time mentioned in section 215(2) domiciled in England and Wales.

(2) The two people concerned are not to be treated as having formed a civil partnership if, at the time mentioned in section 215(2)—

(a) either of them was under **[**F376 18**]**, or

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) they would have been within prohibited degrees of relationship under Part 1 of Schedule 1 if they had been registering as civil partners of each other in England and Wales.

(3) Subsection (4) applies if an overseas relationship has been registered by a person who at the time mentioned in section 215(2) was domiciled in Scotland.

(4) The two people concerned are not to be treated as having formed a civil partnership if, at the time mentioned in section 215(2), they were not eligible by virtue of paragraph (b), (c) or (e) of section 86(1) to register in Scotland as civil partners of each other.

(5) Subsection (6) applies if an overseas relationship has been registered by a person who at the time mentioned in section 215(2) was domiciled in Northern Ireland.

(6) The two people concerned are not to be treated as having formed a civil partnership if, at the time mentioned in section 215(2)—

(a) either of them was under 16, or

(b) they would have been within prohibited degrees of relationship under Schedule 12 if they had been registering as civil partners of each other in Northern Ireland.

Textual Amendments

F376 Word in s. 217(2)(a) substituted (27.2.2023) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 (c. 28), **ss. 4(3)**, 7(1) (with s. 8); S.I. 2023/88, reg. 2 (with regs. 3-17)

218 The public policy exception

Two people are not to be treated as having formed a civil partnership as a result of having entered into an overseas relationship if it would be manifestly contrary to public policy to recognise the capacity, under the relevant law, of one or both of them to enter into the relationship.

CHAPTER 3

DISSOLUTION ETC.: JURISDICTION AND RECOGNITION

Introduction

219 Power to make provision [F377corresponding to EC Regulation 2201/2003][F377as to jurisdiction in relation to civil partnerships]

[F378(1) The Lord Chancellor may by regulations make provision—

(a) as to the jurisdiction of courts in England and Wales F379... in proceedings for the dissolution or annulment of a civil partnership or for legal separation of the civil partners in cases where a civil partner—

(i) is or has been habitually resident in [F380England and Wales, or]

F381(ii) . . . . . .

(iii) is domiciled in [F382England and Wales], F383...

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

F383(b) . . . . . .

[F384(1A) The Department of Justice in Northern Ireland may by regulations make provision—

(a) as to the jurisdiction of courts in Northern Ireland in proceedings for the dissolution or annulment of a civil partnership or for legal separation of the civil partners **[**F385in cases where a civil partner—

(i) is or has been habitually resident in Northern Ireland, or

(ii) is domiciled in Northern Ireland.**]**

F386(b) . . . . . .**]**

(2) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make provision—

(a) as to the jurisdiction of courts in Scotland in proceedings for the dissolution or annulment of a civil partnership or for legal separation of the civil partners in such cases as are mentioned in subsection (1)(a), and

(b) as to the recognition in Scotland of any such judgment as is mentioned in subsection (1)(b).

F387(3) . . . . . .

F387(4) . . . . . .

F387(5) . . . . . .

(6) Regulations under subsection (1) are to be made by statutory instrument and may only be made if a draft has been laid before and approved by resolution of each House of Parliament.

[F388(6A) Regulations under subsection (1A) are to be made by statutory rule for the purposes of the Statutory Rules (Northern Ireland) Order 1979.

(6B) No regulations shall be made under subsection (1A) unless a draft has been laid before and approved by resolution of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

(6C) Section 41(3) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954 applies for the purposes of subsection (6B) in relation to the laying of a draft as it applies in relation to the laying of a statutory document under an enactment.**]**

(7) Regulations under subsection (2) are to be made by statutory instrument and may only be made if a draft has been laid before and approved by resolution of the Scottish Parliament.

(8) In this Part "section 219 regulations" means regulations made under this section.**]**

Textual Amendments

F377 Words in s. 219 heading substituted (E.W. N.I.) (31.12.2020) by The Civil Partnership and Marriage (Same Sex Couples) (Jurisdiction and Judgments) (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/495), regs. 1, **4(2)(a)**; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

F378 S. 219 omitted (S.) (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Jurisdiction and Judgments (Family, Civil Partnership and Marriage (Same Sex Couples)) (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment etc.) Regulations 2019 (S.S.I. 2019/104), reg. 1, **sch. 1 para. 4(2)** (with reg. 6) (as amended by S.S.I. 2020/441, regs. 1(2)(a), 16); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

F379 Words in s. 219(1)(a)(b) omitted (12.4.2010) by virtue of The Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/976), art. 15(5), **Sch. 18 para. 73(a)** (with arts. 28-31)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

F380 Words in s. 219(1)(a)(i) substituted (E.W. N.I.) (31.12.2020) by The Civil Partnership and Marriage (Same Sex Couples) (Jurisdiction and Judgments) (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/495), regs. 1, **4(2)(b)(i)(aa)**; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

F381 S. 219(1)(a)(ii) and word omitted (E.W. N.I.) (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Civil Partnership and Marriage (Same Sex Couples) (Jurisdiction and Judgments) (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/495), regs. 1, **4(2)(b)(i)(bb)**; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

F382 Words in s. 219(1)(a)(iii) substituted (E.W. N.I.) (31.12.2020) by The Civil Partnership and Marriage (Same Sex Couples) (Jurisdiction and Judgments) (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/495), regs. 1, **4(2)(b)(i)(cc)**; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

F383 S. 219(1)(b) and word omitted (E.W. N.I.) (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Civil Partnership and Marriage (Same Sex Couples) (Jurisdiction and Judgments) (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/495), regs. 1, **4(2)(b)(ii)**; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

F384 S. 219(1A) inserted (12.4.2010) by The Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/976), art. 15(5), **Sch. 18 para. 73(b)** (with arts. 28-31)

F385 Words in s. 219(1A)(a) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Civil Partnership and Marriage (Same Sex Couples) (Jurisdiction and Judgments) (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/495), regs. 1, **4(2)(c)(i)**; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

F386 S. 219(1A)(b) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Civil Partnership and Marriage (Same Sex Couples) (Jurisdiction and Judgments) (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/495), regs. 1, **4(2)(c)(ii)**; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

F387 S. 219(3)-(5) omitted (E.W. N.I.) (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Civil Partnership and Marriage (Same Sex Couples) (Jurisdiction and Judgments) (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/495), regs. 1, **4(2)(d)**; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

F388 S. 219(6A)-(6C) inserted (12.4.2010) by The Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/976), art. 15(5), **Sch. 18 para. 73(d)** (with arts. 28-31)

Jurisdiction of courts in England and Wales

220 Meaning of "the court"

In sections 221 to 224 "the court" means—

(a) the High Court, or

[[F389](b) the family court.**]**

Textual Amendments

F389 S. 220(b) substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 166**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

Commencement Information

I43 S. 220 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 220 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 220 in force at 15.4.2005 for certain purposes by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 2 and otherwise 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 3**, Sch. 2

221 Proceedings for dissolution, separation or nullity order

(1) The court has jurisdiction to entertain proceedings for a dissolution order or a separation order if (and only if)—

(a) the court has jurisdiction under section 219 regulations,

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) no court has, or is recognised as having, jurisdiction under section 219 regulations and either civil partner is domiciled in England and Wales on the date when the proceedings are begun, or

(c) the following conditions are met—

(i) the two people concerned registered as civil partners of each other in England or Wales,

(ii) no court has, or is recognised as having, jurisdiction under section 219 regulations, and

(iii) it appears to the court to be in the interests of justice to assume jurisdiction in the case.

(2) The court has jurisdiction to entertain proceedings for a nullity order if (and only if)—

(a) the court has jurisdiction under section 219 regulations,

(b) no court has, or is recognised as having, jurisdiction under section 219 regulations and either civil partner—

(i) is domiciled in England and Wales on the date when the proceedings are begun, or

(ii) died before that date and either was at death domiciled in England and Wales or had been habitually resident in England and Wales throughout the period of 1 year ending with the date of death, or

(c) the following conditions are met—

(i) the two people concerned registered as civil partners of each other in England or Wales,

(ii) no court has, or is recognised as having, jurisdiction under section 219 regulations, and

(iii) it appears to the court to be in the interests of justice to assume jurisdiction in the case.

(3) At any time when proceedings are pending in respect of which the court has jurisdiction by virtue of subsection (1) or (2) (or this subsection), the court also has jurisdiction to entertain other proceedings, in respect of the same civil partnership, for a dissolution, separation or nullity order, even though that jurisdiction would not be exercisable under subsection (1) or (2).

222 Proceedings for presumption of death order

The court has jurisdiction to entertain proceedings for a presumption of death order **[**F390on an application made by a civil partner**]** if (and only if)—

F391(a) . . . . . .

F391(b) . . . . . .

[F392(ba) at the time the application is made, the High Court does not have jurisdiction to entertain an application by that civil partner under section 1 of the Presumption of Death Act 2013 for a declaration that the other civil partner is presumed to be dead, and**]**

(c) the two people concerned registered as civil partners of each other in England and Wales and it appears to the court to be in the interests of justice to assume jurisdiction in the case.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F390 Words in s. 222 inserted (1.10.2014) by Presumption of Death Act 2013 (c. 13), s. 22(2), **Sch. 2 para. 3(2)** (with s. 21); S.I. 2014/1810, art. 2 (with art. 3(1)(3))

F391 S. 222(a)(b) omitted (1.10.2014) by virtue of Presumption of Death Act 2013 (c. 13), s. 22(2), **Sch. 2 para. 3(3)** (with s. 21); S.I. 2014/1810, art. 2 (with art. 3(1)(3))

F392 S. 222(ba) inserted (1.10.2014) by Presumption of Death Act 2013 (c. 13), s. 22(2), **Sch. 2 para. 3(4)** (with s. 21); S.I. 2014/1810, art. 2 (with art. 3(1)(3))

223 Proceedings for dissolution, nullity or separation order: supplementary

(1) Rules of court may make provision in relation to civil partnerships corresponding to the provision made in relation to marriages by Schedule 1 to the Domicile and Matrimonial Proceedings Act 1973 (c. 45).

(2) The rules may in particular make provision—

(a) for the provision of information by applicants and respondents in proceedings for dissolution, nullity or separation orders where proceedings relating to the same civil partnership are continuing in another jurisdiction, and

(b) for proceedings before the court to be stayed by the court where there are concurrent proceedings elsewhere in respect of the same civil partnership.

224 Applications for declarations as to validity etc.

The court has jurisdiction to entertain an application under section 58 if (and only if)—

(a) either of the civil partners in the civil partnership to which the application relates—

(i) is domiciled in England and Wales on the date of the application,

(ii) has been habitually resident in England and Wales throughout the period of 1 year ending with that date, or

(iii) died before that date and either was at death domiciled in England and Wales or had been habitually resident in England and Wales throughout the period of 1 year ending with the date of death, or

(b) the two people concerned registered as civil partners of each other in England and Wales and it appears to the court to be in the interests of justice to assume jurisdiction in the case.

Jurisdiction of Scottish courts

225 Jurisdiction of Scottish courts

(1) The Court of Session has jurisdiction to entertain an action for the dissolution of a civil partnership or for separation of civil partners if (and only if) **[**F393either civil partner**]**—

[F394(a) is domiciled in Scotland on the date when proceedings are begun, or

(b) was habitually resident in Scotland throughout the period of one year ending with that date, or**]**

(c) the following conditions are met—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(i) the two people concerned registered as civil partners of each other in Scotland,

(ii) no court has, or is recognised as having, jurisdiction [F395]..., and

(iii) it appears to the court to be in the interests of justice to assume jurisdiction in the case.

(2) The sheriff has jurisdiction to entertain an action for the dissolution of a civil partnership or for separation of civil partners if (and only if) the requirements of paragraph (a) or (b) of subsection (1) are met and either civil partner—

(a) was resident in the sheriffdom for a period of 40 days ending with the date when the action is begun, or

(b) had been resident in the sheriffdom for a period of not less than 40 days ending not more than 40 days before that date and has no known residence in Scotland at that date.

(3) The Court of Session has jurisdiction to entertain an action for declarator of nullity of a civil partnership if (and only if)—

[[F396](a) either of the ostensible civil partners—

(i) is domiciled in Scotland on the date when the proceedings are begun or was habitually resident in Scotland throughout the period of one year ending with that date, or

(ii) died before that date and either was at death domiciled in Scotland or had been habitually resident in Scotland throughout the period of one year ending with the date of death, or**]**

(c) the following conditions are met—

(i) the two people concerned registered as civil partners of each other in Scotland,

(ii) no court has, or is recognised as having, jurisdiction [F397]..., and

(iii) it appears to the court to be in the interests of justice to assume jurisdiction in the case.

[[F398](3A) The sheriff has jurisdiction to entertain an action for declarator of nullity of a civil partnership if (and only if)—

(a) the requirements as to domicile or habitual residence that would apply were the action to have been begun in the Court of Session under subsection (3) (other than paragraph (c)) are met, and

(b) either of the ostensible civil partners—

(i) was resident in the sheriffdom for a period of 40 days ending with the date when the action is begun, or

(ii) had been resident in the sheriffdom for a period of not less than 40 days ending not more than 40 days before that date and has no known residence in Scotland at that date.**]**

(4) At any time when proceedings are pending in respect of which a court has jurisdiction by virtue of any of subsections (1) to **[**[F399](3A)**]** (or this subsection) it also has jurisdiction to entertain other proceedings, in respect of the same civil partnership (or ostensible civil partnership), for dissolution, separation or [F400]... declarator of nullity, even though that jurisdiction would not be exercisable under any of subsections (1) to **[**[F399](3A)**]**.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F393 Words in s. 225(1) inserted (31.12.2020) by The Jurisdiction and Judgments (Family, Civil Partnership and Marriage (Same Sex Couples)) (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment etc.) Regulations 2019 (S.S.I. 2019/104), reg. 1, **sch. 1 para. 4(3)(a)(i)** (with reg. 6) (as amended by S.S.I. 2020/441, regs. 1(2)(a), 16); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

F394 S. 225(1)(a)(b) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Jurisdiction and Judgments (Family, Civil Partnership and Marriage (Same Sex Couples)) (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment etc.) Regulations 2019 (S.S.I. 2019/104), reg. 1, **sch. 1 para. 4(3)(a)(ii)** (with reg. 6) (as amended by S.S.I. 2020/441, regs. 1(2)(a), 16); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

F395 Words in s. 225(1)(c)(ii) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Jurisdiction and Judgments (Family, Civil Partnership and Marriage (Same Sex Couples)) (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment etc.) Regulations 2019 (S.S.I. 2019/104), reg. 1, **sch. 1 para. 4(3)(a)(iii)** (with reg. 6) (as amended by S.S.I. 2020/441, regs. 1(2)(a), 16); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

F396 S. 225(3)(a) substituted for s. 225(3)(a)(b) (31.12.2020) by The Jurisdiction and Judgments (Family, Civil Partnership and Marriage (Same Sex Couples)) (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment etc.) Regulations 2019 (S.S.I. 2019/104), reg. 1, **sch. 1 para. 4(3)(b)(i)** (with reg. 6) (as amended by S.S.I. 2020/441, regs. 1(2)(a), 16); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

F397 Words in s. 225(3)(c)(ii) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Jurisdiction and Judgments (Family, Civil Partnership and Marriage (Same Sex Couples)) (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment etc.) Regulations 2019 (S.S.I. 2019/104), reg. 1, **sch. 1 para. 4(3)(b)(ii)** (with reg. 6) (as amended by S.S.I. 2020/441, regs. 1(2)(a), 16); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

F398 S. 225(3A) inserted (1.6.2021) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), s. 16, **sch. 2 para. 6(4)(a)**; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

F399 Word in s. 225(4) substituted (1.6.2021) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), s. 16, **sch. 2 para. 6(4)(b)(ii)**; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, **sch.** (with reg. 3)

F400 Words in s. 225(4) repealed (1.6.2021) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), s. 16, **sch. 2 para. 6(4)(b)(i)**; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

226 Sisting of proceedings

(1) Rules of court may make provision in relation to civil partnerships corresponding to the provision made in relation to marriages by Schedule 3 to the Domicile and Matrimonial Proceedings Act 1973 (c. 45) (sisting of Scottish consistorial actions).

(2) The rules may in particular make provision—

(a) for the provision of information by the pursuer and by any other person who has entered appearance in an action where proceedings relating to the same civil partnership (or ostensible civil partnership) are continuing in another jurisdiction, and

(b) for an action to be sisted where there are concurrent proceedings elsewhere in respect of the same civil partnership (or ostensible civil partnership).

227 Scottish ancillary and collateral orders

(1) This section applies where after the commencement of this Act an application is competently made to the Court of Session or the sheriff for the making, or the variation or recall, of an order which is ancillary or collateral to an action for—

(a) the dissolution of a civil partnership,

(b) the separation of civil partners, or

(c) declarator of nullity of a civil partnership.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(2) And the section applies whether the application is made in the same proceedings or in other proceedings and whether it is made before or after the pronouncement of a final decree in the action.

(3) **[**F401If**]** the court has or, as the case may be, had jurisdiction to entertain the action, it has jurisdiction to entertain the application. **[**F402This subsection is subject to subsection (3B).**]**

F403(3A) . . . . . .

[F404(3B) If the application or part of it relates to a matter **[**F405in relation to which Article 18 of the 2007 Hague Convention applies, the court may not entertain the application or that part it except where permitted by Article18**].]**

(4) Where the Court of Session has jurisdiction by virtue of this section to entertain an application for the variation or recall, as respects any person, of an order made by it and the order is one to which section 8 (variation and recall by the sheriff of certain orders made by the Court of Session) of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Act 1966 (c. 19) applies, then for the purposes of any application under that section for the variation or recall of the order in so far as it relates to the person, the sheriff (as defined in that section) has jurisdiction to exercise the power conferred on him by that section.

(5) The reference in subsection (1) to an order which is ancillary or collateral is to an order relating to children, aliment, financial provision or expenses.

[F406(6) In this section **[**F407"the 2007 Hague Convention" means the Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance concluded on 23 November 2007 at The Hague**].]**

Textual Amendments

F401 Word in s. 227(3) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Jurisdiction and Judgments (Family, Civil Partnership and Marriage (Same Sex Couples)) (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment etc.) Regulations 2019 (S.S.I. 2019/104), reg. 1, **sch. 1 para. 4(4)(a)** (with reg. 6) (as amended by S.S.I. 2020/441, regs. 1(2)(a), 16); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

F402 Words in s. 227(3) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Jurisdiction and Judgments (Family) (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/519), reg. 1(1), **Sch. para. 25(2)(a)** (with reg. 8) (as amended by S.I. 2020/1574, regs. 1, 5(2)); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

F403 S. 227(3A) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Jurisdiction and Judgments (Family, Civil Partnership and Marriage (Same Sex Couples)) (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment etc.) Regulations 2019 (S.S.I. 2019/104), reg. 1, **sch. 1 para. 4(4)(b)** (with reg. 6) (as amended by S.S.I. 2020/441, regs. 1(2)(a), 16); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

F404 S. 227(3B) inserted (18.6.2011) by The Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments (Maintenance) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 2011/1484), reg. 9, **Sch. 7 para. 16(2)(c)**

F405 Words in s. 227(3B) substituted (31.12.2020) by S.I. 2019/519, Sch. para. 25(2)(b) (as substituted by The Jurisdiction, Judgments and Applicable Law (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/1574), regs. 1, **5(3)(j)(i)(bb)**)

F406 S. 227(6) inserted (18.6.2011) by The Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments (Maintenance) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 2011/1484), reg. 9, **Sch. 7 para. 16(2)(d)**

F407 Words in s. 227(6) substituted (31.12.2020) by S.I. 2019/519, Sch. para. 25(2)(c) (as substituted by The Jurisdiction, Judgments and Applicable Law (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/1574), regs. 1, **5(3)(j)(i)(bb)**)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Jurisdiction of courts in Northern Ireland

228 Meaning of "the court"

In sections 229 to 232 "the court" has the meaning given by section 188.

Commencement Information

I44 S. 228 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 228 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 228 in force at 15.4.2005 for certain purposes by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 2 and otherwise 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 3**, Sch. 2

229 Proceedings for dissolution, separation or nullity order

(1) The court has jurisdiction to entertain proceedings for a dissolution order or a separation order if (and only if)—

(a) the court has jurisdiction under section 219 regulations,

(b) no court has, or is recognised as having, jurisdiction under section 219 regulations and either civil partner is domiciled in Northern Ireland on the date when the proceedings are begun, or

(c) the following conditions are met—

(i) the two people concerned registered as civil partners of each other in Northern Ireland,

(ii) no court has, or is recognised as having, jurisdiction under section 219 regulations, and

(iii) it appears to the court to be in the interests of justice to assume jurisdiction in the case.

(2) The court has jurisdiction to entertain proceedings for a nullity order if (and only if)—

(a) the court has jurisdiction under section 219 regulations,

(b) no court has, or is recognised as having, jurisdiction under section 219 regulations and either civil partner—

(i) is domiciled in Northern Ireland on the date when the proceedings are begun, or

(ii) died before that date and either was at death domiciled in Northern Ireland or had been habitually resident in Northern Ireland throughout the period of 1 year ending with the date of death, or

(c) the following conditions are met—

(i) the two people concerned registered as civil partners of each other in Northern Ireland,

(ii) no court has, or is recognised as having, jurisdiction under section 219 regulations, and

(iii) it appears to the court to be in the interests of justice to assume jurisdiction in the case.

(3) At any time when proceedings are pending in respect of which the court has jurisdiction by virtue of subsection (1) or (2) (or this subsection), the court also has jurisdiction to entertain other proceedings, in respect of the same civil partnership, for a dissolution, separation or nullity order, even though that jurisdiction would not be exercisable under subsection (1) or (2).

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

230 . . . . . .

F408 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F408 S. 230 repealed (9.11.2009) by Presumption of Death Act (Northern Ireland) 2009 (c. 6 (N.I.)), ss. 19, 20, Sch. 2, **Sch. 3**; S.R. 2009/356, **art. 2**

231 Proceedings for dissolution, nullity or separation order: supplementary

(1) Rules of court may make provision in relation to civil partnerships corresponding to the provision made in relation to marriages by Schedule 1 to the Matrimonial Causes (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 (S.I. 1978/1045 (N.I. 15)).

(2) The rules may in particular make provision—

(a) for the provision of information by applicants and respondents in proceedings for dissolution, nullity or separation orders where proceedings relating to the same civil partnership are continuing in another jurisdiction, and

(b) for proceedings before the court to be stayed by the court where there are concurrent proceedings elsewhere in respect of the same civil partnership.

232 Applications for declarations as to validity etc.

The court has jurisdiction to entertain an application under section 181 if (and only if)—

(a) either of the civil partners in the civil partnership to which the application relates—

(i) is domiciled in Northern Ireland on the date of the application,

(ii) has been habitually resident in Northern Ireland throughout the period of 1 year ending with that date, or

(iii) died before that date and either was at death domiciled in Northern Ireland or had been habitually resident in Northern Ireland throughout the period of 1 year ending with the date of death, or

(b) the two people concerned registered as civil partners of each other in Northern Ireland and it appears to the court to be in the interests of justice to assume jurisdiction in the case.

Recognition of dissolution, annulment and separation

233 Effect of dissolution, annulment or separation obtained in the UK

(1) No dissolution or annulment of a civil partnership obtained in one part of the United Kingdom is effective in any part of the United Kingdom unless obtained from a court of civil jurisdiction.

(2) Subject to subsections (3) and (4), the validity of a dissolution or annulment of a civil partnership or a legal separation of civil partners which has been obtained from a court of civil jurisdiction in one part of the United Kingdom is to be recognised throughout the United Kingdom.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(3) Recognition of the validity of a dissolution, annulment or legal separation obtained from a court of civil jurisdiction in one part of the United Kingdom may be refused in any other part if the dissolution, annulment or separation was obtained at a time when it was irreconcilable with a decision determining the question of the subsistence or validity of the civil partnership—

(a) previously given by a court of civil jurisdiction in the other part, or

(b) previously given by a court elsewhere and recognised or entitled to be recognised in the other part.

(4) Recognition of the validity of a dissolution or legal separation obtained from a court of civil jurisdiction in one part of the United Kingdom may be refused in any other part if the dissolution or separation was obtained at a time when, according to the law of the other part, there was no subsisting civil partnership.

234 Recognition in the UK of overseas dissolution, annulment or separation

(1) **[**F409The**]** validity of an overseas dissolution, annulment or legal separation is to be recognised in **[**F410the United Kingdom**][**F410Scotland**]** if, and only if, it is entitled to recognition by virtue of sections 235 to 237.

F411(2) . . . . . .

(3) For the purposes of **[**F412subsection (1)**]** and sections 235 to 237, an overseas dissolution, annulment or legal separation is a dissolution or annulment of a civil partnership or a legal separation of civil partners which has been obtained outside the United Kingdom (whether before or after this section comes into force).

Textual Amendments

F409 Word in s. 234(1) substituted (S.) (31.12.2020) by The Jurisdiction and Judgments (Family, Civil Partnership and Marriage (Same Sex Couples)) (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment etc.) Regulations 2019 (S.S.I. 2019/104), reg. 1, **sch. 1 para. 4(5)(a)(i)** (with reg. 6) (as amended by S.S.I. 2020/441, regs. 1(2)(a), 16); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1); and words omitted (31.12.2020 for (E.W.N.I.)) by virtue of The Civil Partnership and Marriage (Same Sex Couples) (Jurisdiction and Judgments) (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/495), regs. 1, **4(3)(a)**; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

F410 Word in s. 234(1) substituted (S.) (31.12.2020) by The Jurisdiction and Judgments (Family, Civil Partnership and Marriage (Same Sex Couples)) (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment etc.) Regulations 2019 (S.S.I. 2019/104), reg. 1, **sch. 1 para. 4(5)(a)(ii)** (with reg. 6) (as amended by S.S.I. 2020/441, regs. 1(2)(a), 16); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

F411 S. 234(2) omitted (S.) (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Jurisdiction and Judgments (Family, Civil Partnership and Marriage (Same Sex Couples)) (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment etc.) Regulations 2019 (S.S.I. 2019/104), reg. 1, **sch. 1 para. 4(5)(b)** (with reg. 6) (as amended by S.S.I. 2020/441, regs. 1(2)(a), 16); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)); and (31.12.2020 for (E.W.N.I.)) by virtue of The Civil Partnership and Marriage (Same Sex Couples) (Jurisdiction and Judgments) (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/495), regs. 1, **4(3)(b)**; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

F412 Words in s. 234(3) substituted (S.) (31.12.2020) by The Jurisdiction and Judgments (Family, Civil Partnership and Marriage (Same Sex Couples)) (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment etc.) Regulations 2019 (S.S.I. 2019/104), reg. 1, **sch. 1 para. 4(5)(c)** (with reg. 6) (as amended by S.S.I. 2020/441, regs. 1(2)(a), 16); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)); and (31.12.2020 for (E.W.N.I.)) by The Civil Partnership and Marriage (Same Sex Couples) (Jurisdiction and Judgments) (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/495), regs. 1, **4(3)(c)**; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

235 Grounds for recognition

(1) The validity of an overseas dissolution, annulment or legal separation obtained by means of proceedings is to be recognised if—

(a) the dissolution, annulment or legal separation is effective under the law of the country in which it was obtained, and

(b) at the relevant date either civil partner—

(i) was habitually resident in the country in which the dissolution, annulment or legal separation was obtained,

(ii) was domiciled in that country, or

(iii) was a national of that country.

(2) The validity of an overseas dissolution, annulment or legal separation obtained otherwise than by means of proceedings is to be recognised if—

(a) the dissolution, annulment or legal separation is effective under the law of the country in which it was obtained,

(b) at the relevant date—

(i) each civil partner was domiciled in that country, or

(ii) either civil partner was domiciled in that country and the other was domiciled in a country under whose law the dissolution, annulment or legal separation is recognised as valid, and

(c) neither civil partner was habitually resident in the United Kingdom throughout the period of 1 year immediately preceding that date.

(3) In this section "the relevant date" means—

(a) in the case of an overseas dissolution, annulment or legal separation obtained by means of proceedings, the date of the commencement of the proceedings;

(b) in the case of an overseas dissolution, annulment or legal separation obtained otherwise than by means of proceedings, the date on which it was obtained.

[F413(3A) In this section references to "the relevant sort of relationship" are to the sort of relationship that the civil partnership in question is, and include—

(a) in the case of a relationship between two persons who are of the same sex under the relevant law, reference to that sort of relationship whether generally or between two persons of the same sex;

(b) in the case of a relationship between two persons who are of the opposite sex under the relevant law, reference to that sort of relationship whether generally or between two persons of the opposite sex.

(3B) In subsection (3A), "the relevant law" means the law in relation to which the question of recognition arises under subsection (1A)(c) or (as the case may be) (2A)(b).**]**

(4) Where in the case of an overseas annulment the relevant date fell after the death of either civil partner, any reference in subsection (1) or (2) to that date is to be read in relation to that civil partner as a reference to the date of death.

Textual Amendments

F413 S. 235(3A)(3B) inserted by S.I. 2005/3104, **reg. 3** (as amended (N.I.) (13.1.2020) by The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), **19(5)** (with regs. 6-9))

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C27 S. 235 applied (with modifications) (S.) (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Supplementary Provisions relating to the Recognition of Overseas Dissolutions, Annulments or Separations) (Scotland) Regulations 2005 (S.S.I. 2005/567), **regs. 2**, **3** (as amended (28.2.2022) by The Civil Partnership (Supplementary Provisions relating to the Recognition of Overseas Dissolutions, Annulments or Separations) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2021 (S.S.I. 2021/461), regs. 1, **2**)

C28 S. 235 applied (with modifications) (E.W.N.I.) (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Supplementary Provisions relating to the Recognition of Overseas Dissolutions, Annulments or Legal Separations) (England and Wales and Northern Ireland) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/3104), **regs. 2**, **3** (as amended (E.W.) (2.12.2019) by The Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1458), regs. 1(2), **40**; and (N.I.) (13.1.2020) by The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), **19(3)(4)** (with regs. 6-9))

236 Refusal of recognition

(1) Recognition of the validity of an overseas dissolution, annulment or legal separation may be refused in any part of the United Kingdom if the dissolution, annulment or separation was obtained at a time when it was irreconcilable with a decision determining the question of the subsistence or validity of the civil partnership—

(a) previously given by a court of civil jurisdiction in that part of the United Kingdom, or

(b) previously given by a court elsewhere and recognised or entitled to be recognised in that part of the United Kingdom.

(2) Recognition of the validity of an overseas dissolution or legal separation may be refused in any part of the United Kingdom if the dissolution or separation was obtained at a time when, according to the law of that part of the United Kingdom, there was no subsisting civil partnership.

(3) Recognition of the validity of an overseas dissolution, annulment or legal separation may be refused if—

(a) in the case of a dissolution, annulment or legal separation obtained by means of proceedings, it was obtained—

(i) without such steps having been taken for giving notice of the proceedings to a civil partner as, having regard to the nature of the proceedings and all the circumstances, should reasonably have been taken, or

(ii) without a civil partner having been given (for any reason other than lack of notice) such opportunity to take part in the proceedings as, having regard to those matters, he should reasonably have been given, or

(b) in the case of a dissolution, annulment or legal separation obtained otherwise than by means of proceedings—

(i) there is no official document certifying that the dissolution, annulment or legal separation is effective under the law of the country in which it was obtained, or

(ii) where either civil partner was domiciled in another country at the relevant date, there is no official document certifying that the dissolution, annulment or legal separation is recognised as valid under the law of that other country, or

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(c) in either case, recognition of the dissolution, annulment or legal separation would be manifestly contrary to public policy.

(4) In this section—

"official", in relation to a document certifying that a dissolution, annulment or legal separation is effective, or is recognised as valid, under the law of any country, means issued by a person or body appointed or recognised for the purpose under that law;

"the relevant date" has the same meaning as in section 235.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C29 S. 236 applied (with modifications) (E.W.N.I.) (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Supplementary Provisions relating to the Recognition of Overseas Dissolutions, Annulments or Legal Separations) (England and Wales and Northern Ireland) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/3104), **reg. 2**

C30 S. 236 applied (with modifications) (S.) (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Supplementary Provisions relating to the Recognition of Overseas Dissolutions, Annulments or Separations) (Scotland) Regulations 2005 (S.S.I. 2005/567), **reg. 2**

237 Supplementary provisions relating to recognition of dissolution etc.

(1) For the purposes of sections 235 and 236, a civil partner is to be treated as domiciled in a country if he was domiciled in that country—

(a) according to the law of that country in family matters, or

(b) according to the law of the part of the United Kingdom in which the question of recognition arises.

(2) The Lord Chancellor **[**F414, the Department of Justice in Northern Ireland**]** or the Scottish Ministers may by regulations make provision—

(a) applying sections 235 and 236 and subsection (1) with modifications in relation to any country whose territories have different systems of law in force in matters of dissolution, annulment or legal separation;

(b) applying sections 235 and 236 with modifications in relation to—

(i) an overseas dissolution, annulment or legal separation in the case of an overseas relationship (or an apparent or alleged overseas relationship);

(ii) any case where a civil partner is domiciled in a country or territory whose law does not recognise **[**F415relationships of the sort that the civil partnership in question is (whether generally, between two persons of the same sex, or between two persons of the opposite sex)**]**;

(c) with respect to recognition of the validity of an overseas dissolution, annulment or legal separation in cases where there are cross-proceedings;

(d) with respect to cases where a legal separation is converted under the law of the country or territory in which it is obtained into a dissolution which is effective under the law of that country or territory;

(e) with respect to proof of findings of fact made in proceedings in any country or territory outside the United Kingdom.

(3) The power **[**F416of the Lord Chancellor or the Scottish Ministers**]** to make regulations under subsection (2) is exercisable by statutory instrument.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(4) A statutory instrument containing such regulations—

(a) if made by the Lord Chancellor, is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament;

(b) if made by the Scottish Ministers, is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of the Scottish Parliament.

[F417(4A) The power of the Department of Justice in Northern Ireland to make regulations under subsection (2) is exercisable by statutory rule for the purposes of the Statutory Rules (Northern Ireland) Order 1979.

(4B) Regulations made by the Department of Justice under subsection (2) are subject to negative resolution within the meaning of section 41(6) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954.**]**

(5) In this section (except subsection (4)) and sections 233 to 236 and 238—

"annulment" includes any order annulling a civil partnership, however expressed;

"part of the United Kingdom" means England and Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland;

"proceedings" means judicial or other proceedings.

(6) Nothing in this Chapter is to be read as requiring the recognition of any finding of fault made in proceedings for dissolution, annulment or legal separation or of any maintenance, custody or other ancillary order made in any such proceedings.

Textual Amendments

F414 Words in s. 237(2) inserted (12.4.2010) by The Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/976), art. 15(5), **Sch. 18 para. 74(a)** (with arts. 28-31)

F415 Words in s. 237(2)(b)(ii) substituted: (E.W.) (2.12.2019) by The Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1458), regs. 1(2), **39**; (N.I.) (13.1.2020) by The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), **17(6)** (with regs. 6-9); and (S.) (1.6.2021) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), s. 16, **sch. 2 para. 6(5)**; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, **sch.** (with reg. 3)

F416 Words in s. 237(3) inserted (12.4.2010) by The Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/976), art. 15(5), **Sch. 18 para. 74(b)** (with arts. 28-31)

F417 S. 237(4A)(4B) inserted (12.4.2010) by The Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/976), art. 15(5), **Sch. 18 para. 74(c)** (with arts. 28-31)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C31 S. 237(1) applied (with modifications) (E.W.N.I.) (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Supplementary Provisions relating to the Recognition of Overseas Dissolutions, Annulments or Legal Separations) (England and Wales and Northern Ireland) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/3104), **reg. 2**

C32 S. 237(1) applied (with modifications) (S.) (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Supplementary Provisions relating to the Recognition of Overseas Dissolutions, Annulments or Separations) (Scotland) Regulations 2005 (S.S.I. 2005/567), **reg. 2**

Commencement Information

I45 S. 237 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 237 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 237(2)-(5) in force at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 2; s. 237(1)(6) in force at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 3**, Sch. 2

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

238 Non-recognition elsewhere of dissolution or annulment

(1) This section applies where, in any part of the United Kingdom—

(a) a dissolution or annulment of a civil partnership has been granted by a court of civil jurisdiction, or

(b) the validity of a dissolution or annulment of a civil partnership is recognised by virtue of this Chapter.

(2) The fact that the dissolution or annulment would not be recognised outside the United Kingdom does not—

(a) preclude either party from forming a subsequent civil partnership or marriage in that part of the United Kingdom, or

(b) cause the subsequent civil partnership or marriage of either party (wherever it takes place) to be treated as invalid in that part.

CHAPTER 4

MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTARY

239 Commanding officers' certificates for Part 2 purposes

(1) Her Majesty may by Order in Council make provision in relation to cases where—

(a) two people wish to register as civil partners of each other in England and Wales (under Chapter 1 of Part 2), and

(b) one of them ("A") is **[**F418an officer, seaman or marine borne on the books of one of Her Majesty's ships at sea**]** and the other is resident in England and Wales,

for the issue **[**F419to A, by the captain or other officer in command of the ship,**]** of a certificate of no impediment.

(2) The Order may provide for the issue of the certificate to be subject to the giving of such notice and the making of such declarations as may be prescribed.

(3) A certificate of no impediment is a certificate that no legal impediment to the formation of the civil partnership has been shown to the F420. . . officer issuing the certificate to exist.

(4) F421 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F418 Words in s. 239(1) substituted (21.7.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), arts. 1(c), 3, **Sch. para. 17(2)(a)**

F419 Words in s. 239(1) substituted (21.7.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), arts. 1(c), 3, **Sch. para. 17(2)(b)**

F420 Word in s. 239(3) omitted (21.7.2005) by virtue of The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), arts. 1(c), 3, **Sch. para. 17(3)**

F421 S. 239(4) omitted (21.7.2005) by virtue of The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), arts. 1(c), 3, **Sch. para. 17(4)**

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

240 Certificates of no impediment to overseas relationships

(1) Her Majesty may by Order in Council make provision for the issue of certificates of no impediment to—

(a) United Kingdom nationals, and

(b) such other persons falling within subsection (2) as may be prescribed,

who wish to enter into overseas relationships in prescribed countries or territories outside the United Kingdom with persons who are not United Kingdom nationals and who do not fall within subsection (2).

(2) A person falls within this subsection if under any enactment for the time being in force in any country mentioned in Schedule 3 to the British Nationality Act 1981 (c. 61) (Commonwealth countries) that person is a citizen of that country.

(3) A certificate of no impediment is a certificate that, after proper notices have been given, no legal impediment to the recipient entering into the overseas relationship has been shown to the person issuing the certificate to exist.

241 Transmission of certificates of registration of overseas relationships

(1) Her Majesty may by Order in Council provide—

(a) for the transmission to the Registrar General, by such persons or in such manner as may be prescribed, of certificates of the registration of overseas relationships entered into by United Kingdom nationals in prescribed countries or territories outside the United Kingdom,

(b) for the issue by the Registrar General of a certified copy of such a certificate received by him, and

(c) for such certified copies to be received in evidence.

(2) "The Registrar General" means—

(a) in relation to England and Wales, the Registrar General for England and Wales,

(b) in relation to Scotland, the Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages for Scotland, and

(c) in relation to Northern Ireland, the Registrar General for Northern Ireland.

242 Power to make provision relating to certain Commonwealth forces

(1) This section applies if it appears to Her Majesty that any law in force in Canada, the Commonwealth of Australia or New Zealand (or in a territory of either of the former two countries) makes, in relation to forces raised there, provision similar to that made by section 211 (registration by armed forces personnel).

(2) Her Majesty may by Order in Council make provision for securing that the law in question has effect as part of the law of the United Kingdom.

243 Fees

(1) The power to make an order under section 34(1) (fees) includes power to make an order prescribing fees in respect of anything which, by virtue of an Order in Council under this Part, is required to be done by registration authorities in England and Wales or by or on behalf of the Registrar General for England and Wales.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(2) Regulations made by the Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages for Scotland may prescribe fees in respect of anything which, by virtue of an Order in Council under this Part, is required to be done by him or on his behalf.

(3) Subsections (3) and (4) of section 126 apply to regulations made under subsection (2) as they apply to regulations under Part 3.

(4) The power to make an order under section 157(1) includes power to make an order prescribing fees in respect of anything which, by virtue of an Order in Council under this Part, is required to be done by or on behalf of the Registrar General for Northern Ireland.

244 Orders in Council: supplementary

(1) An Order in Council under section 210, 211, 239, 240, 241 or 242 may make—

(a) different provision for different cases, and

(b) such supplementary, incidental, consequential, transitional, transitory or saving provision as appears to Her Majesty to be appropriate.

(2) The provision that may be made by virtue of subsection (1)(b) includes in particular provision corresponding to or applying with modifications any provision made by or under—

(a) this Act, or

(b) any Act relating to marriage outside the United Kingdom.

(3) A statutory instrument containing an Order in Council under section 210, 211, 239, 240, 241 or 242 is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

(4) Subsection (3) applies whether or not the Order also contains other provisions made by Order in Council under—

the Foreign Marriage Act 1892 (c. 23),

section 3 of the Foreign Marriage Act 1947 (c. 33), or

section 39 of the Marriage Act 1949 (c. 76).

(5) In sections 210, 211, 239, 240 and 241 "prescribed" means prescribed by an Order in Council under the section in question.

245 Interpretation

(1) In this Part "United Kingdom national" means a person who is—

(a) a British citizen, a British overseas territories citizen, a British Overseas citizen or a British National (Overseas),

(b) a British subject under the British Nationality Act 1981 (c. 61), or

(c) a British protected person, within the meaning of that Act.

(2) In this Part "Her Majesty's forces" has the same meaning as in the **[**[F422]Armed Forces Act 2006**]**.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F422 Words in s. 245(2) substituted (28.3.2009 for certain purposes and otherwise 31.10.2009) by Armed Forces Act 2006 (c. 52), ss. 378, 383, **Sch. 16 para. 243**; S.I. 2009/812, **art. 3** (with transitional provisions in S.I. 2009/1059); S.I. 2009/1167, **art. 4**

Commencement Information

I46 S. 245 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 245 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 245 in force at 15.4.2005 for certain purposes by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2** and otherwise 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 3**, Sch. 2

PART 6

RELATIONSHIPS ARISING THROUGH CIVIL PARTNERSHIP

246 Interpretation of statutory references to stepchildren etc.

(1) In any provision to which this section applies, references to a stepchild or step-parent of a person (here, "A"), and cognate expressions, are to be read as follows—

A's stepchild includes a person who is the child of A's civil partner (but is not A's child);

A's step-parent includes a person who is the civil partner of A's parent (but is not A's parent);

A's stepdaughter includes a person who is the daughter of A's civil partner (but is not A's daughter);

A's stepson includes a person who is the son of A's civil partner (but is not A's son);

A's stepfather includes a person who is the civil partner of A's father (but is not A's parent);

A's stepmother includes a person who is the civil partner of A's mother (but is not A's parent);

A's stepbrother includes a person who is the son of the civil partner of A's parent (but is not the son of either of A's parents);

A's stepsister includes a person who is the daughter of the civil partner of A's parent (but is not the daughter of either of A's parents).

(2) For the purposes of any provision to which this section applies—

"brother-in-law" includes civil partner's brother,

"daughter-in-law" includes daughter's civil partner,

"father-in-law" includes civil partner's father,

"mother-in-law" includes civil partner's mother,

"parent-in-law" includes civil partner's parent,

"sister-in-law" includes civil partner's sister, and

"son-in-law" includes son's civil partner.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C33 S. 246 applied (11.5.2006) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Relationships Arising Through Civil Partnership) Order 2006 (S.I. 2006/1121, **art. 2**

247 Provisions to which section 246 applies: Acts of Parliament etc.

(1) Section 246 applies to—

(a) any provision listed in Schedule 21 (references to stepchildren, in-laws etc. in existing Acts),

(b) except in so far as otherwise provided, any provision made by a future Act, and

(c) except in so far as otherwise provided, any provision made by future subordinate legislation.

(2) A Minister of the Crown may by order—

(a) amend Schedule 21 by adding to it any provision of an existing Act;

(b) provide for section 246 to apply to prescribed provisions of existing subordinate legislation.

(3) The power conferred by subsection (2) is also exercisable—

(a) by the Scottish Ministers, in relation to a relevant Scottish provision;

(b) by a Northern Ireland department, in relation to a provision which deals with a transferred matter;

(c) by the National Assembly for Wales, if the order is made by virtue of subsection (2)(b) and deals with matters with respect to which functions are exercisable by the Assembly.

(4) Subject to subsection (5), the power to make an order under subsection (2) is exercisable by statutory instrument.

(5) Any power of a Northern Ireland department to make an order under subsection (2) is exercisable by statutory rule for the purposes of the Statutory Rules (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 (S.I. 1979/1573 (N.I. 12)).

(6) A statutory instrument containing an order under subsection (2) made by a Minister of the Crown is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

(7) A statutory instrument containing an order under subsection (2) made by the Scottish Ministers is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of the Scottish Parliament.

(8) A statutory rule containing an order under subsection (2) made by a Northern Ireland department is subject to negative resolution (within the meaning of section 41(6) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954 (c. 33 (N.I.))).

(9) In this section—

"Act" includes an Act of the Scottish Parliament;

"existing Act" means an Act passed on or before the last day of the Session in which this Act is passed;

"existing subordinate legislation" means subordinate legislation made before the day on which this section comes into force;

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

"future Act" means an Act passed after the last day of the Session in which this Act is passed;

"future subordinate legislation" means subordinate legislation made on or after the day on which this section comes into force;

"Minister of the Crown" has the same meaning as in the Ministers of the Crown Act 1975 (c. 26);

"prescribed" means prescribed by the order;

"relevant Scottish provision" means a provision that would be within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament if it were included in an Act of that Parliament;

"subordinate legislation" has the same meaning as in the Interpretation Act 1978 (c. 30) except that it includes an instrument made under an Act of the Scottish Parliament;

"transferred matter" has the meaning given by section 4(1) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (c. 47) and "deals with" in relation to a transferred matter is to be construed in accordance with section 98(2) and (3) of the 1998 Act.

Commencement Information

I47 S. 247 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 247(2)-(7) in force at Royal Assent, see s. 263(7)(c); s. 247(8)(9) in force at 18.11.2004 by Royal Assent; s. 247(1) in force at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 3**, Sch. 2

248 Provisions to which section 246 applies: Northern Ireland

(1) Section 246 applies to—

(a) any provision listed in Schedule 22 (references to stepchildren, etc. in Northern Ireland legislation),

(b) except in so far as otherwise provided, any provision made by any future Northern Ireland legislation, and

(c) except in so far as otherwise provided, any provision made by any future subordinate legislation.

(2) The Department of Finance and Personnel may by order—

(a) amend Schedule 22 by adding to it any provision of existing Northern Ireland legislation;

(b) provide for section 246 to apply to prescribed provisions of existing subordinate legislation.

(3) The power to make an order under subsection (2) is exercisable by statutory rule for the purposes of the Statutory Rules (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 (S.I. 1979/1573 (N.I. 12)).

(4) An order under subsection (2) is subject to negative resolution (within the meaning of section 41(6) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954 (1954 c. 33 (N.I.))).

(5) In this section—

"existing Northern Ireland legislation" means Northern Ireland legislation passed or made on or before the last day of the Session in which this Act is passed;

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

"existing subordinate legislation" means subordinate legislation made before the day on which this section comes into force;

"future Northern Ireland legislation" means Northern Ireland legislation passed or made after the last day of the Session in which this Act is passed;

"future subordinate legislation" means subordinate legislation made on or after the day on which this section comes into force;

"prescribed" means prescribed by the order;

"subordinate legislation" means any instrument (within the meaning of section 1(c) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954 (1954 c. 33 (N.I.))).

Commencement Information

I48 S. 248 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 248(2)-(5) in force at Royal Assent, see s. 263(7)(c); s. 248(1) in force at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.

PART 7

MISCELLANEOUS

249 Immigration control and formation of civil partnerships

Schedule 23 contains provisions relating to the formation of civil partnerships in the United Kingdom by persons subject to immigration control.

250 Gender recognition where applicant a civil partner

(1) Amend the Gender Recognition Act 2004 (c. 7) as follows.

(2) In—

(a) section 3 (evidence), in subsection (6)(a), and

(b) section 4 (successful applications), in subsections (2) and (3),

after "is married" insert " or a civil partner ".

(3) In section 5 (subsequent issue of full certificates)—

(a) in subsection (2), after "is again married" insert " or is a civil partner ",

(b) in subsection (6)(a), for "is not married" substitute " is neither married nor a civil partner ", and

(c) for the heading substitute " Issue of full certificates where applicant has been married ".

(4) After section 5 insert—

"**5A Issue of full certificates where applicant has been a civil partner**

(1) A court which—

(a) makes final a nullity order made on the ground that an interim gender recognition certificate has been issued to a civil partner, or

(b) (in Scotland) grants a decree of dissolution on that ground,

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

must, on doing so, issue a full gender recognition certificate to that civil partner and send a copy to the Secretary of State.

(2) If an interim gender recognition certificate has been issued to a person and either—

(a) the person's civil partnership is dissolved or annulled (otherwise than on the ground mentioned in subsection (1)) in proceedings instituted during the period of six months beginning with the day on which it was issued, or

(b) the person's civil partner dies within that period,

the person may make an application for a full gender recognition certificate at any time within the period specified in subsection (3) (unless the person is again a civil partner or is married).

(3) That period is the period of six months beginning with the day on which the civil partnership is dissolved or annulled or the death occurs.

(4) An application under subsection (2) must include evidence of the dissolution or annulment of the civil partnership and the date on which proceedings for it were instituted, or of the death of the civil partner and the date on which it occurred.

(5) An application under subsection (2) is to be determined by a Gender Recognition Panel.

(6) The Panel—

(a) must grant the application if satisfied that the applicant is neither a civil partner nor married, and

(b) otherwise must reject it.

(7) If the Panel grants the application it must issue a full gender recognition certificate to the applicant."

(5) In—

(a) section 7 (applications: supplementary), in subsection (1),

(b) section 8 (appeals etc.), in subsections (1) and (5), and

(c) section 22 (prohibition on disclosure of information), in subsection (2)(a),

after "5(2)" insert " , 5A(2) ".

(6) In section 21 (foreign gender change and marriage), in subsection (4), after "entered into a later (valid) marriage" insert " or civil partnership ".

(7) In section 25 (interpretation), in the definition of "full gender recognition certificate" and "interim gender recognition certificate", for "or 5" substitute " , 5 or 5A ".

(8) In Schedule 1 (Gender Recognition Panels), in paragraph 5, after "5(2)" insert " , 5A(2) ".

(9) In Schedule 3 (registration), in paragraphs 9(1), 19(1) and 29(1), for "or 5(2)" substitute " , 5(2) or 5A(2) ".

251 Discrimination against civil partners in employment field

(1) Amend the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (c. 65) as follows.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(2) For section 3 (discrimination against married persons in employment field) substitute—

"**3 Discrimination against married persons and civil partners in employment field**

(1) In any circumstances relevant for the purposes of any provision of Part 2, a person discriminates against a person ("A") who fulfils the condition in subsection (2) if—

(a) on the ground of the fulfilment of the condition, he treats A less favourably than he treats or would treat a person who does not fulfil the condition, or

(b) he applies to A a provision, criterion or practice which he applies or would apply equally to a person who does not fulfil the condition, but—

(i) which puts or would put persons fulfilling the condition at a particular disadvantage when compared with persons not fulfilling the condition, and

(ii) which puts A at that disadvantage, and

(iii) which he cannot show to be a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.

(2) The condition is that the person is—

(a) married, or

(b) a civil partner.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (1), a provision of Part 2 framed with reference to discrimination against women is to be treated as applying equally to the treatment of men, and for that purpose has effect with such modifications as are requisite."

(3) In section 5 (interpretation), for subsection (3) substitute—

"(3) Each of the following comparisons, that is—

(a) a comparison of the cases of persons of different sex under section 1(1) or (2),

(b) a comparison of the cases of persons required for the purposes of section 2A, and

(c) a comparison of the cases of persons who do and who do not fulfil the condition in section 3(2),

must be such that the relevant circumstances in the one case are the same, or not materially different, in the other.";

and omit section 1(4).

(4) In section 7 (exception where sex is a genuine occupational qualification), in subsection (2)(h) for "by a married couple" substitute "—

(i) by a married couple,

(ii) by a couple who are civil partners of each other, or

(iii) by a married couple or a couple who are civil partners of each other".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(5) In section 65 (remedies on complaint under section 63), in subsection (1B) for "or marital status as the case may be" substitute " or (as the case may be) fulfilment of the condition in section 3(2) ".

252 Discrimination against civil partners in employment field: Northern Ireland

(1) Amend the Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 1976 (S.I. 1976/1042 (N.I. 15)) as follows.

(2) For Article 5 (discrimination against married persons in employment field) substitute—

"5 **Discrimination against married persons and civil partners in employment field**

(1) In any circumstances relevant for the purposes of any provision of Part 3, a person discriminates against a person ("A") who fulfils the condition in paragraph (2) if—

(a) on the ground of the fulfilment of the condition, he treats A less favourably than he treats or would treat a person who does not fulfil the condition, or

(b) he applies to A a provision, criterion or practice which he applies or would apply equally to a person who does not fulfil the condition, but—

(i) which puts or would put persons fulfilling the condition at a particular disadvantage when compared with persons not fulfilling the condition, and

(ii) which puts A at that disadvantage, and

(iii) which he cannot show to be a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.

(2) The condition is that the person is—

(a) married, or

(b) a civil partner.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (1), a provision of Part 3 framed with reference to discrimination against women is to be treated as applying equally to the treatment of men, and for that purpose has effect with such modifications as are requisite."

(3) For Article 7 (basis of comparison) substitute—

"7 **Basis of comparison**

Each of the following comparisons, that is—

(a) a comparison of the cases of persons of different sex under Article 3(1) or (2),

(b) a comparison of the cases of persons required for the purposes of Article 4A, and

(c) a comparison of the cases of persons who do and who do not fulfil the condition in Article 5(2),

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

must be such that the relevant circumstances in the one case are the same, or not materially different, in the other.";

and omit Article 3(4).

(4) In Article 10 (exception where sex is a genuine occupational qualification), in paragraph (2)(h) for "by a married couple" substitute—

"(i) by a married couple,

(ii) by a couple who are civil partners of each other, or

(iii) by a married couple or a couple who are civil partners of each other".

(5) In Article 65 (remedies on complaint under Article 63), in paragraph (1B) for "or marital status as the case may be" substitute " or (as the case may be) fulfilment of the condition in Article 5(2) ".

253 Civil partners to have unlimited insurable interest in each other

(1) Where two people are civil partners, each of them is to be presumed for the purposes of section 1 of the Life Assurance Act 1774 (c. 48) to have an interest in the life of the other.

(2) For the purposes of section 3 of the 1774 Act, there is no limit on the amount of value of the interest.

254 Social security, child support and tax credits

(1) Schedule 24 contains amendments relating to social security, child support and tax credits.

(2) Subsection (3) applies in relation to any provision of any Act, Northern Ireland legislation or subordinate legislation which—

(a) relates to social security, child support or tax credits, and

(b) contains references (however expressed) to persons who are living or have lived together as husband and wife.

(3) The power under section 259 to make orders amending enactments, Northern Ireland legislation and subordinate legislation is to be treated as including power to amend the provision to refer to persons who are living or have lived together as if they were civil partners.

(4) Subject to subsection (5), section 175(3), (5) and (6) of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 (c. 4) applies to the exercise of the power under section 259 in relation to social security, child support or tax credits as it applies to any power under that Act to make an order (there being disregarded for the purposes of this subsection the exceptions in section 175(3) and (5) of that Act).

(5) Section 171(3), (5) and (6) of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 (c. 7) applies to the exercise by a Northern Ireland department of the power under section 259 in relation to social security and child support as it applies to any power under that Act to make an order (there being disregarded for the purposes of this subsection the exceptions in section 171(3) and (5) of that Act).

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(6) The reference in subsection (2) to an Act or Northern Ireland legislation relating to social security is to be read as including a reference to—

(a) the Pneumoconiosis etc. (Workers' Compensation) Act 1979 (c. 41), and

(b) the Pneumoconiosis, etc., (Workers' Compensation) (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 (S.I. 1979/925 (N.I. 9));

and the references in subsections (4) and (5) to social security are to be construed accordingly.

Commencement Information

I49 S. 254 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 254(2)-(6) in force at Royal Assent, see s. 263(8)(f); s. 254(1) in force at 5.12.2005 for certain purposes by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1; s. 254(1) in force at 5.12.2005 for certain purposes by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.

255 Power to amend enactments relating to pensions

(1) A Minister of the Crown may by order make such amendments, repeals or revocations in any enactment, Northern Ireland legislation, subordinate legislation or Church legislation relating to pensions, allowances or gratuities as he considers appropriate for the purpose of, or in connection with, making provision with respect to pensions, allowances or gratuities for the surviving civil partners or dependants of deceased civil partners.

(2) The power conferred by subsection (1) is also exercisable—

(a) by the Scottish Ministers, if the provision making the amendment, repeal or revocation is a relevant Scottish provision;

(b) by a Northern Ireland department, if the provision making the amendment, repeal or revocation deals with a transferred matter.

(3) In the case of judicial pensions, allowances or gratuities, the power conferred by subsection (1) is exercisable—

(a) in relation to any judicial office whose jurisdiction is exercised exclusively in relation to Scotland, by the Secretary of State, or

(b) subject to paragraph (a), by the Lord Chancellor.

(4) The provision which may be made by virtue of subsection (1)—

(a) may be the same as, or different to, the provision made with respect to widows, widowers or the dependants of persons who are not civil partners, and

(b) may be made with a view to ensuring that pensions, allowances or gratuities take account of rights which accrued, service which occurred or any other circumstances which existed before the passing of this Act.

(5) The power conferred by subsection (1) is not restricted by any provision of this Act.

(6) Before the appropriate person makes an order under subsection (1) he must consult such persons as he considers appropriate.

(7) Subsection (6) does not apply—

(a) to an order in the case of which the appropriate person considers that consultation is inexpedient because of urgency, or

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) to an order made before the end of the period of 6 months beginning with the coming into force of this section.

(8) Subject to subsection (9), the power to make an order under subsection (1) is exercisable by statutory instrument.

(9) Any power of a Northern Ireland department to make an order under this section is exercisable by statutory rule for the purposes of the Statutory Rules (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 (S.I. 1979/1573 (N.I. 12)).

(10) An order under subsection (1) may not be made—

(a) by a Minister of the Crown, unless a draft of the statutory instrument containing the order has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament;

(b) by the Scottish Ministers, unless a draft of the statutory instrument containing the order has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, the Scottish Parliament;

(c) by a Northern Ireland department, unless a draft of the statutory rule containing the order has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, the Northern Ireland Assembly.

(11) In this section—

"the appropriate person", in relation to an order under this section, means the person making the order;

"Church legislation" means—

(a) any Measure of the Church Assembly or of the General Synod of the Church of England, or

(b) any order, regulation or other instrument made under or by virtue of such a Measure;

"enactment" includes an enactment comprised in an Act of the Scottish Parliament;

"Minister of the Crown" has the same meaning as in the Ministers of the Crown Act 1975 (c. 26);

"relevant Scottish provision" means a provision that would be within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament if it were included in an Act of that Parliament;

"subordinate legislation" has the same meaning as in the Interpretation Act 1978 (c. 30) except that it includes any instrument made under an Act of the Scottish Parliament and any instrument within the meaning of section 1(c) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954 (1954 c. 33 (N.I.));

"transferred matter" has the meaning given by section 4(1) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (c. 47) and "deals with" in relation to a transferred matter is to be construed in accordance with section 98(2) and (3) of the 1998 Act.

256 Amendment of certain enactments relating to pensions

Schedule 25 amends certain enactments relating to pensions.

257 Amendment of certain enactments relating to the armed forces

Schedule 26 amends certain enactments relating to the armed forces.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

PART 8

SUPPLEMENTARY

258 Regulations and orders

(1) This section applies to any power conferred by this Act to make regulations or an order (except a power of a court to make an order).

(2) The power may be exercised so as to make different provision for different cases and different purposes.

(3) The power includes power to make any supplementary, incidental, consequential, transitional, transitory or saving provision which the person making the regulations or order considers expedient.

259 Power to make further provision in connection with civil partnership

(1) A Minister of the Crown may by order make such further provision (including supplementary, incidental, consequential, transitory, transitional or saving provision) as he considers appropriate—

(a) for the general purposes, or any particular purpose, of this Act,

(b) in consequence of any provision made by or under this Act, or

(c) for giving full effect to this Act or any provision of it.

(2) The power conferred by subsection (1) is also exercisable—

(a) by the Scottish Ministers, in relation to a relevant Scottish provision;

(b) by a Northern Ireland department, in relation to a provision which deals with a transferred matter;

(c) by the National Assembly for Wales, in relation to a provision which is made otherwise than by virtue of subsection (3) and deals with matters with respect to which functions are exercisable by the Assembly.

(3) An order under subsection (1) may—

(a) amend or repeal any enactment contained in an Act passed on or before the last day of the Session in which this Act is passed, including an enactment conferring power to make subordinate legislation where the power is limited by reference to persons who are or have been parties to a marriage;

(b) amend, repeal or (as the case may be) revoke any provision contained in Northern Ireland legislation passed or made on or before the last day of the Session in which this Act is passed, including a provision conferring power to make subordinate legislation where the power is limited by reference to persons who are or have been parties to a marriage;

(c) amend, repeal or (as the case may be) revoke any Church legislation.

(4) An order under subsection (1) may—

(a) provide for any provision of this Act which comes into force before another such provision has come into force to have effect, until that other provision has come into force, with such modifications as are specified in the order;

(b) amend or revoke any subordinate legislation.

(5) The power to make an order under subsection (1) is not restricted by any other provision of this Act.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(6) Subject to subsection (7), the power to make an order under subsection (1) is exercisable by statutory instrument.

(7) Any power of a Northern Ireland department to make an order under this section is exercisable by statutory rule for the purposes of the Statutory Rules (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 (S.I. 1979/1573 (N.I. 12)).

(8) An order under subsection (1) which contains any provision (whether alone or with other provisions) made by virtue of subsection (3) may not be made—

(a) by a Minister of the Crown, unless a draft of the statutory instrument containing the order has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament;

(b) by the Scottish Ministers, unless a draft of the statutory instrument containing the order has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, the Scottish Parliament;

(c) by a Northern Ireland department, unless a draft of the statutory rule containing the order has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, the Northern Ireland Assembly.

(9) A statutory instrument containing an order under subsection (1) to which subsection (8) does not apply—

(a) if made by a Minister of the Crown, is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament;

(b) if made by the Scottish Ministers, is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of the Scottish Parliament.

(10) A statutory rule made by a Northern Ireland department and containing an order to which subsection (8) does not apply is subject to negative resolution (within the meaning of section 41(6) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954 (c. 33 (N.I.))).

(11) In this section—

"Act" includes an Act of the Scottish Parliament;

"Church legislation" has the same meaning as in section 255;

"Minister of the Crown" has the same meaning as in the Ministers of the Crown Act 1975 (c. 26);

"relevant Scottish provision" means a provision that would be within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament if it were included in an Act of that Parliament;

"subordinate legislation" has the same meaning as in the Interpretation Act 1978 (c. 30) except that it includes any instrument made under an Act of the Scottish Parliament and any instrument within the meaning of section 1(c) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954 (c. 33 (N.I.));

"transferred matter" has the meaning given by section 4(1) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (c. 47) and "deals with" in relation to a transferred matter is to be construed in accordance with section 98(2) and (3) of the 1998 Act.

260 [F423EU] obligations and civil partners

(1) Subsection (2) applies where any person, by Order in Council or regulations under section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 (c. 68) (general implementation of Treaties)—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) is making provision for the purpose of implementing, or for a purpose concerning, **[**[F424]an EU**]** obligation of the United Kingdom which relates to persons who are or have been parties to a marriage, or

(b) has made such provision and it has not been revoked.

(2) The appropriate person may by Order in Council or (as the case may be) by regulations make provision in relation to persons who are or have been civil partners in a civil partnership that is the same or similar to the provision referred to in subsection (1).

(3) "Marriage" and "civil partnership" include a void marriage and a void civil partnership respectively.

(4) "The appropriate person" means—

(a) if subsection (1)(a) applies, the person making the provision referred to there;

(b) if subsection (1)(b) applies, any person who would have power to make the provision referred to there if it were being made at the time of the exercise of the power under subsection (2).

(5) The following provisions apply in relation to the power conferred by subsection (2) to make an Order in Council or regulations as they apply in relation to the power conferred by section 2(2) of the 1972 Act to make an Order in Council or regulations—

(a) paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the 1972 Act (procedure etc. in relation to making of Orders in Council and regulations: general);

(b) paragraph 15(3)(c) of Schedule 8 to the Scotland Act 1998 (c. 46) (modifications of paragraph 2 in relation to Scottish Ministers and to Orders in Council made on the recommendation of the First Minister);

(c) paragraph 3 of Schedule 2 to the 1972 Act (modifications of paragraph 2 in relation to Northern Ireland departments etc.) and the Statutory Rules (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 (S.I. 1979/1573 (N.I. 12)) (treating the power conferred by subsection (2) as conferred by an Act passed before 1st January 1974 for the purposes of the application of that Order);

(d) section 29(3) of the Government of Wales Act 1998 (c. 38) (modifications of paragraph 2 in relation to the National Assembly for Wales).

Textual Amendments

F423 Word in s. 260 heading substituted (22.4.2011) by The Treaty of Lisbon (Changes in Terminology) Order 2011 (S.I. 2011/1043), arts. 3, **6(1)(e)**

F424 Words in s. 260(1)(a) substituted (22.4.2011) by The Treaty of Lisbon (Changes in Terminology) Order 2011 (S.I. 2011/1043), **arts. 3**, {6(1)(e) (3)}

261 Minor and consequential amendments, repeals and revocations

(1) Schedule 27 contains minor and consequential amendments.

(2) Schedule 28 contains consequential amendments of enactments relating to Scotland.

(3) Schedule 29 contains minor and consequential amendments relating to Northern Ireland.

(4) Schedule 30 contains repeals and revocations.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

262 Extent

(1) Part 2 (civil partnership: England and Wales), excluding section 35 but including Schedules 1 to 9, extends to England and Wales only.

(2) Part 3 (civil partnership: Scotland), including Schedules 10 and 11, extends to Scotland only.

(3) Part 4 (civil partnership: Northern Ireland), including Schedules 12 to 19, extends to Northern Ireland only.

(4) In Part 5 (civil partnerships formed or dissolved abroad etc.)—

(a) sections 220 to 224 extend to England and Wales only;

(b) sections 225 to 227 extend to Scotland only;

(c) sections 228 to 232 extend to Northern Ireland only.

(5) In Part 6—

(a) any amendment made by virtue of section 247(1)(a) and Schedule 21 has the same extent as the provision subject to the amendment;

(b) section 248 and Schedule 22 extend to Northern Ireland only.

(6) Section 251 extends to England and Wales and Scotland only.

(7) Section 252 extends to Northern Ireland only.

(8) Schedule 28 extends to Scotland only.

(9) Schedule 29 extends to Northern Ireland only.

(10) Any amendment, repeal or revocation made by Schedules 24 to 27 and 30 has the same extent as the provision subject to the amendment, repeal or revocation.

263 Commencement

(1) Part 1 comes into force in accordance with provision made by order by the Secretary of State, after consulting the Scottish Ministers and the Department of Finance and Personnel.

(2) Part 2, including Schedules 1 to 9, comes into force in accordance with provision made by order by the Secretary of State.

(3) Part 3, including Schedules 10 and 11, comes into force in accordance with provision made by order by the Scottish Ministers, after consulting the Secretary of State.

(4) Part 4, including Schedules 12 to 19, comes into force in accordance with provision made by order by the Department of Finance and Personnel, after consulting the Secretary of State.

(5) Part 5, excluding section 213(2) to (6) but including Schedule 20, comes into force in accordance with provision made by order by the Secretary of State, after consulting the Scottish Ministers and the Department of Finance and Personnel.

(6) Section 213(2) to (6) comes into force on the day on which this Act is passed.

(7) In Part 6 —

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) sections 246 and 247(1) and Schedule 21 come into force in accordance with provision made by order by the Secretary of State, after consulting the Scottish Ministers and the Department of Finance and Personnel,

(b) section 248(1) and Schedule 22 come into force in accordance with provision made by order by the Department of Finance and Personnel, after consulting the Secretary of State, and

(c) sections 247(2) to (7) and 248(2) to (5) come into force on the day on which this Act is passed.

(8) In Part 7—

(a) sections 249, 251, 253, 256 and 257 and Schedules 23, 25 and 26 come into force in accordance with provision made by order by the Secretary of State,

(b) section 250 comes into force in accordance with provision made by order by the Secretary of State, after consulting the Scottish Ministers and the Department of Finance and Personnel,

(c) section 252 comes into force in accordance with provision made by the Department of Finance and Personnel, after consulting the Secretary of State,

(d) subject to paragraph (e), section 254(1) and Schedule 24 come into force in accordance with provision made by order by the Secretary of State,

(e) the provisions of Schedule 24 listed in subsection (9), and section 254(1) so far as relating to those provisions, come into force in accordance with provision made by the Department of Finance and Personnel, after consulting the Secretary of State, and

(f) sections 254(2) to (6) and 255 come into force on the day on which this Act is passed.

(9) The provisions are—

(a) Part 2;

(b) in Part 5, paragraphs 67 to 85, 87, 89 to 99 and 102 to 105;

(c) Part 6;

(d) Parts 9 and 10;

(e) Part 15.

(10) In this Part—

(a) sections 258, 259, 260 and 262, this section and section 264 come into force on the day on which this Act is passed,

(b) section 261(1) and Schedule 27 and, except so far as relating to any Acts of the Scottish Parliament or any provision which extends to Northern Ireland only, section 261(4) and Schedule 30 come into force in accordance with provision made by order by the Secretary of State,

(c) section 261(2) and Schedule 28 and, so far as relating to any Acts of the Scottish Parliament, section 261(4) and Schedule 30 come into force in accordance with provision made by order by the Scottish Ministers, after consulting the Secretary of State,

(d) section 261(3) and Schedule 29 and, so far as relating to any provision which extends to Northern Ireland only, section 261(4) and Schedule 30 come into force in accordance with provision made by order by the Department of Finance and Personnel, after consulting the Secretary of State.

(11) The power to make an order under this section is exercisable by statutory instrument.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Subordinate Legislation Made

P1 S. 263 power partly exercised: 15.4.2005 appointed for specified provisions by {S.I. 2005/1112}, art. 2, Schs. 1, 2

P2 S. 263 power partly exercised: 5.9.2005 appointed for specified provisions by {S.I. 2005/2399}, art. 2, Sch.

P3 S. 263 power partly exercised: 7.11.2005 appointed for specified provisions by {S.I. 2005/3058}, art. 2

P4 S. 263 power partly exercised: different dates appointed for specified provisions by {S.I. 2005/3175}, arts. 2, 3, Schs. 1, 2

P5 S. 263 power partly exercised: 5.12.2005 appointed for specified provisions by {S.I. 2005/3255}, art. 2, Sch.

P6 S. 263 power partly exercised: 6.4.2006 appointed for specified provisions by {S.I. 2006/639}, art. 2

P7 S. 263 power partly exercised: 6.4.2006 appointed for specified provisions by {S.I. 2006/928}, art. 2

P8 S. 263(3) power partly exercised: 14.9.2005 appointed for specified provisions by {S.S.I. 2005/428}, art. 2, Sch.

P9 S. 263(3)(10)(c) power partly exercised: 5.12.2005 appointed for specified provisions by {S.S.I. 2005/604}, arts. 2-4

264 Short title

This Act may be cited as the Civil Partnership Act 2004.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1 Sections 3(2) and 5(3)

PROHIBITED DEGREES OF RELATIONSHIP: ENGLAND AND WALES

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C34 Sch. 1 modified (6.4.2010) by The Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Parental Orders) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/985), reg. 5, **Sch. 4**

C35 Sch. 1 modified (21.12.2018) by The Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Parental Orders) Regulations 2018 (S.I. 2018/1412), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 4 para. 21**

PART 1

THE PROHIBITIONS

Absolute prohibitions

1 (1) Two people are within prohibited degrees of relationship if one falls within the list below in relation to the other.

Adoptive child
Adoptive parent
Child
Former adoptive child
Former adoptive parent
Grandparent
Grandchild
Parent
Parent's sibling
Sibling
Sibling's child

(2) In the list "sibling" means a brother, sister, half-brother or half-sister.

Qualified prohibitions

2 (1) Two people are within prohibited degrees of relationship if one of them falls within the list below in relation to the other, unless—

(a) both of them have reached 21 at the time when they register as civil partners of each other, and

(b) the younger has not at any time before reaching 18 been a child of the family in relation to the other.

Child of former civil partner

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Child of former spouse
Former civil partner of grandparent
Former civil partner of parent
Former spouse of grandparent
Former spouse of parent
Grandchild of former civil partner
Grandchild of former spouse

(2) "Child of the family", in relation to another person, means a person who—

(a) has lived in the same household as that other person, and

(b) has been treated by that other person as a child of his family.

PROSPECTIVE

3 Two people are within prohibited degrees of relationship if one falls within column 1 of the table below in relation to the other, unless—

(a) both of them have reached 21 at the time when they register as civil partners of each other, and

(b) the persons who fall within column 2 are dead.

Relationship	***Relevant deaths***
Former civil partner of child	The child The child's other parent
Former spouse of child	The child The child's other parent
Parent of former civil partner	The former civil partner The former civil partner's other parent
Parent of former spouse	The former spouse The former spouse's other parent

PART 2

SPECIAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO QUALIFIED PROHIBITIONS

Provisions relating to paragraph 2

4 Paragraphs 5 to 7 apply where two people are subject to paragraph 2 but intend to register as civil partners of each other by signing a civil partnership schedule.

5 (1) The fact that a notice of proposed civil partnership has been given must not be recorded in the register unless the registration authority—

(a) is satisfied by the production of evidence that both the proposed civil partners have reached 21, and

(b) has received a declaration made by each of the proposed civil partners—

(i) specifying their affinal relationship, and

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(ii) declaring that the younger of them has not at any time before reaching 18 been a child of the family in relation to the other.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) does not apply if a declaration is obtained under paragraph 7.

(3) A declaration under sub-paragraph (1)(b) must contain such information and must be signed and attested in such manner as may be prescribed by regulations.

(4) The fact that a registration authority has received a declaration under sub-paragraph (1)(b) must be recorded in the register.

(5) A declaration under sub-paragraph (1)(b) must be filed and kept by the registration authority.

Commencement Information

I50 Sch. 1 para. 5 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 1 para. 5 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 1 para. 5(3) in force for certain purposes at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and Sch. 1 para. 5 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

6 (1) Sub-paragraph (2) applies if—

(a) a registration authority receives from a person who is not one of the proposed civil partners a written statement signed by that person which alleges that a declaration made under paragraph 5 is false in a material particular, and

(b) the register shows that such a statement has been received.

(2) The registration authority in whose area it is proposed that the registration take place must not issue a civil partnership schedule unless a [F425]... declaration is obtained under paragraph 7.

Textual Amendments

F425 Words in Sch. 1 para. 6(2) omitted (22.4.2014) by virtue of Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 167(2)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

7 (1) Either of the proposed civil partners may apply to the High Court **[**[F426]or the family court**]** for a declaration that, given that—

(a) both of them have reached 21, and

(b) the younger of those persons has not at any time before reaching 18 been a child of the family in relation to the other,

there is no impediment of affinity to the formation of the civil partnership.

(2) Such an application may be made whether or not any statement has been received by the registration authority under paragraph 6.

Textual Amendments

F426 Words in Sch. 1 para. 7 inserted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 167(3)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

8 Section 13 (objection to proposed civil partnership) does not apply in relation to a civil partnership to which paragraphs 5 to 7 apply, except so far as an objection to the issue of a civil partnership schedule is made under that section on a ground other than the affinity between the proposed civil partners.

PROSPECTIVE

Provisions relating to paragraph 3

9 (1) This paragraph applies where two people are subject to paragraph 3 but intend to register as civil partners of each other by signing a civil partnership schedule.

(2) The fact that a notice of proposed civil partnership has been given must not be recorded in the register unless the registration authority is satisfied by the production of evidence—

(a) that both the proposed civil partners have reached 21, and

(b) that the persons referred to in paragraph 3(b) are dead.

[F427]SCHEDULE 2

Section 4(2) and 5(3)

. . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F427 Sch. 2 omitted (27.2.2023) by virtue of Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 (c. 28), s. 7(1), **Sch. para. 4(9)** (with s. 8); S.I. 2023/88, reg. 2 (with regs. 3-17)

SCHEDULE 3

Section 5(2)

REGISTRATION BY FORMER SPOUSES ONE OF WHOM HAS CHANGED SEX

Application of Schedule

1 This Schedule applies if—

(a) a court—

(i) makes absolute a decree of nullity granted on the ground that an interim gender recognition certificate has been issued to a party to the marriage, or

(ii) (in Scotland) grants a decree of divorce on that ground,

and, on doing so, issues a full gender recognition certificate (under section 5(1) of the Gender Recognition Act 2004 (c. 7)) to that party, and

(b) the parties wish to register in England or Wales as civil partners of each other without being delayed by the waiting period.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

The relevant period

2 For the purposes of this Schedule the relevant period is the period—

(a) beginning with the issue of the full gender recognition certificate, and

(b) ending at the end of 1 month from the day on which it is issued.

Modifications of standard procedure and procedures for house-bound and detained persons

3 If—

(a) each of the parties gives a notice of proposed civil partnership during the relevant period, and

(b) on doing so, each makes an election under this paragraph,

Chapter 1 of Part 2 applies with the modifications given in paragraphs 4 to 6.

4 (1) Omit—

(a) section 10 (proposed civil partnership to be publicised);

(b) section 11 (meaning of "the waiting period");

(c) section 12 (power to shorten the waiting period).

(2) In section 14 (issue of civil partnership schedule), for subsection (1) substitute—

"(1) As soon as the notices of proposed civil partnership have been given, the registration authority in whose area it is proposed that the registration take place must, at the request of one or both of the proposed civil partners, issue a document to be known as a "civil partnership schedule"."

(3) For section 17 (period during which registration may take place) substitute—

"**17 Period during which registration may take place**

(1) The proposed civil partners may register as civil partners by signing the civil partnership schedule at any time during the applicable period.

(2) If they do not register as civil partners by signing the civil partnership schedule before the end of the applicable period—

(a) the notices of proposed civil partnership and the civil partnership schedule are void, and

(b) no civil partnership registrar may officiate at the signing of the civil partnership schedule by them.

(3) The applicable period, in relation to two people registering as civil partners of each other, is the period of 1 month beginning with—

(a) the day on which the notices of proposed civil partnership are given, or

(b) if the notices are not given on the same day, the earlier of those days."

5 In section 18 (house-bound persons), in subsection (3)—

(a) treat the reference to the standard procedure as a reference to the standard procedure as modified by this Schedule, and

(b) omit paragraph (c) (which provides for a 3 month registration period).

6 In section 19 (detained persons), in subsection (3)—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) treat the reference to the standard procedure as a reference to the standard procedure as modified by this Schedule, and

(b) omit paragraph (c) (which provides for a 3 month registration period).

Modified procedures for certain non-residents

7 (1) Sub-paragraphs (5) to (8) apply (in place of section 20) in the following **[**F428two**]** cases.

(2) The first is where—

(a) two people wish to register as civil partners of each other in England and Wales, and

(b) one of them ("A") resides in Scotland and the other ("B") resides in England or Wales.

(3) F429 . . . . . .

(4) The **[**F430second**]** is where—

(a) two people wish to register as civil partners of each other in England and Wales, and

(b) one of them ("A") is **[**F431an officer, seaman or marine borne on the books of one of Her Majesty's ships at sea**]** and the other ("B") resides in England or Wales.

(5) A is not required to give a notice of proposed civil partnership to a registration authority in England or Wales in order to register in England or Wales as B's civil partner.

[F432(6) B may make the necessary declaration without reference to A's usual place of residence for any period.**]**

(7) If, on giving such notice, B makes an election under this paragraph, Chapter 1 of Part 2 applies with the modifications given in paragraphs 4 to 6 and the further modifications in sub-paragraph (8).

(8) The further modifications are that—

(a) the civil partnership schedule is not to be issued by a registration authority unless A or B produces to that registration authority a certificate of no impediment issued to A under the relevant provision;

(b) the applicable period is the period of one month beginning with the day on which B's notice is given;

(c) section 31 applies as if in subsections (1)(a) and (2)(c) for "each notice" there were substituted " B's notice ".

(9) "The relevant provision" means—

(a) if A resides in Scotland, section 97;

(b) F433 . . . . . .

(c) if A is **[**F434an officer, seaman or marine borne on the books of one of Her Majesty's ships at sea**]**, section 239.

(10) F435 . . . . . .

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F428 Word in Sch. 3 para. 7(1) substituted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 18(2)** (subject to art. 1(3))

F429 Sch. 3 para. 7(3) omitted (5.12.2005) by virtue of The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 18(3)** (subject to art. 1(3))

F430 Word in Sch. 3 para. 7(4) substituted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 18(4)(a)** (subject to art. 1(3))

F431 Words in Sch. 3 para. 7(4) substituted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 18(4)(b)** (subject to art. 1(3))

F432 Sch. 3 para. 7(6) substituted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 18(5)** (subject to art. 1(3))

F433 Sch. 3 para. 7(9)(b) omitted (5.12.2005) by virtue of The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 18(6)(a)** (subject to art. 1(3))

F434 Words in Sch. 3 para. 7(9)(c) substituted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 18(6)(b)** (subject to art. 1(3))

F435 Sch. 3 para. 7(10) omitted (5.12.2005) by virtue of The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 18(7)** (subject to art. 1(3))

[F436SCHEDULE 3A

MODIFICATIONS IF PROPOSED CIVIL PARTNERSHIP REFERRED UNDER SECTION 12A

Textual Amendments

F436 Sch. 3A inserted (1.3.2015) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), s. 75(3), **Sch. 4 para. 25** (with Sch. 9 para. 66); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(f)

Introduction

1 (1) These are the modifications subject to which this Act has effect if the registration authority refers a proposed civil partnership to the Secretary of State.

(2) In this Schedule—

"2014 Act" means the Immigration Act 2014;

"referred civil partnership" means the proposed civil partnership referred to the Secretary of State.

No civil partnership schedule to be issued until decision about investigation etc

2 (1) The duty under section 14(1) to issue a civil partnership schedule in respect of the referred civil partnership does not apply unless and until one of the following events occurs.

(2) Event 1 occurs if—

(a) the Secretary of State gives the registration authority or authorities the section 48 notice, and

(b) that notice is of a decision not to investigate whether the referred civil partnership is a sham.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(3) Event 2 occurs if—

(a) the relevant statutory period ends, and

(b) the Secretary of State has not given the registration authority or authorities the section 48 notice.

(4) Event 3 occurs if—

(a) the Secretary of State gives the registration authority or authorities the section 48 notice,

(b) that notice is of a decision to investigate whether the referred civil partnership is a sham,

(c) the Secretary of State gives the registration authority or authorities the section 50 notice, and

(d) that notice is of a decision that both of the parties to the referred civil partnership have complied with the investigation.

(5) Event 4 occurs if—

(a) the 70 day period ends, and

(b) the Secretary of State has not given the registration authority or authorities the section 50 notice.

(6) Event 5 occurs if the Secretary of State gives the registration authority or authorities notice that the duty under section 14(1) is applicable.

(7) The Secretary of State may give a notice for that purpose only if—

(a) the Secretary of State has given the registration authority or authorities the section 48 notice,

(b) that notice is of a decision to investigate whether the referred civil partnership is a sham,

(c) the Secretary of State has given the registration authority or authorities the section 50 notice, and

(d) that notice is of a decision that one or both of the parties to the referred civil partnership have not complied with the investigation.

(8) This paragraph applies in addition to any other requirements applicable to the issue of the civil partnership schedule.

(9) This paragraph is subject to paragraph 4.

(10) In this paragraph—

"70 day period" has the same meaning as in section 50 of the 2014 Act;

"relevant statutory period" has the same meaning as in section 48 of the 2014 Act;

"section 48 notice" means notice under section 48(8) of the 2014 Act;

"section 50 notice" means notice under section 50(7) of the 2014 Act.

Civil partnership to be investigated: extension of waiting period to 70 days

3 (1) The modifications in this paragraph have effect if the Secretary of State gives the registration authority notice under section 48(8) of the 2014 Act of a decision to investigate whether the referred civil partnership is a sham.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(2) Section 11(b): the reference to the period of 28 days has effect as a reference to the relevant 70 day period.

(3) But, for the purposes of section 10, the waiting period is not extended by sub-paragraph (2).

(4) In this paragraph "relevant 70 day period" means the period—

(a) beginning the day after notice of the proposed civil partnership is recorded in the register in accordance with section 8(5), and

(b) ending at the end of the period of 70 days beginning with that day.

Effect of shortening waiting period

4 (1) This paragraph applies if—

(a) the Secretary of State gives notice under section 12(5) of the grant of an application made under section 12(1) (power to shorten the waiting period) in relation to the referred civil partnership, and

(b) that notice is given at a time when the duty under section 14(1) to issue a civil partnership schedule in respect of the referred civil partnership has not arisen in accordance with paragraph 2.

(2) The duty under section 14(1) to issue a civil partnership schedule in respect of the referred civil partnership arises on the giving of the notice under section 12(5), subject to any other requirements applicable to the issue of the schedule being met.

(3) But the requirements of paragraph 2 are not applicable in such a case.

(4) The Secretary of State is not prevented from deciding to conduct, conducting, or continuing, an investigation if a schedule in respect of the referred civil partnership is issued as mentioned in sub-paragraph (2).

(5) But in such a case, nothing in the 2014 Act requires the Secretary of State to decide whether to conduct, or to continue, an investigation.

(6) In this paragraph "investigation" means an investigation, conducted following a decision by the Secretary of State under section 48 of the 2014 Act, whether a proposed civil partnership is a sham.**]**

SCHEDULE 4 Section 71

WILLS, ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES AND FAMILY PROVISION

PART 1

WILLS

1 Amend the Wills Act 1837 (c. 26) as follows.

2 After section 18A insert—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

"**18B Will to be revoked by civil partnership**

(1) Subject to subsections (2) to (6), a will is revoked by the formation of a civil partnership between the testator and another person.

(2) A disposition in a will in exercise of a power of appointment takes effect despite the formation of a subsequent civil partnership between the testator and another person unless the property so appointed would in default of appointment pass to the testator's personal representatives.

(3) If it appears from a will—

(a) that at the time it was made the testator was expecting to form a civil partnership with a particular person, and

(b) that he intended that the will should not be revoked by the formation of the civil partnership,

the will is not revoked by its formation.

(4) Subsections (5) and (6) apply if it appears from a will—

(a) that at the time it was made the testator was expecting to form a civil partnership with a particular person, and

(b) that he intended that a disposition in the will should not be revoked by the formation of the civil partnership.

(5) The disposition takes effect despite the formation of the civil partnership.

(6) Any other disposition in the will also takes effect, unless it appears from the will that the testator intended the disposition to be revoked by the formation of the civil partnership.

18C Effect of dissolution or annulment of civil partnership on wills

(1) This section applies if, after a testator has made a will—

(a) a court of civil jurisdiction in England and Wales dissolves his civil partnership or makes a nullity order in respect of it, or

(b) his civil partnership is dissolved or annulled and the dissolution or annulment is entitled to recognition in England and Wales by virtue of Chapter 3 of Part 5 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004.

(2) Except in so far as a contrary intention appears by the will—

(a) provisions of the will appointing executors or trustees or conferring a power of appointment, if they appoint or confer the power on the former civil partner, take effect as if the former civil partner had died on the date on which the civil partnership is dissolved or annulled, and

(b) any property which, or an interest in which, is devised or bequeathed to the former civil partner shall pass as if the former civil partner had died on that date.

(3) Subsection (2)(b) does not affect any right of the former civil partner to apply for financial provision under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependants) Act 1975."

3 The following provisions—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) section 15 of the Wills Act 1837 (c. 26) (avoidance of gifts to attesting witnesses and their spouses), and

(b) section 1 of the Wills Act 1968 (c. 28) (restriction of operation of section 15),

apply in relation to the attestation of a will by a person to whose civil partner there is given or made any such disposition as is described in section 15 of the 1837 Act as they apply in relation to a person to whose spouse there is given or made any such disposition.

4 In section 16 of the 1837 Act, after "wife or husband" insert " or civil partner ".

5 Except where a contrary intention is shown, it is presumed that if a testator—

(a) devises or bequeaths property to his civil partner in terms which in themselves would give an absolute interest to the civil partner, but

(b) by the same instrument purports to give his issue an interest in the same property,

the gift to the civil partner is absolute despite the purported gift to the issue.

PART 2

ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES AND FAMILY PROVISION

Public Trustee Act 1906 (c. 55)

6 In section 6(1), after "widower, widow" (in both places) insert " , surviving civil partner ".

Administration of Estates Act 1925 (c. 23)

7 In section 46 (succession to real and personal estate on intestacy), for "husband or wife" (in each place) substitute " spouse or civil partner ".

8 (1) Amend section 47(1) (meaning of "the statutory trusts") as follows.

(2) In paragraph (i), after "or marry under that age" (in the first place) insert " or form a civil partnership under that age ".

(3) In that paragraph, after "or marry" (in the second place) insert " , or form a civil partnership, ".

(4) In paragraph (ii), after "marries" insert " , or forms a civil partnership, ".

9 In section 47A, in subsection (1) and in the proviso to subsection (5), for "husband or wife" substitute " spouse or civil partner ".

10 In section 48(2), for "husband or wife" (in each place) substitute " spouse or civil partner ".

11 In section 51(3) (devolution of certain estates vested in infant who dies without having married and without issue), after "without having been married" insert " or having formed a civil partnership, ".

12 In section 55(1)(xviii) (which defines "valuable consideration" as including marriage), after "includes marriage," insert " and formation of a civil partnership, ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Intestates' Estates Act 1952 (c. 64)

13 (1) Amend section 5 and Schedule 2 (rights of surviving spouse as respects the matrimonial home) as follows.

(2) For "husband or wife" (in each place) substitute " spouse or civil partner ".

(3) In section 5, after "matrimonial" insert " or civil partnership ".

(4) In the heading of each—

(a) after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) after "matrimonial" insert " or civil partnership ".

Family Provision Act 1966 (c. 35)

14 In section 1(1) (fixed net sum payable to surviving spouse of person dying intestate), for "husband or wife" substitute " spouse or civil partner ".

Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependants) Act 1975 (c. 63)

15 (1) Amend section 1 (application for financial provision from deceased person's estate) as follows.

(2) For subsection (1)(a) and (b) (application may be made by spouse or by former spouse who has not remarried) substitute—

"(a) the spouse or civil partner of the deceased;

(b) a former spouse or former civil partner of the deceased, but not one who has formed a subsequent marriage or civil partnership;".

(3) In subsection (1)(ba) (application may be made by person living as husband or wife of the deceased), after "subsection (1A)" insert " or (1B) ".

(4) In subsection (1)(d) (application may be made by child of the family), after "marriage" (in each place) insert " or civil partnership ".

(5) After subsection (1A) insert—

"(1B) This subsection applies to a person if for the whole of the period of two years ending immediately before the date when the deceased died the person was living—

(a) in the same household as the deceased, and

(b) as the civil partner of the deceased."

(6) In subsection (2) (meaning of "reasonable financial provision"), after paragraph (a) insert—

"(aa) in the case of an application made by virtue of subsection (1)(a) above by the civil partner of the deceased (except where, at the date of death, a separation order under Chapter 2 of Part 2 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004 was in force in relation to the civil partnership and the separation was continuing), means such financial provision as it would be reasonable in all the circumstances of the case for a civil partner to receive, whether or not that provision is required for his or her maintenance;".

16 In section 2(1) (orders which may be made on an application), after paragraph (f) insert—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

"(g) an order varying any settlement made—

(i) during the subsistence of a civil partnership formed by the deceased, or

(ii) in anticipation of the formation of a civil partnership by the deceased,

on the civil partners (including such a settlement made by will), the variation being for the benefit of the surviving civil partner, or any child of both the civil partners, or any person who was treated by the deceased as a child of the family in relation to that civil partnership."

17 (1) Amend section 3(2) (application by spouse or former spouse: matters to which court is to have regard) as follows.

(2) For the words from the beginning to "1(1)(b) of this Act" substitute— " This subsection applies, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (g) of subsection (1) above, where an application for an order under section 2 of this Act is made by virtue of section 1(1)(a) or (b) of this Act. "

(3) The words from "the court shall, in addition" to the end of paragraph (b) shall become a second sentence of the subsection and, in paragraph (a) of the sentence so formed, after "duration of the marriage" insert " or civil partnership ".

(4) The words from "in the case of an application by the wife or husband" to the end shall become a third sentence of the subsection.

(5) At the end insert the following sentence— " In the case of an application by the civil partner of the deceased, the court shall also, unless at the date of the death a separation order under Chapter 2 of Part 2 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004 was in force and the separation was continuing, have regard to the provision which the applicant might reasonably have expected to receive if on the day on which the deceased died the civil partnership, instead of being terminated by death, had been terminated by a dissolution order. "

18 In section 3(2A) (application by person living as husband or wife of deceased: matters to which court is to have regard), in paragraph (a), after "wife" insert " or civil partner ".

19 In section 6(3) and (10) (variation etc. of orders which cease on occurrence of specified event other than remarriage of former spouse), for "(other than the remarriage of a former wife or former husband)" substitute " (other than the formation of a subsequent marriage or civil partnership by a former spouse or former civil partner) ".

20 After section 14 insert—

"**14A Provision as to cases where no financial relief was granted in proceedings for the dissolution etc. of a civil partnership**

(1) Subsection (2) below applies where—

(a) a dissolution order, nullity order, separation order or presumption of death order has been made under Chapter 2 of Part 2 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004 in relation to a civil partnership,

(b) one of the civil partners dies within twelve months from the date on which the order is made, and

(c) either—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(i) an application for a financial provision order under Part 1 of Schedule 5 to that Act or a property adjustment order under Part 2 of that Schedule has not been made by the other civil partner, or

(ii) such an application has been made but the proceedings on the application have not been determined at the time of the death of the deceased.

(2) If an application for an order under section 2 of this Act is made by the surviving civil partner, the court shall, notwithstanding anything in section 1 or section 3 of this Act, have power, if it thinks it just to do so, to treat the surviving civil partner as if the order mentioned in subsection (1)(a) above had not been made.

(3) This section shall not apply in relation to a separation order unless at the date of the death of the deceased the separation order was in force and the separation was continuing."

21 After section 15 insert—

"**15ZA Restriction imposed in proceedings for the dissolution etc. of a civil partnership on application under this Act**

(1) On making a dissolution order, nullity order, separation order or presumption of death order under Chapter 2 of Part 2 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004, or at any time after making such an order, the court, if it considers it just to do so, may, on the application of either of the civil partners, order that the other civil partner shall not on the death of the applicant be entitled to apply for an order under section 2 of this Act.

(2) In subsection (1) above "the court" means the High Court or, where a county court has jurisdiction by virtue of Part 5 of the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act 1984, a county court.

(3) In the case of a dissolution order, nullity order or presumption of death order ("the main order") an order may be made under subsection (1) above before (as well as after) the main order is made final, but if made before the main order is made final it shall not take effect unless the main order is made final.

(4) Where an order under subsection (1) above made in connection with a dissolution order, nullity order or presumption of death order has come into force with respect to a civil partner, then, on the death of the other civil partner, the court shall not entertain any application for an order under section 2 of this Act made by the surviving civil partner.

(5) Where an order under subsection (1) above made in connection with a separation order has come into force with respect to a civil partner, then, if the other civil partner dies while the separation order is in force and the separation is continuing, the court shall not entertain any application for an order under section 2 of this Act made by the surviving civil partner."

22 After section 15A insert—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

"**15B Restriction imposed in proceedings under Schedule 7 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 on application under this Act**

(1) On making an order under paragraph 9 of Schedule 7 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (orders for financial provision, property adjustment and pension-sharing following overseas dissolution etc. of civil partnership) the court, if it considers it just to do so, may, on the application of either of the civil partners, order that the other civil partner shall not on the death of the applicant be entitled to apply for an order under section 2 of this Act.

(2) In subsection (1) above "the court" means the High Court or, where a county court has jurisdiction by virtue of Part 5 of the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act 1984, a county court.

(3) Where an order under subsection (1) above has been made with respect to one of the civil partners in a case where a civil partnership has been dissolved or annulled, then, on the death of the other civil partner, the court shall not entertain an application under section 2 of this Act made by the surviving civil partner.

(4) Where an order under subsection (1) above has been made with respect to one of the civil partners in a case where civil partners have been legally separated, then, if the other civil partner dies while the legal separation is in force, the court shall not entertain an application under section 2 of this Act made by the surviving civil partner."

23 In section 16(1) (power to vary secured periodical payments orders)—

(a) after "the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973" insert " or Schedule 5 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 ", and

(b) after "that Act" insert " of 1973 or Part 11 of that Schedule ".

24 In section 17(4) (meaning of "maintenance agreement")—

(a) for "entered into a marriage" substitute " formed a marriage or civil partnership ",

(b) after "of the parties to that marriage" insert " or of the civil partners ", and

(c) after "marriage" (in the third and fourth places) insert " or civil partnership ".

25 After section 18 insert—

"**18A Availability of court's powers under this Act in applications under paragraphs 60 and 73 of Schedule 5 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004**

(1) Where—

(a) a person against whom a secured periodical payments order was made under Schedule 5 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 has died and an application is made under paragraph 60 of that Schedule for the variation or discharge of that order or for the revival of the operation of any suspended provision of the order, or

(b) a party to a maintenance agreement within the meaning of Part 13 of that Schedule has died, the agreement being one which provides for the continuation of payments under the agreement after the death of one of the parties, and an application is made under paragraph 73

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

of that Schedule for the alteration of the agreement under paragraph 69 of that Schedule,

the court shall have power to direct that the application made under paragraph 60 or 73 of that Schedule shall be deemed to have been accompanied by an application for an order under section 2 of this Act.

(2) Where the court gives a direction under subsection (1) above it shall have power, in the proceedings on the application under paragraph 60 or 73 of that Schedule, to make any order which the court would have had power to make under the provisions of this Act if the application under that paragraph had been made jointly with an application for an order under section 2 of this Act; and the court shall have power to give such consequential directions as may be necessary for enabling the court to exercise any of the powers available to the court under this Act in the case of an application for an order under section 2.

(3) Where an order made under section 15ZA(1) of this Act is in force with respect to a civil partner, the court shall not give a direction under subsection (1) above with respect to any application made under paragraph 60 or 73 of that Schedule by that civil partner on the death of the other civil partner."

26 (1) Amend section 19 (effect, duration and form of orders) as follows.

(2) In subsection (2)(a), for "former husband or former wife" substitute " former spouse or former civil partner ".

(3) In subsection (2), after paragraph (b) insert "or

(c) an applicant who was the civil partner of the deceased in a case where, at the date of death, a separation order under Chapter 2 of Part 2 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004 was in force in relation to their civil partnership and the separation was continuing,".

(4) In that subsection, in the words after paragraph (b), for "on the remarriage of the applicant" onwards substitute " on the formation by the applicant of a subsequent marriage or civil partnership, except in relation to any arrears due under the order on the date of the formation of the subsequent marriage or civil partnership. "

(5) In subsection (3), after "section 15(1)" insert " or 15ZA(1) ".

27 (1) Amend section 25 (interpretation) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1), in the definition of "former wife" and "former husband", for " "former wife" or "former husband"" substitute " "former spouse" ".

(3) In that subsection, before that definition insert—

""former civil partner" means a person whose civil partnership with the deceased was during the lifetime of the deceased either—

(a) dissolved or annulled by an order made under the law of any part of the British Islands, or

(b) dissolved or annulled in any country or territory outside the British Islands by a dissolution or annulment which is entitled to be recognised as valid by the law of England and Wales;".

(4) In subsection (4)—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) before "wife" insert " spouse, " and

(b) in paragraph (b), for "entered into a later marriage" substitute " formed a subsequent marriage or civil partnership ".

(5) For subsection (5) substitute—

"(4A) For the purposes of this Act any reference to a civil partner shall be treated as including a reference to a person who in good faith formed a void civil partnership with the deceased unless either—

(a) the civil partnership between the deceased and that person was dissolved or annulled during the lifetime of the deceased and the dissolution or annulment is recognised by the law of England and Wales, or

(b) that person has during the lifetime of the deceased formed a subsequent civil partnership or marriage.

(5) Any reference in this Act to the formation of, or to a person who has formed, a subsequent marriage or civil partnership includes (as the case may be) a reference to the formation of, or to a person who has formed, a marriage or civil partnership which is by law void or voidable.

(5A) The formation of a marriage or civil partnership shall be treated for the purposes of this Act as the formation of a subsequent marriage or civil partnership, in relation to either of the spouses or civil partners, notwithstanding that the previous marriage or civil partnership of that spouse or civil partner was void or voidable."

(6) After subsection (6) insert—

"(6A) Any reference in this Act to an order made under, or under any provision of, the Civil Partnership Act 2004 shall be construed as including a reference to anything which is deemed to be an order made (as the case may be) under that Act or provision."

SCHEDULE 5 Section 72(1)

[F437 FINANCIAL RELIEF: PROVISION CORRESPONDING TO PROVISION MADE BY PART 2 OF THE MATRIMONIAL CAUSES ACT 1973]

Textual Amendments

F437 Sch. 5 title substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 177**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

PART 1

FINANCIAL PROVISION IN CONNECTION WITH DISSOLUTION, NULLITY OR SEPARATION

Circumstances in which orders under this Part may be made

1 (1) The court may make any one or more of the orders set out in paragraph 2(1)—

(a) on making a dissolution, nullity or separation order, or

(b) at any time afterwards.

(2) The court may make any one or more of the orders set out in paragraph 2(1)(d), (e) and (f)—

(a) in proceedings for a dissolution, nullity or separation order, before making the order;

(b) if proceedings for a dissolution, nullity or separation order are dismissed after the beginning of the trial, either straightaway or within a reasonable period after the dismissal.

(3) The power of the court to make an order under sub-paragraph (1) or (2)(a) in favour of a child of the family is exercisable from time to time.

(4) If the court makes an order in favour of a child under sub-paragraph (2)(b), it may from time to time make a further order in the child's favour of any of the kinds set out in paragraph 2(1)(d), (e) or (f).

The orders: periodical and secured periodical payments and lump sums

2 (1) The orders are—

(a) an order that either civil partner must make to the other such periodical payments for such term as may be specified;

(b) an order that either civil partner must secure to the other, to the satisfaction of the court, such periodical payments for such term as may be specified;

(c) an order that either civil partner must pay to the other such lump sum or sums as may be specified;

(d) an order that one of the civil partners must make —

(i) to such person as may be specified for the benefit of a child of the family, or

(ii) to a child of the family,

such periodical payments for such term as may be specified;

(e) an order that one of the civil partners must secure—

(i) to such person as may be specified for the benefit of a child of the family, or

(ii) to a child of the family,

to the satisfaction of the court, such periodical payments for such term as may be specified;

(f) an order that one of the civil partners must pay such lump sum as may be specified—

(i) to such person as may be specified for the benefit of a child of the family, or

(ii) to a child of the family.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(2) "Specified" means specified in the order.

Particular provision that may be made by lump sum orders

3 (1) An order under this Part requiring one civil partner to pay the other a lump sum may be made for the purpose of enabling the other civil partner to meet any liabilities or expenses reasonably incurred by the other in maintaining—

(a) himself or herself, or

(b) a child of the family,

before making an application for an order under this Part in his or her favour.

(2) An order under this Part requiring a lump sum to be paid to or for the benefit of a child of the family may be made for the purpose of enabling any liabilities or expenses reasonably incurred by or for the benefit of the child before making an application for an order under this Part to be met.

(3) An order under this Part for the payment of a lump sum may—

(a) provide for its payment by instalments of such amount as may be specified, and

(b) require the payment of the instalments to be secured to the satisfaction of the court.

(4) Sub-paragraphs (1) to (3) do not restrict the powers to make the orders set out in paragraph 2(1)(c) and (f).

(5) If the court—

(a) makes an order under this Part for the payment of a lump sum, and

(b) directs that—

(i) payment of the sum or any part of it is to be deferred, or

(ii) the sum or any part of it is to be paid by instalments,

it may provide for the deferred amount or the instalments to carry interest at such rate as may be specified from such date as may be specified until the date when payment of it is due.

(6) A date specified under sub-paragraph (5) must not be earlier than the date of the order.

(7) "Specified" means specified in the order.

When orders under this Part may take effect

4 (1) If an order is made under paragraph 2(1)(a), (b) or (c) on or after making a dissolution or nullity order, neither the order nor any settlement made in pursuance of it takes effect unless the dissolution or nullity order has been made final.

(2) This paragraph does not affect the power of the court to give a direction under paragraph 76 (settlement of instrument by conveyancing counsel).

Restrictions on making of orders under this Part

5 The power to make an order under paragraph 2(1)(d), (e) or (f) is subject to paragraph 49(1) and (5) (restrictions on orders in favour of children who have reached 18).

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

PART 2

PROPERTY ADJUSTMENT ON OR AFTER DISSOLUTION, NULLITY OR SEPARATION

Circumstances in which property adjustment orders may be made

6 (1) The court may make one or more property adjustment orders—

(a) on making a dissolution, nullity or separation order, or

(b) at any time afterwards.

(2) In this Schedule "property adjustment order" means a property adjustment order under this Part.

Property adjustment orders

7 (1) The property adjustment orders are—

(a) an order that one of the civil partners must transfer such property as may be specified, being property to which he is entitled—

(i) to the other civil partner,

(ii) to a child of the family, or

(iii) to such person as may be specified for the benefit of a child of the family;

(b) an order that a settlement of such property as may be specified, being property to which one of the civil partners is entitled, be made to the satisfaction of the court for the benefit of—

(i) the other civil partner and the children of the family, or

(ii) either or any of them;

(c) an order varying for the benefit of—

(i) the civil partners and the children of the family, or

(ii) either or any of them,

a relevant settlement;

(d) an order extinguishing or reducing the interest of either of the civil partners under a relevant settlement.

(2) The court may make a property adjustment order under sub-paragraph (1)(c) even though there are no children of the family.

(3) In this paragraph—

"entitled" means entitled in possession or reversion,

"relevant settlement" means, in relation to a civil partnership, a settlement made, during its subsistence or in anticipation of its formation, on the civil partners including one made by will or codicil, but not including one in the form of a pension arrangement (within the meaning of Part 4), and

"specified" means specified in the order.

When property adjustment orders may take effect

8 (1) If a property adjustment order is made on or after making a dissolution or nullity order, neither the property adjustment order nor any settlement made under it takes effect unless the dissolution or nullity order has been made final.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(2) This paragraph does not affect the power to give a direction under paragraph 76 (settlement of instrument by conveyancing counsel).

Restrictions on making property adjustment orders

9 The power to make a property adjustment order under paragraph 7(1)(a) is subject to paragraph 49(1) and (5) (restrictions on making orders in favour of children who have reached 18).

PART 3

SALE OF PROPERTY ORDERS

Circumstances in which sale of property orders may be made

10 (1) The court may make a sale of property order—

(a) on making —

(i) under Part 1, a secured periodical payments order or an order for the payment of a lump sum, [F438]...

(ii) a property adjustment order, or

[[F439](iii) an order under paragraph 38A for a payment in respect of legal services, or**]**

(b) at any time afterwards.

(2) In this Schedule "sale of property order" means a sale of property order under this Part.

Textual Amendments

F438 Word in Sch. 5 para. 10(1)(a)(i) omitted (1.4.2013) by virtue of Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (c. 10), **ss. 54(2)**, 151(1); S.I. 2013/773, art. 2

F439 Sch. 5 para. 10(1)(a)(iii) inserted (1.4.2013) by Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (c. 10), **ss. 54(3)**, 151(1); S.I. 2013/773, art. 2

Sale of property orders

11 (1) A sale of property order is an order for the sale of such property as may be specified, being property in which, or in the proceeds of sale of which, either or both of the civil partners has or have a beneficial interest, either in possession or reversion.

(2) A sale of property order may contain such consequential or supplementary provisions as the court thinks fit.

(3) A sale of property order may in particular include—

(a) provision requiring the making of a payment out of the proceeds of sale of the property to which the order relates, and

(b) provision requiring any property to which the order relates to be offered for sale to a specified person, or class of persons.

(4) "Specified" means specified in the order.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

When sale of property orders may take effect

12 (1) If a sale of property order is made on or after the making of a dissolution or nullity order, it does not take effect unless the dissolution or nullity order has been made final.

(2) Where a sale of property order is made, the court may direct that—

(a) the order, or

(b) such provision of it as the court may specify,

is not to take effect until the occurrence of an event specified by the court or the end of a period so specified.

When sale of property orders cease to have effect

13 If a sale of property order contains a provision requiring the proceeds of sale of the property to which the order relates to be used to secure periodical payments to a civil partner, the order ceases to have effect—

(a) on the death of the civil partner, or

(b) on the formation of a subsequent civil partnership or marriage by the civil partner.

Protection of third parties

14 (1) Sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) apply if—

(a) a civil partner has a beneficial interest in any property, or in the proceeds of sale of any property, and

(b) another person ("A") who is not the other civil partner also has a beneficial interest in the property or the proceeds.

(2) Before deciding whether to make a sale of property order in relation to the property, the court must give A an opportunity to make representations with respect to the order.

(3) Any representations made by A are included among the circumstances to which the court is required to have regard under paragraph 20.

PART 4

PENSION SHARING ORDERS ON OR AFTER DISSOLUTION OR NULLITY ORDER

Circumstances in which pension sharing orders may be made

15 (1) The court may make a pension sharing order—

(a) on making a dissolution or nullity order, or

(b) at any time afterwards.

(2) In this Schedule "pension sharing order" means a pension sharing order under this Part.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Commencement Information

I51 Sch. 5 para. 15 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 5 para. 15 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 5 para. 15(2) in force for certain purposes at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and Sch. 5 para. 15 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

Pension sharing orders

16 (1) A pension sharing order is an order which—

(a) provides that one civil partner's—

(i) shareable rights under a specified pension arrangement, or

(ii) shareable state scheme rights,

are to be subject to pension sharing for the benefit of the other civil partner, and

(b) specifies the percentage value to be transferred.

(2) Shareable rights under a pension arrangement are rights in relation to which pension sharing is available under—

(a) Chapter 1 of Part 4 of the Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999 (c. 30), or

(b) corresponding Northern Ireland legislation.

(3) Shareable state scheme rights are rights in relation to which pension sharing is available under—

(a) Chapter 2 of Part 4 of the 1999 Act, or

(b) corresponding Northern Ireland legislation.

(4) In this Part "pension arrangement" means—

(a) an occupational pension scheme,

(b) a personal pension scheme,

(c) a retirement annuity contract,

(d) an annuity or insurance policy purchased, or transferred, for the purpose of giving effect to rights under—

(i) an occupational pension scheme, or

(ii) a personal pension scheme, and

(e) an annuity purchased, or entered into, for the purpose of discharging liability in respect of a pension credit under—

(i) section 29(1)(b) of the 1999 Act, or

(ii) corresponding Northern Ireland legislation.

(5) In sub-paragraph (4)—

"occupational pension scheme" has the same meaning as in the Pension Schemes Act 1993 (c. 48);

"personal pension scheme" has the same meaning as in the 1993 Act;

"retirement annuity contract" means a contract or scheme approved under Chapter 3 of Part 14 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 (c. 1).

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Pension sharing orders: apportionment of charges

17 If a pension sharing order relates to rights under a pension arrangement, the court may include in the order provision about the apportionment between the civil partners of any charge under—

(a) section 41 of the 1999 Act (charges in respect of pension sharing costs), or

(b) corresponding Northern Ireland legislation.

Restrictions on making of pension sharing orders

18 (1) A pension sharing order may not be made in relation to a pension arrangement which—

(a) is the subject of a pension sharing order in relation to the civil partnership, or

(b) has been the subject of pension sharing between the civil partners.

(2) A pension sharing order may not be made in relation to shareable state scheme rights if—

(a) such rights are the subject of a pension sharing order in relation to the civil partnership, or

(b) such rights have been the subject of pension sharing between the civil partners.

(3) A pension sharing order may not be made in relation to the rights of a person under a pension arrangement if there is in force a requirement imposed by virtue of Part 6 which relates to benefits or future benefits to which that person is entitled under the pension arrangement.

When pension sharing orders may take effect

19 (1) A pension sharing order is not to take effect unless the dissolution or nullity order on or after which it is made has been made final.

(2) No pension sharing order may be made so as to take effect before the end of such period after the making of the order as may be prescribed by regulations made by the Lord Chancellor.

(3) The power to make regulations under sub-paragraph (2) is exercisable by statutory instrument which is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

Commencement Information

I52 Sch. 5 para. 19 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 5 para. 19 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 5 para. 19(2)(3) in force for certain purposes at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and Sch. 5 para. 19 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

[F440PART 4A

PENSION COMPENSATION SHARING ORDERS ON OR AFTER DISSOLUTION OR NULLITY ORDER

Textual Amendments

F440 Sch. 5 Pt. 4A inserted (6.3.2011 for specified purposes otherwise 6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, **Sch. 6 para. 15**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(2)(3)**, Sch.

Circumstances in which pension compensation sharing orders may be made

19A (1) The court may make a pension compensation sharing order—

(a) on making a dissolution or nullity order, or

(b) at any time afterwards.

(2) In this Schedule "pension compensation sharing order" means a pension compensation sharing order under this Part.

Pension compensation sharing orders

19B (1) A pension compensation sharing order is an order which—

(a) provides that one civil partner's shareable rights to PPF compensation that derive from rights under a specified pension scheme are to be subject to pension compensation sharing for the benefit of the other civil partner, and

(b) specifies the percentage value to be transferred.

(2) Shareable rights to PPF compensation are rights in relation to which pension compensation sharing is available under—

(a) Chapter 1 of Part 3 of the Pensions Act 2008, or

(b) corresponding Northern Ireland legislation.

(3) In sub-paragraph (1) "specified" means specified in the order.

Pension compensation sharing orders: apportionment of charges

19C The court may include in a pension compensation sharing order provision about the apportionment between the civil partners of any charge under—

(a) section 117 of the Pensions Act 2008 (charges in respect of pension compensation sharing costs), or

(b) corresponding Northern Ireland legislation.

Restrictions on making pension compensation sharing orders

19D (1) A pension compensation sharing order may not be made in relation to rights to PPF compensation that—

(a) are the subject of pension attachment,

(b) derive from rights under a pension scheme that were the subject of pension sharing between the civil partners,

(c) are the subject of pension compensation attachment, or

(d) are or have been the subject of pension compensation sharing between the civil partners.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(2) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1)(a), rights to PPF compensation "are the subject of pension attachment" if any of the following three conditions is met.

(3) The first condition is that—

(a) the rights derive from rights under a pension scheme in relation to which an order was made under Part 1 imposing a requirement by virtue of paragraph 25(2), and

(b) that order, as modified under paragraph 31, remains in force.

(4) The second condition is that—

(a) the rights derive from rights under a pension scheme in relation to which an order was made under Part 1 imposing a requirement by virtue of paragraph 25(5), and

(b) that order—

(i) has been complied with, or

(ii) has not been complied with and, as modified under paragraph 32, remains in force.

(5) The third condition is that—

(a) the rights derive from rights under a pension scheme in relation to which an order was made under Part 1 imposing a requirement by virtue of paragraph 26, and

(b) that order remains in force.

(6) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1)(b), rights under a pension scheme "were the subject of pension sharing between the civil partners" if the rights were at any time the subject of a pension sharing order in relation to the civil partnership or a previous civil partnership between the same parties.

(7) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1)(c), rights to PPF compensation "are the subject of pension compensation attachment" if there is in force a requirement imposed by virtue of Part 6 relating to them.

(8) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1)(d), rights to PPF compensation "are or have been the subject of pension compensation sharing between the civil partners" if they are or have ever been the subject of a pension compensation sharing order in relation to the civil partnership or a previous civil partnership between the same parties.

When pension compensation sharing orders may take effect

19E (1) A pension compensation sharing order is not to take effect unless the dissolution or nullity order on or after which it is made has been made final.

(2) No pension compensation sharing order may be made so as to take effect before the end of such period after the making of the order as may be prescribed by regulations made by the Lord Chancellor.

(3) The power to make regulations under sub-paragraph (2) is exercisable by statutory instrument which is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Interpretation

19F In this Schedule—

"PPF compensation" means compensation payable under the pension compensation provisions;

"the pension compensation provisions" means—

(a) Chapter 3 of Part 2 of the Pensions Act 2004 (pension protection) and any regulations or order made under it,

(b) Chapter 1 of Part 3 of the Pensions Act 2008 (pension compensation sharing) and any regulations or order made under it, and

(c) any provision corresponding to the provisions mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b) in force in Northern Ireland.**]**

PART 5

MATTERS TO WHICH COURT IS TO HAVE REGARD UNDER PARTS 1 TO **[**F441**]**4A**]**

Textual Amendments

F441 Word in Sch. 5 Pt. 5 heading substituted (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, **Sch. 6 para. 16(2)**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

General

20 The court in deciding—

(a) whether to exercise its powers under—

(i) Part 1 (financial provision on dissolution etc.),

(ii) Part 2 (property adjustment orders),

(iii) Part 3 (sale of property orders), **[**F442**]**. . .

(iv) any provision of Part 4 (pension sharing orders) other than paragraph 17 (apportionment of charges), **[**F443**]**or**]**

[F444**]**(v) any provision of Part 4A (pension compensation sharing orders) other than paragraph 19C (apportionment of charges), and**]**

(b) if so, in what way,

must have regard to all the circumstances of the case, giving first consideration to the welfare, while under 18, of any child of the family who has not reached 18.

Textual Amendments

F442 Word in Sch. 5 para. 20(a)(iii) repealed (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 148, 149, Sch. 6 para. 16(3)(a), **Sch. 11 Pt. 4**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

F443 Word in Sch. 5 para. 20(a)(iv) substituted (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, **Sch. 6 para. 16(3)(b)**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

F444 Sch. 5 para. 20(a)(v) inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, **Sch. 6 para. 16(3)(c)**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Particular matters to be taken into account when exercising powers in relation to civil partners

21 (1) This paragraph applies to the exercise by the court in relation to a civil partner of its powers under—

(a) Part 1 (financial provision on dissolution etc.) by virtue of paragraph 2(1)(a), (b) or (c),

(b) Part 2 (property adjustment orders),

(c) Part 3 (sale of property orders), [F445]. . .

(d) Part 4 (pension sharing orders) **[**[F446], or**]**

[[F447](e) Part 4A (pension compensation sharing orders).**]**

(2) The court must in particular have regard to—

(a) the income, earning capacity, property and other financial resources which each civil partner—

(i) has, or

(ii) is likely to have in the foreseeable future,

including, in the case of earning capacity, any increase in that capacity which it would in the opinion of the court be reasonable to expect a civil partner in the civil partnership to take steps to acquire;

(b) the financial needs, obligations and responsibilities which each civil partner has or is likely to have in the foreseeable future;

(c) the standard of living enjoyed by the family before the breakdown of the civil partnership;

(d) the age of each civil partner and the duration of the civil partnership;

(e) any physical or mental disability of either of the civil partners;

(f) the contributions which each civil partner has made or is likely in the foreseeable future to make to the welfare of the family, including any contribution by looking after the home or caring for the family;

(g) the conduct of each civil partner, if that conduct is such that it would in the opinion of the court be inequitable to disregard it;

(h) in the case of proceedings for a dissolution or nullity order, the value to each civil partner of any benefit which, because of the dissolution or annulment of the civil partnership, that civil partner will lose the chance of acquiring.

Textual Amendments

F445 Word in Sch. 5 para. 21(1)(c) repealed (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 148, 149, Sch. 6 para. 16(4)(a), **Sch. 11 Pt. 4**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

F446 Word in Sch. 5 para. 21(1)(d) inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, **Sch. 6 para. 16(4)(b)**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

F447 Sch. 5 para. 21(1)(e) inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, **Sch. 6 para. 16(4)(c)**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C36 Sch. 5 para. 21(2) applied (with modifications) (2.12.2019) by The Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1458), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 4(3)**

C37 Sch. 5 para. 21(2)(d) applied (with modifications) (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Treatment of Overseas Relationships) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3042), **art. 3(3)**

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Particular matters to be taken into account when exercising powers in relation to children

22 (1) This paragraph applies to the exercise by the court in relation to a child of the family of its powers under—

(a) Part 1 (financial provision on dissolution etc.) by virtue of paragraph 2(1)(d), (e) or (f)),

(b) Part 2 (property adjustment orders), or

(c) Part 3 (sale of property orders).

(2) The court must in particular have regard to—

(a) the financial needs of the child;

(b) the income, earning capacity (if any), property and other financial resources of the child;

(c) any physical or mental disability of the child;

(d) the way in which the child was being and in which the civil partners expected the child to be educated or trained;

(e) the considerations mentioned in relation to the civil partners in paragraph 21(2)(a), (b), (c) and (e).

(3) In relation to the exercise of any of those powers against a civil partner ("A") in favour of a child of the family who is not A's child, the court must also have regard to—

(a) whether A has assumed any responsibility for the child's maintenance;

(b) if so, the extent to which, and the basis upon which, A assumed such responsibility and the length of time for which A discharged such responsibility;

(c) whether in assuming and discharging such responsibility A did so knowing that the child was not A's child;

(d) the liability of any other person to maintain the child.

Terminating financial obligations

23 (1) Sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) apply if, on or after the making of a dissolution or nullity order, the court decides to exercise its powers under—

(a) Part 1 (financial provision on dissolution etc.) by virtue of paragraph 2(1)(a), (b) or (c),

(b) Part 2 (property adjustment orders),

(c) Part 3 (sale of property orders), [F448]. . .

(d) Part 4 (pension sharing orders),**[**[F449] or**]**

[[F450](e) Part 4A (pension compensation sharing orders),**]**

in favour of one of the civil partners.

(2) The court must consider whether it would be appropriate to exercise those powers in such a way that the financial obligations of each civil partner towards the other will be terminated as soon after the making of the dissolution or nullity order as the court considers just and reasonable.

(3) If the court decides to make—

(a) a periodical payments order, or

(b) a secured periodical payments order,

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

in favour of one of the civil partners ("A"), it must in particular consider whether it would be appropriate to require the payments to be made or secured only for such term as would in its opinion be sufficient to enable A to adjust without undue hardship to the termination of A's financial dependence on the other civil partner.

(4) If—

(a) on or after the making of a dissolution or nullity order, an application is made by one of the civil partners for a periodical payments or secured periodical payments order in that civil partner's favour, but

(b) the court considers that no continuing obligation should be imposed on either civil partner to make or secure periodical payments in favour of the other,

the court may dismiss the application with a direction that the applicant is not entitled to make any future application in relation to that civil partnership for an order under Part 1 by virtue of paragraph 2(1)(a) or (b).

Textual Amendments

F448 Word in Sch. 5 para. 23(1)(c) repealed (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, Sch. 6 para. 16(5)(a), **Sch. 11 Pt. 4**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

F449 Word in Sch. 5 para. 23(1)(d) inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, **Sch. 6 para. 16(5)(b)**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

F450 Sch. 5 para. 23(1)(e) inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, **Sch. 6 para. 16(5)(c)**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

PART 6

MAKING OF PART 1 ORDERS HAVING REGARD TO PENSION BENEFITS

PROSPECTIVE

Pension benefits to be included in matters to which court is to have regard

24 (1) The matters to which the court is to have regard under paragraph 21(2)(a) include any pension benefits under a pension arrangement or by way of pension which a civil partner has or is likely to have; and, accordingly, in relation to any pension benefits paragraph 21(2)(a)(ii) has effect as if "in the foreseeable future" were omitted.

(2) The matters to which the court is to have regard under paragraph 21(2)(h) include any pension benefits which, because of the making of a dissolution or nullity order, a civil partner will lose the chance of acquiring.

(3) "Pension benefits" means—

(a) benefits under a pension arrangement, or

(b) benefits by way of pension (whether under a pension arrangement or not).

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Provisions applying where pension benefits taken into account in decision to make Part 1 order

25 (1) This paragraph applies if, having regard to any benefits under a pension arrangement, the court decides to make an order under Part 1.

(2) To the extent to which the Part 1 order is made having regard to any benefits under a pension arrangement, it may require the person responsible for the pension arrangement, if at any time any payment in respect of any benefits under the arrangement becomes due to the civil partner with pension rights, to make a payment for the benefit of the other civil partner.

(3) The Part 1 order must express the amount of any payment required to be made by virtue of sub-paragraph (2) as a percentage of the payment which becomes due to the civil partner with pension rights.

(4) Any such payment by the person responsible for the arrangement—

(a) discharges so much of his liability to the civil partner with pension rights as corresponds to the amount of the payment, and

(b) is to be treated for all purposes as a payment made by the civil partner with pension rights in or towards the discharge of that civil partner's liability under the order.

(5) If the civil partner with pension rights has a right of commutation under the arrangement, the Part 1 order may require that civil partner to exercise it to any extent.

(6) This paragraph applies to any payment due in consequence of commutation in pursuance of the Part 1 order as it applies to other payments in respect of benefits under the arrangement.

(7) The power conferred by sub-paragraph (5) may not be exercised for the purpose of commuting a benefit payable to the civil partner with pension rights to a benefit payable to the other civil partner.

(8) The powers conferred by sub-paragraphs (2) and (5) may not be exercised in relation to a pension arrangement which—

(a) is the subject of a pension sharing order in relation to the civil partnership, or

(b) has been the subject of pension sharing between the civil partners.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C38 Sch. 5 para. 25(4) modified (8.8.2006) by The Dissolution etc. (Pension Protection Fund) Regulations 2006 (S.I. 2006/1934), **reg. 2**

Pensions: lump sums

26 (1) This paragraph applies if the benefits which the civil partner with pension rights has or is likely to have under a pension arrangement include any lump sum payable in respect of that civil partner's death.

(2) The court's power under Part 1 to order a civil partner to pay a lump sum to the other civil partner includes the power to make by the order any provision in sub-paragraph (3) to (5).

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(3) If the person responsible for the pension arrangement has power to determine the person to whom the sum, or any part of it, is to be paid, the court may require him to pay the whole or part of that sum, when it becomes due, to the other civil partner.

(4) If the civil partner with pension rights has power to nominate the person to whom the sum, or any part of it, is to be paid, the court may require the civil partner with pension rights to nominate the other civil partner in respect of the whole or part of that sum.

(5) In any other case, the court may require the person responsible for the pension arrangement in question to pay the whole or part of that sum, when it becomes due, for the benefit of the other civil partner instead of to the person to whom, apart from the order, it would be paid.

(6) Any payment by the person responsible for the arrangement under an order made under Part 1 made by virtue of this paragraph discharges so much of his liability in respect of the civil partner with pension rights as corresponds to the amount of the payment.

(7) The powers conferred by this paragraph may not be exercised in relation to a pension arrangement which—

(a) is the subject of a pension sharing order in relation to the civil partnership, or

(b) has been the subject of pension sharing between the civil partners.

Pensions: supplementary

27 If—

(a) a Part 1 order made by virtue of paragraph 25 or 26 imposes any requirement on the person responsible for a pension arrangement ("the first arrangement"),

(b) the civil partner with pension rights acquires rights under another pension arrangement ("the new arrangement") which are derived (directly or indirectly) from the whole of that civil partner's rights under the first arrangement, and

(c) the person responsible for the new arrangement has been given notice in accordance with regulations made by the Lord Chancellor,

the Part 1 order has effect as if it had been made instead in respect of the person responsible for the new arrangement.

Commencement Information

I53 Sch. 5 para. 27 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 5 para. 27 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 5 para. 27(c) in force for certain purposes at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and Sch. 5 para. 27 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

Regulations

28 (1) The Lord Chancellor may by regulations—

(a) make provision, in relation to any provision of paragraph 25 or 26 which authorises the court making a Part 1 order to require the person responsible

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

for a pension arrangement to make a payment for the benefit of the other civil partner, as to—

(i) the person to whom, and

(ii) the terms on which,

the payment is to be made;

(b) make provision, in relation to payment under a mistaken belief as to the continuation in force of a provision included by virtue of paragraph 25 or 26 in a Part 1 order, about the rights or liabilities of the payer, the payee or the person to whom the payment was due;

(c) require notices to be given in respect of changes of circumstances relevant to Part 1 orders which include provision made by virtue of paragraphs 25 and 26;

(d) make provision for the person responsible for a pension arrangement to be discharged in prescribed circumstances from a requirement imposed by virtue of paragraph 25 or 26;

(e) make provision about calculation and verification in relation to the valuation of—

(i) benefits under a pension arrangement, or

(ii) shareable state scheme rights (within the meaning of paragraph 16(3)),

for the purposes of the court's functions in connection with the exercise of any of its powers under this Schedule.

(2) Regulations under sub-paragraph (1)(e) may include—

(a) provision for calculation or verification in accordance with guidance from time to time prepared by a prescribed person, and

(b) provision by reference to regulations under section 30 or 49(4) of the 1999 Act.

(3) The power to make regulations under paragraph 27 or this paragraph is exercisable by statutory instrument which is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

(4) "Prescribed" means prescribed by regulations.

Commencement Information

I54 Sch. 5 para. 28 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 5 para. 28 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 5 para. 28 in force for certain purposes at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and Sch. 5 para. 28 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

Interpretation of provisions relating to pensions

29 (1) In this Part "the civil partner with pension rights" means the civil partner who has or is likely to have benefits under a pension arrangement.

(2) In this Part "pension arrangement" has the same meaning as in Part 4.

(3) In this Part, references to the person responsible for a pension arrangement are to be read in accordance with section 26 of the Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999 (c. 30).

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Commencement Information

I55 Sch. 5 para. 29 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 5 para. 29 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 5 para. 29(2)(3) in force for certain purposes at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and Sch. 5 para. 29 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

PART 7

PENSION PROTECTION FUND COMPENSATION ETC.

PPF compensation to be included in matters to which court is to have regard

30 (1) The matters to which a court is to have regard under paragraph 21(2)(a) include any PPF compensation to which a civil partner is or is likely to be entitled; and, accordingly, in relation to any PPF compensation paragraph 21(2)(a)(ii) has effect as if "in the foreseeable future" were omitted.

(2) The matters to which a court is to have regard under paragraph 21(2)(h) include any PPF compensation which, because of the making of a dissolution or nullity order, a civil partner will lose the chance of acquiring entitlement to.

(3) F451 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F451 Sch. 5 para. 30(3) repealed (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 148, 149, Sch. 6 para. 17(2), **Sch. 11 Pt. 4**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

Assumption of responsibility by PPF Board in paragraph 25(2) cases

31 (1) This paragraph applies to an order under Part 1 so far as it includes provision made by virtue of paragraph 25(2) which—

(a) imposed requirements on the trustees or managers of an occupational pension scheme for which the Board has assumed responsibility, and

(b) was made before the trustees or managers received the transfer notice.

(2) From the time the trustees or managers of the scheme receive the transfer notice, the order has effect—

(a) except in descriptions of case prescribed by regulations, with the modifications set out in sub-paragraph (3), and

(b) with such other modifications as may be prescribed by regulations.

(3) The modifications are that—

(a) references in the order to the trustees or managers of the scheme have effect as references to the Board, and

(b) references in the order to any pension or lump sum to which the civil partner with pension rights is or may become entitled under the scheme have effect as references to any PPF compensation to which that person is or may become entitled in respect of the pension or lump sum.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Assumption of responsibility by PPF Board in paragraph 25(5) cases

32 (1) This paragraph applies to an order under Part 1 if—

(a) it includes provision made by virtue of paragraph 25(5) which requires the civil partner with pension rights to exercise his right of commutation under an occupational pension scheme to any extent, and

(b) before the requirement is complied with the Board has assumed responsibility for the scheme.

(2) From the time the trustees or managers of the scheme receive the transfer notice, the order has effect with such modifications as may be prescribed by regulations.

Lump sums: power to modify paragraph 26 in respect of assessment period

33 Regulations may modify paragraph 26 in its application to an occupational pension scheme during an assessment period in relation to the scheme.

Assumption of responsibility by the Board not to affect power of court to vary order etc.

34 (1) This paragraph applies where the court makes, in relation to an occupational pension scheme—

(a) a pension sharing order, or

(b) an order including provision made by virtue of paragraph 25(2) or (5).

(2) If the Board subsequently assumes responsibility for the scheme, that does not affect—

(a) the powers of the court under paragraph 51 to vary or discharge the order or to suspend or revive any provision of it;

(b) on an appeal, the powers of the appeal court to affirm, reinstate, set aside or vary the order.

Attachment of PPF compensation

34A (1) This paragraph applies if, having regard to any PPF compensation to which a civil partner is or is likely to be entitled, the court decides to make an order under Part 1.

(2) To the extent to which the Part 1 order is made having regard to such compensation, it may require the Board, if at any time any payment in respect of PPF compensation becomes due to the civil partner with compensation rights, to make a payment for the benefit of the other civil partner.

(3) The Part 1 order must express the amount of any payment required to be made by virtue of sub-paragraph (2) as a percentage of the payment which becomes due to the civil partner with compensation rights.

(4) Any such payment by the Board—

(a) discharges so much of its liability to the civil partner with compensation rights as corresponds to the amount of the payment, and

(b) is to be treated for all purposes as a payment made by the civil partner with compensation rights in or towards the discharge of that civil partner's liability under the order.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(5) If the civil partner with compensation rights has a right to commute any PPF compensation, the Part 1 order may require that civil partner to exercise it to any extent.

(6) This paragraph applies to any payment due in consequence of commutation in pursuance of the Part 1 order as it applies to other payments in respect of PPF compensation.

(7) The power conferred by sub-paragraph (5) may not be exercised for the purpose of commuting a benefit payable to the civil partner with compensation rights to a benefit payable to the other civil partner.

(8) The powers conferred by sub-paragraphs (2) and (5) may not be exercised in relation to rights to PPF compensation that—

(a) derive from rights under a pension scheme that were at any time the subject of a pension sharing order in relation to the civil partnership or a previous civil partnership between the same parties, or

(b) are or have ever been the subject of a pension compensation sharing order in relation to the civil partnership or a previous civil partnership between the same parties.

[[F452]34B (1) Regulations may—

(a) make provision, in relation to any provision of paragraph 34A which authorises the court making a Part 1 order to require the Board to make a payment for the benefit of the other civil partner, as to the person to whom, and the terms on which, the payment is to be made;

(b) make provision, in relation to payment under a mistaken belief as to the continuation in force of a provision included by virtue of paragraph 34A in a Part 1 order, about the rights or liabilities of the payer, the payee or the person to whom the payment was due;

(c) require notices to be given in respect of changes of circumstances relevant to Part 1 orders which include provision made by virtue of paragraph 34A;

(d) make provision for the Board to be discharged in prescribed circumstances from a requirement imposed by virtue of paragraph 34A;

(e) make provision about calculation and verification in relation to the valuation of PPF compensation for the purposes of the court's functions in connection with the exercise of any of its powers under this Schedule.

(2) Regulations under sub-paragraph (1)(e) may include—

(a) provision for calculation or verification in accordance with guidance from time to time prepared by a prescribed person;

(b) provision by reference to regulations under section 112 of the Pensions Act 2008.**]**

Textual Amendments

F452 Sch. 5 para. 34B inserted (6.3.2011 for specified purposes otherwise 6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, **Sch. 6 para. 17(4)**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(2)(3)**, Sch.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Regulations

35 Regulations may make such consequential modifications of any provision of, or made by virtue of, this Schedule as appear to the Lord Chancellor necessary or expedient to give effect to the provisions of this Part.

36 (1) In this Part "regulations" means regulations made by the Lord Chancellor.

(2) A power to make regulations under this Part is exercisable by statutory instrument which is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

Interpretation

37 (1) In this Part—

"assessment period" means—

(a) an assessment period within the meaning of Part 2 of the Pensions Act 2004 (pension protection), or

(b) an equivalent period under corresponding Northern Ireland legislation;

"the Board" means the Board of the Pension Protection Fund;

[[F453]"the civil partner with compensation rights" means the civil partner who is or is likely to be entitled to PPF compensation;**]**

"the civil partner with pension rights" has the meaning given by paragraph 29(1);

"occupational pension scheme" has the same meaning as in the Pension Schemes Act 1993 (c. 48);

[[F454]prescribed" means prescribed by regulations;**]**

"transfer notice" has the same meaning as in—

(a) Chapter 3 of Part 2 of the 2004 Act, or

(b) corresponding Northern Ireland legislation.

(2) References in this Part to the Board assuming responsibility for a scheme are to the Board assuming responsibility for the scheme in accordance with—

(a) Chapter 3 of Part 2 of the 2004 Act (pension protection), or

(b) corresponding Northern Ireland legislation.

Textual Amendments

F453 Sch. 5 para. 37(1): definition of "the civil partner with compensation rights" inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, **Sch. 6 para. 17(5)(a)**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

F454 Sch. 5 para. 37(1): definition of "prescribed" inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, **Sch. 6 para. 17(5)(b)**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

PART 8

MAINTENANCE [F455 AND OTHER PAYMENTS] PENDING OUTCOME OF DISSOLUTION, NULLITY OR SEPARATION PROCEEDINGS

Textual Amendments

F455 Words in Sch. 5 Pt. 8 heading inserted (1.4.2013) by Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (c. 10), **ss. 52(2)**, 151(1); S.I. 2013/773, art. 2

[F456 Maintenance orders]

Textual Amendments

F456 Sch. 5 para. 38 cross-heading inserted (1.4.2013) by Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (c. 10), **ss. 52(3)**, 151(1); S.I. 2013/773, art. 2

38 [F457(1)] On an application for a dissolution, nullity or separation order, the court may make an order requiring either civil partner to make to the other for the other's maintenance such periodical payments for such term—

(a) beginning no earlier than the date on which the application was made, and

(b) ending with the date on which the proceedings are determined,

as the court thinks reasonable.

[F458(2) An order under this paragraph may not require one civil partner to pay to the other any amount in respect of legal services for the purposes of the proceedings.

(3) In sub-paragraph (2) "legal services" has the same meaning as in paragraph 38A.]

Textual Amendments

F457 Sch. 5 para. 38 renumbered as Sch. 5 para. 38(1) (1.4.2013) by Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (c. 10), **ss. 52(4)(a)**, 151(1); S.I. 2013/773, art. 2

F458 Sch. 5 para. 38(2)(3) inserted (1.4.2013) by Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (c. 10), **ss. 52(4)(b)**, 151(1); S.I. 2013/773, art. 2

[F459 Orders in respect of legal services

Textual Amendments

F459 Sch. 5 para. 38A and cross-heading inserted (1.4.2013) by Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (c. 10), **ss. 52(5)**, 151(1); S.I. 2013/773, art. 2

38A (1) In proceedings for a dissolution, nullity or separation order, the court may make an order or orders requiring one civil partner to pay to the other ("the applicant") an amount for the purpose of enabling the applicant to obtain legal services for the purposes of the proceedings.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(2) The court may also make such an order or orders in proceedings under this Schedule for financial relief in connection with proceedings for a dissolution, nullity or separation order.

(3) The court must not make an order under this paragraph unless it is satisfied that, without the amount, the applicant would not reasonably be able to obtain appropriate legal services for the purposes of the proceedings or any part of the proceedings.

(4) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (3), the court must be satisfied, in particular, that—

(a) the applicant is not reasonably able to secure a loan to pay for the services, and

(b) the applicant is unlikely to be able to obtain the services by granting a charge over any assets recovered in the proceedings.

(5) An order under this paragraph may be made for the purpose of enabling the applicant to obtain legal services of a specified description, including legal services provided in a specified period or for the purposes of a specified part of the proceedings.

(6) An order under this paragraph may—

(a) provide for the payment of all or part of the amount by instalments of specified amounts, and

(b) require the instalments to be secured to the satisfaction of the court.

(7) An order under this paragraph may direct that payment of all or part of the amount is to be deferred.

(8) The court may at any time in the proceedings vary an order made under this paragraph if it considers that there has been a material change of circumstances since the order was made.

(9) For the purposes of the assessment of costs in the proceedings, the applicant's costs are to be treated as reduced by any amount paid to the applicant pursuant to an order under this section for the purposes of those proceedings.

(10) In this paragraph "legal services", in relation to proceedings, means the following types of services—

(a) providing advice as to how the law applies in the particular circumstances,

(b) providing advice and assistance in relation to the proceedings,

(c) providing other advice and assistance in relation to the settlement or other resolution of the dispute that is the subject of the proceedings, and

(d) providing advice and assistance in relation to the enforcement of decisions in the proceedings or as part of the settlement or resolution of the dispute,

and they include, in particular, advice and assistance in the form of representation and any form of dispute resolution, including mediation.

(11) In sub-paragraphs (5) and (6) "specified" means specified in the order concerned.]

[F460 38B (1) When considering whether to make or vary an order under paragraph 38A, the court must have regard to—

(a) the income, earning capacity, property and other financial resources which each of the applicant and the paying party has or is likely to have in the foreseeable future,

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) the financial needs, obligations and responsibilities which each of the applicant and the paying party has or is likely to have in the foreseeable future,

(c) the subject matter of the proceedings, including the matters in issue in them,

(d) whether the paying party is legally represented in the proceedings,

(e) any steps taken by the applicant to avoid all or part of the proceedings, whether by proposing or considering mediation or otherwise,

(f) the applicant's conduct in relation to the proceedings,

(g) any amount owed by the applicant to the paying party in respect of costs in the proceedings or other proceedings to which both the applicant and the paying party are or were party, and

(h) the effect of the order or variation on the paying party.

(2) In sub-paragraph (1)(a) "earning capacity", in relation to the applicant or the paying party, includes any increase in earning capacity which, in the opinion of the court, it would be reasonable to expect the applicant or the paying party to take steps to acquire.

(3) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1)(h), the court must have regard, in particular, to whether the making or variation of the order is likely to—

(a) cause undue hardship to the paying party, or

(b) prevent the paying party from obtaining legal services for the purposes of the proceedings.

(4) The Lord Chancellor may by order amend this paragraph by adding to, omitting or varying the matters mentioned in sub-paragraphs (1) to (3).

(5) An order under sub-paragraph (4) must be made by statutory instrument.

(6) A statutory instrument containing an order under sub-paragraph (4) may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament.

(7) In this paragraph "legal services" has the same meaning as in paragraph 38A.**]**

Textual Amendments

F460 Sch. 5 para. 38B inserted (1.4.2013) by Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (c. 10), **ss. 53**, 151(1); S.I. 2013/773, art. 2

PART 9

FAILURE TO MAINTAIN: FINANCIAL PROVISION (AND INTERIM ORDERS)

Circumstances in which orders under this Part may be made

39 (1) Either civil partner in a subsisting civil partnership may apply to the court for an order under this Part on the ground that the other civil partner ("the respondent")—

(a) has failed to provide reasonable maintenance for the applicant, or

(b) has failed to provide, or to make a proper contribution towards, reasonable maintenance for any child of the family.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

[F461(2) The court must not entertain an application under this paragraph unless–

(a) the applicant or the respondent is domiciled in England and Wales on the date of the application,

(b) the applicant has been habitually resident there throughout the period of 1 year ending with that date, or

(c) the respondent is resident there on that date.**]**

[F462(2A) If the application or part of it relates to a matter to which Article 18 of the 2007 Hague Convention applies, the court must not entertain the application or that part of it except where permitted by Article 18.**]**

(3) If, on an application under this paragraph, it appears to the court that—

(a) the applicant or any child of the family to whom the application relates is in immediate need of financial assistance, but

(b) it is not yet possible to determine what order, if any, should be made on the application,

the court may make an interim order.

(4) If, on an application under this paragraph, the applicant satisfies the court of a ground mentioned in sub-paragraph (1), the court may make one or more of the orders set out in paragraph 41.

[F463(5) In this paragraph, **[**F464"the 2007 Hague Convention" means the Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance concluded on 23 November 2007 at The Hague**].]**

Textual Amendments

F461 Sch. 5 para. 39(2) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Jurisdiction and Judgments (Family) (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/519), reg. 1(1), **Sch. para. 25(3)(a)** (with reg. 8) (as amended by S.I. 2020/1574, regs. 1, 5(2)); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

F462 Sch. 5 para. 39(2A) inserted (31.12.2020) by S.I. 2019/519, reg. 1(1), **Sch. para. 25(3)(b)** (as substituted by The Jurisdiction, Judgments and Applicable Law (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/1574), regs. 1, **5(3)(j)(ii)**)

F463 Sch. 5 para. 39(5) inserted (18.6.2011) by The Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments (Maintenance) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 2011/1484), reg. 9, **Sch. 7 para. 16(3)(b)**

F464 Words in Sch. 5 para. 39(5) substituted (31.12.2020) by S.I. 2019/519, reg. 1(1), **Sch. para. 25(3)(c)** (as substituted by The Jurisdiction, Judgments and Applicable Law (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/1574), regs. 1, **5(3)(j)(ii)**)

Interim orders

40 An interim order is an order requiring the respondent to make to the applicant, until the determination of the application, such periodical payments as the court thinks reasonable.

Orders that may be made where failure to maintain established

41 (1) The orders are—

(a) an order that the respondent must make to the applicant such periodical payments for such term as may be specified;

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) an order that the respondent must secure to the applicant, to the satisfaction of the court, such periodical payments for such term as may be specified;

(c) an order that the respondent must pay to the applicant such lump sum as may be specified;

(d) an order that the respondent must make such periodical payments for such term as may be specified—

(i) to such person as may be specified, for the benefit of the child to whom the application relates, or

(ii) to the child to whom the application relates;

(e) an order that the respondent must secure—

(i) to such person as may be specified for the benefit of the child to whom the application relates, or

(ii) to the child to whom the application relates,

to the satisfaction of the court, such periodical payments for such term as may be specified;

(f) an order that the respondent must pay such lump sum as may be specified—

(i) to such person as may be specified for the benefit of the child to whom the application relates, or

(ii) to the child to whom the application relates.

(2) In this Part "specified" means specified in the order.

Particular provision that may be made by lump sum orders

42 (1) An order under this Part for the payment of a lump sum may be made for the purpose of enabling any liabilities or expenses reasonably incurred in maintaining the applicant or any child of the family to whom the application relates before the making of the application to be met.

(2) An order under this Part for the payment of a lump sum may—

(a) provide for its payment by instalments of such amount as may be specified, and

(b) require the payment of the instalments to be secured to the satisfaction of the court.

(3) Sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) do not restrict the power to make an order by virtue of paragraph 41(1)(c) or (f).

Matters to which the court is to have regard on application under paragraph 39(1)(a)

43 (1) This paragraph applies if an application under paragraph 39 is made on the ground mentioned in paragraph 39(1)(a).

(2) In deciding—

(a) whether the respondent has failed to provide reasonable maintenance for the applicant, and

(b) what order, if any, to make under this Part in favour of the applicant,

the court must have regard to all the circumstances of the case including the matters mentioned in paragraph 21(2).

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(3) If an application is also made under paragraph 39 in respect of a child of the family who has not reached 18, the court must give first consideration to the welfare of the child while under 18.

(4) Paragraph 21(2)(c) has effect as if for the reference in it to the breakdown of the civil partnership there were substituted a reference to the failure to provide reasonable maintenance for the applicant.

Matters to which the court is to have regard on application under paragraph 39(1)(b)

44 (1) This paragraph applies if an application under paragraph 39 is made on the ground mentioned in paragraph 39(1)(b).

(2) In deciding—

(a) whether the respondent has failed to provide, or to make a proper contribution towards, reasonable maintenance for the child of the family to whom the application relates, and

(b) what order, if any, to make under this Part in favour of the child,

the court must have regard to all the circumstances of the case.

(3) Those circumstances include—

(a) the matters mentioned in paragraph 22(2)(a) to (e), and

(b) if the child of the family to whom the application relates is not the child of the respondent, the matters mentioned in paragraph 22(3).

(4) Paragraph 21(2)(c) (as it applies by virtue of paragraph 22(2)(e)) has effect as if for the reference in it to the breakdown of the civil partnership there were substituted a reference to—

(a) the failure to provide, or

(b) the failure to make a proper contribution towards,

reasonable maintenance for the child of the family to whom the application relates.

Restrictions on making orders under this Part

45 The power to make an order under paragraph 41(1)(d), (e) or (f) is subject to paragraph 49(1) and (5) (restrictions on orders in favour of children who have reached 18).

PART 10

COMMENCEMENT OF CERTAIN PROCEEDINGS AND DURATION OF CERTAIN ORDERS

Commencement of proceedings for ancillary relief, etc.

46 (1) Sub-paragraph (2) applies if an application for a dissolution, nullity or separation order has been made.

(2) Subject to sub-paragraph (3), proceedings for—

(a) an order under Part 1 (financial provision on dissolution etc.),

(b) a property adjustment order, or

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(c) an order under Part 8 (maintenance pending outcome of dissolution, nullity or separation proceedings),

may be begun (subject to and in accordance with rules of court) at any time after the presentation of the application.

(3) Rules of court may provide, in such cases as may be prescribed by the rules, that—

(a) an application for any such relief as is mentioned in sub-paragraph (2) must be made in the application or response, and

(b) an application for any such relief which—

(i) is not so made, or

(ii) is not made until after the end of such period following the presentation of the application or filing of the response as may be so prescribed,

may be made only with the leave of the court.

Commencement Information

I56 Sch. 5 para. 46 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 5 para. 46 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 5 para. 46(2) in force for certain purposes and Sch. 5 para. 46(3) in force at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and Sch. 5 para. 46 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

Duration of periodical and secured periodical payments orders for a civil partner

47 (1) The court may specify in a periodical payments or secured periodical payments order in favour of a civil partner such term as it thinks fit, except that the term must not—

(a) begin before the date of the making of an application for the order, or

(b) extend beyond the limits given in sub-paragraphs (2) and (3).

(2) The limits in the case of a periodical payments order are—

(a) the death of either civil partner;

(b) where the order is made on or after the making of a dissolution or nullity order, the formation of a subsequent civil partnership or marriage by the civil partner in whose favour the order is made.

(3) The limits in the case of a secured periodical payments order are—

(a) the death of the civil partner in whose favour the order is made;

(b) where the order is made on or after the making of a dissolution or nullity order, the formation of a subsequent civil partnership or marriage by the civil partner in whose favour the order is made.

(4) In the case of an order made on or after the making of a dissolution or nullity order, sub-paragraphs (1) to (3) are subject to paragraphs 23(3) and 59(4).

(5) If a periodical payments or secured periodical payments order in favour of a civil partner is made on or after the making of a dissolution or nullity order, the court may direct that that civil partner is not entitled to apply under paragraph 51 for the extension of the term specified in the order.

(6) If—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) a periodical payments or secured periodical payments order in favour of a civil partner is made otherwise than on or after the making of a dissolution or nullity order, and

(b) the civil partnership is subsequently dissolved or annulled but the order continues in force,

the order ceases to have effect (regardless of anything in it) on the formation of a subsequent civil partnership or marriage by that civil partner, except in relation to any arrears due under it on the date of its formation.

Subsequent civil partnership or marriage

48 If after the making of a dissolution or nullity order one of the civil partners forms a subsequent civil partnership or marriage, that civil partner is not entitled to apply, by reference to the dissolution or nullity order, for—

(a) an order under Part 1 in that civil partner's favour, or

(b) a property adjustment order,

against the other civil partner in the dissolved or annulled civil partnership.

Duration of continuing orders in favour of children, and age limit on making certain orders in their favour

49 (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (5)—

(a) no order under Part 1,

(b) no property adjustment order made by virtue of paragraph 7(1)(a) (transfer of property), and

(c) no order made under Part 9 (failure to maintain) by virtue of paragraph 41,

is to be made in favour of a child who has reached 18.

(2) The term to be specified in a periodical payments or secured periodical payments order in favour of a child may begin with—

(a) the date of the making of an application for the order or a later date, or

(b) a date ascertained in accordance with sub-paragraph (7) or (8).

(3) The term to be specified in such an order—

(a) must not in the first instance extend beyond the date of the birthday of the child next following the child's reaching the upper limit of the compulsory school age unless the court considers that in the circumstances of the case the welfare of the child requires that it should extend to a later date, and

(b) must not in any event, subject to sub-paragraph (5), extend beyond the date of the child's 18th birthday.

(4) Sub-paragraph (3)(a) must be read with section 8 of the Education Act 1996 (c. 56) (which applies to determine for the purposes of any enactment whether a person is of compulsory school age).

(5) Sub-paragraphs (1) and (3)(b) do not apply in the case of a child if it appears to the court that—

(a) the child is, or will be, or, if an order were made without complying with either or both of those provisions, would be—

(i) receiving instruction at an educational establishment, or

(ii) undergoing training for a trade, profession or vocation,

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

whether or not the child also is, will be or would be in gainful employment, or

(b) there are special circumstances which justify the making of an order without complying with either or both of sub-paragraphs (1) and (3)(b).

(6) A periodical payments order in favour of a child, regardless of anything in the order, ceases to have effect on the death of the person liable to make payments under the order, except in relation to any arrears due under the order on the date of the death.

(7) If—

(a) a maintenance calculation ("the current calculation") is in force with respect to a child, and

(b) an application is made under this Schedule for a periodical payments or secured periodical payments order in favour of that child—

(i) in accordance with section 8 of the Child Support Act 1991 (c. 48), and

(ii) before the end of 6 months beginning with the making of the current calculation,

the term to be specified in any such order made on that application may be expressed to begin on, or at any time after, the earliest permitted date.

(8) "The earliest permitted date" is whichever is the later of—

(a) the date 6 months before the application is made, or

(b) the date on which the current calculation took effect or, where successive maintenance calculations have been continuously in force with respect to a child, on which the first of those calculations took effect.

(9) If—

(a) a maintenance calculation ceases to have effect by or under any provision of the 1991 Act, and

(b) an application is made, before the end of 6 months beginning with the relevant date, for a periodical payments or secured periodical payments order in favour of a child with respect to whom that maintenance calculation was in force immediately before it ceased to have effect,

the term to be specified in any such order made on that application may begin with the date on which that maintenance calculation ceased to have effect or any later date.

(10) "The relevant date" means the date on which the maintenance calculation ceased to have effect.

(11) In this paragraph "maintenance calculation" has the same meaning as it has in the 1991 Act by virtue of section 54 of the 1991 Act as read with any regulations in force under that section.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C39 Sch. 5 para. 49(7)-(11) applied (with modifications) (5.12.2005) (temp.) by The Civil Partnership (Pensions, Social Security and Child Support) (Consequential, etc. Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2877), art. 2(5), **Sch. 5 para. 2(2)**

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

PART 11

VARIATION, DISCHARGE ETC. OF CERTAIN ORDERS FOR FINANCIAL RELIEF

Orders etc. to which this Part applies

50 (1) This Part applies to the following orders—

(a) a periodical payments order under Part 1 (financial provision on dissolution etc.) or Part 9 (failure to maintain);

(b) a secured periodical payments order under Part 1 or 9;

(c) an order under Part 8 (maintenance pending outcome of dissolution proceedings etc.);

(d) an interim order under Part 9;

(e) an order made under Part 1 by virtue of paragraph 3(3) or under Part 9 by virtue of paragraph 42(2) (lump sum by instalments);

(f) a deferred order made under Part 1 by virtue of paragraph 2(1)(c) (lump sum for civil partner) which includes provision made by virtue of—

(i) paragraph 25(2), [F465]. . .

(ii) paragraph 26,[F466 or]

[F467(iii) paragraph 34A(2),]

(provision in respect of pension rights [F468or pension compensation rights]);

(g) a property adjustment order made on or after the making of a separation order by virtue of paragraph 7(1)(b), (c) or (d) (order for settlement or variation of settlement);

(h) a sale of property order;

(i) a pension sharing order [F469, or a pension compensation sharing order,] made before the dissolution or nullity order has been made final.

(2) If the court has made an order referred to in sub-paragraph (1)(f)(ii), this Part ceases to apply to the order on the death of either of the civil partners.

(3) The powers exercisable by the court under this Part in relation to an order are also exercisable in relation to any instrument executed in pursuance of the order.

Textual Amendments

F465 Word in Sch. 5 para. 50(1)(f)(i) repealed (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 148, 149, Sch. 6 para. 18(2)(a), **Sch. 11 Pt. 4**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

F466 Word in Sch. 5 para. 50(1)(f)(ii) inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, **Sch. 6 para. 18(2)(b)**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

F467 Sch. 5 para. 50(1)(f)(iii) inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, **Sch. 6 para. 18(2)(c)**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

F468 Words in Sch. 5 para. 50(1)(f) inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, **Sch. 6 para. 18(2)(d)**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

F469 Words in Sch. 5 para. 50(1)(i) inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, **Sch. 6 para. 18(3)**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

Powers to vary, discharge, suspend or revive order

51 (1) If the court has made an order to which this Part applies, it may—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) vary or discharge the order,
(b) suspend any provision of it temporarily, or
(c) revive the operation of any provision so suspended.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) is subject to the provisions of this Part and paragraph 47(5).

Power to remit arrears

52 (1) If the court has made an order referred to in paragraph 50(1)(a), (b), (c) or (d), it may remit the payment of any arrears due under the order or under any part of the order.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) is subject to the provisions of this Part.

Additional powers on discharging or varying a periodical or secured periodical payments order after dissolution of civil partnership

53 (1) Sub-paragraph (2) applies if, after the dissolution of a civil partnership, the court—
(a) discharges a periodical payments order or secured periodical payments order made in favour of a civil partner, or
(b) varies such an order so that payments under the order are required to be made or secured only for such further period as is determined by the court.

(2) The court may make supplemental provision consisting of any of the following—
(a) an order for the payment of a lump sum in favour of one of the civil partners;
(b) one or more property adjustment orders in favour of one of the civil partners;
(c) one or more pension sharing orders;
[F470(ca) a pension compensation sharing order;**]**
(d) a direction that the civil partner in whose favour the original order discharged or varied was made is not entitled to make any further application for—
(i) a periodical payments or secured periodical payments order, or
(ii) an extension of the period to which the original order is limited by any variation made by the court.

(3) The power under sub-paragraph (2) is in addition to any power the court has apart from that sub-paragraph.

Textual Amendments
F470 Sch. 5 para. 53(2)(ca) inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, **Sch. 6 para. 18(4)**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

54 (1) An order for the payment of a lump sum under paragraph 53 may—
(a) provide for the payment of it by instalments of such amount as may be specified, and
(b) require the payment of the instalments to be secured to the satisfaction of the court.

(2) Sub-paragraphs (5) and (6) of paragraph 3 (interest on deferred instalments) apply where the court makes an order for the payment of a lump sum under paragraph 53 as they apply where it makes such an order under Part 1.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(3) If under paragraph 53 the court makes more than one property adjustment order in favour of the same civil partner, each of those orders must fall within a different paragraph of paragraph 7(1) (types of property adjustment orders).

(4) Part 3 (orders for the sale of property) and paragraph 76 (direction for settlement of instrument) apply where the court makes a property adjustment order under paragraph 53 as they apply where it makes any other property adjustment order.

(5) Paragraph 18 (restrictions on making of pension sharing order) applies in relation to a pension sharing order under paragraph 53 as it applies in relation to any other pension sharing order.

[F471(6) Paragraph 19D (restrictions on making pension compensation sharing orders) applies in relation to a pension compensation sharing order under paragraph 53 as it applies in relation to any other pension compensation sharing order.**]**

Textual Amendments

F471 Sch. 5 para. 54(6) inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, **Sch. 6 para. 18(5)**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

Variation etc. of periodical or secured periodical payments orders made in cases of failure to maintain

55 (1) An application for the variation under paragraph 51 of a periodical payments order or secured periodical payments order made under Part 9 in favour of a child may, if the child has reached 16, be made by the child himself.

(2) Sub-paragraph (3) applies if a periodical payments order made in favour of a child under Part 9 ceases to have effect—

(a) on the date on which the child reaches 16, or

(b) at any time after that date but before or on the date on which the child reaches 18.

(3) If, on an application made to the court for an order under this sub-paragraph, it appears to the court that—

(a) the child is, will be or, if an order were made under this sub-paragraph, would be—

(i) receiving instruction at an educational establishment, or

(ii) undergoing training for a trade, profession or vocation,

whether or not the child also is, will be or would be in gainful employment, or

(b) there are special circumstances which justify the making of an order under this sub-paragraph,

the court may by order revive the order mentioned in sub-paragraph (2) from such date as it may specify.

(4) A date specified under sub-paragraph (3) must not be earlier than the date of the application under that sub-paragraph.

(5) If under sub-paragraph (3) the court revives an order it may exercise its power under paragraph 51 in relation to the revived order.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Variation etc. of property adjustment [F472, pension sharing and pension compensation sharing orders]

Textual Amendments

F472 Words in cross-heading before Sch. 5 para. 56 substituted (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, **Sch. 6 para. 18(6)**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

56 The court must not exercise the powers conferred by this Part in relation to a property adjustment order falling within paragraph 7(1)(b), (c) or (d) (order for settlement or for variation of settlement) except on an application made in proceedings—

(a) for the rescission of the separation order by reference to which the property adjustment order was made, or

(b) for a dissolution order in relation to the civil partnership.

57 (1) In relation to a pension sharing order **[**F473or pension compensation sharing order**]** which is made at a time before the dissolution or nullity order has been made final—

(a) the powers conferred by this Part (by virtue of paragraph 50(1)(i)) may be exercised—

(i) only on an application made before the pension sharing order **[**F474or pension compensation sharing order**]** has or, but for paragraph (b), would have taken effect, and

(ii) only if, at the time when the application is made, the dissolution or nullity order has not been made final, and

(b) an application made in accordance with paragraph (a) prevents the pension sharing order **[**F475or pension compensation sharing order**]** from taking effect before the application has been dealt with.

(2) No variation of a pension sharing order **[**F476or pension compensation sharing order**]** is to be made so as to take effect before the order is made final.

(3) The variation of a pension sharing order **[**F477or pension compensation sharing order**]** prevents the order taking effect before the end of such period after the making of the variation as may be prescribed by regulations made by the Lord Chancellor.

(4) The power to make regulations under sub-paragraph (3) is exercisable by statutory instrument which is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

Textual Amendments

F473 Words in Sch. 5 para. 57(1) inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, **Sch. 6 para. 18(7)(a)**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

F474 Words in Sch. 5 para. 57(1)(a)(i) inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, **Sch. 6 para. 18(7)(b)**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

F475 Words in Sch. 5 para. 57(1)(b) inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, **Sch. 6 para. 18(7)(c)**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

F476 Words in Sch. 5 para. 57(2) inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, **Sch. 6 para. 18(7)(d)**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

F477 Words in Sch. 5 para. 57(3) inserted (6.3.2011 for specified purposes otherwise 6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, **Sch. 6 para. 18(7)(e)**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(2)(3)**, Sch.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Commencement Information

I57 Sch. 5 para. 57 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 5 para. 57 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 5 para. 57(3)(4) in force for certain purposes at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and Sch. 5 para. 57 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

58 (1) Sub-paragraphs (2) and (3)—

(a) are subject to paragraphs 53 and 54, and

(b) do not affect any power exercisable by virtue of paragraph 50(e), (f), (g) or (i) or otherwise than by virtue of this Part.

(2) No property adjustment order **[**F478, pension sharing order or pension compensation sharing order**]** may be made on an application for the variation of a periodical payments or secured periodical payments order made (whether in favour of a civil partner or in favour of a child of the family) under Part 1.

(3) No order for the payment of a lump sum may be made on an application for the variation of a periodical payments or secured periodical payments order in favour of a civil partner (whether made under Part 1 or 9).

Textual Amendments

F478 Words in Sch. 5 para. 58(2) substituted (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, **Sch. 6 para. 18(8)**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

Matters to which court is to have regard in exercising powers under this Part

59 (1) In exercising the powers conferred by this Part the court must have regard to all the circumstances of the case, giving first consideration to the welfare, while under 18, of any child of the family who has not reached 18.

(2) The circumstances of the case include, in particular, any change in any of the matters to which the court was required to have regard when making the order to which the application relates.

(3) Sub-paragraph (4) applies in the case of—

(a) a periodical payments order, or

(b) a secured periodical payments order,

made on or after the making of a dissolution or nullity order.

(4) The court must consider whether in all the circumstances, and after having regard to any such change, it would be appropriate to vary the order so that payments under the order are required—

(a) to be made, or

(b) to be secured,

only for such further period as will in the opinion of the court be sufficient to enable the civil partner in whose favour the order was made to adjust without undue hardship to the termination of those payments.

(5) In considering what further period will be sufficient, the court must, if the civil partnership has been dissolved, take into account any proposed exercise by it of its powers under paragraph 53.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(6) If the civil partner against whom the order was made has died, the circumstances of the case also include the changed circumstances resulting from that civil partner's death.

Variation of secured periodical payments order where person liable has died

60 (1) This paragraph applies if the person liable to make payments under a secured periodical payments order has died.

(2) Subject to sub-paragraph (3), an application under this Part relating to the order (and to any sale of property order which requires the proceeds of sale of property to be used for securing those payments) may be made by—

(a) the person entitled to payments under the periodical payments order, or

(b) the personal representatives of the deceased person.

(3) No such application may be made without the leave of the court after the end of 6 months from the date on which representation in regard to the estate of that person is first taken out.

(4) The personal representatives of the person who has died are not liable for having distributed any part of the estate of the deceased after the end of the 6 month period on the ground that they ought to have taken into account the possibility that the court might allow an application under this paragraph to be made after that period by the person entitled to payments under the order.

(5) Sub-paragraph (4) does not affect any power to recover any part of the estate so distributed arising by virtue of the making of an order in pursuance of this paragraph.

[[F479](6) The following are to be left out of account when considering for the purposes of sub-paragraph (3) when representation was first taken out—

(a) a grant limited to settled land or to trust property,

(b) any other grant that does not permit any of the estate to be distributed,

(c) a grant limited to real estate or to personal estate, unless a grant limited to the remainder of the estate has previously been made or is made at the same time,

(d) a grant, or its equivalent, made outside the United Kingdom (but see sub-paragraph (7)).

(7) A grant sealed under section 2 of the Colonial Probates Act 1892 counts as a grant made in the United Kingdom for the purposes of sub-paragraph (6), but is to be taken as dated on the date of sealing.**]**

Textual Amendments

F479 Sch. 5 para. 60(6)(7) substituted for Sch. 5 para. 60(6) (1.10.2014) by Inheritance and Trustees' Powers Act 2014 (c. 16), s. 12(2), **Sch. 3 para. 5** (with s. 12(4)); S.I. 2014/2039, art. 2

Power to direct when variation etc. is to take effect

61 (1) If the court, in exercise of its powers under this Part, decides—

(a) to vary, or

(b) to discharge,

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

a periodical payments or secured periodical payments order, it may direct that the variation or discharge is not to take effect until the end of such period as may be specified in the order.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) is subject to paragraph 47(1) and (6).

62 (1) If—

(a) a periodical payments or secured periodical payments order in favour of more than one child ("the order") is in force,

(b) the order requires payments specified in it to be made to or for the benefit of more than one child without apportioning those payments between them,

(c) a maintenance calculation ("the calculation") is made with respect to one or more, but not all, of the children with respect to whom those payments are to be made, and

(d) an application is made, before the end of the period of 6 months beginning with the date on which the calculation was made, for the variation or discharge of the order,

the court may, in exercise of its powers under this Part to vary or discharge the order, direct that the variation or discharge is to take effect from the date on which the calculation took effect or any later date.

(2) If—

(a) an order ("the child order") of a kind prescribed for the purposes of section 10(1) of the Child Support Act 1991 (c. 48) is affected by a maintenance calculation,

(b) on the date on which the child order became so affected there was in force a periodical payments or secured periodical payments order ("the civil partner's order") in favour of a civil partner having the care of the child in whose favour the child order was made, and

(c) an application is made, before the end of the period of 6 months beginning with the date on which the maintenance calculation was made, for the civil partner's order to be varied or discharged,

the court may, in exercise of its powers under this Part to vary or discharge the civil partner's order, direct that the variation or discharge is to take effect from the date on which the child order became so affected or any later date.

(3) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (2), an order is affected if it ceases to have effect or is modified by or under section 10 of the 1991 Act.

(4) Sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) do not affect any other power of the court to direct that the variation of discharge of an order under this Part is to take effect from a date earlier than that on which the order for variation or discharge was made.

(5) In this paragraph "maintenance calculation" has the same meaning as it has in the 1991 Act by virtue of section 54 of the 1991 Act as read with any regulations in force under that section.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C40 Sch. 5 para. 62(1)-(5) applied (with modifications) (5.12.2005) (temp.) by The Civil Partnership (Pensions, Social Security and Child Support) (Consequential, etc. Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2877), art. 2(5), **Sch. 5 para. 2(3)**

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

PART 12

ARREARS AND REPAYMENTS

Payment of certain arrears unenforceable without the leave of the court

PROSPECTIVE

63 (1) This paragraph applies if any arrears are due under—

(a) an order under Part 1 (financial provision on dissolution etc.),

(b) an order under Part 8 (maintenance pending outcome of dissolution, nullity or separation proceedings), or

(c) an order under Part 9 (failure to maintain),

and the arrears became due more than 12 months before proceedings to enforce the payment of them are begun.

(2) A person is not entitled to enforce through the High Court or **[**[F480]the family court**]** the payment of the arrears without the leave of that court.

(3) The court hearing an application for the grant of leave under this paragraph may—

(a) refuse leave,

(b) grant leave subject to such restrictions and conditions (including conditions as to the allowing of time for payment or the making of payment by instalments) as that court thinks proper, or

(c) remit the payment of the arrears or of any part of them.

(4) An application for the grant of leave under this paragraph must be made in such manner as may be prescribed by rules of court.

Textual Amendments

F480 Words in Sch. 5 para. 63(2) substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 170**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

Orders for repayment in certain cases of sums paid under certain orders

64 (1) This paragraph applies if—

(a) a person ("R") is entitled to receive payments under an order listed in sub-paragraph (2), and

(b) R's circumstances or the circumstances of the person ("P") liable to make payments under the order have changed since the order was made, or the circumstances have changed as a result of P's death.

(2) The orders are—

(a) any order under Part 8 (maintenance pending outcome of dissolution, nullity or separation proceedings);

(b) any interim order under Part 9;

(c) any periodical payments order;

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(d) any secured periodical payments order.

(3) P or P's personal representatives may (subject to sub-paragraph (7)) apply for an order under this paragraph against R or R's personal representatives.

(4) If it appears to the court that, because of the changed circumstances or P's death, the amount received by R in respect of a relevant period exceeds the amount which P or P's personal representatives should have been required to pay, it may order the respondent to the application to pay to the applicant such sum, not exceeding the amount of the excess, as it thinks just.

(5) "Relevant period" means a period after the circumstances changed or (as the case may be) after P's death.

(6) An order under this paragraph for the payment of any sum may provide for the payment of that sum by instalments of such amount as may be specified in the order.

(7) An application under this paragraph—

(a) may be made in proceedings in the High Court or **[**F481the family court**]** for—

(i) the variation or discharge of the order listed in sub-paragraph (2), or

(ii) leave to enforce, or the enforcement of, the payment of arrears under that order, but

(b) if not made in such proceedings, must be made to **[**F481the family court**]** ;

and accordingly references in this paragraph to the court are references to the High Court or **[**F481the family court**]**, as the circumstances require.

F482(8) . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F481 Words in Sch. 5 para. 64(7) substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 171(2)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

F482 Sch. 5 para. 64(8) omitted (22.4.2014) by virtue of Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 171(3)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

Orders for repayment after cessation of order because of subsequent civil partnership etc.

65 (1) Sub-paragraphs (3) and (4) apply if—

(a) a periodical payments or secured periodical payments order in favour of a civil partner ("R") has ceased to have effect because of the formation of a subsequent civil partnership or marriage by R, and

(b) the person liable to make payments under the order ("P") (or P's personal representatives) has made payments in accordance with it in respect of a relevant period in the mistaken belief that the order was still subsisting.

(2) "Relevant period" means a period after the date of the formation of the subsequent civil partnership or marriage.

(3) P (or P's personal representatives) is not entitled to bring proceedings in respect of a cause of action arising out of the circumstances mentioned in sub-paragraph (1)(a) and (b) against R (or R's personal representatives).

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(4) But, on an application under this paragraph by P (or P's personal representatives) against R (or R's personal representatives), the court—

(a) may order the respondent to pay to the applicant a sum equal to the amount of the payments made in respect of the relevant period, or

(b) if it appears to the court that it would be unjust to make that order, may—

(i) order the respondent to pay to the applicant such lesser sum as it thinks fit, or

(ii) dismiss the application.

(5) An order under this paragraph for the payment of any sum may provide for the payment of that sum by instalments of such amount as may be specified in the order.

(6) An application under this paragraph—

(a) may be made in proceedings in the High Court or **[**F483the family court**]** for leave to enforce, or the enforcement of, payment of arrears under the order in question, but

(b) if not made in such proceedings, must be made to **[**F483the family court**]**;

and accordingly references in this paragraph to the court are references to the High Court or **[**F483the family court**]**, as the circumstances require.

F484(7) . . . . . .

(8) Subject to sub-paragraph (9)—

(a) **[**F485an officer of the family court**]** is not liable for any act done by him**[**F485, in pursuance of a payments order requiring payments to be made to the court or an officer of the court,**]** after the date on which that order ceased to have effect because of the formation of a subsequent civil partnership or marriage by the person entitled to payments under it, and

(b) the collecting officer under an attachment of earnings order made to secure payments under a payments order is not liable for any act done by him after that date in accordance with any enactment or rule of court specifying how payments made to him in compliance with the attachment of earnings order are to be dealt with.

(9) Sub-paragraph (8) applies if (and only if) the act—

(a) was one which the officer would have been under a duty to do had the payments order not ceased to have effect, and

(b) was done before notice in writing of the formation of the subsequent civil partnership or marriage was given to him by or on behalf of—

(i) the person entitled to payments under the payments order,

(ii) the person liable to make payments under it, or

(iii) the personal representatives of either of them.

(10) In sub-paragraphs (8) and (9) "payments order" means a periodical payments order or secured periodical payments order and "collecting officer", in relation to an attachment of earnings order, means—

(a) the officer of the High Court, **[**F486or

(aa) the officer of the family court,**]**

to whom a person makes payments in compliance with the order.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F483 Words in Sch. 5 para. 65(6) substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 172(2)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

F484 Sch. 5 para. 65(7) omitted (22.4.2014) by virtue of Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 172(3)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

F485 Words in Sch. 5 para. 65(8)(a) substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 172(4)(a)(b)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

F486 Sch. 5 para. 65(10)(aa) and word substituted for Sch. 5 para. 65(10)(b)(c) (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 172(5)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

PART 13

CONSENT ORDERS AND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS

Consent orders for financial relief

66 (1) Regardless of anything in the preceding provisions of this Schedule, on an application for a consent order for financial relief, the court may, unless it has reason to think that there are other circumstances into which it ought to inquire, make an order in the terms agreed on the basis only of such information supplied with the application as is required by rules of court.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) applies to an application for a consent order varying or discharging an order for financial relief as it applies to an application for an order for financial relief.

(3) In this paragraph—

"consent order", in relation to an application for an order, means an order in the terms applied for to which the respondent agrees;

"order for financial relief" means an order under any of Parts 1, 2, 3, 4 and 9.

Meaning of "maintenance agreement" and "financial arrangements"

67 (1) In this Part "maintenance agreement" means any agreement in writing between the civil partners in a civil partnership which—

(a) is made during the continuance or after the dissolution or annulment of the civil partnership and contains financial arrangements, or

(b) is a separation agreement which contains no financial arrangements but is made in a case where no other agreement in writing between the civil partners contains financial arrangements.

(2) In this Part "financial arrangements" means provisions governing the rights and liabilities towards one another when living separately of the civil partners in a civil partnership (including a civil partnership which has been dissolved or annulled) in respect of—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) the making or securing of payments, or

(b) the disposition or use of any property,

including such rights and liabilities with respect to the maintenance or education of a child (whether or not a child of the family).

(3) "Education" includes training.

Validity of maintenance agreements

68 If a maintenance agreement includes a provision purporting to restrict any right to apply to a court for an order containing financial arrangements—

(a) that provision is void, but

(b) any other financial arrangements contained in the agreement—

(i) are not void or unenforceable as a result, and

(ii) unless void or unenforceable for any other reason, are (subject to paragraphs 69 and 73) binding on the parties to the agreement.

Alteration of agreements by court during lives of parties

69 (1) F487... Either party to a maintenance agreement may apply to the court F488... for an order under this paragraph if—

(a) the maintenance agreement is for the time being subsisting, and

(b) each of the parties to the agreement is for the time being domiciled or resident in England and Wales.

F489(1A) . . . . . .

(2) The court may make an order under this paragraph if it is satisfied that—

(a) because of a change in the circumstances in the light of which—

(i) any financial arrangements contained in the agreement were made, or

(ii) financial arrangements were omitted from it,

the agreement should be altered so as to make different financial arrangements or so as to contain financial arrangements, or

(b) that the agreement does not contain proper financial arrangements with respect to any child of the family.

(3) In sub-paragraph (2)(a) the reference to a change in the circumstances includes a change foreseen by the parties when making the agreement.

(4) An order under this paragraph may make such alterations in the agreement—

(a) by varying or revoking any financial arrangements contained in it, or

(b) by inserting in it financial arrangements for the benefit of one of the parties to the agreement or of a child of the family,

as appear to the court to be just having regard to all the circumstances, including, if relevant, the matters mentioned in paragraph 22(3).

(5) The effect of the order is that the agreement is to be treated as if any alteration made by the order had been made by agreement between the partners and for valuable consideration.

(6) The power to make an order under this paragraph is subject to **[**F490paragraph**]** 71.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

F491(7) . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F487 Words in Sch. 5 para. 69(1) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Jurisdiction and Judgments (Family) (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/519), reg. 1(1), **Sch. para. 25(4)(a)** (with reg. 8) (as amended by S.I. 2020/1574, regs. 1, 5(2)); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

F488 Words in Sch. 5 para. 69(1) omitted (22.4.2014) by virtue of Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 173(a)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

F489 Sch. 5 para. 69(1A) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Jurisdiction and Judgments (Family) (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/519), reg. 1(1), **Sch. para. 25(4)(b)** (with reg. 8) (as amended by S.I. 2020/1574, regs. 1, 5(2)); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

F490 Word in Sch. 5 para. 69(6) substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 173(b)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

F491 Sch. 5 para. 69(7) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Jurisdiction and Judgments (Family) (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/519), reg. 1(1), **Sch. para. 25(4)(c)** (with reg. 8) (as amended by S.I. 2020/1574, regs. 1, 5(2)); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

Restrictions on applications to and orders by magistrates' courts under paragraph 69

F492 70 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F492 Sch. 5 para. 70 omitted (22.4.2014) by virtue of Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 174**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

Provisions relating to periodical and secured periodical payments: duration

71 (1) If a court decides to make an order under paragraph 69 altering an agreement—

(a) by inserting provision for the making or securing by one of the parties to the agreement of periodical payments for the maintenance of the other party, or

(b) by increasing the rate of the periodical payments which the agreement provides shall be made by one of the parties for the maintenance of the other,

it may specify such term as it thinks fit as the term for which the payments or, as the case may be, the additional payments attributable to the increase are to be made under the altered agreement, except that the term must not extend beyond the limits in sub-paragraphs (2) and (3).

(2) The limits if the payments are not to be secured are—

(a) the death of either of the parties to the agreement, or

(b) the formation of a subsequent civil partnership or marriage by the party to whom the payments are to be made.

(3) The limits if the payments are to be secured are—

(a) the death of the party to whom the payments are to be made, or

(b) the formation of a subsequent civil partnership or marriage by that party.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(4) Sub-paragraph (5) applies if a court decides to make an order under paragraph 69 altering an agreement by—

(a) inserting provision for the making or securing by one of the parties to the agreement of periodical payments for the maintenance of a child of the family, or

(b) increasing the rate of the periodical payments which the agreement provides shall be made or secured by one of the parties for the maintenance of such a child.

(5) The court, in deciding the term for which under the agreement as altered by the order—

(a) the payments are to be made or secured for the benefit of the child, or

(b) the additional payments attributable to the increase are to be made or secured for the benefit of the child,

must apply paragraph 49(2) to (5) (age limits) as if the order in question were a periodical payments or secured periodical payments order in favour of the child.

Saving

72 Nothing in paragraphs 68 to 71 affects—

(a) any power of a court before which any proceedings between the parties to a maintenance agreement are brought under any other enactment (including a provision of this Schedule) to make an order containing financial arrangements, or

(b) any right of either party to apply for such an order in such proceedings.

Alteration of agreements by court after death of one party

73 (1) This paragraph applies if—

(a) a maintenance agreement provides for the continuation of payments under the agreement after the death of one of the parties, and

(b) that party ("A") dies domiciled in England and Wales.

(2) Subject to sub-paragraph (4), the surviving party or A's personal representatives may apply to the [F493]... court for an order under paragraph 69.

(3) If a maintenance agreement is altered by a court on an application made under sub-paragraph (2), the same consequences follow as if the alteration had been made immediately before the death by agreement between the parties and for valuable consideration.

(4) An application under this paragraph may not, without the leave of the [F494]... court, be made after the end of 6 months from the date on which representation in regard to A's estate is first taken out.

(5) A's personal representatives are not liable for having distributed any part of A's estate after the end of the 6 month period on the ground that they ought to have taken into account the possibility that a court might allow an application by virtue of this paragraph to be made by the surviving party after that period.

(6) Sub-paragraph (5) does not affect any power to recover any part of the estate so distributed arising by virtue of the making of an order in pursuance of this paragraph.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(7) Paragraph 60(6) applies for the purposes of sub-paragraph (4) as it applies for the purposes of paragraph 60(3).

Textual Amendments

F493 Words in Sch. 5 para. 73(2) omitted (22.4.2014) by virtue of Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 175(a)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

F494 Words in Sch. 5 para. 73(4) omitted (22.4.2014) by virtue of Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 175(b)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

PART 14

MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTARY

Avoidance of transactions intended to prevent or reduce financial relief

74 (1) This paragraph applies if proceedings for relief ("financial relief") are brought by one person ("A") against another ("B") under Part 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, or 11 (other than paragraph 60(2)), or paragraph 69.

(2) If the court is satisfied, on an application by A, that B is, with the intention of defeating A's claim for financial relief, about to—

(a) make any disposition, or

(b) transfer out of the jurisdiction or otherwise deal with any property,

it may make such order as it thinks fit for restraining B from doing so or otherwise for protecting the claim.

(3) If the court is satisfied, on an application by A, that—

(a) B has, with the intention of defeating A's claim for financial relief, made a reviewable disposition, and

(b) if the disposition were set aside, financial relief or different financial relief would be granted to A,

it make an order setting aside the disposition.

(4) If the court is satisfied, on an application by A in a case where an order has been obtained by A against B under any of the provisions mentioned in sub-paragraph (1), that B has, with the intention of defeating A's claim for financial relief, made a reviewable disposition, it may make an order setting aside the disposition.

(5) An application for the purposes of sub-paragraph (3) must be made in the proceedings for the financial relief in question.

(6) If the court makes an order under sub-paragraph (3) or (4) setting aside a disposition it must give such consequential directions as it thinks fit for giving effect to the order (including directions requiring the making of any payments or the disposal of any property).

75 (1) Any reference in paragraph 74 to defeating A's claim for financial relief is to—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) preventing financial relief from being granted to A, or to A for the benefit of a child of the family,

(b) reducing the amount of any financial relief which might be so granted, or

(c) frustrating or impeding the enforcement of any order which might be or has been made at A's instance under any of those provisions.

(2) In paragraph 74 and this paragraph "disposition"—

(a) does not include any provision contained in a will or codicil, but

(b) subject to paragraph (a), includes any conveyance, assurance or gift of property of any description (whether made by an instrument or otherwise).

(3) Any disposition made by B (whether before or after the commencement of the proceedings for financial relief) is a reviewable disposition for the purposes of paragraphs 74(3) and (4) unless it was made—

(a) for valuable consideration (other than formation of a civil partnership), and

(b) to a person who, at the time of the disposition, acted in relation to it in good faith and without notice of any intention on B's part to defeat A's claim for financial relief.

(4) If an application is made under paragraph 74 with respect to a disposition which took place less than 3 years before the date of the application or with respect to a disposition or other dealing with property which is about to take place and the court is satisfied—

(a) in a case falling within paragraph 74(2) or (3), that the disposition or other dealing would (apart from paragraph 74) have the consequence of defeating A's claim for financial relief, or

(b) in a case falling within paragraph 74(4), that the disposition has had the consequence of defeating A's claim for financial relief,

it is presumed, unless the contrary is shown, that the person who disposed of or is about to dispose of or deal with the property did so or, as the case may be, is about to do so, with the intention of defeating A's claim for financial relief.

Direction for settlement of instrument for securing payments or effecting property adjustment

76 (1) This paragraph applies if the court decides to make—

(a) an order under Part 1 or 9 requiring any payments to be secured, or

(b) a property adjustment order.

(2) The court may direct that the matter be referred to one of the conveyancing counsel of the court for him to settle a proper instrument to be executed by all necessary parties.

(3) If the order referred to in sub-paragraph (1) is to be made in proceedings for a dissolution, nullity or separation order, the court may, if it thinks fit, defer the making of the dissolution, nullity or separation order until the instrument has been duly executed.

Settlement, etc., made in compliance with a property adjustment order may be avoided on bankruptcy of settlor

77 The fact that—

(a) a settlement, or

(b) a transfer of property,

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

had to be made in order to comply with a property adjustment order does not prevent the settlement or transfer from being a transaction in respect of which an order may be made under section 339 or 340 of the Insolvency Act 1986 (c. 45) (transfers at an undervalue and preferences).

Payments, etc., under order made in favour of person suffering from mental disorder

78 (1) This paragraph applies if—

(a) the court makes an order under this Schedule requiring—

(i) payments (including a lump sum payment) to be made, or

(ii) property to be transferred,

to a civil partner, and

(b) the court is satisfied that the person in whose favour the order is made is incapable, because of mental disorder, of managing and administering his or her property and affairs.

(2) "Mental disorder" has the same meaning as in the Mental Health Act 1983 (c. 20).

(3) Subject to any order, direction or authority made or given in relation to that person under Part 8 of the 1983 Act, the court may order the payments to be made or, as the case may be, the property to be transferred to such persons having charge of that person as the court may direct.

Appeals relating to pension sharing orders which have taken effect

79 (1) Sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) apply if an appeal against a pension sharing order is begun on or after the day on which the order takes effect.

(2) If the pension sharing order relates to a person's rights under a pension arrangement, the appeal court may not set aside or vary the order if the person responsible for the pension arrangement has acted to his detriment in reliance on the order taking effect.

(3) If the pension sharing order relates to a person's shareable state scheme rights, the appeal court may not set aside or vary the order if the Secretary of State has acted to his detriment in reliance on the taking effect of the order.

(4) In determining for the purposes of sub-paragraph (2) or (3) whether a person has acted to his detriment in reliance on the taking effect of the order, the appeal court may disregard any detriment which in its opinion is insignificant.

(5) Where sub-paragraph (2) or (3) applies, the appeal court may make such further orders (including one or more pension sharing orders) as it thinks fit for the purpose of putting the parties in the position it considers appropriate.

(6) Paragraph 19 only applies to a pension sharing order under this paragraph if the decision of the appeal court can itself be the subject of an appeal.

(7) In sub-paragraph (2), the reference to the person responsible for the pension arrangement is to be read in accordance with paragraph 29(3).

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

[F495 Appeals relating to pension compensation sharing orders which have taken effect

Textual Amendments

F495 Sch. 5 para. 79A and cross-heading inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, **Sch. 6 para. 19**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

79A (1) This paragraph applies where an appeal against a pension compensation sharing order is begun on or after the day on which the order takes effect.

(2) If the Board of the Pension Protection Fund has acted to its detriment in reliance on the taking effect of the order the appeal court—

(a) may not set aside or vary the order;

(b) may make such further orders (including a pension compensation sharing order) as it thinks fit for the purpose of putting the parties in the position it considers appropriate.

(3) In determining for the purposes of sub-paragraph (2) whether the Board has acted to its detriment the appeal court may disregard any detriment which in the court's opinion is insignificant.

(4) Paragraph 19E only applies to a pension compensation sharing order under this paragraph if the decision of the appeal court can itself be the subject of an appeal.**]**

Interpretation

80 (1) References in this Schedule to—

(a) periodical payments orders,

(b) secured periodical payments orders, and

(c) orders for the payment of a lump sum,

are references to such of the orders that may be made under Parts 1 and 9 (other than interim orders) as are relevant in the context of the reference in question.

(2) In this Schedule "child of the family", in relation to two people who are civil partners of each other, means—

(a) a child of both of them, and

(b) any other child, other than a child placed with them as foster parents by a local authority or voluntary organisation, who has been treated by both the civil partners as a child of their family.

(3) In this Schedule "the court" (except where the context otherwise requires) means—

(a) the High Court, or

[F496(b) the family court.**]**

(4) References in this Schedule to a subsequent civil partnership include a civil partnership which is by law void or voidable.

(5) References in this Schedule to a subsequent marriage include a marriage which is by law void or voidable.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F496 Sch. 5 para. 80(3)(b) substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 176**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

Commencement Information

I58 Sch. 5 para. 80 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 5 para. 80 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 5 para. 80(3) in force for certain purposes at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and Sch. 5 para. 80 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

SCHEDULE 6 Section 72(3)

[F497 FINANCIAL RELIEF: PROVISION CORRESPONDING TO PROVISION MADE BY THE DOMESTIC PROCEEDINGS AND MAGISTRATES' COURTS ACT 1978]

Textual Amendments

F497 Sch. 6 title substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 200**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

PART 1

FAILURE TO MAINTAIN ETC.: FINANCIAL PROVISION

Circumstances in which orders under this Part may be made

1 (1) On an application to it by one of the civil partners, [F498 the family court] may make any one or more of the orders set out in paragraph 2 if it is satisfied that the other civil partner—

(a) has failed to provide reasonable maintenance for the applicant,

(b) has failed to provide, or to make a proper contribution towards, reasonable maintenance for any child of the family,

(c) has behaved in such a way that the applicant cannot reasonably be expected to live with the respondent, or

(d) has deserted the applicant.

(2) The power of the court under sub-paragraph (1) is subject to the following provisions of this Schedule.

Textual Amendments

F498 Words in Sch. 6 para. 1(1) substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 179**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

The orders: periodical and secured periodical payments and lump sums

2 (1) The orders are—

(a) an order that the respondent must make to the applicant such periodical payments for such term as may be specified;

(b) an order that the respondent must pay to the applicant such lump sum as may be specified;

(c) an order that the respondent must make—

(i) to the applicant for the benefit of a child of the family to whom the application relates, or

(ii) to a child of the family to whom the application relates;

such periodical payments for such term as may be specified;

(d) an order that the respondent must pay such lump sum as may be specified—

(i) to the applicant for the benefit of a child of the family to whom the application relates, or

(ii) to such a child of the family to whom the application relates.

(2) The amount of a lump sum required to be paid under sub-paragraph (1)(b) or (d) must not exceed—

(a) £1,000, or

(b) such larger amount as the Lord Chancellor may from time to time by order fix for the purposes of this sub-paragraph.

(3) The power to make an order under sub-paragraph (2) is exercisable by statutory instrument which is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

(4) "Specified" means specified in the order.

Particular provision that may be made by lump sum orders

3 (1) An order under this Part for the payment of a lump sum may be made for the purpose of enabling any liability or expenses reasonably incurred in maintaining the applicant or any child of the family to whom the application relates before the making of the order to be met.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) does not restrict the power to make the orders set out in paragraph 2(1)(b) and (d).

Matters to which court is to have regard in exercising its powers under this Part—general

4 If an application is made for an order under this Part, the court, in deciding—

(a) whether to exercise its powers under this Part, and

(b) if so, in what way,

must have regard to all the circumstances of the case, giving first consideration to the welfare while under 18 of any child of the family who has not reached 18.

Particular matters to be taken into account when exercising powers in relation to civil partners

5 (1) This paragraph applies in relation to the exercise by the court of its power to make an order by virtue of paragraph 2(1)(a) or (b).

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(2) The court must in particular have regard to—

(a) the income, earning capacity, property and other financial resources which each civil partner—

(i) has, or

(ii) is likely to have in the foreseeable future,

including, in the case of earning capacity, any increase in that capacity which it would in the opinion of the court be reasonable to expect a civil partner in the civil partnership to take steps to acquire;

(b) the financial needs, obligations and responsibilities which each civil partner has or is likely to have in the foreseeable future;

(c) the standard of living enjoyed by the civil partners before the occurrence of the conduct which is alleged as the ground of the application;

(d) the age of each civil partner and the duration of the civil partnership;

(e) any physical or mental disability of either civil partner;

(f) the contributions which each civil partner has made or is likely in the foreseeable future to make to the welfare of the family, including any contribution by looking after the home or caring for the family;

(g) the conduct of each civil partner, if that conduct is such that it would in the opinion of the court be inequitable to disregard it.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C41 Sch. 5 para. 21(2)(d) applied (with modifications) (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Treatment of Overseas Relationships) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3042), **art. 3(4)**

C42 Sch. 6 para. 5(2)(d) applied (with modifications) (2.12.2019) by The Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1458), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 4(4)**

Particular matters to be taken into account when exercising powers in relation to children

6 (1) This paragraph applies in relation to the exercise by the court of its power to make an order by virtue of paragraph 2(1)(c) or (d).

(2) The court must in particular have regard to—

(a) the financial needs of the child;

(b) the income, earning capacity (if any), property and other financial resources of the child;

(c) any physical or mental disability of the child;

(d) the standard of living enjoyed by the family before the occurrence of the conduct which is alleged as the ground of the application;

(e) the way in which the child was being and in which the civil partners expected the child to be educated or trained;

(f) the considerations mentioned in relation to the civil partners in paragraph 5(2)(a) and (b).

(3) In relation to the exercise of its power to make an order in favour of a child of the family who is not the respondent's child, the court must also have regard to—

(a) whether the respondent has assumed any responsibility for the child's maintenance;

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) if so, the extent to which, and the basis on which, the respondent assumed that responsibility and the length of time during which the respondent discharged that responsibility;

(c) whether in assuming and discharging that responsibility the respondent did so knowing that the child was not the respondent's child;

(d) the liability of any other person to maintain the child.

Reconciliation

7 (1) If an application is made for an order under this Part—

(a) the court, before deciding whether to exercise its powers under this Part, must consider whether there is any possibility of reconciliation between the civil partners, and

(b) if at any stage of the proceedings on that application it appears to the court that there is a reasonable possibility of such a reconciliation, the court may adjourn the proceedings for such period as it thinks fit to enable attempts to be made to effect a reconciliation.

(2) If the court adjourns any proceedings under sub-paragraph (1), it may request—

(a) an officer of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service, or

(b) any other person,

to attempt to effect a reconciliation between the civil partners.

(3) If any such request is made, the officer or other person—

(a) must report in writing to the court whether the attempt has been successful, but

(b) must not include in the report any other information.

Refusal of order in case more suitable for High Court

F499 8 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F499 Sch. 6 para. 8 omitted (22.4.2014) by virtue of Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 180**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

PART 2

ORDERS FOR AGREED FINANCIAL PROVISION

Orders for payments which have been agreed by the parties

9 (1) Either civil partner may apply to **[**F500the family court**]** for an order under this Part on the ground that that civil partner or the other civil partner has agreed to make such financial provision as may be specified in the application.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(2) On such an application, the court may order that the applicant or the respondent (as the case may be) is to make the financial provision specified in the application, if—

(a) it is satisfied that the applicant or the respondent (as the case may be) has agreed to make that provision, and

(b) it has no reason to think that it would be contrary to the interests of justice to do so.

(3) Sub-paragraph (2) is subject to paragraph 12.

Textual Amendments

F500 Words in Sch. 6 para. 9(1) substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 181**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

Meaning of "financial provision" and of references to specified financial provision

10 (1) In this Part "financial provision" means any one or more of the following—

(a) the making of periodical payments by one civil partner to the other;

(b) the payment of a lump sum by one civil partner to the other;

(c) the making of periodical payments by one civil partner to a child of the family or to the other civil partner for the benefit of such a child;

(d) the payment by one party of a lump sum to a child of the family or to the other civil partner for the benefit of such a child.

(2) Any reference in this Part to the financial provision specified in an application or specified by the court is a reference—

(a) to the type of provision specified in the application or by the court,

(b) to the amount so specified as the amount of any payment to be made under the application or order, and

(c) in the case of periodical payments, to the term so specified as the term for which the payments are to be made.

Commencement Information

I59 Sch. 6 para. 10 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 6 para. 10 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 6 para. 10 in force for certain purposes at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and Sch. 6 para. 10 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

Evidence to be produced where respondent not present etc.

11 (1) This paragraph applies if—

(a) the respondent is not present, or

(b) is not represented by counsel or a solicitor,

at the hearing of an application for an order under this Part.

(2) The court must not make an order under this Part unless there is produced to it such evidence as may be prescribed by rules of court of—

(a) the consent of the respondent to the making of the order,

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) the financial resources of the respondent, and

(c) if the financial provision specified in the application includes or consists of provision in respect of a child of the family to be made by the applicant to the respondent for the benefit of the child or to the child, the financial resources of the child.

Commencement Information

I60 Sch. 6 para. 11 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 6 para. 11 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 6 para. 11(2) in force for certain purposes at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and Sch. 6 para. 11 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

Exercise of powers in relation to children

12 (1) This paragraph applies if the financial provision specified in an application under this Part—

(a) includes, or

(b) consists of,

provision in respect of a child of the family.

(2) The court must not make an order under this Part unless it considers that the provision which the applicant or the respondent (as the case may be) has agreed to make in respect of the child provides for, or makes a proper contribution towards, the financial needs of the child.

Power to make alternative orders

13 (1) This paragraph applies if on an application under this Part the court decides—

(a) that it would be contrary to the interests of justice to make an order for the making of the financial provision specified in the application, or

(b) that any financial provision which the applicant or the respondent (as the case may be) has agreed to make in respect of a child of the family does not provide for, or make a proper contribution towards, the financial needs of that child.

(2) If the court is of the opinion—

(a) that it would not be contrary to the interests of justice to make an order for the making of some other financial provision specified by the court, and

(b) that, in so far as that other financial provision contains any provision for a child of the family, it provides for, or makes a proper contribution towards, the financial needs of that child,

then, if both the civil partners agree, the court may order that the applicant or the respondent (as the case may be) is to make that other financial provision.

Relationship between this Part and Part 1

14 (1) A civil partner who has applied for an order under Part 1 is not precluded at any time before the determination of the application from applying for an order under this Part.

(2) If—

(a) an order is made under this Part on the application of either civil partner, and

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) either of them has also made an application for a Part 1 order,

the application for the Part 1 order is to be treated as if it had been withdrawn.

PART 3

ORDERS OF COURT WHERE CIVIL PARTNERS LIVING APART BY AGREEMENT

Powers of court where civil partners are living apart by agreement

15 (1) If—

(a) the civil partners have been living apart for a continuous period exceeding 3 months, neither civil partner having deserted the other, and

(b) one of the civil partners has been making periodical payments for the benefit of the other civil partner or of a child of the family,

the other civil partner may apply to **[**F501the family court**]** for an order under this Part.

(2) An application made under sub-paragraph (1) must specify the total amount of the payments made by the respondent during the period of 3 months immediately preceding the date of the making of the application.

(3) If on an application for an order under this Part the court is satisfied that the respondent has made the payments specified in the application, the court may make one or both of the orders set out in paragraph 16.

(4) Sub-paragraph (3) is subject to the provisions of this Schedule.

Textual Amendments

F501 Words in Sch. 6 para. 15(1) substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 182**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

The orders that may be made under this Part

16 (1) The orders are—

(a) an order that the respondent is to make to the applicant such periodical payments for such term as may be specified;

(b) an order that the respondent is to make—

(i) to the applicant for the benefit of a child of the family to whom the application relates, or

(ii) to a child of the family to whom the application relates.

such periodical payments for such term as may be specified.

(2) "Specified" means specified in the order.

Restrictions on orders under this Part

17 The court in the exercise of its powers under this Part must not require—

(a) the respondent to make payments whose total amount during any period of 3 months exceeds the total amount paid by him for the benefit of—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(i) the applicant, or

(ii) a child of the family,

during the period of 3 months immediately preceding the date of the making of the application;

(b) the respondent to make payments to or for the benefit of any person which exceed in amount the payments which the court considers that it would have required the respondent to make to or for the benefit of that person on an application under Part 1;

(c) payments to be made to or for the benefit of a child of the family who is not the respondent's child, unless the court considers that it would have made an order in favour of that child on an application under Part 1.

Relationship with powers under Part 1

18 (1) Sub-paragraph (2) applies if on an application under this Part the court considers that the orders which it has the power to make under this Part—

(a) would not provide reasonable maintenance for the applicant, or

(b) if the application relates to a child of the family, would not provide, or make a proper contribution towards, reasonable maintenance for that child.

(2) The court—

(a) must refuse to make an order under this Part, but

(b) may treat the application as if it were an application for an order under Part 1.

Matters to be taken into consideration

19 Paragraphs 4 to 6 apply in relation to an application for an order under this Part as they apply in relation to an application for an order under Part 1, subject to the modification that for the reference in paragraph 5(2)(c) to the occurrence of the conduct which is alleged as the ground of the application substitute a reference to the living apart of the civil partners.

PART 4

INTERIM ORDERS

Circumstances in which interim orders may be made

PROSPECTIVE

20 (1) This paragraph applies if an application has been made for an order under Part 1, 2 or 3.

(2) **[**F502The family court**]** may make an interim order—

(a) at any time before making a final order on, or dismissing, the application, F503...

F503(b) . . . . . .

F504(3) . . . . . .

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(4) Not more than one interim order may be made with respect to an application for an order under Part 1, 2 or 3.

(5) Sub-paragraph (4) does not affect the power of a court to make an interim order on a further application under Part 1, 2 or 3.

Textual Amendments

F502 Words in Sch. 6 para. 20(2) substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 183(2)(a)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

F503 Sch. 6 para. 20(2)(b) omitted (22.4.2014) by virtue of Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 183(2)(b)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

F504 Sch. 6 para. 20(3) omitted (22.4.2014) by virtue of Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 183(3)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

Meaning of interim order

21 (1) An interim order is an order requiring the respondent to make such periodical payments as the court thinks reasonable—

(a) to the applicant,

(b) to any child of the family who is under 18, or

(c) to the applicant for the benefit of such a child.

(2) In relation to an interim order in respect of an application for an order under Part 2 by the civil partner who has agreed to make the financial provision specified in the application, sub-paragraph (1) applies as if—

(a) the reference to the respondent were a reference to the applicant, and

(b) the references to the applicant were references to the respondent.

When interim order may start

22 (1) An interim order may provide for payments to be made from such date as the court may specify, except that the date must not be earlier than the date of the making of the application for an order under Part 1, 2 or 3.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) is subject to paragraph 27(7) and (8).

Payments which can be treated as having been paid on account

F505 23 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F505 Sch. 6 para. 23 omitted (22.4.2014) by virtue of Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 184**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

When interim order ceases to have effect

24 (1) Subject to sub-paragraphs (2) and (3), an interim order made on an application for an order under Part 1, 2 or 3 ceases to have effect on the earliest of the following dates—

(a) the date, if any, specified for the purpose in the interim order;

(b) the date on which the period of 3 months beginning with the date of the making of the interim order ends;

(c) the date on which **[**[F506]the family court**]** either makes a final order on, or dismisses, the application.

(2) If an interim order made under this Part would, but for this sub-paragraph, cease to have effect under sub-paragraph (1)(a) or (b)—

[[F507](a) the family court,**]**

[F508](b) . . . . . .

may by order provide that the interim order is to continue in force for a further period.

(3) An order continued in force under sub-paragraph (2) ceases to have effect on the earliest of the following dates—

(a) the date, if any, specified for the purpose in the order continuing it;

(b) the date on which ends the period of 3 months beginning with—

(i) the date of the making of the order continuing it, or

(ii) if more than one such order has been made with respect to the application, the date of the making of the first such order;

(c) the date on which the court either makes a final order on, or dismisses, the application.

Textual Amendments

F506 Words in Sch. 6 para. 24(1)(c) substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 185(2)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

F507 Words in Sch. 6 para. 24(2)(a) substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 185(3)(a)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

F508 Sch. 6 para. 24(2)(b) omitted (22.4.2014) by virtue of Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 185(3)(b)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

Supplementary

25 [F509](1) . . . . . .

(2) No appeal lies from the making of or refusal to make, the variation of or refusal to vary, or the revocation of or refusal to revoke, an interim order.

Textual Amendments

F509 Sch. 6 para. 25(1) omitted (22.4.2014) by virtue of Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 186**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

PART 5

COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION OF ORDERS UNDER PARTS 1, 2 AND 3

Duration of periodical payments order for a civil partner

26 (1) The court may specify in a periodical payments order made under paragraph 2(1)(a) or Part 3 in favour of a civil partner such term as it thinks fit, except that the term must not—

(a) begin before the date of the making of the application for the order, or

(b) extend beyond the death of either of the civil partners.

(2) If—

(a) a periodical payments order is made under paragraph 2(1)(a) or Part 3 in favour of one of the civil partners, and

(b) the civil partnership is subsequently dissolved or annulled but the order continues in force,

the periodical payments order ceases to have effect (regardless of anything in it) on the formation of a subsequent civil partnership or marriage by that civil partner, except in relation to any arrears due under the order on the date of that event.

Age limit on making orders for financial provision for children and duration of such orders

27 (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (5), no order is to be made under paragraph 2(1)(c) or (d) or Part 3 in favour of a child who has reached 18.

(2) The term to be specified in a periodical payments order made under paragraph 2(1)(c) or Part 3 in favour of a child may begin with—

(a) the date of the making of an application for the order or a later date, or

(b) a date ascertained in accordance with sub-paragraph (7) or (8).

(3) The term to be specified in such an order—

(a) must not in the first instance extend beyond the date of the birthday of the child next following his reaching the upper limit of the compulsory school age unless the court considers that in the circumstances of the case the welfare of the child requires that it should extend to a later date, and

(b) must not in any event, subject to sub-paragraph (5), extend beyond the date of the child's 18th birthday.

(4) Sub-paragraph (3)(a) must be read with section 8 of the Education Act 1996 (c. 56) (which applies to determine for the purposes of any enactment whether a person is of compulsory school age).

(5) Sub-paragraphs (1) and (3)(b) do not apply in the case of a child if it appears to the court that—

(a) the child is, or will be, or, if such an order were made without complying with either or both of those provisions, would be—

(i) receiving instruction at an educational establishment, or

(ii) undergoing training for a trade, profession or vocation,

whether or not also the child is, will be or would be, in gainful employment, or

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) there are special circumstances which justify the making of the order without complying with either or both of sub-paragraphs (1) and (3)(b).

(6) Any order made under paragraph 2(1)(c) or Part 3 in favour of a child, regardless of anything in the order, ceases to have effect on the death of the person liable to make payments under the order.

(7) If—

(a) a maintenance calculation ("current calculation") is in force with respect to a child, and

(b) an application is made for an order under paragraph 2(1)(c) or Part 3—

(i) in accordance with section 8 of the Child Support Act 1991 (c. 48), and

(ii) before the end of 6 months beginning with the making of the current calculation,

the term to be specified in any such order made on that application may be expressed to begin on, or at any time after, the earliest permitted date.

(8) "The earliest permitted date" is whichever is the later of—

(a) the date 6 months before the application is made, or

(b) the date on which the current calculation took effect or, where successive maintenance calculations have been continuously in force with respect to a child, on which the first of those calculations took effect.

(9) If—

(a) a maintenance calculation ceases to have effect by or under any provision of the 1991 Act, and

(b) an application is made, before the end of 6 months beginning with the relevant date, for a periodical payments order under paragraph 2(1)(c) or Part 3 in favour of a child with respect to whom that maintenance calculation was in force immediately before it ceased to have effect,

the term to be specified in any such order, or in any interim order under Part 4, made on that application, may begin with the date on which that maintenance calculation ceased to have effect or any later date.

(10) "The relevant date" means the date on which the maintenance calculation ceased to have effect.

(11) In this Schedule "maintenance calculation" has the same meaning as it has in the 1991 Act by virtue of section 54 of the 1991 Act as read with any regulations in force under that section.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C43 Sch. 6 para. 27(7)-(11) applied (with modifications) (5.12.2005) (temp.) by The Civil Partnership (Pensions, Social Security and Child Support) (Consequential, etc. Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2877), art. 2(5), **Sch. 5 para. 2(4)**

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Application of paragraphs 26 and 27 to Part 2 orders

28 (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (3), paragraph 26 applies in relation to an order under Part 2 which requires periodical payments to be made to a civil partner for his own benefit as it applies in relation to an order under paragraph 2(1)(a).

(2) Subject to sub-paragraph (3), paragraph 27 applies in relation to an order under Part 2 for the making of financial provision in respect of a child of the family as it applies in relation to an order under paragraph 2(1)(c) or (d).

(3) If—

(a) the court makes an order under Part 2 which contains provision for the making of periodical payments, and

(b) by virtue of paragraph 14, an application for an order under Part 1 is treated as if it had been withdrawn,

the term which may be specified under Part 2 as the term for which the payments are to be made may begin with the date of the making of the application for the order under Part 1 or any later date.

Effect on certain orders of parties living together

29 (1) Sub-paragraph (2) applies if periodical payments are required to be made to a civil partner (whether for the civil partner's own benefit or for the benefit of a child of the family)—

(a) by an order made under Part 1 or 2, or

(b) by an interim order made under Part 4 (otherwise than on an application under Part 3).

(2) The order is enforceable even though—

(a) the civil partners are living with each other at the date of the making of the order, or

(b) if they are not living with each other at that date, they subsequently resume living with each other;

but the order ceases to have effect if after that date the parties continue to live with each other, or resume living with each other, for a continuous period exceeding 6 months.

(3) Sub-paragraph (4) applies if—

(a) an order is made under Part 1 or 2 which requires periodical payments to be made to a child of the family, or

(b) an interim order is made under Part 4 (otherwise than on an application under Part 3) which requires periodical payments to be made to a child of the family.

(4) Unless the court otherwise directs, the order continues to have effect and is enforceable even if—

(a) the civil partners are living with each other at the date of the making of the order, or

(b) if they are not living with each other at that date, they subsequently resume living with each other.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(5) An order made under Part 3, and any interim order made on an application for an order under that Part, ceases to have effect if the civil partners resume living with each other.

(6) If an order made under this Schedule ceases to have effect under—

(a) sub-paragraph (2) or (5), or

(b) a direction given under sub-paragraph (4),

[F510the family court**]** may, on an application made by either civil partner, make an order declaring that the order ceased to have effect from such date as the court may specify.

Textual Amendments

F510 Words in Sch. 6 para. 29(6) substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 187**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

PART 6

VARIATION ETC. OF ORDERS

Power to vary, revoke, suspend or revive order

30 (1) If **[**F511the family court**]** has made an order for the making of periodical payments under Part 1, 2 or 3, the court may, on an application made under this Part—

(a) vary or revoke the order,

(b) suspend any provision of it temporarily, or

(c) revive any provision so suspended.

(2) If **[**F511the family court**]** has made an interim order under Part 4, the court may, on an application made under this Part—

(a) vary or revoke the order,

(b) suspend any provision of it temporarily, or

(c) revive any provision so suspended,

except that it may not by virtue of this sub-paragraph extend the period for which the order is in force.

Textual Amendments

F511 Words in Sch. 6 para. 30(1)(2) substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 188**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

Powers to order lump sum on variation

31 (1) If **[**F512the family court**]** has made an order under paragraph 2(1)(a) or (c) for the making of periodical payments, the court may, on an application made under this Part, make an order for the payment of a lump sum under paragraph 2(1)(b) or (d).

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(2) If **[**F512the family court**]** has made an order under Part 2 for the making of periodical payments by a civil partner the court may, on an application made under this Part, make an order for the payment of a lump sum by that civil partner—

(a) to the other civil partner, or

(b) to a child of the family or to that other civil partner for the benefit of that child.

(3) Where the court has power by virtue of this paragraph to make an order for the payment of a lump sum—

(a) the amount of the lump sum must not exceed the maximum amount that may at that time be required to be paid under Part 1, but

(b) the court may make an order for the payment of a lump sum not exceeding that amount even if the person required to pay it was required to pay a lump sum by a previous order under this Schedule.

(4) Where—

(a) the court has power by virtue of this paragraph to make an order for the payment of a lump sum, and

(b) the respondent or the applicant (as the case may be) has agreed to pay a lump sum of an amount exceeding the maximum amount that may at that time be required to be paid under Part 1,

the court may, regardless of sub-paragraph (3), make an order for the payment of a lump sum of that amount.

Textual Amendments

F512 Words in Sch. 6 para. 31(1)(2) substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 189**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

Power to specify when order as varied is to take effect

32 An order made under this Part which varies an order for the making of periodical payments may provide that the payments as so varied are to be made from such date as the court may specify, except that, subject to paragraph 33, the date must not be earlier than the date of the making of the application under this Part.

33 (1) If—

(a) there is in force an order ("the order")—

(i) under paragraph 2(1)(c),

(ii) under Part 2 making provision of a kind set out in paragraph 10(1)(c) (regardless of whether it makes provision of any other kind mentioned in paragraph 10(1)(c)),

(iii) under paragraph 16(1)(b), or

(iv) which is an interim order under Part 4 under which the payments are to be made to a child or to the applicant for the benefit of a child,

(b) the order requires payments specified in it to be made to or for the benefit of more than one child without apportioning those payments between them,

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(c) a maintenance calculation ("the calculation") is made with respect to one or more, but not all, of the children with respect to whom those payments are to be made, and

(d) an application is made, before the end of 6 months beginning with the date on which the calculation was made, for the variation or revocation of the order,

the court may, in exercise of its powers under this Part to vary or revoke the order, direct that the variation or revocation is to take effect from the date on which the calculation took effect or any later date.

(2) If—

(a) an order ("the child order") of a kind prescribed for the purposes of section 10(1) of the Child Support Act 1991 is affected by a maintenance calculation,

(b) on the date on which the child order became so affected there was in force an order ("the civil partner's order")—

(i) under paragraph 2(1)(a),

(ii) under Part 2 making provision of a kind set out in paragraph 10(1)(a) (regardless of whether it makes provision of any other kind mentioned in paragraph 10(1)(a)),

(iii) under paragraph 16(1)(a), or

(iv) which is an interim order under Part 4 under which the payments are to be made to the applicant (otherwise than for the benefit of a child), and

(c) an application is made, before the end of 6 months beginning with the date on which the maintenance calculation was made, for the civil partner's order to be varied or revoked,

the court may, in exercise of its powers under this Part to vary or revoke the civil partner's order, direct that the variation or revocation is to take effect from the date on which the child order became so affected or any later date.

(3) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (2), an order is affected if it ceases to have effect or is modified by or under section 10 of the 1991 Act.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C44 Sch. 6 para. 33(1)-(3) applied (with modifications) (5.12.2005) (temp.) by The Civil Partnership (Pensions, Social Security and Child Support) (Consequential, etc. Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2877), art. 2(5), **Sch. 5 para. 2(5)**

Matters to which court is to have regard in exercising powers under this Part

34 (1) In exercising the powers conferred by this Part the court must, so far as it appears to the court just to do so, give effect to any agreement which has been reached between the civil partners in relation to the application.

(2) If—

(a) there is no such agreement, or

(b) if the court decides not to give effect to the agreement,

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

the court must have regard to all the circumstances of the case, giving first consideration to the welfare while under 18 of any child of the family who has not reached 18.

(3) Those circumstances include any change in any of the matters—

(a) to which the court was required to have regard when making the order to which the application relates, or

(b) in the case of an application for the variation or revocation of an order made under Part 2 or on an appeal made by virtue of paragraph 46, to which the court would have been required to have regard if that order had been made under Part 1.

Variation of orders for periodical payments: further provisions

35 (1) The power of the court under paragraphs 30 to 34 to vary an order for the making of periodical payments includes power, if the court is satisfied that payment has not been made in accordance with the order, to exercise one of its powers under section **[**F513 1(4) and (4A) of the Maintenance Enforcement Act 1991**]** .

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) is subject to paragraph 37.

Textual Amendments

F513 Words in Sch. 6 para. 35(1) substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 190**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

F514 36 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F514 Sch. 6 para. 36 omitted (22.4.2014) by virtue of Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 191**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

37 (1) Before varying the order by exercising one of its powers under section **[**F515 1(4) and (4A) of the 1991**]** Act, the court must have regard to any representations made by the parties to the application.

F516 (2) . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F515 Words in Sch. 6 para. 37(1) substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 192(a)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

F516 Sch. 6 para. 37(2) omitted (22.4.2014) by virtue of Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 192(b)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

38 (1) Section **[**F517 1(6) of the 1991**]** Act (power of court to order that account be opened) applies for the purposes of **[**F518 paragraph 35**]** as it applies for the purposes of section **[**F519 1 of the 1991 Act**]**.

(2) None of the powers of the court F520 ... conferred by paragraphs 35 to 37 and sub-paragraph (1) is exercisable in relation to an order under this Schedule for the making of periodical payments **[**F521 unless, at the time when the order was made, the person required to make the payments was ordinarily resident in England and Wales.**]**

Textual Amendments

F517 Words in Sch. 6 para. 38(1) substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 193(a)(i)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

F518 Words in Sch. 6 para. 38(1) substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 193(a)(ii)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

F519 Words in Sch. 6 para. 38(1) substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 193(a)(iii)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

F520 Words in Sch. 6 para. 38(2) omitted (22.4.2014) by virtue of Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 193(b)(i)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

F521 Words in Sch. 6 para. 38(2) substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 193(b)(ii)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

Persons who may apply under this Part

39 An application under paragraph 30 **[**F522 or 31**]** may be made—

(a) if it is for the variation or revocation of an order under Part 1, 2, 3 or 4 for periodical payments, by either civil partner, and

(b) if it is for the variation of an order under paragraph 2(1)(c) or Part 2 or 3 for periodical payments to or in respect of a child, also by the child himself, if he has reached 16.

Textual Amendments

F522 Words in Sch. 6 para. 39 substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 194**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

Revival of orders for periodical payments

40 (1) If an order made by **[**F523 the family court**]** under this Schedule for the making of periodical payments to or in respect of a child (other than an interim order) ceases to have effect—

(a) on the date on which the child reaches 16, or

(b) at any time after that date but before or on the date on which he reaches 18,

the child may apply to the court which made the order for an order for its revival.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(2) If on such an application it appears to the court that—

(a) the child is, will be or (if an order were made under this sub-paragraph) would be receiving instruction at an educational establishment or undergoing training for a trade, profession or vocation, whether or not while in gainful employment, or

(b) there are special circumstances which justify the making of an order under this sub-paragraph,

the court may by order revive the order from such date as the court may specify, not being earlier than the date of the making of the application.

(3) Any order revived under this paragraph may be varied or revoked under paragraphs 30 to 34 in the same way as it could have been varied or revoked had it continued in being.

Textual Amendments

F523 Words in Sch. 6 para. 40(1) substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 195**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

Variation of instalments of lump sum

F524 41 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F524 Sch. 6 para. 41 omitted (22.4.2014) by virtue of Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 196**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

Supplementary provisions with respect to variation and revocation of orders

F525 42 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F525 Sch. 6 para. 42 omitted (22.4.2014) by virtue of Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 196**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

PART 7

ARREARS AND REPAYMENTS

Enforcement etc. of orders for payment of money

43 Section 32 of the Domestic Proceedings and Magistrates' Courts Act 1978 (c. 22) applies in relation to orders under this Schedule as it applies in relation to orders under Part 1 of that Act.

Orders for repayment after cessation of order because of subsequent civil partnership etc.

44 (1) Sub-paragraphs (3) and (4) apply if—

(a) an order made under paragraph 2(1)(a) or Part 2 or 3 has, under paragraph 26(2), ceased to have effect because of the formation of a subsequent civil partnership or marriage by the party ("R") in whose favour it was made, and

(b) the person liable to make payments under the order ("P") made payments in accordance with it in respect of a relevant period in the mistaken belief that the order was still subsisting.

(2) "Relevant period" means a period after the date of the formation of the subsequent civil partnership or marriage.

(3) No proceedings in respect of a cause of action arising out of the circumstances mentioned in sub-paragraph (1)(a) and (b) is maintainable by P (or P's personal representatives) against R (or R's personal representatives).

(4) But on an application made under this paragraph by P (or P's personal representatives) against R (or R's personal representatives) **[**F526the family court**]** —

(a) may order the respondent to pay to the applicant a sum equal to the amount of the payments made in respect of the relevant period, or

(b) if it appears to the court that it would be unjust to make that order, may—

(i) order the respondent to pay to the applicant such lesser sum as it thinks fit, or

(ii) dismiss the application.

(5) An order under this paragraph for the payment of any sum may provide for the payment of that sum by instalments of such amount as may be specified in the order.

(6) An application under this paragraph—

(a) may **[**F527(but need not)**]** be made in proceedings F528... for leave to enforce, or the enforcement of, the payment of arrears under an order made under paragraph 2(1)(a) or Part 2 or 3, F529...

F529(b) . . . . . .

F529...

F530(7) . . . . . .

(8) Subject to sub-paragraph (9)—

(a) **[**F531an officer of the family court**]** is not liable for any act done by him**[**F532, in pursuance of an order under paragraph 2(1)(a), or Part 2 or 3, requiring payments to be made to the court or an officer of the court,**]** after the date

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

on which that order ceased to have effect because of the formation of a subsequent civil partnership or marriage by the person entitled to payments under it, and

(b) the collecting officer under an attachment of earnings order made to secure payments under **[**F533an order**]** under paragraph 2(1)(a), or Part 2 or 3, is not liable for any act done by him**[**F534, after the date on which that order ceased to have effect because of the formation of a subsequent civil partnership or marriage by the person entitled to payments under it,**]** in accordance with any enactment or rule of court specifying how payments made to him in compliance with the attachment of earnings order are to be dealt with.

(9) Sub-paragraph (8) applies if (but only if) the act—

(a) was one which he would have been under a duty to do had the order under paragraph 2(1)(a) or Part 2 or 3 not ceased to have effect, and

(b) was done before notice in writing of the formation of the subsequent civil partnership or marriage was given to him by or on behalf of—

(i) the person entitled to payments under the order,

(ii) the person liable to make payments under it, or

(iii) the personal representatives of either of them.

(10) In this paragraph "collecting officer", in relation to an attachment of earnings order, means—

(a) the officer of the High Court, or

(b) the officer designated by the Lord Chancellor,

to whom a person makes payments in compliance with the order.

Textual Amendments

F526 Words in Sch. 6 para. 44(4) substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 197(2)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

F527 Words in Sch. 6 para. 44(6) inserted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 197(3)(a)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

F528 Words in Sch. 6 para. 44(6) omitted (22.4.2014) by virtue of Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 197(3)(b)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

F529 Words in Sch. 6 para. 44(6) omitted (22.4.2014) by virtue of Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 197(3)(c)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

F530 Sch. 6 para. 44(7) omitted (22.4.2014) by virtue of Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 197(4)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

F531 Words in Sch. 6 para. 44(8)(a) substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 197(5)(a)(i)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

F532 Words in Sch. 6 para. 44(8)(a) substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 197(5)(a)(ii)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

F533 Words in Sch. 6 para. 44(8)(b) substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 197(5)(b)(i)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

F534 Words in Sch. 6 para. 44(8)(b) substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 197(5)(b)(ii)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

PART 8

SUPPLEMENTARY

Restrictions on making of orders under this Schedule: welfare of children

45 If—

(a) an application is made by a civil partner for an order under Part 1, 2 or 3, and

(b) there is a child of the family who is under 18,

the court must not dismiss or make a final order on the application until it has decided whether to exercise any of its powers under the Children Act 1989 (c. 41) with respect to the child.

Constitution of courts, powers of High Court and county court in relation to orders and appeals

46 The following provisions of the Domestic Proceedings and Magistrates' Courts Act 1978 (c. 22) apply in relation to an order under this Schedule relating to a civil partnership as they apply in relation to an order under Part 1 of that Act relating to a marriage—

(a) section 28 (powers of the High Court and **[**F535the family court**]** in relation to certain orders),

F536(b) . . . . . .

F536(c) . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F535 Words in Sch. 6 para. 46(a) substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 198(a)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

F536 Sch. 6 para. 46(b)(c) omitted (22.4.2014) by virtue of Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 198(b)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

Provisions as to jurisdiction and procedure

47 F537(1) . . . . . .

F538(1A) . . . . . .

(2) Any jurisdiction conferred on **[**F539the family court**]** by this Schedule is exercisable even if any party to the proceedings is not domiciled in England and Wales.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

[F540(3) The Lord Chancellor may make a determination for the purposes of sub-paragraph (1) only with the concurrence of the Lord Chief Justice.

(4) The Lord Chief Justice may nominate a judicial office holder (as defined in section 109(4) of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005) to exercise his functions under this paragraph.**]**

F541(5) . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F537 Sch. 6 para. 47(1) omitted (22.4.2014) by virtue of Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 199(2)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

F538 Sch. 6 para. 47(1A) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Jurisdiction and Judgments (Family) (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/519), reg. 1(1), **Sch. para. 25(5)(a)** (with reg. 8) (as amended by S.I. 2020/1574, regs. 1, 5(2)); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

F539 Words in Sch. 6 para. 47(2) substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 199(4)**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

F540 Sch. 6 para. 47(3)(4) inserted (3.4.2006) by The Lord Chancellor (Transfer of Functions and Supplementary Provisions) (No.2) Order 2006 (S.I. 2006/1016), art. 2, **Sch. 1 para. 23**

F541 Sch. 6 para. 47(5) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Jurisdiction and Judgments (Family) (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/519), reg. 1(1), **Sch. para. 25(5)(b)** (with reg. 8) (as amended by S.I. 2020/1574, regs. 1, 5(2)); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

Meaning of "child of the family"

48 In this Schedule "child of the family", in relation to two people who are civil partners of each other, means—

(a) a child of both of them, and

(b) any other child, other than a child placed with them as foster parents by a local authority or voluntary organisation, who has been treated by both the civil partners as a child of their family.

SCHEDULE 7 Section 72(4)

FINANCIAL RELIEF IN ENGLAND AND WALES AFTER OVERSEAS DISSOLUTION ETC. OF A CIVIL PARTNERSHIP

PART 1

FINANCIAL RELIEF

Part applies where civil partnership has been dissolved etc. overseas

1 (1) This Part of this Schedule applies where—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) a civil partnership has been dissolved or annulled, or the civil partners have been legally separated, by means of judicial or other proceedings in an overseas country, and

(b) the dissolution, annulment or legal separation is entitled to be recognised as valid in England and Wales.

(2) This Part of this Schedule applies even if the date of the dissolution, annulment or legal separation is earlier than the date on which the Part comes into force.

(3) In this Schedule "overseas country" means a country or territory outside the British Islands.

(4) In this Part of this Schedule "child of the family" means—

(a) a child of both of the civil partners, and

(b) any other child, other than a child placed with them as foster parents or by a local authority or voluntary organisation, who has been treated by both the civil partners as a child of their family.

Either civil partner may make application for financial relief

2 (1) Either of the civil partners may make an application to the court for an order under paragraph 9 or 13.

(2) The rights conferred by sub-paragraph (1) are subject to—

(a) paragraph 3 (civil partner may not apply after forming subsequent civil partnership etc.), and

(b) paragraph 4 (application may not be made until leave to make it has been granted).

(3) An application for an order under paragraph 9 or 13 must be made in a manner prescribed by rules of court.

Commencement Information

I61 Sch. 7 para. 2 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 7 para. 2 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 7 para. 2(3) in force for certain purposes at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and Sch. 7 para. 2 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

No application after formation of subsequent civil partnership or marriage

3 (1) If—

(a) the civil partnership has been dissolved or annulled, and

(b) after the dissolution or annulment, one of the civil partners forms a subsequent civil partnership or marriage,

that civil partner shall not be entitled to make, in relation to the civil partnership, an application for an order under paragraph 9 or 13.

(2) The reference in sub-paragraph (1) to the forming of a subsequent civil partnership or marriage includes a reference to the forming of a civil partnership or marriage which is by law void or voidable.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Leave of court required for making of application

4 (1) No application for an order under paragraph 9 or 13 shall be made unless the leave of the court has been obtained in accordance with rules of court.

(2) The court shall not grant leave under this paragraph unless it considers that there is substantial ground for the making of an application for such an order.

(3) The court may grant leave under this paragraph notwithstanding that an order has been made by a court in a country outside England and Wales requiring the other civil partner to make any payment, or transfer any property, to the applicant or to a child of the family.

(4) Leave under this paragraph may be granted subject to such conditions as the court thinks fit.

Commencement Information

I62 Sch. 7 para. 4 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 7 para. 4 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 7 para. 4(1) in force for certain purposes at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and Sch. 7 para. 4 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

Interim orders for maintenance

5 (1) Where—

(a) leave is granted under paragraph 4, and

(b) it appears to the court that the civil partner who applied for leave, or any child of the family, is in immediate need of financial assistance,

the court may, subject to sub-paragraph (4), make an interim order for maintenance.

(2) An interim order for maintenance is one requiring the other civil partner to make—

(a) to the applicant, or

(b) to the child,

such periodical payments as the court thinks reasonable for such term as the court thinks reasonable.

(3) The term must be one—

(a) beginning not earlier than the date of the grant of leave, and

(b) ending with the date of the determination of the application made under the leave.

(4) If it appears to the court that the court will, in the event of an application being made under the leave, have jurisdiction to entertain the application only under paragraph 7(4), the court shall not make an interim order under this paragraph.

(5) An interim order under this paragraph may be made subject to such conditions as the court thinks fit.

Paragraphs 7 and 8 apply where application made for relief under paragraph 9 or 13

6 Paragraphs 7 and 8 apply where—

(a) one of the civil partners has been granted leave under paragraph 4, and

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) acting under the leave, that civil partner makes an application for an order under paragraph 9 or 13.

Jurisdiction of the court

7 (1) **[**F542Subject to sub-paragraph (6),**]** the court shall have jurisdiction to entertain the application only if one or more of the following jurisdictional requirements is satisfied.

(2) The first requirement is that either of the civil partners—

(a) was domiciled in England and Wales on the date when the leave was applied for, or

(b) was domiciled in England and Wales on the date when the dissolution, annulment or legal separation took effect in the overseas country in which it was obtained.

(3) The second is that either of the civil partners—

(a) was habitually resident in England and Wales throughout the period of one year ending with the date when the leave was applied for, or

(b) was habitually resident in England and Wales throughout the period of one year ending with the date on which the dissolution, annulment or legal separation took effect in the overseas country in which it was obtained.

(4) The third is that either or both of the civil partners had, at the date when the leave was applied for, a beneficial interest in possession in a dwelling-house situated in England or Wales which was at some time during the civil partnership a civil partnership home of the civil partners.

(5) In sub-paragraph (4) "possession" includes receipt of, or the right to receive, rents and profits, but here "rent" does not include mortgage interest.

[F543(6) If an application or part of an application relates to a matter **[**F544in relation to which Article 18 of the 2007 Hague Convention applies, the court may not entertain that application or part of it except where permitted by Article 18**]**.

(7) In sub-paragraph (6) **[**F545"the 2007 Hague Convention" means the Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance concluded on 23 November 2007 at The Hague**].]**

Textual Amendments

F542 Words in Sch. 7 para. 7(1) inserted (18.6.2011) by The Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments (Maintenance) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 2011/1484), reg. 9, **Sch. 7 para. 16(6)(a)(i)**

F543 Sch. 7 para. 7(6)(7) inserted (18.6.2011) by The Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments (Maintenance) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 2011/1484), reg. 9, **Sch. 7 para. 16(6)(a)(ii)**

F544 Words in Sch. 7 para. 7(6) substituted by S.I. 2019/519, Sch. para. 25(6)(a)(i) (as substituted (31.12.2020) by The Jurisdiction, Judgments and Applicable Law (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/1574), regs. 1, **5(3)(j)(iii)**)

F545 Words in Sch. 7 para. 7(7) substituted by S.I. 2019/519, Sch. para. 25(6)(a)(ii) (as substituted (31.12.2020) by The Jurisdiction, Judgments and Applicable Law (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/1574), regs. 1, **5(3)(j)(iii)**)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Duty of the court to consider whether England and Wales is appropriate venue for application

8 (1) Before deciding the application, the court must consider whether in all the circumstances of the case it would be appropriate for an order of the kind applied for to be made by a court in England and Wales.

(2) F546... if the court is not satisfied that it would be appropriate, the court shall dismiss the application.

(3) The court must, in particular, have regard to the following matters—

(a) the connection which the civil partners have with England and Wales;

(b) the connection which the civil partners have with the country in which the civil partnership was dissolved or annulled or in which they were legally separated;

(c) the connection which the civil partners have with any other country outside England and Wales;

(d) any financial benefit which, in consequence of the dissolution, annulment or legal separation—

(i) the applicant, or

(ii) a child of the family,

has received, or is likely to receive, by virtue of any agreement or the operation of the law of a country outside England and Wales;

(e) in a case where an order has been made by a court in a country outside England and Wales requiring the other civil partner—

(i) to make any payment, or

(ii) to transfer any property,

for the benefit of the applicant or a child of the family, the financial relief given by the order and the extent to which the order has been complied with or is likely to be complied with;

(f) any right which the applicant has, or has had, to apply for financial relief from the other civil partner under the law of any country outside England and Wales and, if the applicant has omitted to exercise that right, the reason for that omission;

(g) the availability in England and Wales of any property in respect of which an order under this Schedule in favour of the applicant could be made;

(h) the extent to which any order made under this Schedule is likely to be enforceable;

(i) the length of time which has elapsed since the date of the dissolution, annulment or legal separation.

F547(4) . . . . . .

F548(5) . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F546 Words in Sch. 7 para. 8(2) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Jurisdiction and Judgments (Family) (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/519), reg. 1(1), **Sch. para. 25(6)(b)(i)** (with reg. 8) (as amended by S.I. 2020/1574, regs. 1, 5(2)); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

F547 Sch. 7 para. 8(4) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Jurisdiction and Judgments (Family) (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/519), reg. 1(1), **Sch. para. 25(6)(b)(ii)** (with reg. 8) (as amended by S.I. 2020/1574, regs. 1, 5(2)); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

F548 Sch. 7 para. 8(5) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Jurisdiction and Judgments (Family) (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/519), reg. 1(1), **Sch. para. 25(6)(b)(iii)** (with reg. 8) (as amended by S.I. 2020/1574, regs. 1, 5(2)); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

*Orders for financial provision, property adjustment **[**F549**,** pension sharing and pension compensation sharing**]***

Textual Amendments

F549 Words in Sch. 7 para. 9 cross-heading substituted (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, **Sch. 6 para. 20(1)**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

9 (1) Sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) apply where one of the civil partners has made an application for an order under this paragraph.

(2) If the civil partnership has been dissolved or annulled, the court may on the application make any one or more of the orders which it could make under Part 1, 2 **[**F550, 4 or 4A**]** of Schedule 5 (financial provision, property adjustment **[**F551, pension sharing and pension compensation sharing**]**) if a dissolution order or nullity order had been made in respect of the civil partnership under Chapter 2 of Part 2 of this Act.

(3) If the civil partners have been legally separated, the court may on the application make any one or more of the orders which it could make under Part 1 or 2 of Schedule 5 (financial provision and property adjustment) if a separation order had been made in respect of the civil partners under Chapter 2 of Part 2 of this Act.

(4) Where under sub-paragraph (2) or (3) the court makes—

(a) an order which, if made under Schedule 5, would be a secured periodical payments order,

(b) an order for the payment of a lump sum, or

(c) an order which, if made under that Schedule, would be a property adjustment order,

then, on making that order or at any time afterwards, the court may make any order which it could make under Part 3 of Schedule 5 (sale of property) if the order under sub-paragraph (2) or (3) had been made under that Schedule.

(5) The powers under sub-paragraphs (2) to (4) are subject to paragraph 11.

Textual Amendments

F550 Words in Sch. 7 para. 9(2) substituted (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, **Sch. 6 para. 20(2)(a)**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

F551 Words in Sch. 7 para. 9(2) substituted (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, **Sch. 6 para. 20(2)(b)**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

Matters to which court is to have regard in exercising its powers under paragraph 9

10 (1) The court, in deciding—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) whether to exercise its powers under paragraph 9, and

(b) if so, in what way,

must act in accordance with this paragraph.

(2) The court must have regard to all the circumstances of the case, giving first consideration to the welfare, while under 18, of any child of the family who has not reached 18.

(3) The court, in exercising its powers under paragraph 9 in relation to one of the civil partners—

(a) must in particular have regard to the matters mentioned in paragraph 21(2) of Schedule 5, and

(b) shall be under duties corresponding to those imposed by sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) of paragraph 23 of that Schedule (duties to consider termination of financial obligations) where it decides to exercise under paragraph 9 powers corresponding to the powers referred to in those sub-paragraphs.

(4) The matters to which the court is to have regard under sub-paragraph (3)(a), so far as relating to paragraph 21(2)(a) of Schedule 5 (regard to be had to financial resources), include—

(a) any benefits under a pension arrangement which either of the civil partners has or is likely to have, and

(b) any PPF compensation to which a civil partner is or is likely to be entitled,

(whether or not in the foreseeable future).

(5) The matters to which the court is to have regard under sub-paragraph (3)(a), so far as relating to paragraph 21(2)(h) of Schedule 5 (regard to be had to benefits that cease to be acquirable), include—

(a) any benefits under a pension arrangement which, because of the dissolution or annulment of the civil partnership, one of the civil partners will lose the chance of acquiring, and

(b) any PPF compensation which, because of the making of the dissolution or nullity order, a civil partner will lose the chance of acquiring entitlement to.

(6) The court, in exercising its powers under paragraph 9 in relation to a child of the family, must in particular have regard to the matters mentioned in paragraph 22(2) of Schedule 5.

(7) The court, in exercising its powers under paragraph 9 against a civil partner ("A") in favour of a child of the family who is not A's child, must also have regard to the matters mentioned in paragraph 22(3) of Schedule 5.

(8) Where an order has been made by a court outside England and Wales for—

(a) the making of payments, or

(b) the transfer of property,

by one of the civil partners, the court in considering in accordance with this paragraph the financial resources of the other civil partner, or of a child of the family, shall have regard to the extent to which that order has been complied with or is likely to be complied with.

(9) In this paragraph—

(a) "pension arrangement" has the same meaning as in Part 4 of Schedule 5,

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) references to benefits under a pension arrangement include any benefits by way of pension, whether under a pension arrangement or not, and

(c) "PPF compensation" has the same meaning as in [F552]. . . Schedule 5.

Textual Amendments

F552 Words in Sch. 7 para. 10(9)(c) repealed (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 148, 149, Sch. 6 para. 20(3), **Sch. 11 Pt. 4**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

Commencement Information

I63 Sch. 7 para. 10 wholly in force at 6.4.2006; Sch. 7 para. 10 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 7 para. 10(1)(2)(3)(4)(a)(5)(a)(6)(7)(8)(9)(a)(b) in force at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1 and Sch. 7 para. 10(4)(b)(5)(b)(9)(c) in force at 6.4.2006 by S.I. 2006/639, **art. 2(b)**

Restriction of powers under paragraph 9 where jurisdiction depends on civil partnership home in England or Wales

11 (1) Sub-paragraphs (2) to (4) apply where the court has jurisdiction to entertain an application for an order under paragraph 9 only because a dwelling-house which was a civil partnership home of the civil partners is situated in England or Wales.

(2) The court may make under paragraph 9 any one or more of the following orders (but no other)—

(a) an order that one of the civil partners shall pay to the other a specified lump sum;

(b) an order that one of the civil partners shall pay to a child of the family, or to a specified person for the benefit of a child of the family, a specified lump sum;

(c) an order that one of the civil partners shall transfer that civil partner's interest in the dwelling-house, or a specified part of that interest—

(i) to the other,

(ii) to a child of the family, or

(iii) to a specified person for the benefit of a child of the family;

(d) an order that a settlement of the interest of one of the civil partners in the dwelling-house, or a specified part of that interest, be made to the satisfaction of the court for the benefit of any one or more of—

(i) the other civil partner and the children of the family, or

(ii) either or any of them;

(e) an order varying for the benefit of any one or more of—

(i) the civil partners and the children of the family, or

(ii) either or any of them,

a relevant settlement so far as that settlement relates to an interest in the dwelling-house;

(f) an order extinguishing or reducing the interest of either of the civil partners under a relevant settlement so far as that interest is an interest in the dwelling-house;

(g) an order for the sale of the interest of one of the civil partners in the dwelling-house.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(3) Where under paragraph 9 the court makes just one order for the payment of a lump sum by one of the civil partners, the amount of the lump sum must not exceed the amount specified in sub-paragraph (5).

(4) Where under paragraph 9 the court makes two or more orders each of which is an order for the payment of a lump sum by the same civil partner, the total of the amounts of the lump sums must not exceed the amount specified in sub-paragraph (5).

(5) That amount is—

(a) if the interest of the paying civil partner in the dwelling-house is sold in pursuance of an order made under sub-paragraph (2)(g), the amount of the proceeds of sale of that interest after deducting from those proceeds any costs incurred in the sale of that interest;

(b) if that interest is not so sold, the amount which in the opinion of the court represents the value of that interest.

(6) Where the interest of one of the civil partners in the dwelling-house is held jointly or in common with any other person or persons—

(a) the reference in sub-paragraph (2)(g) to the interest of one of the civil partners shall be construed as including a reference to the interest of that other person, or the interest of those other persons, in the dwelling-house, and

(b) the reference in sub-paragraph (5)(a) to the amount of the proceeds of a sale ordered under sub-paragraph (2)(g) shall be construed as a reference to that part of those proceeds which is attributable to the interest of that civil partner in the dwelling-house.

(7) In sub-paragraph (2)—

"relevant settlement" means a settlement made, during the subsistence of the civil partnership or in anticipation of its formation, on the civil partners, including one made by will or codicil;

"specified" means specified in the order.

Consent orders under paragraph 9

12 (1) On an application for a consent order under paragraph 9, the court may make an order in the terms agreed on the basis only of the prescribed information furnished with the application.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) does not apply if the court has reason to think that there are other circumstances into which it ought to inquire.

(3) Sub-paragraph (1) applies to an application for a consent order varying or discharging an order under paragraph 9 as it applies to an application for such an order.

(4) Sub-paragraph (1) applies despite paragraph 10.

(5) In this paragraph—

"consent order", in relation to an application for an order, means an order in the terms applied for to which the respondent agrees;

"prescribed" means prescribed by rules of court.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Commencement Information

I64 Sch. 7 para. 12 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 7 para. 12 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 7 para. 12(1)(5) in force for certain purposes at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and Sch. 7 para. 12 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

Orders for transfers of tenancies of dwelling-houses

13 (1) This paragraph applies if—

(a) an application is made by one of the civil partners for an order under this paragraph, and

(b) one of the civil partners is entitled, either in his own right or jointly with the other civil partner, to occupy a dwelling-house in England or Wales by virtue of a tenancy which is a relevant tenancy within the meaning of Schedule 7 to the Family Law Act 1996 (c. 27).

(2) The court may make in relation to that dwelling-house any order which it could make under Part 2 of that Schedule (order transferring tenancy or switching statutory tenants) if it had power to make a property adjustment order under Part 2 of Schedule 5 to this Act with respect to the civil partnership.

(3) The provisions of paragraphs 10, 11 and 14(1) of Schedule 7 to the Family Law Act 1996 (payments by transferee, pre-transfer liabilities and right of landlord to be heard) apply in relation to any order under this paragraph as they apply to any order under Part 2 of that Schedule.

Application to orders under paragraphs 5 and 9 of provisions of Schedule 5

14 (1) The following provisions of Schedule 5 apply in relation to an order made under paragraph 5 or 9 of this Schedule as they apply in relation to a like order made under that Schedule—

(a) paragraph 3(1) to (3) and (7) (lump sums);

(b) paragraph 11(2) to (4), 12(2), 13 and 14 (orders for sale);

(c) paragraphs 17, 18 and 19(2) and (3) (pension sharing);

[F553(ca) paragraphs 19C, 19D and 19E(2) and (3) (pension compensation sharing);**]**

(d) paragraphs 25 and 26 (orders under Part 1 relating to pensions);

(e) paragraphs 31 to **[**F554**]**34 and 35 to 37**]** (orders under Part 1 relating to pensions where Board has assumed responsibility for scheme);

[F555(ea) paragraph 34A (orders under Part 1 relating to pension compensation attachment);**]**

(f) paragraphs 47(1) to (4) and (6) and 49 (duration of orders);

(g) paragraphs 50 to 54 and 57 to 62, except paragraph 50(1)(g) (variation etc. of orders);

(h) paragraphs 63 to 65 (arrears and repayments);

(i) paragraphs 76 to **[**F556**]**79A**]** (drafting of instruments, bankruptcy, mental disorder **[**F557, pension-sharing appeals and pension compensation-sharing appeals**]**).

(2) Sub-paragraph (1)(d) **[**F558and (ea)**]** does not apply where the court has jurisdiction to entertain an application for an order under paragraph 9 only because a dwelling-

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

house which was a civil partnership home of the civil partners is situated in England or Wales.

(3) Paragraph 27 of Schedule 5 (change of pension arrangement under which rights are shared) applies in relation to an order made under paragraph 9 of this Schedule by virtue of sub-paragraph (1)(d) above as it applies to an order made under Part 1 of Schedule 5 by virtue of paragraph 25 or 26 of that Schedule.

(4) The Lord Chancellor may by regulations make for the purposes of this Schedule provision corresponding to any provision which may be made by him under paragraph 28(1) to (3) of Schedule 5 (supplementary provision about orders relating to pensions under Part 1 of that Schedule) **[**F559or under paragraphs 34B to 36 of that Schedule (supplementary provision about orders relating to pension compensation)**]**.

(5) The power to make regulations under this paragraph is exercisable by statutory instrument which is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

Textual Amendments

F553 Sch. 7 para. 14(1)(ca) inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, **Sch. 6 para. 20(4)(a)**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

F554 Words in Sch. 7 para. 14(1)(e) substituted (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, **Sch. 6 para. 20(4)(b)**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

F555 Sch. 7 para. 14(1)(ea) inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, **Sch. 6 para. 20(4)(c)**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

F556 Word in Sch. 7 para. 14(1)(i) substituted (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, **Sch. 6 para. 20(4)(d)**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

F557 Words in Sch. 7 para. 14(1)(i) substituted (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, **Sch. 6 para. 20(4)(e)**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

F558 Words in Sch. 7 para. 14(2) inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, **Sch. 6 para. 20(4)(f)**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(3)**, Sch. Pt. 2

F559 Words in Sch. 7 para. 14(4) added (6.3.2011 for specified purposes otherwise 6.4.2011) by Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30), ss. 120, 149, **Sch. 6 para. 20(4)(g)**; S.I. 2011/664, **art. 2(2)(3)**, Sch.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C45 Sch. 7 para. 14 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 7 para. 14 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 7 para. 14(4)(5) in force at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and Sch. 7 para. 14 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

Avoidance of transactions designed to defeat claims under paragraphs 5 and 9

15 (1) Sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) apply where one of the civil partners ("A") is granted leave under paragraph 4 to make an application for an order under paragraph 9.

(2) If the court is satisfied, on application by A, that the other civil partner ("B") is, with the intention of defeating a claim by A, about to—

(a) make any disposition, or

(b) transfer out of the jurisdiction, or otherwise deal with, any property,

it may make such order as it thinks fit for restraining B from doing so or otherwise for protecting the claim.

(3) If the court is satisfied, on application by A—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) that the other civil partner ("B") has, with the intention of defeating a claim by A, made a reviewable disposition, and

(b) that, if the disposition were set aside—

(i) financial relief under paragraph 5 or 9, or

(ii) different financial relief under paragraph 5 or 9,

would be granted to A,

it may make an order setting aside the disposition.

(4) If—

(a) an order under paragraph 5 or 9 has been made by the court at the instance of one of the civil partners ("A"), and

(b) the court is satisfied, on application by A, that the other civil partner ("B") has, with the intention of defeating a claim by A, made a reviewable disposition,

the court may make an order setting aside the disposition.

(5) Where the court has jurisdiction to entertain an application for an order under paragraph 9 only under paragraph 7(4), it shall not make any order under sub-paragraph (2), (3) or (4) in respect of any property other than the dwelling-house concerned.

(6) Where the court makes an order under sub-paragraph (3) or (4) setting aside a disposition, it shall give such consequential directions as it thinks fit for giving effect to the order (including directions requiring the making of any payments or the disposal of any property).

(7) For the purposes of sub-paragraphs (3) and (4), but subject to sub-paragraph (8), any disposition made by B is a "reviewable disposition" (whether made before or after the commencement of A's application under that sub-paragraph).

(8) A disposition made by B is not a reviewable disposition for those purposes if made for valuable consideration (other than formation of a civil partnership) to a person who, at the time of the disposition, acted in relation to it in good faith and without notice of any intention on the part of B to defeat A's claim.

(9) A reference in this paragraph to defeating a claim by one of the civil partners is a reference to—

(a) preventing financial relief being granted, or reducing the amount of financial relief which might be granted, under paragraph 5 or 9 at the instance of that civil partner, or

(b) frustrating or impeding the enforcement of any order which might be, or has been, made under paragraph 5 or 9 at the instance of that civil partner.

Presumptions for the purposes of paragraph 15

16 (1) Sub-paragraph (3) applies where—

(a) an application is made under paragraph 15(2) or (3) by one of the civil partners with respect to—

(i) a disposition which took place less than 3 years before the date of the application, or

(ii) a disposition or other dealing with property which is about to take place, and

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) the court is satisfied that the disposition or other dealing would (apart from paragraph 15 and this paragraph of this Schedule) have the consequence of defeating a claim by the applicant.

(2) Sub-paragraph (3) also applies where—

(a) an application is made under paragraph 15(4) by one of the civil partners with respect to a disposition which took place less than 3 years before the date of the application, and

(b) the court is satisfied that the disposition has had the consequence of defeating a claim by the applicant.

(3) It shall be presumed, unless the contrary is shown, that the person who—

(a) disposed of, or

(b) is about to dispose of or deal with the property,

did so, or (as the case may be) is about to do so, with the intention of defeating the applicant's claim.

(4) A reference in this paragraph to defeating a claim by one of the civil partners has the meaning given by paragraph 15(9).

PART 2

STEPS TO PREVENT AVOIDANCE PRIOR TO APPLICATION FOR LEAVE UNDER PARAGRAPH 4

Prevention of transactions intended to defeat prospective claims under paragraphs 5 and 9

17 (1) If it appears to the court, on application by one of the persons ("A") who formed a civil partnership—

(a) that the civil partnership has been dissolved or annulled, or that the civil partners have been legally separated, by means of judicial or other proceedings in an overseas country,

(b) that A intends to apply for leave to make an application for an order under paragraph 9 as soon as he or she has been habitually resident in England and Wales for the period of one year, and

(c) that the other civil partner ("B") is, with the intention of defeating A's claim, about to—

(i) make any disposition, or

(ii) transfer out of the jurisdiction, or otherwise deal with, any property,

the court may make such order as it thinks fit for restraining B from taking such action as is mentioned in paragraph (c).

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) applies even if the date of the dissolution, annulment or legal separation is earlier than the date on which that sub-paragraph comes into force.

(3) Sub-paragraph (4) applies where—

(a) an application is made under sub-paragraph (1) with respect to—

(i) a disposition which took place less than 3 years before the date of the application, or

(ii) a disposition or other dealing with property which is about to take place, and

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) the court is satisfied that the disposition or other dealing would (apart from this paragraph of this Schedule) have the consequence of defeating a claim by the applicant.

(4) It shall be presumed, unless the contrary is shown, that the person who—

(a) disposed of, or

(b) is about to dispose of or deal with the property,

did so, or (as the case may be) is about to do so, with the intention of defeating the applicant's claim.

(5) A reference in this paragraph to defeating a person's claim is a reference to preventing financial relief being granted, or reducing the amount of financial relief which might be granted, under paragraph 5 or 9 at the instance of that person.

PART 3

SUPPLEMENTARY

Paragraphs 15 to 17: meaning of "disposition" and saving

18 (1) In paragraphs 15 to 17 "disposition" does not include any provision contained in a will or codicil but, with that exception, includes any conveyance, assurance or gift of property of any description, whether made by an instrument or otherwise.

(2) The provisions of paragraphs 15 to 17 are without prejudice to any power of the High Court to grant injunctions under section 37 of the **[**F560Senior Courts Act 1981**]**(c. 54).

Textual Amendments

F560 Words in Sch. 7 Pt. 3 para. 18(2) substituted (1.10.2009) by Constitutional Reform Act 2005 (c. 4), ss. 59, 148, **Sch. 11 para. 1(2)**; S.I. 2009/1604, **art. 2(d)**

Interpretation of Schedule

19 In this Schedule—

"the court" means the High Court **[**F561or the family court**]**;

"dwelling-house" includes—

(a) any building, or part of a building, which is occupied as a dwelling, and

(b) any yard, garden, garage or outhouse belonging to, and occupied with, the dwelling-house;

"overseas country" has the meaning given by paragraph 1(3).

Textual Amendments

F561 Words in Sch. 7 para. 19 substituted (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 201**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

SCHEDULE 8 Section 81

HOUSING AND TENANCIES

Law of Property Act 1925 (c. 20)

1 (1) Amend section 149(6) (which includes provision for a lease determinable on marriage of the lessee to take effect as a lease for 90 years determinable by notice after the lessee's marriage) as follows.

(2) After "or on the marriage of the lessee," insert " or on the formation of a civil partnership between the lessee and another person, ".

(3) For "after the death or marriage (as the case may be) of the original lessee, or of the survivor of the original lessees," substitute " after (as the case may be) the death or marriage of, or the formation of a civil partnership by, the original lessee or the survivor of the original lessees, ".

Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 (c. 56)

2 In paragraph 1(e) of Schedule 3 (grounds for possession: premises required as residence for landlord or family member), for the words from "as a residence" to "spouse, and" substitute "as a residence for—

(i) himself,

(ii) any son or daughter of his over eighteen years of age,

(iii) his father or mother, or

(iv) the father, or mother, of his spouse or civil partner,

and ".

Leasehold Reform Act 1967 (c. 88)

3 In section 1(1ZC)(c) (which refers to section 149(6) of the Law of Property Act 1925), after "terminable after a death or marriage" insert " or the formation of a civil partnership ".

4 In section 1B (which refers to a tenancy granted so as to become terminable by notice after a death or marriage), for "a death or marriage" substitute " a death, a marriage or the formation of a civil partnership ".

5 (1) Amend section 3(1) (meaning of "long tenancy") as follows.

(2) In the words describing section 149(6) of the Law of Property Act 1925, after "terminable after a death or marriage" insert " or the formation of a civil partnership ".

(3) In the proviso (exclusion of certain tenancies terminable by notice after death or marriage)—

(a) for "a death or marriage" substitute " a death, a marriage or the formation of a civil partnership ", and

(b) in paragraph (a), after "marriage of" insert " , or the formation of a civil partnership by, ".

6 (1) Amend section 7 (rights of members of family succeeding to tenancy on death) as follows.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(2) In subsection (7) ("family member"), for "wife or husband" (in each place) substitute " spouse or civil partner ".

(3) In subsection (8) (surviving spouse's rights on intestacy)—

(a) in paragraph (a), for "wife or husband" substitute " spouse or civil partner ", and

(b) in paragraph (b), for "husband or wife" substitute " spouse or civil partner ".

7 In section 18(3) (members of landlord's family whose residential rights exclude enfranchisement or extension), for "wife or husband" (in each place) substitute " spouse or civil partner ".

Caravan Sites Act 1968 (c. 52)

8 In section 3(2) ("occupier" includes surviving spouse of deceased occupier), for "or widower" (in each place) substitute " , widower or surviving civil partner ".

Rent (Agriculture) Act 1976 (c. 80)

9 (1) Amend section 3 (protected occupiers by succession) as follows.

(2) For subsection (2) (succession by surviving spouse) substitute—

"(2) Where the original occupier was a person who died leaving a surviving partner who was residing in the dwelling-house immediately before the original occupier's death then, after the original occupier's death, if the surviving partner has, in relation to the dwelling-house, a relevant licence or tenancy, the surviving partner shall be a protected occupier of the dwelling-house."

(3) In subsection (3) (succession by other family members)—

(a) for "surviving spouse" substitute " surviving partner ",

(b) for "his" (in each place) substitute " the original occupier's ", and

(c) for "him" substitute " the original occupier ".

(4) After subsection (3) insert—

"(3A) In subsections (2) and (3) above "surviving partner" means surviving spouse or surviving civil partner."

10 (1) Amend section 4 (statutory tenants and tenancies) as follows.

(2) For subsection (3) (surviving spouse's statutory tenancy) substitute—

"(3) If the original occupier was a person who died leaving a surviving partner who was residing in the dwelling-house immediately before the original occupier's death then, after the original occupier's death, unless the surviving partner is a protected occupier of the dwelling-house by virtue of section 3(2) above, the surviving partner shall be the statutory tenant if and so long as he occupies the dwelling-house as his residence."

(3) In subsection (4) (statutory tenancy for other family members)—

(a) for "surviving spouse" substitute " surviving partner ",

(b) for "his" (in each place) substitute " the original occupier's ", and

(c) for "him" substitute " the original occupier ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(4) For subsection (5A) (references to original occupier's spouse include person living with occupier as his or her wife or husband) substitute—

"(5ZA) In subsections (3) and (4) above "surviving partner" means surviving spouse or surviving civil partner.

(5A) For the purposes of subsection (3) above—

(a) a person who was living with the original occupier as his or her husband or wife shall be treated as the spouse of the original occupier, and

(b) a person who was living with the original occupier as if they were civil partners shall be treated as the civil partner of the original occupier,

and, subject to subsection (5B) below, "surviving spouse" and "surviving civil partner" in subsection (5ZA) above shall be construed accordingly."

11 In section 31(3)(c) (power of Secretary of State and National Assembly for Wales to require information about occupiers of housing accommodation associated with agricultural or forestry land), after "who has been married to" insert " , or has been the civil partner of, ".

12 In paragraph 1 of Case 9 in Part 1 of Schedule 4 (discretionary grounds for possession: dwelling required as residence for member of landlord's family), after "husband" (in each place) insert " or civil partner ".

Rent Act 1977 (c. 42)

13 (1) In Part 1 of Schedule 1 (statutory tenants by succession), amend paragraph 2 (succession by surviving spouse) as follows.

(2) In sub-paragraph (1), after "surviving spouse" insert " , or surviving civil partner, ".

(3) For sub-paragraph (2) substitute—

"(2) For the purposes of this paragraph—

(a) a person who was living with the original tenant as his or her wife or husband shall be treated as the spouse of the original tenant, and

(b) a person who was living with the original tenant as if they were civil partners shall be treated as the civil partner of the original tenant."

(4) In sub-paragraph (3), for the words after "the county court" substitute " shall for the purposes of this paragraph be treated (according to whether that one of them is of the opposite sex to, or of the same sex as, the original tenant) as the surviving spouse or the surviving civil partner. "

14 In Schedule 15 (grounds for possession), in Case 9 in Part 1 (dwelling required as residence for landlord or member of his family), for "wife or husband" substitute " spouse or civil partner ".

Protection from Eviction Act 1977 (c. 43)

15 In section 4(2)(b) (special provisions for agricultural employees: "occupier" includes surviving spouse of former tenant), for "widow or widower" (in each place) substitute " surviving spouse or surviving civil partner ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Housing Act 1980 (c. 51)

16 In section 54(2) (protected shorthold tenancy etc. may not be assigned except in pursuance of certain orders), after paragraph (c) insert ", or

(d) Part 2 of Schedule 5, or paragraph 9(2) or (3) of Schedule 7, to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (property adjustment orders in connection with civil partnership proceedings or after overseas dissolution of civil partnership, etc.)."

17 In section 76(3) (which amends provisions of the Rent (Agriculture) Act 1976 replaced by this Schedule), for "sections 3(2) and (3)(a) and 4(3) and (4)(a)" substitute " sections 3(3)(a) and 4(4)(a) ".

Housing Act 1985 (c. 68)

18 In sections 39(2)(b) and 160(2)(b) (meaning of "qualifying person" in definition of "exempted disposal"), after "the spouse or a former spouse" insert " , or the civil partner or a former civil partner, ".

19 In section 39(3) (disposals exempt if in pursuance of certain orders), after paragraph (d) insert ", or

(e) Part 2 or 3 of Schedule 5, or paragraph 9 of Schedule 7, to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (property adjustment orders, or orders for the sale of property, in connection with civil partnership proceedings or after overseas dissolution of civil partnership, etc.)."

20 In section 87(a) (entitlement of tenant's spouse to succeed to secure tenancy), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

21 (1) Amend section 88 (cases where secure tenant is a successor) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1)(d), for "(2) and (3)" substitute " (2) to (3) ".

(3) After subsection (2) insert—

"(2A) A tenant to whom the tenancy was assigned in pursuance of an order under Part 2 of Schedule 5, or paragraph 9(2) or (3) of Schedule 7, to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (property adjustment orders in connection with civil partnership proceedings or after overseas dissolution of civil partnership, etc.) is a successor only if the other civil partner was a successor."

22 (1) Amend section 89 (succession to periodic secured tenancy) as follows.

(2) In subsection (2)(a) (tenant's spouse is preferred successor), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

(3) In subsection (3)(a), after "parents)" in sub-paragraph (iii) insert ", or

(iv) Part 2 of Schedule 5, or paragraph 9(2) or (3) of Schedule 7, to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (property adjustment orders in connection with civil partnership proceedings or after overseas dissolution of civil partnership, etc.)".

23 In section 90(3)(a) (secure tenancy for term certain does not cease to be secure tenancy if vested under certain orders), after sub-paragraph (iii) insert—

"(iv) Part 2 of Schedule 5, or paragraph 9(2) or (3) of Schedule 7, to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (property adjustment

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

orders in connection with civil partnership proceedings or after overseas dissolution of civil partnership, etc.), or".

24 In section 91(3)(b) (assignments not prohibited if in pursuance of certain orders), after "parents)" in sub-paragraph (iii) insert ", or

(iv) Part 2 of Schedule 5, or paragraph 9(2) or (3) of Schedule 7, to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (property adjustment orders in connection with civil partnership proceedings or after overseas dissolution of civil partnership, etc.)".

25 In section 99B(2)(e) (subsection applies to assignees in pursuance of certain orders), after "parents)" in sub-paragraph (iii) insert ", or

(iv) Part 2 of Schedule 5, or paragraph 9(2) or (3) of Schedule 7, to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (property adjustment orders in connection with civil partnership proceedings or after overseas dissolution of civil partnership, etc.)".

26 In section 101(3)(c) (assignees in pursuance of certain orders are qualifying successors), after "parents)" in sub-paragraph (iii) insert ", or

(iv) Part 2 of Schedule 5, or paragraph 9(2) or (3) of Schedule 7, to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (property adjustment orders in connection with civil partnership proceedings or after overseas dissolution of civil partnership, etc.)".

27 (1) Amend sections 113 and 186 (meaning of "member of a person's family" in Parts 3 and 4) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1)(a)—

(a) after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) after "live together as husband and wife" insert " or as if they were civil partners ".

(3) In subsection (2)(a), after "a relationship by marriage" insert " or civil partnership ".

28 In section 123(2)(a) (family members with whom right to buy may be exercised), after "is his spouse" insert " , is his civil partner ".

29 In section 130(3) (persons whose receipt of discount results in reduction of subsequent discount)—

(a) in paragraph (b), after "spouse" insert " , or civil partner, " and

(b) in paragraph (c), after "deceased spouse" insert " , or deceased civil partner, ".

30 In section 160(3) (right to buy: disposals in pursuance of certain orders are exempted), after paragraph (d) insert ", or

(e) Part 2 or 3 of Schedule 5, or paragraph 9 of Schedule 7, to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (property adjustment orders, or orders for the sale of property, in connection with civil partnership proceedings or after overseas dissolution of civil partnership, etc.)."

31 In section 171B(4)(b) (persons who become tenants in pursuance of certain orders are qualifying successors), after sub-paragraph (iv) insert "or

(v) an order under Part 2 of Schedule 5, or a property adjustment order under paragraph 9(2) or (3) of Schedule 7, to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (property adjustment orders

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

in connection with civil partnership proceedings or after overseas dissolution of civil partnership, etc.),".

32 In section 554(2A) (grant by registered social landlords to former owner-occupier of defective dwelling), for paragraph (b) substitute—

"(b) is the spouse or civil partner, or a former spouse or former civil partner, or the surviving spouse or surviving civil partner, of a person falling within paragraph (a); or".

33 In Part 1 of Schedule 2 (secure tenancies: grounds for possession if court considers possession reasonable), in ground 2A (violence by member of a couple)—

(a) for "a married couple or" substitute " a married couple, a couple who are civil partners of each other, " and

(b) after "as husband or wife" insert " or a couple living together as if they were civil partners ".

34 In paragraphs 2, 5 and 5A of Schedule 4 (qualifying period for right to buy and discount)—

(a) after "deceased spouse" in paragraph (c) of each of those paragraphs insert " , or deceased civil partner, " and

(b) after "spouse" (in each other place) insert " or civil partner ".

35 (1) Amend Schedule 6A (redemption of landlord's share) as follows.

(2) In paragraph 1(2)(a) (meaning of "excluded disposal"), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

(3) In paragraph 1(2)(c) (disposals excluded if in pursuance of certain orders), after sub-paragraph (iv) insert "or

(v) Part 2 or 3 of Schedule 5, or paragraph 9 of Schedule 7, to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (property adjustment orders, or orders for the sale of property, in connection with civil partnership proceedings or after overseas dissolution of civil partnership, etc.),".

(4) In paragraphs 4(3)(b) and 12(1), (2) and (3)(d), for "qualifying spouse" substitute " qualifying partner ".

(5) In paragraph 12(2) (which will define "qualifying partner"), for paragraph (c) and the words after that paragraph substitute—

"(c) he—

(i) is the spouse, the civil partner, a former spouse, a former civil partner, the surviving spouse, the surviving civil partner, a surviving former spouse or a surviving former civil partner of the person who immediately before that time was entitled to the interest to which this paragraph applies or, as the case may be, the last remaining such interest, or

(ii) is the surviving spouse, the surviving civil partner, a surviving former spouse or a surviving former civil partner of a person who immediately before his death was entitled to such an interest."

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Agricultural Holdings Act 1986 (c. 5)

36 (1) In sections 35(2) and 49(3) (interpretation respectively of sections 36 to 48, and sections 49 to 58, etc.), amend the definition of "close relative" as follows.

(2) In paragraph (a), for "or husband" substitute " , husband or civil partner ".

(3) In paragraph (d), after "marriage" (in each place) insert " or civil partnership ".

37 In section 36 (eligible person may apply for new tenancy on death of tenant), after subsection (4) insert—

"(4A) In the case of the deceased's civil partner the reference in subsection (3)(a) above to the relative's agricultural work shall be read as a reference to agricultural work carried out by either the civil partner or the deceased (or both of them)."

38 In section 50 (eligible person may apply for new tenancy on retirement of tenant), after subsection (3) insert—

"(3A) In the case of the civil partner of the retiring tenant the reference in subsection (2)(a) above to the relative's agricultural work shall be read as a reference to agricultural work carried out by either the civil partner or the retiring tenant (or both of them)."

39 (1) Amend Schedule 6 (eligibility to apply for new tenancy under Part 4) as follows.

(2) In paragraph 1(2) (control of body corporate by deceased's close relative)—

(a) after "or his spouse" insert " or his civil partner ", and

(b) after "together" insert " or he and his civil partner together ".

(3) In paragraph 1 (preliminary), after sub-paragraph (3) insert—

"(4) Any reference in this Schedule to the civil partner of a close relative of the deceased does not apply in relation to any time when the relative's civil partnership is subject to—

(a) a separation order under Chapter 2 of Part 2 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004, or

(b) a dissolution order, nullity order or presumption of death order that is a conditional order under that Chapter."

(4) In paragraph 6(2) (no disregard of occupation by relative under tenancy granted by his spouse), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

(5) In paragraph 9(1)(a) (occupation by spouse of relative treated as occupation by relative), after "spouse" insert " , or civil partner, ".

(6) In paragraph 9(2) (cases involving joint occupation by spouse, or controlled body, and another)—

(a) for the words from "joint occupation of land" to "sub-paragraphs" substitute "joint occupation of land by—

(a) his spouse or civil partner or a body corporate, and

(b) any other person or persons,

sub-paragraphs ", and

(b) after "spouse" (in the second place) insert " or civil partner, ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(7) In paragraph 10(3)(a) (meaning of "connected person"), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

(8) In the italic heading before each of paragraphs 9 and 10, after "spouse" insert " , civil partner ".

Landlord and Tenant Act 1987 (c. 31)

PROSPECTIVE

40 (1) Amend section 4 (meaning of "relevant disposal" for purposes of tenants' rights of first refusal) as follows.

(2) In subsection (2)(c) (disposals in pursuance of certain orders not relevant disposals), after sub-paragraph (vi) insert—

"(vii) Part 2 of Schedule 5, or paragraph 9(2) or (3) of Schedule 7, to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (property adjustment orders in connection with civil partnership proceedings or after overseas dissolution of a civil partnership, etc.), or

(viii) Part 3 of Schedule 5, or paragraph 9(4) of Schedule 7, to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (orders for the sale of property in connection with civil partnership proceedings or after overseas dissolution of a civil partnership, etc.) where the order includes provision requiring the property concerned to be offered for sale to a person or class of persons specified in the order;".

(3) In subsection (5)(a)—

(a) after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) after "live together as husband and wife" insert " or as if they were civil partners ".

(4) In subsection (6)(a), after "a relationship by marriage" insert " or civil partnership ".

Housing Act 1988 (c. 50)

41 (1) Amend section 17 (succession to assured periodic tenancy by spouse) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1), after "spouse" (in each place) insert " or civil partner ".

(3) For subsection (4) substitute—

"(4) For the purposes of this section—

(a) a person who was living with the tenant as his or her wife or husband shall be treated as the tenant's spouse, and

(b) a person who was living with the tenant as if they were civil partners shall be treated as the tenant's civil partner."

(4) In subsection (5), for the words after "the county court" substitute " shall for the purposes of this section be treated (according to whether that one of them is of the opposite sex to, or of the same sex as, the tenant) as the tenant's spouse or the tenant's civil partner. "

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

42 In section 82(1)(b) (after disposal by housing action trust, legal assistance may be given to surviving spouse of pre-disposal tenant), for "or widower" substitute " , widower or surviving civil partner ".

43 (1) Amend Schedule 2 (assured tenancies: grounds for possession) as follows.

(2) In Part 1 (cases where court must order possession), in paragraph (b) of Ground 1 (landlord previously resident or requiring premises as residence for himself or his spouse), for "his or his spouse's" substitute " his, his spouse's or his civil partner's ".

(3) In Part 2 (cases where court may order possession), in Ground 14A (violence by member of a couple)—

(a) for "a married couple or" substitute " a married couple, a couple who are civil partners of each other, " and

(b) after "as husband or wife" insert " or a couple living together as if they were civil partners ".

44 (1) Amend paragraph 3 of Schedule 3 (agricultural worker condition where dwelling occupied by surviving spouse or family member of previous qualifying occupier) as follows.

(2) In sub-paragraphs (1)(c)(i), (3)(a) and (6), for "widow or widower" substitute " surviving partner ".

(3) For sub-paragraph (2) substitute—

"(2) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1)(c)(i) above and sub-paragraph (3) below—

(a) "surviving partner" means widow, widower or surviving civil partner; and

(b) a surviving partner of the previous qualifying occupier of the dwelling-house is a qualifying surviving partner if that surviving partner was residing in the dwelling-house immediately before the previous qualifying occupier's death."

(4) For sub-paragraph (5) (person living as wife or husband with previous occupier) substitute—

"(5) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (2)(a) above—

(a) a person who, immediately before the previous qualifying occupier's death, was living with the previous occupier as his or her wife or husband shall be treated as the widow or widower of the previous occupier, and

(b) a person who, immediately before the previous qualifying occupier's death, was living with the previous occupier as if they were civil partners shall be treated as the surviving civil partner of the previous occupier."

45 (1) Amend paragraph 4 of Schedule 11 (exempted disposals by housing action trusts) as follows.

(2) In sub-paragraph (2)(b) (meaning of "qualifying person" in definition of "exempted disposal"), after "the spouse or a former spouse" insert " , or the civil partner or a former civil partner, ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(3) In sub-paragraph (4) (disposals in pursuance of certain orders), after paragraph (d) insert ", or

(e) Part 2 or 3 of Schedule 5, or paragraph 9 of Schedule 7, to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (property adjustment orders, or orders for the sale of property, in connection with civil partnership proceedings or after overseas dissolution of civil partnership, etc.)."

Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (c. 42)

46 In paragraph 5(1)(c) of Schedule 10 (long residential tenancies: grounds for possession: premises required as residence for landlord or family member), for the words from "as a residence" to "mother and," substitute "as a residence for—

(i) himself,

(ii) any son or daughter of his over eighteen years of age,

(iii) his father or mother, or

(iv) the father, or mother, of his spouse or civil partner,

and, ".

Leasehold Reform, Housing and Urban Development Act 1993 (c. 28)

47 (1) Amend section 7 (meaning of "long lease") as follows.

(2) In subsection (1)(b) (which refers to section 149(6) of the Law of Property Act 1925), after "terminable after a death or marriage" insert " or the formation of a civil partnership ".

(3) In subsection (2) (exclusion of certain leases terminable by notice after death or marriage)—

(a) for "a death or marriage" substitute " a death, a marriage or the formation of a civil partnership ", and

(b) in paragraph (a), after "marriage of" insert " , or the formation of a civil partnership by, ".

48 In section 10(5) (members of family of resident landlord), for "wife or husband" (in each place) substitute " spouse or civil partner ".

Agricultural Tenancies Act 1995 (c. 8)

49 In section 7(3) (which refers to section 149(6) of the Law of Property Act 1925), after "marriage of" insert " , or formation of a civil partnership by, ".

Housing Act 1996 (c. 52)

50 (1) Amend section 15 (relevant and exempted disposals) as follows.

(2) In subsection (5)(b) (meaning of "qualifying person" in the definition of "exempted disposal"), after "the spouse or a former spouse" insert " , or the civil partner or a former civil partner, ".

(3) In subsection (6) (disposals in pursuance of certain orders are exempt), after paragraph (d) insert "; or

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(e) Part 2 or 3 of Schedule 5, or paragraph 9 of Schedule 7, to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (property adjustment orders, or orders for the sale of property, in connection with civil partnership proceedings or after overseas dissolution of civil partnership, etc.).”

51 (1) Amend sections 62 and 140 (meaning of “member of a person’s family” in Part 1 and in Chapter 1 of Part 5) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1)(a)—

(a) after “spouse” insert “ or civil partner ”, and

(b) after “live together as husband and wife” insert “ or as if they were civil partners ”.

(3) In subsection (2)(a), after “a relationship by marriage” insert “ or civil partnership ”.

52 In section 132 (introductory tenancies: cases where tenant is successor), after subsection (2) insert—

“(2A) A tenant to whom the tenancy was assigned in pursuance of an order under Part 2 of Schedule 5, or paragraph 9(2) or (3) of Schedule 7, to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (property adjustment orders in connection with civil partnership proceedings or after overseas dissolution of civil partnership, etc.) is a successor only if the other civil partner was a successor.”

53 (1) Amend section 133 (succession to introductory tenancy) as follows.

(2) In subsection (2)(a) (spouse of deceased tenant is preferred successor), after “spouse” insert “ or civil partner ”.

(3) In subsection (3)(a) (tenancy ceases to be introductory on vesting otherwise than in pursuance of certain orders), after “parents)” in sub-paragraph (iii) insert “, or

(iv) Part 2 of Schedule 5, or paragraph 9(2) or (3) of Schedule 7, to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (property adjustment orders in connection with civil partnership proceedings or after overseas dissolution of civil partnership, etc.)”.

54 In section 134(2)(a) (introductory tenancy may not be assigned except in pursuance of certain orders), after “parents)” in sub-paragraph (iii) insert “, or

(iv) Part 2 of Schedule 5, or paragraph 9(2) or (3) of Schedule 7, to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (property adjustment orders in connection with civil partnership proceedings or after overseas dissolution of civil partnership, etc.)”.

55 In section 143H(5)(a) (two or more successors to demoted tenancy), for “spouse or (if the tenant has no spouse)” substitute “ spouse or civil partner or (if the tenant has neither spouse nor civil partner) ”.

56 In section 143I(3) (tenancy does not cease to be demoted tenancy if vested pursuant to certain orders), after paragraph (c) insert—

“(d) Part 2 of Schedule 5, or paragraph 9(2) or (3) of Schedule 7, to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (property adjustment orders in connection with civil partnership proceedings or after overseas dissolution of civil partnership, etc.).”

57 For paragraphs (a) and (b) of section 143J(5) (successor by assignment to secure tenancy terminated by demotion order) substitute—

“(a) the tenancy was assigned—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(i) in proceedings under section 24 of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 (property adjustment orders in connection with matrimonial proceedings) or section 17(1) of the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act 1984 (property adjustment orders after overseas divorce, etc.), or

(ii) in proceedings under Part 2 of Schedule 5, or paragraph 9(2) or (3) of Schedule 7, to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (property adjustment orders in connection with civil partnership proceedings or after overseas dissolution of civil partnership, etc.),

(b) where the tenancy was assigned as mentioned in paragraph (a)(i), neither he nor the other party to the marriage was a successor, and

(c) where the tenancy was assigned as mentioned in paragraph (a)(ii), neither he nor the other civil partner was a successor."

58 In section 143K(2) (demoted tenancy may be assigned only in pursuance of certain orders), after paragraph (c) insert—

"(d) Part 2 of Schedule 5, or paragraph 9(2) or (3) of Schedule 7, to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (property adjustment orders in connection with civil partnership proceedings or after overseas dissolution of civil partnership, etc.)."

59 (1) Amend section 143P (meaning of "member of another's family") as follows.

(2) In subsection (1)(a), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

(3) In subsection (3)(a), after "marriage" insert " or civil partnership ".

60 In section 160 (cases where provisions about allocations do not apply), in each of subsections (2)(e) and (3)(d) (cases where secure or introductory tenancy vests etc. in pursuance of certain orders), after sub-paragraph (iii) insert ", or

(iv) Part 2 of Schedule 5, or paragraph 9(2) or (3) of Schedule 7, to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (property adjustment orders in connection with civil partnership proceedings or after overseas dissolution of civil partnership, etc.)."

F562 61 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F562 Sch. 8 para. 61 omitted (5.7.2021) by virtue of Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (c. 17), **ss. 78(9)(a)**, 90(6); S.I. 2021/797, reg. 2(2) (with reg. 4(1))

Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 (c. 53)

62 In section 30(6)(a) (power to provide for financial position of others to be taken into account in means-testing applicant for grant), after "his spouse," insert " his civil partner, ".

63 (1) In section 54(3) (disposals in pursuance of certain orders are exempt) as it has effect by virtue of article 11(2) of the 2002 Order (saving for certain purposes of repealed provisions), after paragraph (d) insert "; or

(e) Part 2 or 3 of Schedule 5, or paragraph 9 of Schedule 7, to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (property adjustment orders, or orders for the

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

sale of property, in connection with civil partnership proceedings or after overseas dissolution of civil partnership, etc.).”

(2) In sub-paragraph (1) “the 2002 Order” means the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002 (S.I. 2002/1860).

Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 (c. 15)

64 In section 76(2)(c) (which refers to section 149(6) of the Law of Property Act 1925), after “terminable after a death or marriage” insert “ or the formation of a civil partnership ”.

65 In section 77(1) (“long lease”: exclusion of certain leases terminable by notice after death or marriage)—

(a) for “a death or marriage” substitute “ a death, a marriage or the formation of a civil partnership ”, and

(b) in paragraph (a), after “marriage of” insert “ , or the formation of a civil partnership by, ”.

66 In paragraph 3(8) of Schedule 6 (members of freeholder’s family whose occupation of premises excludes premises from right to manage), after “spouse” (in each place) insert “ or civil partner ”.

SCHEDULE 9 Section 82

FAMILY HOMES AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

PART 1

AMENDMENTS OF THE FAMILY LAW ACT 1996 (C. 27)

1 (1) Amend section 30 (rights concerning matrimonial home where one spouse has no estate, etc.) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1)—

(a) in paragraph (a)—

(i) after “one spouse” insert “ or civil partner (“A”) ”, and

(ii) for “that spouse” substitute “ A ”.

(b) in paragraph (b), after “other spouse” insert “ or civil partner (“B”) ”.

(3) In subsection (2)—

(a) for “the spouse not so entitled” substitute “ B ”,

(b) for “(“matrimonial home rights”)” substitute “ (“home rights”) ”, and

(c) in paragraph (a), for “the other spouse” substitute “ A ”.

(4) In subsection (3)—

(a) for “a spouse” and for “that spouse” substitute “ B ”, and

(b) for “the other spouse” (in both places) substitute “ A ”.

(5) In subsection (4)—

(a) for “A spouse's” substitute “ B's ”,

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) in paragraph (a), for "by the other spouse as the other spouse's" substitute " by A as A's ", and

(c) in paragraph (b)—

(i) for "the spouse occupies the dwelling-house as that spouse's" substitute " B occupies the dwelling-house as B's ", and

(ii) for "by the other spouse as the other spouse's" substitute " by A as A's ".

(6) In subsection (5)—

(a) for "a spouse ("the first spouse")" substitute " B ", and

(b) in paragraph (b), for "the other spouse ("the second spouse")" substitute " A ",

(c) for "the second spouse" substitute " A ", and

(d) for "the first spouse against the second spouse" substitute " B against A ".

(7) In subsection (6)—

(a) for "a spouse" substitute " B ", and

(b) for "the other spouse" (in both places) substitute " A ".

(8) In subsection (7), for the words from first "which" to the end substitute "which—

(a) in the case of spouses, has at no time been, and was at no time intended by them to be, a matrimonial home of theirs; and

(b) in the case of civil partners, has at no time been, and was at no time intended by them to be, a civil partnership home of theirs."

(9) In subsection (8)—

(a) for "A spouse's matrimonial home rights" substitute " B's home rights ",

(b) in paragraph (a), after "marriage" insert " or civil partnership ", and

(c) in paragraph (b), for "the other spouse" substitute " A ".

(10) In subsection (9)—

(a) for "a spouse" (in both places) substitute " a person ", and

(b) for "matrimonial home rights" substitute " home rights ".

(11) In the heading to section 30, for "matrimonial home where one spouse" substitute " home where one spouse or civil partner " and, in the preceding cross-heading, after "matrimonial" insert " or civil partnership ".

2 (1) Amend section 31 (effect of matrimonial home rights as charge on dwelling-house) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1) for "marriage, one spouse" substitute " marriage or civil partnership, A ".

(3) In subsection (2) for "The other spouse's matrimonial home rights" substitute " B's home rights ".

(4) In subsection (3)—

(a) in paragraph (a), for "the spouse so entitled" substitute " A ", and

(b) in paragraph (b), after "marriage" insert " or of the formation of the civil partnership ".

(5) In subsection (4)—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) for "a spouse's matrimonial home rights" substitute " B's home rights ",
(b) for "the other spouse" substitute " A ", and
(c) for "either of the spouses" substitute " A or B ".

(6) In subsection (5) for "the other spouse" substitute " A ".

(7) In subsection (7) for "the spouses" substitute " A and B ".

(8) In subsection (8)—
(a) for "a spouse's matrimonial home rights" substitute " B's home rights ",
(b) in paragraph (a), for "the other spouse" substitute " A ", and
(c) in paragraph (b), after "marriage" insert " or civil partnership ".

(9) In subsection (9)—
(a) in paragraph (a), for "a spouse's matrimonial home rights" substitute " B's home rights ", and
(b) for "the other spouse" (in both places) substitute " A ".

(10) In subsection (10)—
(a) for "a spouse" and for "that spouse" substitute " A ", and
(b) in paragraph (b), for "a spouse's matrimonial home rights" substitute " B's home rights ".

(11) For subsection (12)(a) substitute—
"(a) B's home rights are a charge on the estate of A or of trustees of A, and".

(12) In the heading to section 31, for "matrimonial home rights" substitute " home rights ".

3 For section 32 (further provisions relating to matrimonial home rights) substitute—

"**32 Further provisions relating to home rights**

Schedule 4 (provisions supplementary to sections 30 and 31) has effect."

4 (1) Amend section 33 (occupation orders where applicant has estate or interest etc. or has matrimonial home rights) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1)(a)(ii), for "matrimonial home rights" substitute " home rights ".

(3) After subsection (2) insert—

"(2A) If a civil partnership agreement (as defined by section 73 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004) is terminated, no application under this section may be made by virtue of section 62(3)(eza) by reference to that agreement after the end of the period of three years beginning with the day on which it is terminated."

(4) In subsection (3)(e)—
(a) for "matrimonial home rights" substitute " home rights ", and
(b) after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

(5) In subsection (4), for "matrimonial home rights" substitute " home rights ".

(6) In subsection (5)—
(a) for "matrimonial home rights" substitute " home rights ",

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) after "is the other spouse" insert " or civil partner ",

(c) after "during the marriage" insert " or civil partnership ",

(d) in paragraph (a), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ", and

(e) in paragraph (b), after "marriage" insert " or civil partnership ".

(7) In the heading to section 33, for "matrimonial home rights" substitute " home rights ".

5 In section 34 (effect of order under section 33 where rights are charge on dwelling-house), in subsection (1)—

(a) for "a spouse's matrimonial home rights" substitute " B's home rights ", and

(b) for "the other spouse" (in each place) substitute " A ".

6 (1) Amend section 35 (one former spouse with no existing right to occupy) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1)(a) and (b), after "former spouse" insert " or former civil partner ".

(3) For subsection (1)(c) substitute—

"(c) the dwelling-house—

(i) in the case of former spouses, was at any time their matrimonial home or was at any time intended by them to be their matrimonial home, or

(ii) in the case of former civil partners, was at any time their civil partnership home or was at any time intended by them to be their civil partnership home."

(4) In subsection (2), after "former spouse" (in both places) insert " or former civil partner ".

(5) In subsection (6)(f), after "marriage" insert " or civil partnership ".

(6) After subsection (6)(g)(i), insert—

"(ia) for a property adjustment order under Part 2 of Schedule 5 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004;".

(7) In subsection (9)(a), after "former spouses" insert " or former civil partners ".

(8) In subsections (11) and (12), after "former spouse" insert " or former civil partner ".

(9) For subsection (13)(a) and (b) substitute—

"(a) as if he were B (the person entitled to occupy the dwelling-house by virtue of that section); and

(b) as if the respondent were A (the person entitled as mentioned in subsection (1)(a) of that section)."

(10) In the heading to section 35, after "former spouse" insert " or former civil partner ".

7 In section 36 (one cohabitant or former cohabitant with no existing right to occupy), for subsection (13)(a) and (b) substitute—

"(a) as if he were B (the person entitled to occupy the dwelling-house by virtue of that section); and

(b) as if the respondent were A (the person entitled as mentioned in subsection (1)(a) of that section)."

8 (1) Amend section 37 (neither spouse entitled to occupy) as follows.

(2) After subsection (1) insert—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

"(1A) This section also applies if—

(a) one civil partner or former civil partner and the other civil partner or former civil partner occupy a dwelling-house which is or was the civil partnership home; but

(b) neither of them is entitled to remain in occupation—

(i) by virtue of a beneficial estate or interest or contract; or

(ii) by virtue of any enactment giving him the right to remain in occupation."

(3) In subsection (3)(b), for "spouses" substitute " parties ".

(4) In the heading to section 37, after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

9 In section 42 (non-molestation orders), after subsection (4) insert—

"(4ZA) If a civil partnership agreement (as defined by section 73 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004) is terminated, no application under this section may be made by virtue of section 62(3)(eza) by reference to that agreement after the end of the period of three years beginning with the day on which it is terminated."

10 (1) In section 44 (evidence of agreement to marry), after subsection (2) insert—

"(3) Subject to subsection (4), the court shall not make an order under section 33 or 42 by virtue of section 62(3)(eza) unless there is produced to it evidence in writing of the existence of the civil partnership agreement (as defined by section 73 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004).

(4) Subsection (3) does not apply if the court is satisfied that the civil partnership agreement was evidenced by—

(a) a gift by one party to the agreement to the other as a token of the agreement, or

(b) a ceremony entered into by the parties in the presence of one or more other persons assembled for the purpose of witnessing the ceremony."

(2) In the heading to section 44, after "marry" insert " or form a civil partnership ".

11 In section 49 (variation and discharge of orders), in subsection (3)—

(a) for "a spouse's matrimonial home rights" substitute " B's home rights are, under section 31, ", and

(b) for "the other spouse" (in each place) substitute " A ".

12 (1) Amend section 54 (dwelling-house subject to mortgage) as follows.

(2) In subsections (3)(a) and (4), for "matrimonial home rights" substitute " home rights ".

(3) In subsection (5), after "spouse, former spouse" insert " , civil partner, former civil partner ".

13 (1) Amend section 62 (meaning of "cohabitants", "relevant child" and "associated persons") as follows.

(2) In subsection (1)—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) in paragraph (a), for "two persons who, although not married to each other, are living together as husband and wife or (if of the same sex) in an equivalent relationship;" substitute " two persons who are neither married to each other nor civil partners of each other but are living together as husband and wife or as if they were civil partners; ", and

(b) in paragraph (b), after "have subsequently married each other" insert " or become civil partners of each other ".

(3) After subsection (3)(a) insert—

"(aa) they are or have been civil partners of each other;".

(4) After subsection (3)(e) insert—

"(eza) they have entered into a civil partnership agreement (as defined by section 73 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004) (whether or not that agreement has been terminated);".

Commencement Information

I65 Sch. 9 para. 13 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 9 para. 13 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 9 para. 13(1)(2)(b)(3)(4) in force at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1; Sch. 9 para. 13(2)(a) in force at 5.12.2005 immediately after s. 3 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 (c. 28) by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(8)**

14 (1) Amend section 63 (interpretation of Part 4) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1), after the definition of "health" insert—

""home rights" has the meaning given by section 30;".

(3) Omit the definition of "matrimonial home rights" in that subsection.

(4) In the definition of relative in that subsection—

(a) in paragraphs (a) and (b), for "spouse or former spouse" substitute " spouse, former spouse, civil partner or former civil partner ",

(b) in paragraph (b), for "by affinity)" substitute " by marriage or civil partnership) ", and

(c) after "were married to each other" insert " or were civil partners of each other ".

(5) After subsection (2)(i) insert—

"(j) Schedules 5 to 7 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004."

15 (1) Amend Schedule 4 (provisions supplementary to sections 30 and 31) as follows.

(2) In paragraph 2, after "spouse" (in both places) insert " or civil partner ".

(3) In paragraph 3(1) and (3), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

(4) In paragraph 4(1), for "spouse's matrimonial home rights" substitute " spouse's or civil partner's home rights ".

(5) For paragraphs 4(1)(a) to (c) substitute—

"(a) in the case of a marriage—

(i) by the production of a certificate or other sufficient evidence, that either spouse is dead,

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(ii) by the production of an official copy of a decree or order of a court, that the marriage has been terminated otherwise than by death, or

(iii) by the production of an order of the court, that the spouse's home rights constituting the charge have been terminated by the order, and

(b) in the case of a civil partnership—

(i) by the production of a certificate or other sufficient evidence, that either civil partner is dead,

(ii) by the production of an official copy of an order or decree of a court, that the civil partnership has been terminated otherwise than by death, or

(iii) by the production of an order of the court, that the civil partner's home rights constituting the charge have been terminated by the order."

(6) In paragraph 4(2)—

(a) in paragraph (a)—

(i) after "marriage" insert " or civil partnership ", and

(ii) after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) in paragraph (b), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

(7) In paragraph 4(3), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

(8) In the heading to paragraph 4, after "marriage" insert " or civil partnership ".

(9) In paragraph 5(1), for "spouse entitled to matrimonial home rights" substitute " spouse or civil partner entitled to home rights ".

(10) In paragraph 5(2)—

(a) for "matrimonial home rights" substitute " home rights ", and

(b) in paragraph (a), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

(11) In the heading to paragraph 5, for "matrimonial home rights" substitute " home rights ".

(12) In paragraph 6, after "spouse" (in both places) insert " or civil partner ".

16 (1) Amend Schedule 7 (transfer of certain tenancies on divorce etc. or on separation of cohabitants) as follows.

(2) In paragraph 1, before the definition of "cohabitant" insert—

""civil partner", except in paragraph 2, includes (where the context requires) former civil partner;".

(3) In paragraph 2(1), after "spouse" (in both places) insert " or civil partner ".

(4) For paragraph 2(2) substitute—

"(2) The court may make a Part II order—

(a) on granting a decree of divorce, a decree of nullity of marriage or a decree of judicial separation or at any time thereafter (whether, in the case of a decree of divorce or nullity of marriage, before or after the decree is made absolute), or

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) at any time when it has power to make a property adjustment order under Part 2 of Schedule 5 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 with respect to the civil partnership."

(5) Omit "or" at the end of paragraph 4(a) and insert—

"(aa) in the case of civil partners, a civil partnership home; or".

(6) In paragraph 5(a), after "spouses" insert " , civil partners ".

(7) In paragraph 6—

(a) after "spouse" (in the first place) insert " , a civil partner ", and

(b) after "spouse" (in the second place) insert " , civil partner ".

(8) In paragraph 7(1) and (2), after "spouse" (in each place) insert " , civil partner ".

(9) For paragraph 7(3) to (4) substitute—

"(3) If the spouse, civil partner or cohabitant so entitled is a successor within the meaning of Part 4 of the Housing Act 1985—

(a) his former spouse (or, in the case of judicial separation, his spouse),

(b) his former civil partner (or, if a separation order is in force, his civil partner), or

(c) his former cohabitant,

is to be deemed also to be a successor within the meaning of that Part.

(3A) If the spouse, civil partner or cohabitant so entitled is a successor within the meaning of section 132 of the Housing Act 1996—

(a) his former spouse (or, in the case of judicial separation, his spouse),

(b) his former civil partner (or, if a separation order is in force, his civil partner), or

(c) his former cohabitant,

is to be deemed also to be a successor within the meaning of that section.

(4) If the spouse, civil partner or cohabitant so entitled is for the purposes of section 17 of the Housing Act 1988 a successor in relation to the tenancy or occupancy—

(a) his former spouse (or, in the case of judicial separation, his spouse),

(b) his former civil partner (or, if a separation order is in force, his civil partner), or

(c) his former cohabitant,

is to be deemed to be a successor in relation to the tenancy or occupancy for the purposes of that section."

(10) In paragraph 7(5)(a), after "spouse" insert " , civil partner ".

(11) Omit paragraph 7(6).

(12) In paragraph 8(1) and (2)(a) and (b), after "spouse" insert " , civil partner ".

(13) In paragraph 8(3), after "surviving spouse" insert " or surviving civil partner ".

(14) In paragraphs 9(1), (2)(a) and (b) and (3) (in both places) and 10(1) (in both places), after "spouse" insert " , civil partner ".

(15) In paragraph 11(1), after "spouses" insert " , civil partners ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(16) In paragraph 11(2), after "spouse" insert " , civil partner ".

(17) For paragraph 12 and the heading preceding it, substitute—

"Date when order made between spouses or civil partners takes effect

12 The date specified in a Part II order as the date on which the order is to take effect must not be earlier than—

(a) in the case of a marriage in respect of which a decree of divorce or nullity has been granted, the date on which the decree is made absolute;

(b) in the case of a civil partnership in respect of which a dissolution or nullity order has been made, the date on which the order is made final."

(18) For paragraph 13 and the heading preceding it substitute—

"Effect of remarriage or subsequent civil partnership

13 (1) If after the grant of a decree dissolving or annulling a marriage either spouse remarries or forms a civil partnership, that spouse is not entitled to apply, by reference to the grant of that decree, for a Part II order.

(2) If after the making of a dissolution or nullity order either civil partner forms a subsequent civil partnership or marries, that civil partner is not entitled to apply, by reference to the making of that order, for a Part II order.

(3) In sub-paragraphs (1) and (2)—

(a) the references to remarrying and marrying include references to cases where the marriage is by law void or voidable, and

(b) the references to forming a civil partnership include references to cases where the civil partnership is by law void or voidable."

(19) In paragraph 15(1)—

(a) after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) for "spouse's matrimonial home rights" substitute " spouse's or civil partner's home rights ".

(20) In paragraph 15(2), after "spouse" insert " , civil partner ".

PART 2

CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS

Land Compensation Act 1973 (c. 26)

17 (1) Amend section 29A (spouses having statutory rights of occupation) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1)—

(a) for "one spouse ("A")" substitute " one spouse or civil partner ("A") ", and

(b) for "the other spouse ("B") acquires matrimonial home rights" substitute " the other spouse or civil partner ("B") acquires home rights ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(3) In subsection (2) for "matrimonial home rights" substitute " home rights ".

(4) In the heading to section 29A, after "spouses" insert " and civil partners ".

Housing Act 1985 (c. 68)

18 (1) Amend section 85 (extended discretion of court in certain proceedings for possession) as follows.

(2) In subsection (5)—

(a) in paragraph (a) for "tenant's spouse or former spouse, having matrimonial home rights" substitute " tenant's spouse or former spouse, or civil partner or former civil partner, having home rights ",

(b) after "the spouse or former spouse" insert " , or the civil partner or former civil partner, ", and

(c) for "those matrimonial home rights" substitute " those home rights ".

(3) In subsection (5A)—

(a) in paragraph (a), for "former spouse of the tenant" substitute " former spouse or former civil partner of the tenant ", and

(b) in paragraph (b) and in the words following paragraph (c) after "former spouse," insert " former civil partner, ".

19 In section 99B (persons qualifying for compensation) in subsection (2)(f), after "spouse, former spouse," insert " civil partner, former civil partner, ".

20 In section 101 (rent not to be increased on account of tenant's improvements) in subsection (3)(d), after "spouse, former spouse," insert " civil partner, former civil partner, ".

Insolvency Act 1986 (c. 45)

21 (1) Amend section 336 (rights of occupation etc. of bankrupt's spouse) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1), for "matrimonial home rights" substitute " home rights ".

(3) In subsection (2)—

(a) for "a spouse's matrimonial home rights" substitute " a spouse's or civil partner's home rights ", and

(b) after "the other spouse" (in each place) insert " or civil partner ".

(4) In subsection (4)(b) and (c) after "spouse or former spouse" insert " or civil partner or former civil partner ".

(5) In the heading to section 336 after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

22 (1) Amend section 337 (rights of occupation of bankrupt) as follows.

(2) In subsection (2), for "spouse (if any) has matrimonial home rights" substitute " spouse or civil partner (if any) has home rights ".

(3) In subsection (3)—

(a) in paragraph (a), for "matrimonial home rights" substitute " home rights ", and

(b) in paragraph (c), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Housing Act 1988 (c. 50)

23 (1) Amend section 9 (extended discretion of court in possession claims) as follows.

(2) In subsection (5)—

(a) for "tenant's spouse or former spouse, having matrimonial home rights" substitute " tenant's spouse or former spouse, or civil partner or former civil partner, having home rights ",

(b) after "the spouse or former spouse" insert " , or the civil partner or former civil partner ", and

(c) for "those matrimonial home rights" substitute " those home rights ".

(3) In subsection (5A)—

(a) for "former spouse of the tenant" substitute " former spouse or former civil partner of the tenant ",

(b) for "cohabitant, former cohabitant or former spouse" (in both places) substitute " former spouse, former civil partner, cohabitant or former cohabitant ".

Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 (c. 15)

24 (1) Amend section 61 (matrimonial rights) as follows.

(2) For "matrimonial home rights (within the meaning of section 30(2) of the Family Law Act 1996 (c. 27) (matrimonial home))" substitute " home rights (within the meaning of section 30(2) of the Family Law Act 1996 (c. 27) (rights in respect of matrimonial or civil partnership home)) ".

(3) In the heading to section 61 for "Matrimonial" substitute " Home ".

PART 3

TRANSITIONAL PROVISION

25 (1) Any reference (however expressed) in any enactment, instrument or document (whether passed or made before or after the passing of this Act)—

(a) to rights of occupation under, or within the meaning of, the Matrimonial Homes Act 1983 (c. 19), or

(b) to matrimonial home rights under, or within the meaning of, Part 4 of the Family Law Act 1996 (c. 27),

is to be construed, so far as is required for continuing the effect of the enactment, instrument or document, as being or as the case requires including a reference to home rights under, or within the meaning of, Part 4 of the 1996 Act as amended by this Schedule.

(2) Any reference (however expressed) in Part 4 of the 1996 Act or in any other enactment, instrument or document (including any enactment amended by this Schedule) to home rights under, or within the meaning of, Part 4 of the 1996 Act is to be construed as including, in relation to times, circumstances and purposes before the commencement of this Schedule, references to rights of occupation under, or within the meaning of, the 1983 Act and to matrimonial home rights under, or within the meaning of, Part 4 of the 1996 Act without the amendments made by this Schedule.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

[F563SCHEDULE 10 (introduced by section 86)

FORBIDDEN DEGREES OF RELATIONSHIP: SCOTLAND

Textual Amendments

F563 Sch. 10 substituted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(22)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

(1) ***Relationships by consanguinity***

Parent
Child
Grandparent
Grandchild
Sibling
Aunt or uncle
Niece or nephew
Great-grandparent
Great-grandchild

(2) ***Relationships by affinity referred to in section 86(3)***

Child of former spouse
Child of former civil partner
Former spouse of parent
Former civil partner of parent
Former spouse of grandparent
Former civil partner of grandparent
Grandchild of former spouse
Grandchild of former civil partner.**]**

[F564SCHEDULE 10A section 88F(7)

MODIFICATIONS IF PROPOSED CIVIL PARTNERSHIP REFERRED UNDER SECTION 88F

Textual Amendments

F564 Sch. 10A inserted for specified purposes (1.3.2015) by The Referral and Investigation of Proposed Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Scotland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/396), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 3** (with art. 1(3)(5))

Introduction

1. (1) These are the modifications subject to which this Act has effect if the district registrar refers a proposed civil partnership to the Secretary of State.

(2) In this Schedule "referred civil partnership" means the proposed civil partnership referred to the Secretary of State.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

No civil partnership schedule to be completed until decision about investigation etc

2. (1) The duty under section 94 (civil partnership schedule) to complete a civil partnership schedule in respect of the referred civil partnership does not apply unless and until one of the following events occurs.

(2) Event 1 occurs if—

(a) the Secretary of State gives the district registrar the section 48 notice, and

(b) the notice is of a decision not to investigate whether the referred civil partnership is a sham.

(3) Event 2 occurs if—

(a) the relevant statutory period ends, and

(b) the Secretary of State has not given the district registrar the section 48 notice.

(4) Event 3 occurs if—

(a) the Secretary of State gives the district registrar the section 48 notice,

(b) that notice is of a decision to investigate whether the referred civil partnership is a sham,

(c) the Secretary of State gives the district registrar the section 50 notice, and

(d) that notice is of a decision that both of the parties to the referred civil partnership have complied with the investigation.

(5) Event 4 occurs if—

(a) the 70 day period ends, and

(b) the Secretary of State has not given the district registrar the section 50 notice.

(6) Event 5 occurs if the Secretary of State gives the district registrar notice that the duty under section 94 is applicable.

(7) The Secretary of State may give a notice for that purpose only if—

(a) the Secretary of State has given the district registrar the section 48 notice,

(b) that notice is of a decision to investigate whether the referred civil partnership is a sham,

(c) the Secretary of State has given the district registrar the section 50 notice, and

(d) that notice is of a decision that one or both of the parties to the referred civil partnership have not complied with the investigation.

(8) This paragraph applies in addition to any other requirements applicable to the completion of the civil partnership schedule.

(9) This paragraph is subject to paragraph 4.

(10) In this paragraph—

"70 day period" has the same meaning as in section 50(11) of the 2014 Act;

"relevant statutory period" has the same meaning as in section 62 of the 2014 Act;

"section 48 notice" means notice under section 48(8D) of the 2014 Act;

"section 50 notice" means notice under section 50(7) of the 2014 Act.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Civil partnership to be investigated: extension of 28 day period to 70 days

3. (1) The modifications in this paragraph have effect if the Secretary of State gives the district registrar notice under section 48(8D) of the 2014 Act of a decision to investigate whether the referred civil partnership is a sham.

(2) Section 91(1) has effect as if—

(a) for the words from "being" to "section 90" there were substituted "being a date before the expiry of the relevant 70 day period", and

(b) the words from "; and if a date" to the end were omitted.

(3) Section 94 has effect as if for paragraph (b) there were substituted—

"(b) the relevant 70 day period has expired,"."

(4) In sections 91 and 94 (as modified by this paragraph) and in paragraph 4 "relevant 70 day period" means the period—

(a) beginning the day after the particulars of the proposed civil partnership are entered in the civil partnership book in accordance with section 89 (civil partnership notice book), and

(b) ending at the end of the period of 70 days beginning with that day.

(5) This paragraph is subject to paragraph 4.

Effect of reducing statutory period

4. (1) Where—

(a) either—

(i) a district registrar is authorised to fix a date for the date of registration of the referred civil partnership that is 28 days or fewer after publicisation by the district registrar under section 90(1), or

(ii) in the case of a referred civil partnership to which paragraph 3 applies, the district registrar is authorised to fix a date for the date of registration before the expiry of the relevant 70 day period, and

(b) the authorisation mentioned in sub-paragraph (i) or, as the case may be, (ii) of paragraph (a) is given at a time when the duty under section 94 to complete a civil partnership schedule in respect of the referred civil partnership has not arisen in accordance with paragraph 2,

the duty under section 94 to complete the civil partnership schedule arises on the giving of the authorisation, subject to any other requirements applicable to the completion of the schedule being met.

(2) But the requirements of paragraph 2 are not applicable in such a case.

(3) The Secretary of State is not prevented from deciding to conduct, conducting, or continuing, an investigation if the civil partnership schedule is completed as mentioned in sub-paragraph (1).

(4) But in such a case, nothing in the 2014 Act requires the Secretary of State to decide whether to conduct, or to continue, an investigation.

(5) In this paragraph "investigation" means an investigation, conducted following a decision by the Secretary of State under section 48 of the 2014 Act, whether a proposed civil partnership is a sham.**]**

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

SCHEDULE 11 Section 125

FINANCIAL PROVISION IN SCOTLAND AFTER OVERSEAS PROCEEDINGS

PART 1

INTRODUCTORY

1 (1) This Schedule applies where—

(a) a civil partnership has been dissolved or annulled in a country or territory outside the British Islands by means of judicial or other proceedings (here the "overseas proceedings"), and

(b) the dissolution or annulment (here the "overseas determination") is entitled to be recognised as valid in Scotland.

(2) This Schedule applies even if the date of the overseas determination is earlier than the date on which this Schedule comes into force.

PART 2

CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH COURT MAY ENTERTAIN APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL PROVISION

2 (1) Subject to **[**F565sub-paragraph (3A)**]**, if the jurisdictional requirements and the conditions set out in sub-paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively, are satisfied, the court may entertain an application by one of the former civil partners or former ostensible civil partners, (here "A") for an order for financial provision.

(2) The jurisdictional requirements are—

(a) that A is domiciled or habitually resident in Scotland when the application is made,

(b) that the other former civil partner, or former ostensible civil partner, (here "B")—

(i) is domiciled or habitually resident in Scotland when the application is made,

(ii) was domiciled or habitually resident in Scotland when A and B last lived together in civil partnership, or

(iii) when the application is made is an owner or tenant of, or has a beneficial interest in, property in Scotland which has at some time been a family home of A and B, and

(c) where the court is the sheriff, that when the application is made either—

(i) A or B is habitually resident in the sheriffdom, or

(ii) property mentioned in sub-paragraph (2)(b)(iii) is wholly or partially in the sheriffdom.

(3) The conditions are that—

(a) B initiated the overseas proceedings,

(b) the application is made within 5 years after the overseas determination takes effect,

(c) the civil partnership (or ostensible civil partnership) had a substantial connection with Scotland,

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(d) A and B are alive when the application is made, and

(e) (taking Part 3 of this Act to have been in force) a court in Scotland would have had jurisdiction to entertain an action for dissolution or annulment of the civil partnership, if such an action had been brought immediately before the overseas determination took effect.

[F566(3A) If an application or part of an application relates to a matter **[**F567in relation to which Article 18 of the 2007 Hague Convention applies, the court may not entertain the application or that part of it except where permitted by Article 18**]]**

F568(4) . . . . . .

[F569(5) In this paragraph **[**F570"the 2007 Hague Convention" means the Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance concluded on 23 November 2007 at The Hague**].]**

Textual Amendments

F565 Words in Sch. 11 para. 2(1) substituted (31.12.2020) by S.I. 2019/519, reg. 1(1), Sch. para. 25(7)(a) (as substituted by The Jurisdiction, Judgments and Applicable Law (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/1574), regs. 1, **5(3)(j)(iv)**)

F566 Sch. 11 para. 2(3A) inserted (18.6.2011) by The Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments (Maintenance) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 2011/1484), reg. 9, **Sch. 7 para. 16(7)(b)**

F567 Words in Sch. 11 para. 2(3A) substituted (31.12.2020) by S.I. 2019/519, reg. 1(1), Sch. para. 25(7)(b) (as substituted by The Jurisdiction, Judgments and Applicable Law (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/1574), regs. 1, **5(3)(j)(iv)**)

F568 Sch. 11 para. 2(4) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/479), regs. 1(1), **68** (with regs. 92-95) (as amended by S.I. 2020/1493, regs. 1(1), 5(2)-(5)); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

F569 Sch. 11 para. 2(5) inserted (18.6.2011) by The Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments (Maintenance) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 2011/1484), reg. 9, **Sch. 7 para. 16(7)(d)**

F570 Words in Sch. 11 para. 2(5) substituted (31.12.2020) by S.I. 2019/519, Sch. para. 25(7)(c) (as substituted by The Jurisdiction, Judgments and Applicable Law (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/1574), regs. 1, **5(3)(j)(iv)**)

PART 3

DISPOSAL OF APPLICATIONS

3 (1) Subject to sub-paragraphs (2) to (5), Scots law applies in relation to an application made under paragraph 2 as it would apply were the application made in an action in Scotland for, as the case may be, dissolution or annulment of a civil partnership.

(2) In disposing of an application made under paragraph 2 the court must exercise its powers so as to place A and B, in so far as it is reasonable and practicable to do so, in the financial position in which they would have been had that application been disposed of, in such an action in Scotland, on the date when the overseas determination took effect.

(3) In determining what is reasonable and practicable for the purposes of sub-paragraph (2), the court must have regard in particular to—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) A and B's respective resources, both present and foreseeable, at the date the application is disposed of,

(b) any order made by a foreign court in or in connection with the overseas proceedings, being an order—

(i) for the making of financial provision, in whatever form, by A for B or by B for A, or

(ii) for the transfer of property from A to B or from B to A.

(4) Subject to sub-paragraph (5), the court may make an order for an interim award of a periodical allowance where—

(a) it appears from A's averments that in the disposal of the application an order for financial provision is likely to be made, and

(b) the court considers that such an interim award is necessary to avoid hardship to A.

(5) Where but for paragraph 2(2)(b)(iii) the court would not have jurisdiction to entertain the application, the court may make no order for financial provision other than an order—

(a) relating to the former family home or its furniture and plenishings, or

(b) that B must pay A a capital sum not exceeding the value of B's interest in the former family home and its furniture and plenishings.

PART 4

THE EXPRESSION "ORDER FOR FINANCIAL PROVISION"

4 In this Schedule, "order for financial provision" means any one or more of the orders specified in section 8(1) of the Family Law (Scotland) Act 1985 (c. 37) or an order under section 111.

SCHEDULE 12 Section 138(2)

PROHIBITED DEGREES OF RELATIONSHIP: NORTHERN IRELAND

Absolute prohibitions

1 (1) Two people are within prohibited degrees of relationship if one falls within the list below in relation to the other.

Adoptive child
Adoptive parent
Child
Former adoptive child
Former adoptive parent
Grandparent
Grandchild
Parent
Parent's sibling
Sibling

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Sibling's child

(2) In the list "sibling" means a brother, sister, half-brother or half-sister.

Qualified prohibitions

2 (1) Two people are within prohibited degrees of relationship if one of them falls within the list below in relation to the other, unless—

(a) both of them have reached 21 at the time when they register as civil partners of each other, and

(b) the younger has not at any time before reaching 18 been a child of the family in relation to the other.

Child of former civil partner
Child of former spouse
Former civil partner of grandparent
Former civil partner of parent
Former spouse of grandparent
Former spouse of parent
Grandchild of former civil partner
Grandchild of former spouse

(2) "Child of the family", in relation to another person, means a person who—

(a) has lived in the same household as that other person, and

(b) has been treated by that other person as a child of his family.

3 F571 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F571 Sch. 12 para. 3 repealed (20.9.2006) by The Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 (S.I. 2006/1945 (N.I. 14)), **art. 4**

SCHEDULE 13 Section 145(2)

CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS OF PERSONS UNDER 18: NORTHERN IRELAND

PART 1

APPROPRIATE PERSONS

1 Column 2 of the table specifies the appropriate persons (or person) to give consent to a young person whose circumstances fall within column 1 and who intends to register as the civil partner of another—

Case	*Appropriate persons*
1 The circumstances do not fall within any of items 2 to 4.	Each of the following—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

	(a) any parent of the young person who has parental responsibility for him, and (b) any guardian of the young person.
2 A care order has effect with respect to the young person.	Each of the following— (a) the **[**F572Health and Social Care trust**]** designated in the order, and (b) any parent or guardian mentioned in item 1.
3 A residence order has effect with respect to the young person.	Each of the persons with whom the young person lives, or is to live, as a result of the order.
4 The circumstances do not fall within item 2 or 3, but a residence order had effect with respect to the young person immediately before he reached 16.	The persons with whom the young person lived, or was to live, as a result of the order.

Textual Amendments

F572 Words in Sch. 13 para. 1 table substituted (1.4.2022) by Health and Social Care Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (c. 3 (N.I.)), s. 8(1)(b), **Sch. 1 para. 209(3)(a)**; S.R. 2022/102, **art. 2(b)**

2 In the table the following expressions have the same meaning as in the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 (S.I. 1995/755 (N.I. 2))—

"care order";

"**[**F573Health and Social Care trust**]**";

"parental responsibility";

"residence order";

and in item 1 "any guardian of the young person" means any person falling within the definition of "guardian of a child" in Article 2(2) of that Order.

Textual Amendments

F573 Words in Sch. 13 para. 2 substituted (1.4.2022) by Health and Social Care Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (c. 3 (N.I.)), s. 8(1)(b), **Sch. 1 para. 209(3)(b)**; S.R. 2022/102, **art. 2(b)**

PART 2

DISPENSING WITH CONSENT

Order dispensing with consent

PROSPECTIVE

3 (1) This paragraph applies if—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) a young person and another person intend to register as civil partners of each other, and

(b) a county court is satisfied as mentioned in sub-paragraphs (3) and (4).

(2) A county court may make an order dispensing with the consent of any person whose consent is required.

(3) The court must be satisfied that the registration of the civil partnership is in the best interests of the young person.

(4) The court must be satisfied that—

(a) it is not reasonably practicable to obtain the consent of any person whose consent is required,

(b) any person whose consent is required withholds or refuses that consent, or

(c) there is uncertainty as to whose consent is required.

(5) An application for an order under this paragraph may be made—

(a) by or on behalf of the young person, or

(b) by or on behalf of the other person (who may be another young person) mentioned in sub-paragraph (1)(a),

and without the intervention of a next friend.

(6) The decision of the county court on any application made under this paragraph is final and conclusive.

PART 3

RECORDING CONSENTS AND ORDERS

4 Any consent required by section 145(1) must be sent to the registrar.

5 Any order made under paragraph 3, or a certified copy of it, must be sent to the registrar.

6 The registrar must keep a record of—

(a) such particulars as may be prescribed, taken from each consent or order received by him, and

(b) the date on which each consent or order is received by him.

Commencement Information

I66 Sch. 13 para. 6 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 13 para. 6 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 13 para. 6 in force for certain purposes at 5.9.2005 by S.I. 2005/2399, **art. 2**, Sch. and Sch. 13 para. 6 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.

7 The record kept under paragraph 6 must be kept with the civil partnership notice book and section 140(5) (right of inspection) applies accordingly.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

[F574SCHEDULE 13A

section 139E(6)

MODIFICATIONS IF PROPOSED CIVIL PARTNERSHIP REFERRED UNDER SECTION 139E

Textual Amendments

F574 Sch. 13A inserted (1.3.2015) by The Referral and Investigation of Proposed Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Northern Ireland and Miscellaneous Provisions) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/395), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 3** (with art. 1(3))

Introduction

1. (1) These are the modifications subject to which this Act has effect if the registrar refers a proposed civil partnership to the Secretary of State.

(2) In this Schedule "referred civil partnership" means the proposed civil partnership referred to the Secretary of State.

No civil partnership schedule to be issued until decision about investigation etc

2. (1) The duty under section 143 to complete a civil partnership schedule in respect of the referred civil partnership does not apply unless and until one of the following events occurs.

(2) Event 1 occurs if—
- (a) the Secretary of State gives the registrar the section 48 notice, and
- (b) the notice is of a decision not to investigate whether the referred civil partnership is a sham.

(3) Event 2 occurs if—
- (a) the relevant statutory period ends, and
- (b) the Secretary of State has not given the registrar the section 48 notice.

(4) Event 3 occurs if—
- (a) the Secretary of State gives the registrar the section 48 notice,
- (b) that notice is of a decision to investigate whether the referred civil partnership is a sham,
- (c) the Secretary of State gives the registrar the section 50 notice, and
- (d) that notice is of a decision that both of the parties to the referred civil partnership have complied with the investigation.

(5) Event 4 occurs if—
- (a) the 70 day period ends, and
- (b) the Secretary of State has not given the registrar the section 50 notice.

(6) Event 5 occurs if the Secretary of State gives the registrar notice that the duty under section 143 is applicable.

(7) The Secretary of State may give a notice for that purpose only if—
- (a) the Secretary of State has given the registrar the section 48 notice,
- (b) that notice is of a decision to investigate whether the referred civil partnership is a sham,

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(c) the Secretary of State has given the registrar the section 50 notice, and

(d) that notice is of a decision that one or both of the parties to the referred civil partnership have not complied with the investigation.

(8) This paragraph applies in addition to any other requirements applicable to the completion of the civil partnership schedule.

(9) This paragraph is subject to paragraphs 3, 4 and 5.

(10) In this paragraph—

"70 day period" has the same meaning as in section 50(11) of the 2014 Act;

"relevant statutory period" has the same meaning as in section 62 of the 2014 Act;

"section 48 notice" means notice under section 48(8B) of the 2014 Act;

"section 50 notice" means notice under section 50(7) of the 2014 Act.

Civil partnership to be investigated: completion of civil partnership schedule

3. (1) The modifications in this paragraph have effect if the Secretary of State gives the registrar notice under section 48(8B) of the 2014 Act of a decision to investigate whether the referred civil partnership is a sham.

(2) Section 143, which becomes subsection (1), has effect as if—

(a) after "proposed civil partners," there were inserted "but not before the expiry of the relevant 70 day period,"; and

(b) after subsection (1) there were inserted—

"(2) In this section "relevant 70 day period" means the period—

(a) beginning the day on which the record relating to the proposed civil partnership is made in the civil partnership notice book, and

(b) ending at the end of the period of 70 days beginning with that day."

(3) This paragraph is subject to paragraphs 4 and 5.

Requests to complete the civil partnership schedule before expiry of 70 day period

4. (1) This paragraph applies if the Secretary of State gives the registrar notice under section 48(8B) of the 2014 Act of a decision to investigate whether the referred civil partnership is a sham.

(2) A party to the referred civil partnership may request the registrar to complete the civil partnership schedule before the expiry of the relevant 70 day period.

(3) That request must—

(a) be in writing, and

(b) give the reasons why it is necessary for the civil partnership schedule to be completed before the expiry of the relevant 70 day period.

(4) A registrar may not complete the civil partnership schedule before the expiry of the relevant 70 day period unless authorised to do so by the Registrar General.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(5) The Registrar General may, with the consent of the Secretary of State, authorise the registrar to complete the civil partnership schedule on such date as the Registrar General considers necessary before the expiry of the relevant 70 day period.

(6) But the Secretary of State's consent is not required if the request is made because a party to the referred civil partnership is gravely ill and not expected to recover

(7) In this paragraph and paragraph 5 "relevant 70 day period" has the same meaning as in section 143 (as modified by paragraph 3).

Effect of reducing statutory period

5. (1) Where—

(a) the Registrar General has authorised—

(i) the reduction of the notice period for service of the civil partnership notice under regulation 3(2) of the Civil Partnership Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005, or

(ii) the registrar to complete a civil partnership schedule before the expiry of the relevant 70 day period in accordance with paragraph 4; and

(b) the authorisation under sub-paragraph (i) or, as the case may be (ii), of paragraph (a) is given at a time when the duty under section 143 to complete a civil partnership schedule has not arisen in accordance with paragraph 2 or 3,

the duty under section 143 to complete the civil partnership schedule arises on the giving of the authorisation, subject to any other requirements applicable to the completion of the schedule (and in the case of an authorisation mentioned in paragraph (a)(i), any other requirements applicable to the giving of notice) being met.

(2) But the requirements of paragraph 2 are not applicable in such a case.

(3) The Secretary of State is not prevented from deciding to conduct, conducting or continuing, an investigation if a civil partnership schedule is completed as mentioned in sub-paragraph (1).

(4) But in such a case, nothing in the 2014 Act requires the Secretary of State to decide whether to conduct, or to continue, an investigation.

(5) In this paragraph "investigation" means an investigation, conducted following a decision by the Secretary of State under section 48 of the 2014 Act, whether a proposed civil partnership is a sham.**]**

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

SCHEDULE 14 Section 195

WILLS, ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES AND FAMILY PROVISION: NORTHERN IRELAND

PART 1

WILLS

1 Amend the Wills and Administration Proceedings (Northern Ireland) Order 1994 (S.I. 1994/1899 (N.I. 13)) as follows.

2 In Article 4(1) (will made by person under 18 invalid unless he is or has been married), for "married" substitute " a spouse or civil partner ".

3 In Article 8(1) and (3) (avoidance of gifts to attesting witnesses and their spouses), after "spouse" (in each place) insert " or civil partner ".

4 In Article 9 (witnessing by creditor), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

5 After Article 13 insert—

Effect of civil partnership

"13A(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a will is revoked by the formation of a civil partnership between the testator and another person.

(2) A disposition in a will in exercise of a power of appointment takes effect despite the formation of a subsequent civil partnership between the testator and another person unless the property so appointed would in default of appointment pass to the testator's personal representatives.

(3) If it appears from a will—

(a) that at the time it was made the testator was expecting to form a civil partnership with a particular person, and

(b) that he intended that the will should not be revoked by the formation of the civil partnership,

the will is not revoked by its formation.

(4) Paragraphs (5) and (6) apply if it appears from a will—

(a) that at the time it was made the testator was expecting to form a civil partnership with a particular person, and

(b) that he intended that a gift in the will should not be revoked by the formation of the civil partnership.

(5) The gift takes effect despite the formation of the civil partnership.

(6) Any other gift in the will also takes effect, unless it appears from the will that the testator intended the gift to be revoked by the formation of the civil partnership.

Effect of dissolution or annulment of civil partnership

13B (1) This Article applies if, after a testator has made a will—

(a) a court of civil jurisdiction in Northern Ireland dissolves his civil partnership or makes a nullity order in respect of it, or

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) his civil partnership is dissolved or annulled and the dissolution or annulment is entitled to recognition in Northern Ireland under Chapter 3 of Part 5 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004.

(2) Subject to any contrary intention appearing from the will—

(a) provisions of the will appointing executors or trustees or conferring a power of appointment, if they appoint or confer the power on the former civil partner, take effect as if the former civil partner had died on the date on which the civil partnership is dissolved or annulled, and

(b) except as provided in paragraph (3), any property comprising or included in a gift to the former civil partner passes as if the former civil partner had died on that date.

(3) Where property comprising or included in a gift to the former civil partner is a share of residue, the will takes effect as if the gift of the residue were to the other person or persons entitled to it (and, if more than one, in such shares as to preserve the ratio of their former shares), to the exclusion of the former civil partner.

(4) Paragraph (2)(b) does not affect any right of the former civil partner to apply for financial provision under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependants) (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 (S.I. 1979/ 924 (N.I. 8)).”

6 In Article 14 (revocation), in paragraph (1)(a), after “Article 12 (marriage)” insert “ or Article 13A (civil partnership) ”.

7 (1) Amend Article 23 (presumption as to effect of gift to spouses) as follows.

(2) After “spouse” (in each place) insert “ or civil partner ”.

(3) In the heading to Article 23, after “spouses” insert “ or civil partners ”.

8 In Article 27(3) (construction and effect of references to failure of issue), after “married” insert “ or formed a civil partnership ”.

PART 2

ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES AND FAMILY PROVISION

Administration of Estates Act (Northern Ireland) 1955 (c. 24 (N.I.))

9 (1) Amend section 6A (spouse dying within 28 days of intestate) as follows.

(2) After “spouse” (in each place) insert “ or civil partner ”.

(3) In the sidenote to section 6A, after “Spouse” insert “ or civil partner ”.

10 (1) Amend section 7 (rights of surviving spouse) as follows.

(2) After “spouse” (in each place) insert “ or civil partner ”.

(3) In subsection (7), after “husband” insert “ , or of section 180 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004 ”.

(4) In the sidenote to section 7, after “spouse” insert “ or civil partner ”.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

11 In section 8 (rights of issue), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

12 In section 9 (rights of parents), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

13 In section 10 (rights of brothers and sisters and their issue), after "spouse" (in both places) insert " or civil partner ".

14 In section 11 (rights of next-of-kin), in subsection (1) after "neither spouse" insert " nor civil partner ".

15 In section 38 (power to appoint trustees of infant's property), in subsection (5) after "marries" insert " , or forms a civil partnership, ".

Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependants) (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 (S.I. 1979/ 924 (N.I. 8))

16 (1) Amend Article 2 (interpretation) as follows.

(2) In paragraph (2), after the definition of "child" insert—

> ""civil partnership proceedings county court" has the same meaning as in the Civil Partnership Act 2004;".

(3) In that paragraph, in the definition of "former wife" and "former husband", for " "former wife" or "former husband"" substitute " "former spouse" ".

(4) In that paragraph, before that definition insert—

> ""former civil partner" means a person whose civil partnership with the deceased was during the lifetime of the deceased either—
>
> (a) dissolved or annulled by an order made under the law of any part of the United Kingdom or the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, or
>
> (b) dissolved or annulled in any country or territory outside the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man by a dissolution or annulment which is entitled to be recognised as valid by the law of Northern Ireland;".

(5) In that paragraph, in the definition of "reasonable financial provision", after paragraph (a) insert—

> "(aa) in the case of an application made by virtue of Article 3(1)(a) by the civil partner of the deceased (except where, at the date of death, a separation order under Chapter 2 of Part 4 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004 was in force in relation to the civil partnership and the separation was continuing), means such financial provision as it would be reasonable in all the circumstances of the case for a civil partner to receive, whether or not that provision is required for his or her maintenance;".

(6) In paragraph (5)—

(a) before "wife" insert " spouse, ", and

(b) in sub-paragraph (b), for "entered into a later marriage" substitute " formed a subsequent marriage or civil partnership ".

(7) For paragraph (6) substitute—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

"(5A) For the purposes of this Order any reference to a civil partner shall be treated as including a reference to a person who in good faith formed a void civil partnership with the deceased unless either—

(a) the civil partnership between the deceased and that person was dissolved or annulled during the lifetime of the deceased and the dissolution or annulment is recognised by the law of Northern Ireland, or

(b) that person has during the lifetime of the deceased formed a subsequent civil partnership or marriage.

(6) Any reference in this Order to the formation of, or to a person who has formed, a subsequent marriage or civil partnership includes (as the case may be) a reference to the formation of, or to a person who has formed, a marriage or civil partnership which is by law void or voidable.

(6A) The formation of a marriage or civil partnership shall be treated for the purposes of this Order as the formation of a subsequent marriage or civil partnership, in relation to either of the spouses or civil partners, notwithstanding that the previous marriage or civil partnership of that spouse or civil partner was void or voidable."

17 (1) Amend Article 3 (application for financial provision from deceased person's estate) as follows.

(2) For paragraph (1)(a) and (b) (application may be made by spouse or by former spouse who has not remarried) substitute—

"(a) the spouse or civil partner of the deceased;

(b) a former spouse or former civil partner of the deceased, but not one who has formed a subsequent marriage or civil partnership;".

(3) In paragraph (1)(ba) (application may be made by person living as husband or wife of the deceased), after "paragraph (1A)" insert " or (1B) ".

(4) In paragraph (1)(d) (application may be made by child of the family), after "marriage" (in each place) insert " or civil partnership ".

(5) After paragraph (1A) insert—

"(1B) This paragraph applies to a person if for the whole of the period of two years ending immediately before the date when the deceased died the person was living—

(a) in the same household as the deceased, and

(b) as the civil partner of the deceased."

18 In Article 4(1) (orders which may be made on an application), after sub-paragraph (f) insert—

"(g) an order varying any settlement made—

(i) during the subsistence of a civil partnership formed by the deceased, or

(ii) in anticipation of the formation of a civil partnership by the deceased,

on the civil partners (including such a settlement made by will), the variation being for the benefit of the surviving civil partner, or any

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

child of both the civil partners, or any person who was treated by the deceased as a child of the family in relation to that civil partnership."

19 (1) Amend Article 5(2) (application by spouse or former spouse: matters to which court is to have regard) as follows.

(2) For the words from the beginning to "or (b)" substitute— " This paragraph applies, without prejudice to the generality of sub-paragraph (g) of paragraph (1), where an application for an order under Article 4 is made by virtue of Article 3(1)(a) or (b). "

(3) The words from "the court shall, in addition" to the end of sub-paragraph (b) shall become a second sentence of the paragraph and, in sub-paragraph (a) of the sentence so formed, after "duration of the marriage" insert " or civil partnership ".

(4) The words from "in the case of an application by the wife or husband" to the end shall become a third sentence of the paragraph, omitting the immediately preceding "and".

(5) At the end insert the following sentence— " In the case of an application by the civil partner of the deceased, the court shall also, unless at the date of the death a separation order under Chapter 2 of Part 4 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004 was in force and the separation was continuing, have regard to the provision which the applicant might reasonably have expected to receive if on the day on which the deceased died the civil partnership, instead of being terminated by death, had been terminated by a dissolution order. "

20 In Article 5(2A) (application by person living as husband or wife of deceased: matters to which court is to have regard), in sub-paragraph (a), after "wife" insert " or civil partner ".

21 (1) In Article 8(3) and (10) (variation etc. of orders which cease on occurrence of specified event other than remarriage of former spouse), for "(other than the remarriage of a former wife or former husband)" substitute " (other than the formation of a subsequent marriage or civil partnership by a former spouse or former civil partner) ".

(2) In Article 8(9), for "or (f)" substitute " (f) or (g) ".

22 After Article 16 insert—

Provision as to cases where no financial relief was granted in proceedings for the dissolution etc. of a civil partnership

"16A(1) Paragraph (2) applies where—

(a) a dissolution order, nullity order, separation order or presumption of death order has been made under Chapter 2 of Part 4 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004 in relation to a civil partnership,

(b) one of the civil partners dies within twelve months from the date on which the order is made, and

(c) either—

(i) an application for a financial provision order under Part 1 of Schedule 15 to that Act or a property adjustment order under Part 2 of that Schedule has not been made by the other civil partner, or

(ii) such an application has been made but the proceedings on the application have not been determined at the time of the death of the deceased.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(2) If an application for an order under Article 4 is made by the surviving civil partner, the court shall, notwithstanding anything in Article 3 or 5, have power, if it thinks it just to do so, to treat the surviving civil partner as if the order mentioned in paragraph (1)(a) had not been made.

(3) This Article shall not apply in relation to a separation order unless at the date of the death of the deceased the separation order was in force and the separation was continuing."

23 After Article 17 insert—

Restriction imposed in proceedings for the dissolution etc. of a civil partnership on application under this Order

"17ZA(1) On making a dissolution order, nullity order, separation order or presumption of death order under Chapter 2 of Part 4 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004, or at any time after making such an order, the High Court or a civil partnership proceedings county court, if it considers it just to do so, may, on the application of either of the civil partners, order that the other civil partner shall not on the death of the applicant be entitled to apply for an order under Article 4.

(2) In the case of a dissolution order, nullity order or presumption of death order ("the main order") an order may be made under paragraph (1) before (as well as after) the main order is made final, but if made before the main order is made final it shall not take effect unless the main order is made final.

(3) Where an order under paragraph (1) made in connection with a dissolution order, nullity order or presumption of death order has come into force with respect to a civil partner, then, on the death of the other civil partner, the court shall not entertain any application for an order under Article 4 made by the surviving civil partner.

(4) Where an order under paragraph (1) made in connection with a separation order has come into force with respect to a civil partner, then, if the other civil partner dies while the separation order is in force and the separation is continuing, the court shall not entertain any application for an order under Article 4 made by the surviving civil partner."

24 After Article 17A insert—

Restriction imposed in proceedings under Schedule 17 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 on application under this Order

"17B(1) On making an order under paragraph 9 of Schedule 17 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (orders for financial provision, property adjustment and pension-sharing following overseas dissolution etc. of civil partnership) the High Court, if it considers it just to do so, may, on the application of either of the civil partners, order that the other civil partner shall not on the death of the applicant be entitled to apply for an order under Article 4.

(2) Where an order under paragraph (1) has been made with respect to one of the civil partners in a case where a civil partnership has been dissolved or annulled, then, on the death of the other civil partner, the court shall not entertain an application under Article 4 made by the surviving civil partner.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(3) Where an order under paragraph (1) has been made with respect to one of the civil partners in a case where civil partners have been legally separated, then, if the other civil partner dies while the legal separation is in force, the court shall not entertain an application under Article 4 made by the surviving civil partner."

25 In Article 18(1) (power to vary secured periodical payments orders)—

(a) after "Matrimonial Causes (Northern Ireland) Order 1978" insert " or Schedule 15 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 ", and

(b) after "that Order" insert " or Part 10 of that Schedule ".

26 In Article 19(4) (meaning of "maintenance agreement")—

(a) for "entered into a marriage" substitute " formed a marriage or civil partnership ",

(b) after "of the parties to that marriage" insert " or of the civil partners ", and

(c) after "marriage" (in the third and fourth places) insert " or civil partnership ".

27 After Article 20 insert—

Availability of court's powers under this Order in applications under paragraphs 53 and 66 of Schedule 15 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004

"20A(1) Where—

(a) a person against whom a secured periodical payments order was made under Schedule 15 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 has died and an application is made under paragraph 53 of that Schedule for the variation or discharge of that order or for the revival of the operation of any suspended provision of the order, or

(b) a party to a maintenance agreement within the meaning of Part 12 of that Schedule has died, the agreement being one which provides for the continuation of payments under the agreement after the death of one of the parties, and an application is made under paragraph 66 of that Schedule for the alteration of the agreement under paragraph 62 of that Schedule,

the court to which the application is made under paragraph 53 or 66 shall have power to direct that the application shall be deemed to have been accompanied by an application for an order under Article 4.

(2) Where the court to which an application is made under paragraph 53 or 66 gives a direction under paragraph (1), that court shall have power—

(a) to make any order which the court would have had power to make under the provisions of this Order if the application under paragraph 53 or 66 had been made jointly with an application for an order under Article 4; and

(b) to give such consequential directions as may be necessary for enabling it to exercise any of the powers available to it under this Order in the case of an application for an order under Article 4.

(3) Where an order made under Article 17ZA(1) is in force with respect to a civil partner, a direction shall not be given under paragraph (1) with respect to any application made under paragraph 53 or 66 by that civil partner on the death of the other civil partner."

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

28 (1) Amend Article 21 (effect, duration and form of orders) as follows.

(2) In paragraph (2)(a), for "former husband or former wife" substitute " former spouse or former civil partner ".

(3) In paragraph (2), after sub-paragraph (b) insert "or

(c) an applicant who was the civil partner of the deceased in a case where, at the date of death, a separation order under Chapter 2 of Part 4 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004 was in force in relation to their civil partnership and the separation was continuing,".

(4) In that paragraph, in the words after sub-paragraph (b), for "on the remarriage of the applicant" onwards substitute " on the formation by the applicant of a subsequent marriage or civil partnership, except in relation to any arrears due under the order on the date of the formation of the subsequent marriage or civil partnership. "

SCHEDULE 15 Section 196(1)

FINANCIAL RELIEF IN THE HIGH COURT OR A COUNTY COURT ETC.: NORTHERN IRELAND

Modifications etc. (not altering text)
C46 Sch. 15: functions transferred (12.4.2010) by The Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/976), art. 15(1), **Sch. 17 para. 21(b)** (with arts. 15(6), 28-31)

PART 1

FINANCIAL PROVISION IN CONNECTION WITH DISSOLUTION, NULLITY OR SEPARATION

Circumstances in which orders under this Part may be made

1 (1) The court may make any one or more of the orders set out in paragraph 2(1)—

(a) on making a dissolution, nullity or separation order, or

(b) at any time afterwards.

(2) The court may make any one or more of the orders set out in paragraph 2(1)(d), (e) and (f)—

(a) in proceedings for a dissolution, nullity or separation order, before making the order;

(b) if proceedings for a dissolution, nullity or separation order are dismissed after the beginning of the trial, either straightaway or within a reasonable period after the dismissal.

(3) The power of the court to make an order under sub-paragraph (1) or (2)(a) in favour of a child of the family is exercisable from time to time.

(4) If the court makes an order in favour of a child under sub-paragraph (2)(b), it may from time to time make a further order in the child's favour of any of the kinds set out in paragraph 2(1)(d), (e) or (f).

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(5) If the court makes an order under sub-paragraph (1), (2) or (4), it may give such consequential directions as it thinks fit for giving effect to the order (including directions requiring the disposal of any property).

The orders: periodical and secured periodical payments and lump sums

2 (1) The orders are—

(a) an order that either civil partner must make to the other such periodical payments for such term as may be specified;

(b) an order that either civil partner must secure to the other, to the satisfaction of the court, such periodical payments for such term as may be specified;

(c) an order that either civil partner must pay to the other such lump sum or sums as may be specified;

(d) an order that one of the civil partners must make—

(i) to such person as may be specified for the benefit of a child of the family, or

(ii) to a child of the family,

such periodical payments for such term as may be specified;

(e) an order that one of the civil partners must secure—

(i) to such person as may be specified for the benefit of a child of the family, or

(ii) to a child of the family,

to the satisfaction of the court, such periodical payments for such term as may be specified;

(f) an order that one of the civil partners must pay such lump sum as may be specified—

(i) to such person as may be specified for the benefit of a child of the family, or

(ii) to a child of the family.

(2) "Specified" means specified in the order.

Particular provision that may be made by lump sum orders

3 (1) An order under this Part requiring one civil partner to pay the other a lump sum may be made for the purpose of enabling the other civil partner to meet any liabilities or expenses reasonably incurred by the other in maintaining—

(a) himself or herself, or

(b) a child of the family,

before making an application for an order under this Part in his or her favour.

(2) An order under this Part requiring a lump sum to be paid to or for the benefit of a child of the family may be made for the purpose of enabling any liabilities or expenses reasonably incurred by or for the benefit of the child before making an application for an order under this Part to be met.

(3) An order under this Part for the payment of a lump sum may—

(a) provide for its payment by instalments of such amount as may be specified, and

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) require the payment of the instalments to be secured to the satisfaction of the court.

(4) Sub-paragraphs (1) to (3) do not restrict the powers to make the orders set out in paragraph 2(1)(c) and (f).

(5) If the court—

(a) makes an order under this Part for the payment of a lump sum, and

(b) directs that—

(i) payment of the sum or any part of it is to be deferred, or

(ii) the sum or any part of it is to be paid by instalments,

it may provide for the deferred amount or the instalments to carry interest at such rate as may be specified from such date as may be specified until the date when payment of it is due

(6) A date specified under sub-paragraph (5) must not be earlier than the date of the order.

(7) "Specified" means specified in the order.

When orders under this Part may take effect

4 (1) If an order is made under paragraph 2(1)(a), (b) or (c) on or after making a dissolution or nullity order, neither the order nor any settlement made in pursuance of it takes effect unless the dissolution or nullity order has been made final.

(2) This paragraph does not affect the power of the court to give a direction under paragraph 71 (settlement of instrument by conveyancing counsel).

Restrictions on making of orders under this Part

5 The power to make an order under paragraph 2(1)(d), (e) or (f) is subject to paragraph 44(1) and (5) (restrictions on orders in favour of children who have reached 18).

PART 2

PROPERTY ADJUSTMENT ON OR AFTER DISSOLUTION, NULLITY OR SEPARATION

Circumstances in which property adjustment orders may be made

6 (1) The court may make one or more property adjustment orders—

(a) on making a dissolution, nullity or separation order, or

(b) at any time afterwards.

(2) In this Schedule "property adjustment order" means a property adjustment order under this Part.

Property adjustment orders

7 (1) The property adjustment orders are—

(a) an order that one of the civil partners must transfer such property as may be specified, being property to which he is entitled—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(i) to the other civil partner,

(ii) to a child of the family, or

(iii) to such person as may be specified for the benefit of a child of the family;

(b) an order that a settlement of such property as may be specified, being property to which one of the civil partners is entitled, be made to the satisfaction of the court for the benefit of—

(i) the other civil partner and the children of the family, or

(ii) either or any of them;

(c) an order varying for the benefit of—

(i) the civil partners and the children of the family, or

(ii) either or any of them,

a relevant settlement;

(d) an order extinguishing or reducing the interest of either of the civil partners under a relevant settlement.

(2) The court may make a property adjustment order under sub-paragraph (1)(c) even though there are no children of the family.

(3) If the court makes a property adjustment order, it may give such consequential directions as it thinks fit for giving effect to the order (including directions requiring the making of any payments or the disposal of any property).

(4) In this paragraph—

"entitled" means entitled in possession or reversion,

"relevant settlement" means, in relation to a civil partnership, a settlement made, during its subsistence or in anticipation of its formation, on the civil partners including one made by will or codicil, but not including one in the form of a pension arrangement (within the meaning of Part 3), and

"specified" means specified in the order.

When property adjustment orders may take effect

8 (1) If a property adjustment order is made on or after making a dissolution or nullity order, neither the property adjustment order nor any settlement made under it takes effect unless the dissolution or nullity order has been made final.

(2) This paragraph does not affect the power to give a direction under paragraph 71 (settlement of instrument by conveyancing counsel).

Restrictions on making property adjustment orders

9 The power to make a property adjustment order under paragraph 7(1)(a) is subject to paragraph 44(1) and (5) (restrictions on making orders in favour of children who have reached 18).

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

PART 3

PENSION SHARING ORDERS ON OR AFTER DISSOLUTION OR NULLITY ORDER

Circumstances in which pension sharing orders may be made

10 (1) The court may make a pension sharing order—

(a) on making a dissolution or nullity order, or

(b) at any time afterwards.

(2) In this Schedule "pension sharing order" means a pension sharing order under this Part.

Commencement Information

I67 Sch. 15 para. 10 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 15 para. 10 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 15 para. 10(2) in force for certain purposes at 7.11.2005 by S.I. 2005/3058, **art. 2** and Sch. 15 para. 10 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.

Pension sharing orders

11 (1) A pension sharing order is an order which—

(a) provides that one civil partner's—

(i) shareable rights under a specified pension arrangement, or

(ii) shareable state scheme rights,

are to be subject to pension sharing for the benefit of the other civil partner, and

(b) specifies the percentage value to be transferred.

(2) Shareable rights under a pension arrangement are rights in relation to which pension sharing is available under—

(a) Chapter 1 of Part 5 of the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 (S.I. 1999/3147 (N.I. 11)), or

(b) Chapter 1 of Part 4 of the Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999 (c. 30).

(3) Shareable state scheme rights are rights in relation to which pension sharing is available under—

(a) Chapter 2 of Part 5 of the 1999 Order, or

(b) Chapter 2 of Part 4 of the 1999 Act.

(4) In this Part "pension arrangement" means—

(a) an occupational pension scheme,

(b) a personal pension scheme,

(c) a retirement annuity contract,

(d) an annuity or insurance policy purchased, or transferred, for the purpose of giving effect to rights under—

(i) an occupational pension scheme, or

(ii) a personal pension scheme, and

(e) an annuity purchased, or entered into, for the purpose of discharging liability in respect of a pension credit under—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(i) Article 26(1)(b) of the 1999 Order, or
(ii) section 29(1)(b) of the 1999 Act.

(5) In sub-paragraph (4)—

"occupational pension scheme" has the same meaning as in the Pension Schemes (Northern Ireland) Act 1993 (c. 49);

"personal pension scheme" has the same meaning as in the 1993 Act;

"retirement annuity contract" means a contract or scheme approved under Chapter 3 of Part 14 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 (c. 1).

Modifications etc. (not altering text)
C47 Sch. 15 para. 11 modified (14.8.2006) by The Dissolution etc. (Pension Protection Fund) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 (S.R. 2006/311), **reg. 4(2)(a)**

Pension sharing orders: apportionment of charges

12 If a pension sharing order relates to rights under a pension arrangement, the court may include in the order provision about the apportionment between the civil partners of any charge under—

(a) Article 38 of the 1999 Order (charges in respect of pension sharing costs), or

(b) section 41 of the 1999 Act.

Restrictions on making of pension sharing orders

13 (1) A pension sharing order may not be made in relation to a pension arrangement which—

(a) is the subject of a pension sharing order in relation to the civil partnership, or

(b) has been the subject of pension sharing between the civil partners.

(2) A pension sharing order may not be made in relation to shareable state scheme rights if—

(a) such rights are the subject of a pension sharing order in relation to the civil partnership, or

(b) such rights have been the subject of pension sharing between the civil partners.

(3) A pension sharing order may not be made in relation to the rights of a person under a pension arrangement if there is in force a requirement imposed by virtue of Part 5 which relates to benefits or future benefits to which that person is entitled under the pension arrangement.

When pension sharing orders may take effect

14 (1) A pension sharing order is not to take effect unless the dissolution or nullity order on or after which it is made has been made final.

(2) No pension sharing order may be made so as to take effect before the end of such period after the making of the order as may be prescribed by regulations made by the Lord Chancellor.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(3) The power to make regulations under sub-paragraph (2) is exercisable by statutory rule for the purposes of the Statutory Rules (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 (S.I. 1979/1573 (N.I. 12)).

(4) Regulations under sub-paragraph (2) are subject to **[**[F575]negative resolution within the meaning of section 41(6) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954**]**.

Textual Amendments

F575 Words in Sch. 15 para. 14(4) substituted (12.4.2010) by The Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/976), art. 15(5), **Sch. 18 para. 75(2)** (with arts. 28-31)

Commencement Information

I68 Sch. 15 para. 14 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 15 para. 14 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 15 para. 14(2)(3)(4) in force for certain purposes at 7.11.2005 by S.I. 2005/3058, **art. 2** and Sch. 15 para. 14 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.

[[F576]**PART 3A**

PENSION COMPENSATION SHARING ORDERS ON OR AFTER DISSOLUTION OR NULLITY ORDER

Textual Amendments

F576 Sch. 15 Pt. 3A inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 118, **Sch. 5 para. 15** (as amended by The Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/976), art. 15(5), **Sch. 18 para. 175** (with arts. 28-31)); S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

Circumstances in which pension compensation sharing orders may be made

14A (1) The court may make a pension compensation sharing order—

(a) on making a dissolution or nullity order, or

(b) at any time afterwards.

(2) In this Schedule "pension compensation sharing order" means a pension compensation sharing order under this Part.

Pension compensation sharing orders

14B (1) A pension compensation sharing order is an order which—

(a) provides that one civil partner's shareable rights to PPF compensation that derive from rights under a specified pension scheme are to be subject to pension compensation sharing for the benefit of the other civil partner, and

(b) specifies the percentage value to be transferred.

(2) Shareable rights to PPF compensation are rights in relation to which pension compensation sharing is available under—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) Chapter 1 of Part 3 of the Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, or
(b) Chapter 1 of Part 3 of the Pensions Act 2008.

(3) In sub-paragraph (1) "specified" means specified in the order.

Pension compensation sharing orders: apportionment of charges

14C The court may include in a pension compensation sharing order provision about the apportionment between the civil partners of any charge under—
(a) section 95 of the Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (charges in respect of pension compensation sharing costs), or
(b) section 117 of the Pensions Act 2008.

Restrictions on making pension compensation sharing orders

14D (1) A pension compensation sharing order may not be made in relation to rights to PPF compensation that—
(a) are the subject of pension attachment,
(b) derive from rights under a pension scheme that were the subject of pension sharing between the civil partners,
(c) are the subject of pension compensation attachment, or
(d) are or have been the subject of pension compensation sharing between the civil partners.

(2) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1)(a), rights to PPF compensation "are the subject of pension attachment" if any of the following three conditions is met.

(3) The first condition is that—
(a) the rights derive from rights under a pension scheme in relation to which an order was made under Part 1 imposing a requirement by virtue of paragraph 20(2), and
(b) that order, as modified under paragraph 26, remains in force.

(4) The second condition is that—
(a) the rights derive from rights under a pension scheme in relation to which an order was made under Part 1 imposing a requirement by virtue of paragraph 20(5), and
(b) that order—
(i) has been complied with, or
(ii) has not been complied with and, as modified under paragraph 27, remains in force.

(5) The third condition is that—
(a) the rights derive from rights under a pension scheme in relation to which an order was made under Part 1 imposing a requirement by virtue of paragraph 21, and
(b) that order remains in force.

(6) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1)(b), rights under a pension scheme "were the subject of pension sharing between the civil partners" if the rights were at any time the subject of a pension sharing order in relation to the civil partnership or a previous civil partnership between the same parties.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(7) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1)(c), rights to PPF compensation "are the subject of pension compensation attachment" if there is in force a requirement imposed by virtue of Part 5 relating to them.

(8) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1)(d), rights to PPF compensation "are or have been the subject of pension compensation sharing between the civil partners" if they are or have ever been the subject of a pension compensation sharing order in relation to the civil partnership or a previous civil partnership between the same parties.

When pension compensation sharing orders may take effect

14E (1) A pension compensation sharing order is not to take effect unless the dissolution or nullity order on or after which it is made has been made final.

(2) No pension compensation sharing order may be made so as to take effect before the end of such period after the making of the order as may be prescribed by regulations made by the Department of Justice.

(3) The power to make regulations under sub-paragraph (2) is exercisable by statutory rule for the purposes of the Statutory Rules (Northern Ireland) Order 1979.

(4) Regulations under sub-paragraph (2) are subject to negative resolution (within the meaning of section 41(6) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954).

Interpretation

14F In this Schedule—

"PPF compensation" means compensation payable under the pension compensation provisions;

"the pension compensation provisions" means—

(a) Chapter 3 of Part 3 of the Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 (pension protection) and any regulations or order made under it,

(b) Chapter 1 of Part 3 of the Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (pension compensation sharing) and any regulations or order made under it, and

(c) any provision corresponding to the provisions mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b) in force in Great Britain.**]**

PART 4

MATTERS TO WHICH COURT IS TO HAVE REGARD UNDER PARTS 1 TO **[**F577 3A**]**

Textual Amendments

F577 Word in Sch. 15 Pt. 4 heading substituted (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 118, **Sch. 5 para. 16(2)**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

General

15 The court in deciding—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) whether to exercise its powers under—

(i) Part 1 (financial provision on dissolution etc.),

(ii) Part 2 (property adjustment orders), [F578]. . .

(iii) any provision of Part 3 (pension sharing orders) other than paragraph 12 (apportionment of charges), **[**[F579]or**]**

[[F580](iv) any provision of Part 3A (pension compensation sharing orders) other than paragraph 14C (apportionment of charges), and**]**

(b) if so, in what way,

must have regard to all the circumstances of the case, giving first consideration to the welfare, while under 18, of any child of the family who has not reached 18.

Textual Amendments

F578 Word in Sch. 15 para. 15(a)(ii) repealed (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 116, 118, Sch. 5 para. 16(3)(a), **Sch. 10 Pt. 4**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

F579 Word in Sch. 15 para. 15(a)(iii) substituted (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 118, **Sch. 5 para. 16(3)(b)**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

F580 Sch. 15 para. 15(a)(iv) added (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 118, **Sch. 5 para. 16(3)(c)**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

Particular matters to be taken into account when exercising powers in relation to civil partners

16 (1) This paragraph applies to the exercise by the court in relation to a civil partner of its powers under—

(a) Part 1 (financial provision on dissolution etc.) by virtue of paragraph 2(1)(a), (b) or (c),

(b) Part 2 (property adjustment orders), [F581]. . .

(c) Part 3 (pension sharing orders)**[**[F582], or**]**

[[F583](d) Part 3A (pension compensation sharing orders).**]**

(2) The court must in particular have regard to—

(a) the income, earning capacity, property and other financial resources which each civil partner—

(i) has, or

(ii) is likely to have in the foreseeable future,

including, in the case of earning capacity, any increase in that capacity which it would in the opinion of the court be reasonable to expect the civil partner to take steps to acquire;

(b) the financial needs, obligations and responsibilities which each civil partner has or is likely to have in the foreseeable future;

(c) the standard of living enjoyed by the family before the breakdown of the civil partnership;

(d) the age of each civil partner and the duration of the civil partnership;

(e) any physical or mental disability of either of the civil partners;

(f) the contributions which each civil partner has made or is likely in the foreseeable future to make to the welfare of the family, including any contribution by looking after the home or caring for the family;

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(g) the conduct of each civil partner, if that conduct is such that it would in the opinion of the court be inequitable to disregard it;

(h) in the case of proceedings for a dissolution or nullity order, the value to each civil partner of any benefit which, because of the dissolution or annulment of the civil partnership, that civil partner will lose the chance of acquiring.

Textual Amendments

F581 Word in Sch. 15 para. 16(1)(b) repealed (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 116, 118, Sch. 5 para. 16(4)(a), **Sch. 10 Pt. 4**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

F582 Word in Sch. 15 para. 16(1)(c) inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 118, **Sch. 5 para. 16(4)(b)**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

F583 Sch. 15 para. 16(1)(d) added (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 118, **Sch. 5 para. 16(4)(c)**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C48 Sch. 15 para. 16(2)(d) applied (with modifications) (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Treatment of Overseas Relationships) Order (Northern Ireland) 2005 (S.R. 2005/531), **art. 3(2)**

C49 Sch. 15 para. 16(2)(d) applied (with modifications) (13.1.2020) by The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), **171(2)** (with regs. 6-9)

Particular matters to be taken into account when exercising powers in relation to children

17 (1) This paragraph applies to the exercise by the court in relation to a child of the family of its powers under—

(a) Part 1 (financial provision on dissolution etc.) by virtue of paragraph 2(1)(d), (e) or (f), or

(b) Part 2 (property adjustment orders).

(2) The court must in particular have regard to—

(a) the financial needs of the child;

(b) the income, earning capacity (if any), property and other financial resources of the child;

(c) any physical or mental disability of the child;

(d) the way in which the child was being and in which the civil partners expected the child to be educated or trained;

(e) the considerations mentioned in relation to the civil partners in paragraph 16(2)(a), (b), (c) and (e).

(3) In relation to the exercise of any of those powers against a civil partner ("A") in favour of a child of the family who is not A's child, the court must also have regard to—

(a) whether A has assumed any responsibility for the child's maintenance,

(b) if so, the extent to which, and the basis upon which, A assumed such responsibility and the length of time for which A discharged such responsibility;

(c) whether in assuming and discharging such responsibility A did so knowing that the child was not A's child;

(d) the liability of any other person to maintain the child.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Terminating considerations

18 (1) Sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) apply if, on or after the making of a dissolution or nullity order, the court decides to exercise its powers under—

(a) Part 1 (financial provision on dissolution etc.) by virtue of paragraph 2(1)(a), (b) or (c),

(b) Part 2 (property adjustment orders), [F584]. . .

(c) Part 3 (pension sharing orders),[F585 or]

[F586(d) Part 3A (pension compensation sharing orders),]

in favour of one of the civil partners.

(2) The court must consider whether it would be appropriate to exercise those powers in such a way that the financial obligations of each civil partner towards the other will be terminated as soon after the making of the dissolution or nullity order as the court considers just and reasonable.

(3) If the court decides to make—

(a) a periodical payments order, or

(b) a secured periodical payments order,

in favour of one of the civil partners ("A"), it must in particular consider whether it would be appropriate to require the payments to be made or secured only for such term as would in its opinion be sufficient to enable A to adjust without undue hardship to the termination of A's financial dependence on the other civil partner.

(4) If—

(a) on or after the making of a dissolution or nullity order, an application is made by one of the civil partners for a periodical payments or secured periodical payments order in that civil partner's favour, but

(b) the court considers that no continuing obligation should be imposed on either civil partner to make or secure periodical payments in favour of the other,

the court may dismiss the application with a direction that the applicant is not entitled to make any future application in relation to that civil partnership for an order under Part 1 by virtue of paragraph 2(1)(a) or (b).

Textual Amendments

F584 Word in Sch. 15 para. 18(1)(b) repealed (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 116, 118, Sch. 5 para. 16(5)(a), **Sch. 10 Pt. 4**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

F585 Word in Sch. 15 para. 18(1)(c) inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 118, **Sch. 5 para. 16(5)(b)**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

F586 Sch. 15 para. 18(1)(d) added (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 118, **Sch. 5 para. 16(5)(c)**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

PART 5

MAKING OF PART 1 ORDERS HAVING REGARD TO PENSION BENEFITS

Pension benefits to be included in matters to which court is to have regard

19 (1) The matters to which the court is to have regard under paragraph 16(2)(a) include any pension benefits under a pension arrangement or by way of pension which a civil partner has or is likely to have; and, accordingly, in relation to any pension benefits paragraph 16(2)(a)(ii) has effect as if "in the foreseeable future" were omitted.

(2) The matters to which the court is to have regard under paragraph 16(2)(h) include any pension benefits which, because of the making of a dissolution or nullity order, a civil partner will lose the chance of acquiring.

(3) "Pension benefits" means—

(a) benefits under a pension arrangement, or

(b) benefits by way of pension (whether under a pension arrangement or not).

Provisions applying where pension benefits taken into account in decision to make Part 1 order

20 (1) This paragraph applies if, having regard to any benefits under a pension arrangement, the court decides to make an order under Part 1.

(2) To the extent to which the Part 1 order is made having regard to any benefits under a pension arrangement, it may require the person responsible for the pension arrangement, if at any time any payment in respect of any benefits under the arrangement becomes due to the civil partner with pension rights, to make a payment for the benefit of the other civil partner.

(3) The Part 1 order must express the amount of any payment required to be made by virtue of sub-paragraph (2) as a percentage of the payment which becomes due to the civil partner with pension rights.

(4) Any such payment by the person responsible for the arrangement—

(a) discharges so much of his liability to the civil partner with pension rights as corresponds to the amount of the payment, and

(b) is to be treated for all purposes as a payment made by the civil partner with pension rights in or towards the discharge of that civil partner's liability under the order.

(5) If the civil partner with pension rights has a right of commutation under the arrangement, the Part 1 order may require that civil partner to exercise it to any extent.

(6) This paragraph applies to any payment due in consequence of commutation in pursuance of the Part 1 order as it applies to other payments in respect of benefits under the arrangement.

(7) The power conferred by sub-paragraph (5) may not be exercised for the purpose of commuting a benefit payable to the civil partner with pension rights to a benefit payable to the other civil partner.

(8) The powers conferred by sub-paragraphs (2) and (5) may not be exercised in relation to a pension arrangement which—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) is the subject of a pension sharing order in relation to the civil partnership, or

(b) has been the subject of pension sharing between the civil partners.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C50 Sch. 15 para. 20 modified (14.8.2006) by The Dissolution etc. (Pension Protection Fund) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 (S.R. 2006/311), **reg. 4(2)(b)**

C51 Sch. 15 para. 20(4) modified (14.8.2006) by The Dissolution etc. (Pension Protection Fund) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 (S.R. 2006/311), **reg. 2**

Pensions: lump sums

21 (1) This paragraph applies if the benefits which the civil partner with pension rights has or is likely to have under a pension arrangement include any lump sum payable in respect of that civil partner's death.

(2) The court's power under Part 1 to order a civil partner to pay a lump sum to the other civil partner includes the power to make by the order any of the provision in sub-paragraphs (3) to (5).

(3) If the person responsible for the pension arrangement has power to determine the person to whom the sum, or any part of it, is to be paid, the court may require him to pay the whole or part of that sum, when it becomes due, to the other civil partner.

(4) If the civil partner with pension rights has power to nominate the person to whom the sum, or any part of it, is to be paid, the court may require the civil partner with pension rights to nominate the other civil partner in respect of the whole or part of that sum.

(5) In any other case, the court may require the person responsible for the pension arrangement in question to pay the whole or part of that sum, when it becomes due, for the benefit of the other civil partner instead of to the person to whom, apart from the order, it would be paid.

(6) Any payment by the person responsible for the arrangement under an order made under Part 1 made by virtue of this paragraph discharges so much of his liability in respect of the civil partner with pension rights as corresponds to the amount of the payment.

(7) The powers conferred by this paragraph may not be exercised in relation to a pension arrangement which—

(a) is the subject of a pension sharing order in relation to the civil partnership, or

(b) has been the subject of pension sharing between the civil partners.

Pensions: supplementary

22 If—

(a) a Part 1 order made by virtue of paragraph 20 or 21 imposes any requirement on the person responsible for a pension arrangement ("the first arrangement"),

(b) the civil partner with pension rights acquires rights under another pension arrangement ("the new arrangement") which are derived (directly or

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

indirectly) from the whole of that civil partner's rights under the first arrangement, and

(c) the person responsible for the new arrangement has been given notice in accordance with regulations made by the Lord Chancellor,

the Part 1 order has effect as if it had been made instead in respect of the person responsible for the new arrangement.

Commencement Information

I69 Sch. 15 para. 22 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 15 para. 22 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 15 para. 22(c) in force for certain purposes at 7.11.2005 by S.I. 2005/3058, **art. 2** and Sch. 15 para. 22 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.

Regulations

23 (1) The Lord Chancellor may by regulations—

(a) make provision, in relation to any provision of paragraphs 20 or 21 which authorises the court making a Part 1 order to require the person responsible for a pension arrangement to make a payment for the benefit of the other civil partner, as to—

(i) the person to whom, and

(ii) the terms on which,

the payment is to be made;

(b) make provision, in relation to payment under a mistaken belief as to the continuation in force of a provision included by virtue of paragraph 20 or 21 in a Part 1 order, about the rights or liabilities of the payer, the payee or the person to whom the payment was due;

(c) require notices to be given in respect of changes of circumstances relevant to Part 1 orders which include provision made by virtue of paragraphs 20 and 21;

(d) make provision for the person responsible for a pension arrangement to be discharged in prescribed circumstances from a requirement imposed by virtue of paragraph 20 or 21;

(e) make provision about calculation and verification in relation to the valuation of—

(i) benefits under a pension arrangement, or

(ii) shareable state scheme rights (within the meaning of paragraph 11(3)),

for the purposes of the court's functions in connection with the exercise of any of its powers under this Schedule.

(2) Regulations under sub-paragraph (1)(e) may include—

(a) provision for calculation or verification in accordance with guidance from time to time prepared by a prescribed person, and

(b) provision by reference to regulations under Article 27 or 46(4) of the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 (S.I. 1999/3147 (N.I. 11)).

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(3) The power to make regulations under paragraph 22 or this paragraph is exercisable by statutory rule for the purposes of the Statutory Rules (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 (S.I. 1979/1573 (N.I. 12)).

(4) Regulations under paragraph 22 or this paragraph are subject to **[**[F587]negative resolution within the meaning of section 41(6) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954**]**.

(5) "Prescribed" means prescribed by regulations.

Textual Amendments

F587 Words in Sch. 15 para. 23(4) substituted (12.4.2010) by The Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/976), art. 15(5), **Sch. 18 para. 75(3)** (with arts. 28-31)

Commencement Information

I70 Sch. 15 para. 23 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 15 para. 23 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 15 para. 23 in force for certain purposes at 7.11.2005 by S.I. 2005/3058, **art. 2** and Sch. 15 para. 23 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

Interpretation of provisions relating to pensions

24 (1) In this Part "the civil partner with pension rights" means the civil partner who has or is likely to have benefits under a pension arrangement.

(2) In this Part "pension arrangement" has the same meaning as in Part 3.

(3) In this Part, references to the person responsible for a pension arrangement are to be read in accordance with Article 23 of the 1999 Order.

Commencement Information

I71 Sch. 15 para. 24 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 15 para. 24 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 15 para. 24(2)(3) in force for certain purposes at 7.11.2005 by S.I. 2005/3058, **art. 2** and Sch. 15 para. 24 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.

PART 6

PENSION PROTECTION FUND COMPENSATION ETC.

PPF compensation to be included in matters to which court is to have regard

25 (1) The matters to which a court is to have regard under paragraph 16(2)(a) include any PPF compensation to which a civil partner is or is likely to be entitled; and, accordingly, in relation to any PPF compensation paragraph 16(2)(a)(ii) has effect as if "in the foreseeable future" were omitted.

(2) The matters to which a court is to have regard under paragraph 16(2)(h) include any PPF compensation which, because of the making of a dissolution or nullity order, a civil partner will lose the chance of acquiring entitlement to.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(3) F588 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F588 Sch. 15 para. 25(3) repealed (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 116, 118, Sch. 5 para. 17(2), **Sch. 10 Pt. 4**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

Assumption of responsibility by PPF Board in paragraph 20(2) cases

26 (1) This paragraph applies to an order under Part 1 so far as it includes provision made by virtue of paragraph 20(2) which—

(a) imposed requirements on the trustees or managers of an occupational pension scheme for which the Board has assumed responsibility, and

(b) was made before the trustees or managers received the transfer notice.

(2) From the time the trustees or managers of the scheme receive the transfer notice, the order has effect—

(a) except in descriptions of case prescribed by regulations, with the modifications set out in sub-paragraph (3), and

(b) with such other modifications as may be prescribed by regulations.

(3) The modifications are that—

(a) references in the order to the trustees or managers of the scheme have effect as references to the Board, and

(b) references in the order to any pension or lump sum to which the civil partner with pension rights is or may become entitled under the scheme have effect as references to any PPF compensation to which that person is or may become entitled in respect of the pension or lump sum.

Assumption of responsibility by PPF Board in paragraph 20(5) cases

27 (1) This paragraph applies to an order under Part 1 if—

(a) it includes provision made by virtue of paragraph 20(5) which requires the civil partner with pension rights to exercise his right of commutation under an occupational pension scheme to any extent, and

(b) before the requirement is complied with the Board has assumed responsibility for the scheme.

(2) From the time the trustees or managers of the scheme receive the transfer notice, the order has effect with such modifications as may be prescribed by regulations.

Lump sums: power to modify paragraph 21 in respect of assessment period

28 Regulations may modify paragraph 21 in its application to an occupational pension scheme during an assessment period in relation to the scheme.

Assumption of responsibility by the Board not to affect power of court to vary order etc.

29 (1) This paragraph applies where the court makes, in relation to an occupational pension scheme—

(a) a pension sharing order, or

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) an order including provision made by virtue of paragraph 20(2) or (5).

(2) If the Board subsequently assumes responsibility for the scheme, that does not affect—

(a) the powers of the court under paragraph 46 to vary or discharge the order or to suspend or revive any provision of it;

(b) on an appeal, the powers of the appeal court to affirm, reinstate, set aside or vary the order.

[F589 Attachment of PPF compensation

Textual Amendments

F589 Sch. 15 para. 29A and cross-heading inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 118, **Sch. 5 para. 17(3)**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

29A (1) This paragraph applies if, having regard to any PPF compensation to which a civil partner is or is likely to be entitled, the court decides to make an order under Part 1.

(2) To the extent to which the Part 1 order is made having regard to such compensation, it may require the Board, if at any time any payment in respect of PPF compensation becomes due to the civil partner with compensation rights, to make a payment for the benefit of the other civil partner.

(3) The Part 1 order must express the amount of any payment required to be made by virtue of sub-paragraph (2) as a percentage of the payment which becomes due to the civil partner with compensation rights.

(4) Any such payment by the Board—

(a) discharges so much of its liability to the civil partner with compensation rights as corresponds to the amount of the payment, and

(b) is to be treated for all purposes as a payment made by the civil partner with compensation rights in or towards the discharge of that civil partner's liability under the order.

(5) If the civil partner with compensation rights has a right to commute any PPF compensation, the Part 1 order may require that civil partner to exercise it to any extent.

(6) This paragraph applies to any payment due in consequence of commutation in pursuance of the Part 1 order as it applies to other payments in respect of PPF compensation.

(7) The power conferred by sub-paragraph (5) may not be exercised for the purpose of commuting a benefit payable to the civil partner with compensation rights to a benefit payable to the other civil partner.

(8) The powers conferred by sub-paragraphs (2) and (5) may not be exercised in relation to rights to PPF compensation that—

(a) derive from rights under a pension scheme that were at any time the subject of a pension sharing order in relation to the civil partnership or a previous civil partnership between the same parties, or

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) are or have ever been the subject of a pension compensation sharing order in relation to the civil partnership or a previous civil partnership between the same parties.

[[F590]29B (1) Regulations may—

(a) make provision, in relation to any provision of paragraph 29A which authorises the court making a Part 1 order to require the Board to make a payment for the benefit of the other civil partner, as to the person to whom, and the terms on which, the payment is to be made;

(b) make provision, in relation to payment under a mistaken belief as to the continuation in force of a provision included by virtue of paragraph 29A in a Part 1 order, about the rights or liabilities of the payer, the payee or the person to whom the payment was due;

(c) require notices to be given in respect of changes of circumstances relevant to Part 1 orders which include provision made by virtue of paragraph 29A;

(d) make provision for the Board to be discharged in prescribed circumstances from a requirement imposed by virtue of paragraph 29A;

(e) make provision about calculation and verification in relation to the valuation of PPF compensation for the purposes of the court's functions in connection with the exercise of any of its powers under this Schedule.

(2) Regulations under sub-paragraph (1)(e) may include—

(a) provision for calculation or verification in accordance with guidance from time to time prepared by a prescribed person;

(b) provision by reference to regulations under section 90 of the Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.**]]**

Textual Amendments

F590 Sch. 15 para. 29B inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 118, **Sch. 5 para. 17(4)**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

Regulations

30 Regulations may make such consequential modifications of any provision of, or made by virtue of, this Schedule as appear to the Lord Chancellor necessary or expedient to give effect to the provisions of this Part.

31 (1) In this Part "regulations" means regulations made by the Lord Chancellor.

(2) A power to make regulations under this Part is exercisable by statutory rule for the purposes of the Statutory Rules (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 (S.I. 1979/1573 (N.I. 12)).

(3) Regulations under this Part are subject to **[**[F591]negative resolution within the meaning of section 41(6) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954**]**.

Textual Amendments

F591 Words in Sch. 15 para. 31(3) substituted (12.4.2010) by The Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/976), art. 15(5), **Sch. 18 para. 75(4)** (with arts. 28-31)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Interpretation

32 (1) In this Part—

"assessment period" means—

(a) an assessment period within the meaning of Part 2 of the Pensions Act 2004 (pension protection), or

(b) an equivalent period under corresponding Northern Ireland legislation;

"the Board" means the Board of the Pension Protection Fund;

[F592"the civil partner with compensation rights" means the civil partner who is or is likely to be entitled to PPF compensation;

"the civil partner with pension rights" has the meaning given by paragraph 24(1);

"occupational pension scheme" has the same meaning as in the Pension Schemes (Northern Ireland) Act 1993 (c. 49);

[F593"prescribed" means prescribed by regulations;

"transfer notice" has the same meaning as in—

(a) Chapter 3 of Part 2 of the 2004 Act, or

(b) corresponding Northern Ireland legislation.

(2) References in this Part to the Board assuming responsibility for a scheme are to the Board assuming responsibility for the scheme in accordance with—

(a) Chapter 3 of Part 2 of the 2004 Act (pension protection), or

(b) corresponding Northern Ireland legislation.**]]**

Textual Amendments

F592 Sch. 15 para. 32(1): the definition of "the civil partner with compensation rights" inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 118, **Sch. 5 para. 17(5)(a)**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

F593 Sch. 15 para. 32(1): the definition of "prescribed" inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 118, **Sch. 5 para. 17(5)(b)**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

PART 7

MAINTENANCE PENDING OUTCOME OF DISSOLUTION, NULLITY OR SEPARATION PROCEEDINGS

33 On an application for a dissolution, nullity or separation order, the court may make an order requiring either civil partner to make to the other for the other's maintenance such periodical payments for such term—

(a) beginning no earlier than the date on which the application was made, and

(b) ending with the date on which the proceedings are determined,

as the court thinks reasonable.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

PART 8

FAILURE TO MAINTAIN: FINANCIAL PROVISION (AND INTERIM ORDERS)

Circumstances in which orders under this Part may be made

34 (1) Either civil partner in a subsisting civil partnership may apply to the court for an order under this Part on the ground that the other civil partner ("the respondent")—

(a) has failed to provide reasonable maintenance for the applicant, or

(b) has failed to provide, or to make a proper contribution towards, reasonable maintenance for any child of the family.

[F594(2) The court must not entertain an application under this paragraph unless–

(a) the applicant or the respondent is domiciled in Northern Ireland on the date of the application,

(b) the applicant has been habitually resident there throughout the period of 1 year ending with that date, or

(c) the respondent is resident there on that date.**]**

[F595(2A) If the application or part of it relates to a matter to which Article 18 of the 2007 Hague Convention applies, the court must not entertain the application or that part of it except where permitted by Article 18.**]**

(3) If, on an application under this paragraph, it appears to the court that—

(a) the applicant or any child of the family to whom the application relates is in immediate need of financial assistance, but

(b) it is not yet possible to determine what order, if any, should be made on the application,

the court may make an interim order.

(4) If, on an application under this paragraph, the applicant satisfies the court of a ground mentioned in sub-paragraph (1), the court may make one or more of the orders set out in paragraph 36.

[F596(5) In this paragraph **[**F597"the 2007 Hague Convention" means the Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance concluded on 23 November 2007 at The Hague**].]**

Textual Amendments

F594 Sch. 15 para. 34(2) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Jurisdiction and Judgments (Family) (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/519), reg. 1(1), **Sch. para. 25(8)(a)(i)** (with reg. 8) (as amended by S.I. 2020/1574, regs. 1, 5(2)); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

F595 Sch. 15 para. 34(2A) inserted (31.12.2020) by S.I. 2019/519, reg. 1(1), **Sch. para. 25(8)(a)(ii)** (as substituted by The Jurisdiction, Judgments and Applicable Law (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/1574), regs. 1, **5(3)(j)(v)**)

F596 Sch. 15 para. 34(5) inserted (18.6.2011) by The Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments (Maintenance) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 2011/1484), reg. 9, **Sch. 7 para. 16(8)(b)**

F597 Words in Sch. 15 para. 34(5) substituted (31.12.2020) by S.I. 2019/519, reg. 1(1), **Sch. para. 25(8)(a)(iii)** (as substituted by The Jurisdiction, Judgments and Applicable Law (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/1574), regs. 1, **5(3)(j)(v)**)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Interim orders

35 An interim order is an order requiring the respondent to make to the applicant, until the determination of the application, such periodical payments as the court thinks reasonable.

Orders that may be made where failure to maintain established

36 (1) The orders are—

(a) an order that the respondent must make to the applicant such periodical payments for such term as may be specified;

(b) an order that the respondent must secure to the applicant, to the satisfaction of the court, such periodical payments for such term as may be specified;

(c) an order that the respondent must pay to the applicant such lump sum as may be specified;

(d) an order that the respondent must make such periodical payments for such term as may be specified—

(i) to such person as may be specified, for the benefit of the child to whom the application relates, or

(ii) to the child to whom the application relates;

(e) an order that the respondent must secure—

(i) to such person as may be specified for the benefit of the child to whom the application relates, or

(ii) to the child to whom the application relates,

to the satisfaction of the court, such periodical payments for such term as may be specified;

(f) an order that the respondent must pay such lump sum as may be specified—

(i) to such person as may be specified for the benefit of the child to whom the application relates, or

(ii) to the child to whom the application relates.

(2) In this Part "specified" means specified in the order.

Particular provision that may be made by lump sum orders

37 (1) An order under this Part for the payment of a lump sum may be made for the purpose of enabling any liabilities or expenses reasonably incurred in maintaining the applicant or any child of the family to whom the application relates before the making of the application to be met.

(2) An order under this Part for the payment of a lump sum may—

(a) provide for its payment by instalments of such amount as may be specified, and

(b) require the payment of the instalments to be secured to the satisfaction of the court.

(3) Sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) do not restrict the power to make an order by virtue of paragraph 36(1)(c) or (f).

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Matters to which the court is to have regard on application under paragraph 34(1)(a)

38 (1) This paragraph applies if an application under paragraph 34 is made on the ground mentioned in paragraph 34(1)(a).

(2) In deciding—

(a) whether the respondent has failed to provide reasonable maintenance for the applicant, and

(b) what order, if any, to make under this Part in favour of the applicant,

the court must have regard to all the circumstances of the case including the matters mentioned in paragraph 16(2).

(3) If an application is also made under paragraph 34 in respect of a child of the family who has not reached 18, the court must give first consideration to the welfare of the child while under 18.

(4) Paragraph 16(2)(c) has effect as if for the reference in it to the breakdown of the civil partnership there were substituted a reference to the failure to provide reasonable maintenance for the applicant.

Matters to which the court is to have regard on application under paragraph 34(1)(b)

39 (1) This paragraph applies if an application under paragraph 34 is made on the ground mentioned in paragraph 34(1)(b).

(2) In deciding—

(a) whether the respondent has failed to provide, or to make a proper contribution towards, reasonable maintenance for the child of the family to whom the application relates, and

(b) what order, if any, to make under this Part in favour of the child,

the court must have regard to all the circumstances of the case.

(3) Those circumstances include—

(a) the matters mentioned in paragraph 17(2)(a) to (e), and

(b) if the child of the family to whom the application relates is not the child of the respondent, the matters mentioned in paragraph 17(3).

(4) Paragraph 16(2)(c) (as it applies by virtue of paragraph 17(2)(e)) has effect as if for the reference in it to the breakdown of the civil partnership there were substituted a reference to—

(a) the failure to provide, or

(b) the failure to make a proper contribution towards,

reasonable maintenance for the child of the family to whom the application relates.

Restrictions on making orders under this Part

40 The power to make an order under paragraph 36(1)(d), (e) or (f) is subject to paragraph 44(1) and (5) (restrictions on orders in favour of children who have reached 18).

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

PART 9

COMMENCEMENT OF CERTAIN PROCEEDINGS AND DURATION OF CERTAIN ORDERS

Commencement of proceedings for ancillary relief, etc.

41 (1) Sub-paragraph (2) applies if an application for a dissolution, nullity or separation order has been made.

(2) Subject to sub-paragraph (3), proceedings for—

(a) an order under Part 1 (financial provision on dissolution etc.),

(b) a property adjustment order, or

(c) an order under Part 7 (maintenance pending outcome of dissolution, nullity or separation proceedings),

may be begun (subject to and in accordance with rules of court), at any time after the presentation of the application.

(3) Rules of court may provide, in such cases as may be prescribed by the rules that—

(a) an application for any such relief as is mentioned in sub-paragraph (2) must be made in the application or defence, and

(b) an application for any such relief which—

(i) is not so made, or

(ii) is not made until after the end of such period following the presentation of the application or filing of the defence as may be so prescribed,

may be made only with the leave of the court.

Commencement Information

I72 Sch. 15 para. 41 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 15 para. 41 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 15 para. 41(2) in force for certain purposes and Sch. 15 para. 41(3) in force at 5.9.2005 by S.I. 2005/2399, **art. 2**, Sch. and Sch. 15 para. 41 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.

Duration of periodical and secured periodical payments orders for a civil partner

42 (1) The court may specify in a periodical payments or secured periodical payments order in favour of a civil partner such term as it thinks fit, except that the term must not—

(a) begin before the date of the making of an application for the order, or

(b) extend beyond the limits given in sub-paragraphs (2) and (3).

(2) The limits in the case of a periodical payments order are—

(a) the death of either civil partner;

(b) where the order is made on or after the making of a dissolution or nullity order, the formation of a subsequent civil partnership or marriage by the civil partner in whose favour the order is made.

(3) The limits in the case of a secured periodical payments order are—

(a) the death of the civil partner in whose favour the order is made;

(b) where the order is made on or after the making of a dissolution or nullity order, the formation of a subsequent civil partnership or marriage by the civil partner in whose favour the order is made.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(4) In the case of an order made on or after the making of a dissolution or nullity order, sub-paragraphs (1) to (3) are subject to paragraphs 18(3) and 52(4).

(5) If a periodical payments or secured periodical payments order in favour of a civil partner is made on or after the making of a dissolution or nullity order, the court may direct that that civil partner is not entitled to apply under paragraph 46 for the extension of the term specified in the order.

(6) If—

(a) a periodical payments or secured periodical payments order in favour of a civil partner is made otherwise than on or after the making of a dissolution or nullity order, and

(b) the civil partnership is subsequently dissolved or annulled but the order continues in force,

the order ceases to have effect (regardless of anything in it) on the formation of a subsequent civil partnership or marriage by that civil partner, except in relation to any arrears due under it on the date of its formation.

Subsequent civil partnership or marriage

43 If after the making of a dissolution or nullity order one of the civil partners forms a subsequent civil partnership or marriage, that civil partner is not entitled to apply, by reference to the dissolution or nullity order, for—

(a) an order under Part 1 in that civil partner's favour, or

(b) a property adjustment order,

against the other civil partner in the dissolved or annulled civil partnership.

Duration of continuing orders in favour of children, and age limit on making certain orders in their favour

44 (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (5)—

(a) no order under Part 1,

(b) no property adjustment order made by virtue of paragraph 7(1)(a) (transfer of property), and

(c) no order made under Part 8 (failure to maintain) by virtue of paragraph 36,

is to be made in favour of a child who has reached 18.

(2) The term to be specified in a periodical payments or secured periodical payments order in favour of a child may begin with—

(a) the date of the making of an application for the order or a later date, or

(b) a date ascertained in accordance with sub-paragraph (7) or (8).

(3) The term to be specified in such an order—

(a) must not in the first instance extend beyond the date of the birthday of the child next following the child's reaching the upper limit of the compulsory school age unless the court considers that in the circumstances of the case the welfare of the child requires that it should extend to a later date, and

(b) must not in any event, subject to sub-paragraph (5), extend beyond the date of the child's 18th birthday.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(4) In sub-paragraph (3)(a) "compulsory school age" has the meaning given in Article 46 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 (S.I. 1986/594 (N.I. 3)).

(5) Sub-paragraphs (1) and (3)(b) do not apply in the case of a child, if it appears to the court that—

(a) the child is, or will be, or, if an order were made without complying with either or both of those provisions, would be—

(i) receiving instruction at an educational establishment, or

(ii) undergoing training for a trade, profession or vocation,

whether or not the child also is, will be or would be in gainful employment, or

(b) there are special circumstances which justify the making of an order without complying with either or both of sub-paragraphs (1) and (3)(b).

(6) A periodical payments order in favour of a child, regardless of anything in the order, ceases to have effect on the death of the person liable to make payments under the order, except in relation to any arrears due under the order on the date of the death.

(7) If—

(a) a maintenance calculation ("the current calculation") is in force with respect to a child, and

(b) an application is made under this Schedule for a periodical payments or secured periodical payments order in favour of that child before the end of 6 months beginning with the making of the current calculation,

the term to be specified in any such order made on that application may be expressed to begin on, or at any time after, the earliest permitted date.

(8) "The earliest permitted date" is whichever is the later of—

(a) the date 6 months before the application is made, or

(b) the date on which the current calculation took effect or, where successive maintenance calculations have been continuously in force with respect to a child, on which the first of those calculations took effect.

(9) If—

(a) a maintenance calculation ceases to have effect by or under any provision of the Child Support (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 (S.I. 1991/2628 (N.I. 23)), and

(b) an application is made, before the end of 6 months beginning with the relevant date, for a periodical payments or secured periodical payments order in favour of a child with respect to whom that maintenance calculation was in force immediately before it ceased to have effect,

the term to be specified in any such order made on that application may begin with the date on which that maintenance calculation ceased to have effect or any later date.

(10) "The relevant date" means the date on which the maintenance calculation ceased to have effect.

(11) In this Schedule "maintenance calculation" has the same meaning as it has in the 1991 Order.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

PART 10

VARIATION, DISCHARGE ETC. OF CERTAIN ORDERS FOR FINANCIAL RELIEF

Orders etc. to which this Part applies

45 (1) This Part applies to the following orders—

(a) a periodical payments order under Part 1 (financial provision on dissolution etc.) or Part 8 (failure to maintain);

(b) a secured periodical payments order under Part 1 or 8;

(c) an order under Part 7 (maintenance pending outcome of dissolution proceedings etc.);

(d) an interim order under Part 8;

(e) an order made under Part 1 by virtue of paragraph 3(3) or under Part 8 by virtue of paragraph 37(2) (lump sum by instalments);

(f) a deferred order made under Part 1 by virtue of paragraph 2(1)(c) (lump sum for civil partner) which includes provision made by virtue of—

(i) paragraph 20(2), [F598]. . .

(ii) paragraph 21,[F599 or]

[F600(iii) paragraph 29A(2),]

(provision in respect of pension rights [F601or pension compensation rights]);

(g) a property adjustment order made on or after the making of a separation order by virtue of paragraph 7(1)(b), (c) or (d) (order for settlement or variation of settlement);

(h) a pension sharing order [F602, or a pension compensation sharing order,] made before the dissolution or nullity order has been made final.

(2) If the court has made an order referred to in sub-paragraph (1)(f)(ii), this Part ceases to apply to the order on the death of either of the civil partners.

(3) The powers exercisable by the court under this Part in relation to an order are also exercisable in relation to any instrument executed in pursuance of the order.

Textual Amendments

F598 Word in Sch. 15 para. 45(1)(f)(i) repealed (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 116, 118, Sch. 5 para. 18(4)(2)(a), **Sch. 10 Pt. 4**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

F599 Word in Sch. 15 para. 45(1)(f)(ii) inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 118, **Sch. 5 para. 18(2)(b)**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

F600 Sch. 15 para. 45(1)(f)(iii) added (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 118, **Sch. 5 para. 18(2)(c)**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

F601 Words in Sch. 15 para. 45(1)(f) inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 118, **Sch. 5 para. 18(2)(d)**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

F602 Words in Sch. 15 para. 45(1)(h) inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 118, **Sch. 5 para. 18(3)**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

Powers to vary, discharge, suspend or revive order

46 (1) If the court has made an order to which this Part applies, it may—

(a) vary or discharge the order,

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) suspend any provision of it temporarily, or

(c) revive the operation of any provision so suspended.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) is subject to the provisions of this Part and paragraph 42(5).

Power to remit arrears

47 (1) If the court has made an order referred to in paragraph 45(1)(a), (b), (c) or (d), it may remit the payment of any arrears due under the order or under any part of the order.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) is subject to the provisions of this Part.

Variation etc. of periodical or secured periodical payments orders made in cases of failure to maintain

48 (1) An application for the variation under paragraph 46 of a periodical payments order or secured periodical payments order made under Part 8 in favour of a child may, if the child has reached 16, be made by the child himself.

(2) Sub-paragraph (3) applies if a periodical payments order made in favour of a child under Part 8 ceases to have effect—

(a) on the date on which the child reaches 16, or

(b) at any time after that date but before or on the date on which the child reaches 18.

(3) If, on an application made to the court for an order under this sub-paragraph, it appears to the court that—

(a) the child is, will be or, if an order were made under this sub-paragraph, would be—

(i) receiving instruction at an educational establishment, or

(ii) undergoing training for a trade, profession or vocation,

whether or not the child also is, will be or would be in gainful employment, or

(b) there are special circumstances which justify the making of an order under this sub-paragraph,

the court may by order revive the order mentioned in sub-paragraph (2) from a date specified by it.

(4) The date specified under sub-paragraph (3) must not be earlier than the date of the application under that sub-paragraph.

(5) If under sub-paragraph (3) the court revives an order it may exercise its power under paragraph 46 in relation to the revived order.

Variation etc. of property adjustment ***[****F603****, pension sharing and pension compensation sharing orders****]***

Textual Amendments

F603 Words in Sch. 15 para. 49 cross-heading substituted (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 118, **Sch. 5 para. 18(4)**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

49 The court must not exercise the powers conferred by this Part in relation to a property adjustment order falling within paragraph 7(1)(b), (c) or (d) (order for settlement or for variation of settlement) except on an application made in proceedings—

(a) for the rescission of the separation order by reference to which the property adjustment order was made, or

(b) for a dissolution order in relation to the civil partnership.

50 (1) In relation to a pension sharing order **[**F604or pension compensation sharing order**]** which is made at a time before the dissolution or nullity order has been made final—

(a) the powers conferred by this Part (by virtue of paragraph 45(1)(h)) may be exercised—

(i) only on an application made before the pension sharing order **[**F605or pension compensation sharing order**]** has or, but for paragraph (b), would have taken effect, and

(ii) only if, at the time when the application is made, the dissolution or nullity order has not been made final, and

(b) an application made in accordance with paragraph (a) prevents the pension sharing order **[**F606or pension compensation sharing order**]** from taking effect before the application has been dealt with.

(2) No variation of a pension sharing order **[**F607or pension compensation sharing order**]** is to be made so as to take effect before the order is made final.

(3) The variation of a pension sharing order **[**F608or pension compensation sharing order**]** prevents the order taking effect before the end of such period after the making of the variation as may be prescribed by regulations made by the Lord Chancellor.

(4) The power to make regulations under sub-paragraph (3) is exercisable by statutory rule for the purposes of the Statutory Rules (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 (S.I. 1979/1573 (N.I. 12)).

(5) Regulations under sub-paragraph (3) are subject to **[**F609negative resolution within the meaning of section 41(6) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954**]**.

Textual Amendments

F604 Words in Sch. 15 para. 50(1) inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 118, **Sch. 5 para. 18(5)(a)**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

F605 Words in Sch. 15 para. 50(1)(a)(i) inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 118, **Sch. 5 para. 18(5)(b)**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

F606 Words in Sch. 15 para. 50(1)(b) inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 118, **Sch. 5 para. 18(5)(c)**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

F607 Words in Sch. 15 para. 50(2) inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 118, **Sch. 5 para. 18(5)(d)**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

F608 Words in Sch. 15 para. 50(3) inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 118, **Sch. 5 para. 18(5)(e)**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

F609 Words in Sch. 15 para. 50(5) substituted (12.4.2010) by The Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/976), art. 15(5), **Sch. 18 para. 75(5)** (with arts. 28-31)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Commencement Information

I73 Sch. 15 para. 50 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 15 para. 50 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 15 para. 50(3)(4)(5) in force for certain purposes at 5.9.2005 by S.I. 2005/2399, **art. 2**, Sch. and Sch. 15 para. 50 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.

51 (1) No property adjustment order **[**F610, pension sharing order or pension compensation sharing order**]** may be made on an application for the variation of a periodical payments or secured periodical payments order made (whether in favour of a civil partner or in favour of a child of the family) under Part 1.

(2) No order for the payment of a lump sum may be made on an application for the variation of a periodical payments or secured periodical payments order in favour of a civil partner (whether made under Part 1 or 8).

Textual Amendments

F610 Words in Sch. 15 para. 51(1) substituted (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 118, **Sch. 5 para. 18(6)**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

Matters to which court is to have regard in exercising powers under this Part

52 (1) In exercising the powers conferred by this Part the court must have regard to all the circumstances of the case, giving first consideration to the welfare, while under 18, of any child of the family who has not reached 18.

(2) The circumstances of the case include, in particular, any change in any of the matters to which the court was required to have regard when making the order to which the application relates.

(3) Sub-paragraph (4) applies in the case of—

(a) a periodical payments order, or

(b) a secured periodical payments order,

made on or after the making of a dissolution or nullity order.

(4) The court must consider whether in all the circumstances, and after having regard to any such change, it would be appropriate to vary the order so that payments under the order are required—

(a) to be made, or

(b) to be secured,

only for such further period as will in the opinion of the court be sufficient to enable the civil partner in whose favour the order was made to adjust without undue hardship to the termination of those payments.

(5) If the civil partner against whom the order was made has died, the circumstances of the case also include the changed circumstances resulting from that civil partner's death.

Variation of secured periodical payments order where person liable has died

53 (1) This paragraph applies if the person liable to make payments under a secured periodical payments order has died.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(2) Subject to sub-paragraph (3), an application under this Part relating to the order may be made by—

(a) the person entitled to payments under the periodical payments order, or

(b) the personal representatives of the deceased person.

(3) No such application may be made without the leave of the court after the end of 6 months from the date on which representation in regard to the estate of that person is first taken out.

(4) The personal representatives of the person who has died are not liable for having distributed any part of the estate of the deceased after the end of the 6 month period on the ground that they ought to have taken into account the possibility that the court might allow an application under this paragraph to be made after that period by the person entitled to payments under the order.

(5) Sub-paragraph (4) does not affect any power to recover any part of the estate so distributed arising by virtue of the making of an order in pursuance of this paragraph.

(6) In considering for the purposes of sub-paragraph (3) the question when representation was first taken out a grant limited to part of the estate is to be disregarded unless a grant limited to the remainder of the estate has previously been made or is made at the same time.

Power to direct when variation etc. is to take effect

54 (1) If the court, in exercise of its powers under this Part, decides—

(a) to vary, or

(b) to discharge,

a periodical payments or secured periodical payments order, it may direct that the variation or discharge is not to take effect until the end of such period as may be specified.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) is subject to paragraph 42(1) and (6).

55 (1) If—

(a) a periodical payments or secured periodical payments order in favour of more than one child ("the order") is in force,

(b) the order requires payments specified in it to be made to or for the benefit of more than one child without apportioning those payments between them,

(c) a maintenance calculation ("the calculation") is made with respect to one or more, but not all, of the children with respect to whom those payments are to be made, and

(d) an application is made, before the end of the period of 6 months beginning with the date on which the calculation was made, for the variation or discharge of the order,

the court may, in exercise of its powers under this Part to vary or discharge the order, direct that the variation or discharge is to take effect from the date on which the calculation took effect or any later date.

(2) If—

(a) an order ("the child order") of a kind prescribed for the purposes of Article 12(1) of the Child Support (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 (S.I. 1991/2628 (N.I. 23)) is affected by a maintenance calculation,

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) on the date on which the child order became so affected there was in force a periodical payments or secured periodical payments order ("the civil partner's order") in favour of a civil partner having the care of the child in whose favour the child order was made, and

(c) an application is made, before the end of the period of 6 months beginning with the date on which the maintenance calculation was made, for the civil partner's order to be varied or discharged,

the court may, in exercise of its powers under this Part to vary or discharge the civil partner's order, direct that the variation or discharge is to take effect from the date on which the child order became so affected or any later date.

(3) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (2), an order is affected if it ceases to have effect or is modified by or under Article 12 of the 1991 Order.

(4) Sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) do not affect any other power of the court to direct that the variation or discharge of an order under this Part is to take effect from a date earlier than that on which the order for variation or discharge was made.

PART 11

ARREARS AND REPAYMENTS

Payment of certain arrears unenforceable without the leave of the court

56 (1) This paragraph applies if any arrears are due under—

(a) an order under Part 1 (financial provision on dissolution etc.),

(b) an order under Part 7 (maintenance pending outcome of dissolution, nullity or separation proceedings), or

(c) an interim order under Part 8 (failure to maintain),

and the arrears became due more than 12 months before proceedings to enforce the payment of them are begun.

(2) A person is not entitled to enforce through the court the payment of the arrears without the leave of that court.

(3) The court hearing an application for the grant of leave under this paragraph may—

(a) refuse leave,

(b) grant leave subject to such restrictions and conditions (including conditions as to the allowing of time for payment or the making of payment by instalments) as that court thinks proper, or

(c) remit the payment of the arrears or of any part of them.

Orders for repayment in certain cases of sums paid under certain orders

57 (1) This paragraph applies if—

(a) a person ("R") is entitled to receive payments under an order listed in sub-paragraph (4), and

(b) R's circumstances or the circumstances of the person ("P") liable to make payments under the order have changed since the order was made, or the circumstances have changed as a result of P's death.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(2) The orders are—

(a) any order under Part 7 (maintenance pending outcome of dissolution, nullity or separation proceedings);

(b) any interim order under Part 8;

(c) any periodical payments order;

(d) any secured periodical payments order.

(3) P or P's personal representatives may (subject to sub-paragraph (7)) apply for an order under this paragraph against R or R's personal representatives.

(4) If it appears to the court that, because of the changed circumstances or P's death, the amount received by R in respect of a relevant period exceeds the amount which P or P's personal representatives should have been required to pay, it may order the respondent to the application to pay to the applicant such sum, not exceeding the amount of the excess, as it thinks just.

(5) "Relevant period" means a period after the circumstances changed or (as the case may be) after P's death.

(6) An order under this paragraph for the payment of any sum may provide for the payment of that sum by instalments of an amount specified in the order.

(7) An application under this paragraph—

(a) may be made in proceedings in the High Court for—

(i) the variation or discharge of the order listed in sub-paragraph (2), or

(ii) leave to enforce, or the enforcement of, the payment of arrears under that order, but

(b) if not made in such proceedings, must be made to a county court;

and accordingly references in this paragraph to the court are references to the High Court or a county court (whether a civil partnership proceedings county court or not), as the circumstances require.

(8) The jurisdiction conferred on a county court by this paragraph is exercisable even though, because of the amount claimed in the application, the jurisdiction would not but for this sub-paragraph be exercisable by a county court.

Orders for repayment after cessation of order because of subsequent civil partnership etc.

58 (1) Sub-paragraphs (3) and (4) apply if—

(a) a periodical payments or secured periodical payments order in favour of a civil partner ("R") has ceased to have effect because of the formation of a subsequent civil partnership or marriage by R, and

(b) the person liable to make payments under the order ("P") (or P's personal representatives) has made payments in accordance with it in respect of a relevant period in the mistaken belief that the order was still subsisting.

(2) "Relevant period" means a period after the date of the formation of the civil partnership or marriage.

(3) P (or P's personal representatives) is not entitled to bring proceedings in respect of a cause of action arising out of the circumstances mentioned in sub-paragraph (1)(a) and (b) against R (or R's personal representatives).

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(4) But, on an application under this paragraph by P (or P's personal representatives) against R (or R's personal representatives), the court—

(a) may order the respondent to pay to the applicant a sum equal to the amount of the payments made in respect of the relevant period, or

(b) if it appears to the court that it would be unjust to make that order, may—

(i) order the respondent to pay to the applicant such lesser sum as it thinks fit, or

(ii) dismiss the application.

(5) An order under this paragraph for the payment of any sum may provide for the payment of that sum by instalments of such amount as may be specified in the order.

(6) An application under this paragraph—

(a) may be made in proceedings in the High Court for leave to enforce, or the enforcement of, payment of arrears under the order in question, but

(b) if not made in such proceedings, must be made to a county court;

and accordingly references in this paragraph to the court are references to the High Court or a county court (whether a civil partnership proceedings county court or not), as the circumstances require.

(7) The jurisdiction conferred on a county court by this paragraph is exercisable even though, because of the amount claimed in the application, the jurisdiction would not but for this sub-paragraph be exercisable by a county court.

(8) Subject to sub-paragraph (9), the collecting officer of a court of summary jurisdiction to whom any payments under a payments order, or under an attachment of earnings order made to secure payments under a payments order, are required to be made is not liable—

(a) for any act done by him in pursuance of the payments order after the date on which that order ceased to have effect because of the formation of a subsequent civil partnership or marriage by R, or

(b) for any act done by him after that date in accordance with any statutory provision specifying how payments made to him in compliance with the attachment of earnings order are to be dealt with.

(9) Sub-paragraph (8) applies if (and only if) the act—

(a) was one which the officer would have been under a duty to do had the payments order not ceased to have effect, and

(b) was done before notice in writing of the formation of the civil partnership or marriage, was given to him by or on behalf of R, P, or R or P's personal representatives.

(10) In this paragraph—

"collecting officer" means the officer mentioned in section 15(2) of the Maintenance and Affiliation Orders Act (Northern Ireland) 1966 (c. 35) or Article 85(2) of the Magistrates' Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 (S.I. 1981/1675 (N.I. 26));

"statutory provision" has the meaning given by section 1(f) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954 (1954 c. 33 (N.I.)).

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

PART 12

CONSENT ORDERS AND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS

Consent orders for financial relief

59 (1) Regardless of anything in the preceding provisions of this Schedule, on an application for a consent order for financial relief, the court may, unless it has reason to think that there are other circumstances into which it ought to inquire, make an order in the terms agreed on the basis only of such information supplied with the application as is required by rules of court.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) applies to an application for a consent order varying or discharging an order for financial relief as it applies to an application for an order for financial relief.

(3) In this paragraph—

"consent order", in relation to an application for an order, means an order in the terms applied for to which the respondent agrees;

"order for financial relief" means an order under any of Parts 1, 2, 3 and 8.

Meaning of "maintenance agreement" and "financial arrangements"

60 (1) In this Part "maintenance agreement" means any written agreement between the civil partners in a civil partnership which—

(a) is made during the continuance or after the dissolution or annulment of the civil partnership and contains financial arrangements, or

(b) is a separation agreement which contains no financial arrangements but is made in a case where no other agreement in writing between the civil partners contains financial arrangements.

(2) In this Part "financial arrangements" means provisions governing the rights and liabilities towards one another when living separately of the civil partners in a civil partnership (including a civil partnership which has been dissolved or annulled) in respect of—

(a) the making or securing of payments, or

(b) the disposition or use of any property,

including such rights and liabilities with respect to the maintenance or education of a child (whether or not a child of the family).

(3) "Education" includes training.

Validity of maintenance agreements

61 If a maintenance agreement includes a provision purporting to restrict any right to apply to a court for an order containing financial arrangements—

(a) that provision is void, but

(b) any other financial arrangements contained in the agreement—

(i) are not void or unenforceable as a result, and

(ii) unless void or unenforceable for any other reason, are (subject to paragraphs 62 and 66) binding on the parties to the agreement.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Alteration of agreements by court during lives of parties

62 (1) F611... Either party to a maintenance agreement may apply to the court or, subject to sub-paragraph (6), to a court of summary jurisdiction for an order under this paragraph if—

(a) the maintenance agreement is for the time being subsisting, and

(b) each of the parties to the agreement is for the time being domiciled or resident in Northern Ireland.

(1A F612 . . . . . .

(2) The court may make an order under this paragraph if it is satisfied that—

(a) because of a change in the circumstances in the light of which—

(i) any financial arrangements contained in the agreement were made, or

(ii) financial arrangements were omitted from it,

the agreement should be altered so as to make different financial arrangements or so as to contain financial arrangements, or

(b) that the agreement does not contain proper financial arrangements with respect to any child of the family.

(3) In sub-paragraph (2)(a) the reference to a change in the circumstances includes a change foreseen by the parties when making the agreement.

(4) An order under this paragraph may make such alterations in the agreement—

(a) by varying or revoking any financial arrangements contained in it, or

(b) by inserting in it financial arrangements for the benefit of one of the parties to the agreement or of a child of the family,

as appear to the court to be just having regard to all the circumstances, including, if relevant, the matters mentioned in paragraph 17(3).

(5) The effect of the order is that the agreement is to be treated as if any alteration made by the order had been made by agreement between the partners and for valuable consideration.

(6) The power to make an order under this paragraph is subject to paragraphs 63 and 64.

(7 F613 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F611 Words in Sch. 15 para. 62(1) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Jurisdiction and Judgments (Family) (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/519), reg. 1(1), **Sch. para. 25(8)(b)(i)** (with reg. 8) (as amended by S.I. 2020/1574, regs. 1, 5(2)); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

F612 Sch. 15 para. 62(1A) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Jurisdiction and Judgments (Family) (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/519), reg. 1(1), **Sch. para. 25(8)(b)(ii)** (with reg. 8) (as amended by S.I. 2020/1574, regs. 1, 5(2)); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

F613 Sch. 15 para. 62(7) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Jurisdiction and Judgments (Family) (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/519), reg. 1(1), **Sch. para. 25(8)(b)(iii)** (with reg. 8) (as amended by S.I. 2020/1574, regs. 1, 5(2)); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Restrictions on applications to and orders by courts of summary jurisdiction under paragraph 62

63 (1) A court of summary jurisdiction must not entertain an application under paragraph 62(1) unless—

(a) both the parties to the agreement are resident in Northern Ireland, [F614]...

[F614](b) . . . . . .

(2) A court of summary jurisdiction must not make any order on such an application other than—

(a) if the agreement includes no provision for periodical payments by either of the parties, an order inserting provision for the making by one of the parties of periodical payments for the maintenance of—

(i) the other party, or

(ii) any child of the family;

(b) if the agreement includes provision for the making by one of the parties of periodical payments, an order increasing or reducing the rate of, or terminating, any of those payments.

Textual Amendments

F614 Sch. 15 para. 63(1)(b) and word repealed (31.10.2016) by Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (c. 9), s. 106(2), Sch. 1 para. 124(4), **Sch. 9 Pt. 1** (with Sch. 8 para. 1); S.R. 2016/387, art. 2(k)(m) (with art. 3)

Provisions relating to periodical and secured periodical payments: duration

64 (1) If a court decides to make an order under paragraph 62 altering an agreement—

(a) by inserting provision for the making or securing by one of the parties to the agreement of periodical payments for the maintenance of the other party, or

(b) by increasing the rate of the periodical payments which the agreement provides shall be made by one of the parties for the maintenance of the other,

it may specify such term as it thinks fit as the term for which the payments or, as the case may be, the additional payments attributable to the increase are to be made under the altered agreement, except that the term must not extend beyond the limits in sub-paragraphs (2) and (3).

(2) The limits if the payments are not to be secured are—

(a) the death of either of the parties to the agreement, or

(b) the formation of a subsequent civil partnership or marriage by the party to whom the payments are to be made.

(3) The limits if the payments are to be secured are—

(a) the death of the party to whom the payments are to be made, or

(b) the formation of a subsequent civil partnership or marriage by that party.

(4) Sub-paragraph (5) applies if a court decides to make an order under paragraph 62 altering an agreement by—

(a) inserting provision for the making or securing by one of the parties to the agreement of periodical payments for the maintenance of a child of the family, or

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) increasing the rate of the periodical payments which the agreement provides shall be made or secured by one of the parties for the maintenance of such a child.

(5) The court, in deciding the term for which under the agreement as altered by the order the payments, or the additional payments attributable to the increase, are to be made or secured for the benefit of the child, must apply paragraph 44(2) to (5) (age limits) as if the order in question were a periodical payments or secured periodical payments order in favour of the child.

Saving

65 Nothing in paragraphs 61 or 64 affects—

(a) any power of a court before which any proceedings between the parties to a maintenance agreement are brought under any other enactment (including a provision of this Schedule) to make an order containing financial arrangements, or

(b) any right of either party to apply for such an order in such proceedings.

Alteration of agreements by court after death of one party

66 (1) This paragraph applies if—

(a) a maintenance agreement provides for the continuation of payments under the agreement after the death of one of the parties, and

(b) that party ("A") dies domiciled in Northern Ireland.

(2) Subject to sub-paragraphs (4) and (5), the surviving party or A's personal representatives may apply to the High Court or a county court for an order under paragraph 62 and accordingly, for the purposes of this paragraph, any reference in that paragraph to the court includes a reference to a county court (whether a civil partnership proceedings county court or not).

(3) If a maintenance agreement is altered by a court on an application made under sub-paragraph (2), the same consequences follow as if the alteration had been made immediately before the death by agreement between the parties and for valuable consideration.

(4) An application under this paragraph may not, without the leave of the High Court or a county court, be made after the end of 6 months from the date on which representation in regard to A's estate is first taken out.

(5) A county court has jurisdiction under this paragraph only if it is shown to the satisfaction of the court that, at the relevant date, the property included in A's net estate did not exceed £15,000 in value.

(6) A's personal representatives are not liable for having distributed any part of A's estate after the end of the 6 month period on the ground that they ought to have taken into account the possibility that a court might allow an application by virtue of this paragraph to be made by the surviving party after that period.

(7) Sub-paragraph (6) does not affect any power to recover any part of the estate so distributed arising by virtue of the making of an order in pursuance of this paragraph.

(8) Paragraph 53(6) applies for the purposes of sub-paragraph (4) as it applies for the purposes of paragraph 53(3).

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(9) In sub-paragraph (5)—

"the property included in A's net estate" means all property of which A had power to dispose by will, otherwise than by virtue of a special power of appointment, less the amount of A's funeral, testamentary and administration expenses, debts and liabilities, including any inheritance tax payable out of A's estate on A's death;

"relevant date" means the date of A's death.

PART 13

MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTARY

PROSPECTIVE

Avoidance of transactions intended to prevent or reduce financial relief

67 (1) This paragraph applies if proceedings for relief ("financial relief") are brought by one person ("A") against another ("B") under Part 1, 2, 3, 7, 8 or 9 (other than paragraph 53(2)), or paragraph 62.

(2) If the court is satisfied, on an application by A, that B is, with the intention of defeating A's claim for financial relief, about to—

(a) make any disposition, or

(b) transfer out of the jurisdiction or otherwise deal with any property,

it may make such order as it thinks fit for restraining B from doing so or otherwise for protecting the claim.

(3) If the court is satisfied, on an application by A, that—

(a) B has, with the intention of defeating A's claim for financial relief, made a reviewable disposition, and

(b) if the disposition were set aside, financial relief or different financial relief would be granted to A,

it may make an order setting aside the disposition.

(4) If the court is satisfied, on an application by A in a case where an order has been obtained by A against B under any of the provisions mentioned in sub-paragraph (1), that B has, with the intention of defeating A's claim for financial relief, made a reviewable disposition, it may make an order setting aside the disposition.

(5) An application for the purposes of sub-paragraph (3) must be made in the proceedings for the financial relief in question.

(6) If the court makes an order under sub-paragraph (3) or (4) setting aside a disposition it must give such consequential directions as it thinks fit for giving effect to the order (including directions requiring the making of any payments or the disposal of any property).

68 (1) Any reference in paragraph 67 to defeating A's claim for financial relief is to—

(a) preventing financial relief from being granted to A, or to A for the benefit of a child of the family,

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) reducing the amount of any financial relief which might be so granted, or

(c) frustrating or impeding the enforcement of any order which might be or has been made at A's instance under any of the provisions mentioned in paragraph 67(1).

(2) In paragraph 67 and this paragraph "disposition"—

(a) does not include any provision contained in a will or codicil, but

(b) subject to paragraph (a), includes any conveyance, assurance or gift of property of any description (whether made by an instrument or otherwise).

(3) Any disposition made by B (whether before or after the commencement of the proceedings for financial relief) is a reviewable disposition for the purposes of paragraph 67(3) and (4) unless it was made—

(a) for valuable consideration (other than formation of a civil partnership), and

(b) to a person who, at the time of the disposition, acted in relation to it in good faith and without notice of any intention on B's part to defeat A's claim for financial relief.

(4) If an application is made under paragraph 67 with respect to a disposition which took place less than 3 years before the date of the application or with respect to a disposition or other dealing with property which is about to take place and the court is satisfied—

(a) in a case falling within paragraph 67(2) or (3), that the disposition or other dealing would (apart from paragraph 67) have the consequence of defeating A's claim for financial relief, or

(b) in a case falling within paragraph 67(4), that the disposition has had the consequence of defeating A's claim for financial relief,

it is presumed, unless the contrary is shown, that the person who disposed of or is about to dispose of or deal with the property did so or, as the case may be, is about to do so, with the intention of defeating A's claim for financial relief.

69 (1) An order under paragraph 67(2), to the extent that it restrains B from making a disposition of any land in Northern Ireland which is specified in the order—

(a) creates on the land a statutory charge, and

(b) subject to section 88 of the 1970 Act (statutory charge to be void against purchaser in certain circumstances), renders liable to be set aside by the court at the instance of A any disposition of the land in contravention of the order.

(2) In this paragraph and paragraph 70—

"disposition" has the same meaning as in paragraphs 67 and 68;

"1970 Act" means the Land Registration Act (Northern Ireland) 1970 (c. 18 (N.I.));

"statutory charge" has the same meaning as in the 1970 Act.

(3) Nothing in sub-paragraph (1)(b) or section 88(1) of the 1970 Act affects any power of the court to set aside a disposition under paragraph 67(3) or (4).

70 (1) The registration of a statutory charge created under paragraph 69(1)(a) shall be effective until—

(a) the expiration of 1 year from the date of its registration or of the last renewal of its registration, unless the registration is renewed or further renewed before the expiration of that period, or

(b) the court orders that it is to cease to have effect.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(2) When the registration ceases to have effect the Registrar of Titles may cancel it.

(3) Nothing in this paragraph affects any provision of section 91 of the 1970 Act (cancellation and modification of statutory charges).

(4) An application for the renewal, under sub-paragraph (1)(a), of the registration of a charge may be made in the same manner as the application for the original registration.

Direction for settlement of instrument for securing payments or effecting property adjustment

71 (1) This paragraph applies if the court decides to make—

(a) an order under Parts 1 or 8 requiring any payments to be secured, or

(b) a property adjustment order,

or if it gives directions for the disposal of any property.

(2) The court may direct that the matter be referred to a conveyancing counsel appointed by the court for him to settle a proper instrument to be executed by all necessary parties.

(3) If the order referred to in sub-paragraph (1) is to be made in proceedings for a dissolution, nullity or separation order, the court may, if it thinks fit, defer the making of the dissolution, nullity or separation order until the instrument has been duly executed.

Settlement, etc., made in compliance with a property adjustment order may be avoided on bankruptcy of settlor

72 The fact that—

(a) a settlement, or

(b) a transfer of property,

had to be made in order to comply with a property adjustment order does not prevent the settlement or transfer from being a transaction in respect of which an order may be made under Article 312 or 313 of the Insolvency (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 (S.I. 1989/2405 (N.I. 19)) (transfers at an undervalue and preferences).

Payments, etc., under order made in favour of person suffering from mental disorder

73 (1) This paragraph applies if—

(a) the court makes an order under this Schedule requiring—

(i) payments (including a lump sum payment) to be made, or

(ii) property to be transferred,

to a civil partner, and

(b) the court is satisfied that the person in whose favour the order is made is incapable, because of mental disorder, of managing and administering his or her property and affairs.

(2) "Mental disorder" has the same meaning as in the Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 (S.I. 1986/595 (N.I. 4)).

(3) Subject to any order, direction or authority made or given in relation to that person under Part 8 of the 1986 Order, the court may order the payments to be made, or as

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

the case may be, the property to be transferred, to such persons having charge of that person as the court may direct.

Appeals relating to pension sharing orders which have taken effect

74 (1) Sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) apply if an appeal against a pension sharing order is begun on or after the day on which the order takes effect.

(2) If the pension sharing order relates to a person's rights under a pension arrangement, the appeal court may not set aside or vary the order if the person responsible for the pension arrangement has acted to his detriment in reliance on the order taking effect.

(3) If the pension sharing order relates to a person's shareable state scheme rights, the appeal court may not set aside or vary the order if the Department for Social Development has acted to its detriment in reliance on the taking effect of the order.

(4) In determining for the purposes of sub-paragraph (2) or (3) whether a person or the Department has acted to his or its detriment in reliance on the taking effect of the order, the appeal court may disregard any detriment which in its opinion is insignificant.

(5) Where sub-paragraph (2) or (3) applies, the appeal court may make such further orders (including one or more pension sharing orders) as it thinks fit for the purpose of putting the parties in the position it considers appropriate.

(6) Paragraph 14 only applies to a pension sharing order under this paragraph if the decision of the appeal court can itself be the subject of an appeal.

(7) In sub-paragraph (2), the reference to the person responsible for the pension arrangement is to be read in accordance with paragraph 24(3).

PROSPECTIVE

I[F615 Appeals relating to pension compensation sharing orders which have taken effect

Textual Amendments

F615 Sch. 15 para. 74A and cross-heading inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 118, **Sch. 5 para. 19**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

74A (1) This paragraph applies where an appeal against a pension compensation sharing order is begun on or after the day on which the order takes effect.

(2) If the Board of the Pension Protection Fund has acted to its detriment in reliance on the taking effect of the order the appeal court—

(a) may not set aside or vary the order;

(b) may make such further orders (including a pension compensation sharing order) as it thinks fit for the purpose of putting the parties in the position it considers appropriate.

(3) In determining for the purposes of sub-paragraph (2) whether the Board has acted to its detriment the appeal court may disregard any detriment which in the court's opinion is insignificant.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(4) Paragraph 14E only applies to a pension compensation sharing order under this paragraph if the decision of the appeal court can itself be the subject of an appeal.**]**

Interpretation

75 (1) References in this Schedule to—

(a) periodical payments orders,

(b) secured periodical payments orders, and

(c) orders for the payment of a lump sum,

are references to such of the orders that may be made under Parts 1 and 8 (other than interim orders) as are relevant in the context of the reference in question.

(2) In this Schedule "child of the family", in relation to two people who are the civil partners of each other, means—

(a) a child of both of them, and

(b) any other child, other than a child placed with the civil partners as foster parents by an authority or a voluntary organisation, who has been treated by both the civil partners as a child of their family.

(3) In sub-paragraph (2) "authority" and "voluntary organisation" have the same meaning as in the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 (S.I. 1995/ 755 (N.I. 2)).

(4) In this Schedule "the court" has the meaning given by section 188.

(5) References in this Schedule to a subsequent civil partnership include a civil partnership which is by law void or voidable.

(6) References in this Schedule to a subsequent marriage include a marriage which is by law void or voidable.

Commencement Information

I74 Sch. 15 para. 75 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 15 para. 75 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 15 para. 75(4) in force for certain purposes at 5.9.2005 by S.I. 2005/2399, **art. 2**, Sch. and Sch. 15 para. 75 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.

SCHEDULE 16 Section 196(3)

FINANCIAL RELIEF IN COURT OF SUMMARY JURISDICTION ETC.: NORTHERN IRELAND

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C52 Sch. 16: functions transferred (12.4.2010) by The Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/976), art. 15(1), **Sch. 17 para. 21(b)** (with arts. 15(6), 28-31)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

PART 1

FAILURE TO MAINTAIN ETC.: FINANCIAL PROVISION

Circumstances in which orders under this Part may be made

1 (1) On an application to it by one of the civil partners, the court may make any one or more of the orders set out in paragraph 2 if it is satisfied that the other civil partner—

(a) has failed to provide reasonable maintenance for the applicant,

(b) has failed to provide, or to make a proper contribution towards, reasonable maintenance for any child of the family,

(c) has behaved in such a way that the applicant cannot reasonably be expected to live with the respondent, or

(d) has deserted the applicant.

(2) The power of the court under sub-paragraph (1) is subject to the following provisions of this Schedule.

The orders: periodical and secured periodical payments and lump sums

2 (1) The orders are—

(a) an order that the respondent must make to the applicant such periodical payments for such term as may be specified;

(b) an order that the respondent must pay to the applicant such lump sum as may be specified;

(c) an order that the respondent must make—

(i) to the applicant for the benefit of a child of the family to whom the application relates, or

(ii) to a child of the family to whom the application relates, such periodical payments for such term as may be specified;

(d) an order that the respondent must pay such lump sum as may be specified—

(i) to the applicant for the benefit of a child of the family to whom the application relates, or

(ii) to a child of the family to whom the application relates.

(2) The amount of a lump sum specified under sub-paragraph (1)(b) or (d) must not exceed—

(a) £1,000, or

(b) such larger amount as the Lord Chancellor may **[**F616, after consultation with the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland,**]** from time to time by order fix for the purposes of this sub-paragraph.

(3) The power to make an order under sub-paragraph (2) is exercisable by statutory rule for the purposes of the Statutory Rules (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 (S.I. 1979/1573 (N.I. 12)).

(4) An order under sub-paragraph (2) is subject to **[**F617negative resolution within the meaning of section 41(6) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954**]**.

(5) "Specified" means specified in the order.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F616 Words in Sch. 16 para. 2(2)(b) inserted (3.4.2006) by The Lord Chancellor (Transfer of Functions and Supplementary Provisions) (No.2) Order 2006 (S.I. 2006/1016), art. 2, **Sch. 1 para. 24**

F617 Words in Sch. 16 para. 2(4) substituted (12.4.2010) by The Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/976), art. 15(5), **Sch. 18 para. 76** (with arts. 28-31)

Particular provision that may be made by lump sum orders

3 (1) An order under this Part for the payment of a lump sum may be made for the purpose of enabling any liability or expenses reasonably incurred in maintaining the applicant or any child of the family to whom the application relates before the making of the order to be met.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) does not restrict the power to make the orders set out in paragraph 2(1)(b) and (d).

Matters to which court is to have regard in exercising its powers under this Part – general

4 If an application is made for an order under this Part, the court, in deciding—

(a) whether to exercise its powers under this Part, and

(b) if so, in what way,

must have regard to all the circumstances of the case, giving first consideration to the welfare while under 18 of any child of the family who has not reached 18.

Particular matters to be taken into account when exercising powers in relation to civil partners

5 (1) This paragraph applies in relation to the exercise by the court of its power to make an order by virtue of paragraph 2(1)(a) or (b).

(2) The court must in particular have regard to—

(a) the income, earning capacity, property and other financial resources which each civil partner—

(i) has, or

(ii) is likely to have in the foreseeable future,

including, in the case of earning capacity, any increase in that capacity which it would in the opinion of the court be reasonable to expect the civil partner to take steps to acquire;

(b) the financial needs, obligations and responsibilities which each civil partner has or is likely to have in the foreseeable future;

(c) the standard of living enjoyed by the civil partners before the occurrence of the conduct which is alleged as the ground of the application;

(d) the age of each civil partner and the duration of the civil partnership;

(e) any physical or mental disability of either civil partner;

(f) the contributions which each civil partner has made or is likely in the foreseeable future to make to the welfare of the family, including any contribution by looking after the home or caring for the family;

(g) the conduct of each civil partner, if that conduct is such that it would in the opinion of the court be inequitable to disregard it.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C53 Sch. 16 para. 5(2)(d) applied (with modifications) (N.I.) (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Treatment of Overseas Relationships) Order (Northern Ireland) 2005 (S.R. 2005/531), **art. 3(3)**

C54 Sch. 16 para. 5(2)(d) applied (with modifications) (N.I.) (13.1.2020) by The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), **171(3)** (with regs. 6-9)

Particular matters to be taken into account when exercising powers in relation to children

6 (1) This paragraph applies in relation to the exercise by the court of its power to make an order by virtue of paragraph 2(1)(c) or (d).

(2) The court must in particular have regard to—

(a) the financial needs of the child;

(b) the income, earning capacity (if any), property and other financial resources of the child;

(c) any physical or mental disability of the child;

(d) the standard of living enjoyed by the family before the occurrence of the conduct which is alleged as the ground of the application;

(e) the way in which the child was being and in which the civil partners expected the child to be educated or trained;

(f) the considerations mentioned in relation to the civil partners in paragraph 5(2)(a) and (b).

(3) In relation to the exercise of its power to make an order in favour of a child of the family who is not the respondent's child, the court must also have regard to—

(a) whether the respondent has assumed any responsibility for the child's maintenance,

(b) if so, the extent to which, and the basis on which, the respondent assumed that responsibility and the length of time during which the respondent discharged that responsibility;

(c) whether in assuming and discharging that responsibility the respondent did so knowing that the child was not the respondent's child;

(d) the liability of any other person to maintain the child.

Reconciliation

7 (1) If before the hearing of any evidence in proceedings on an application for an order under this Part a statement is made to the court by or on behalf of the civil partners showing a possibility of reconciliation between them, the court must adjourn the proceedings for such period as it thinks fit.

(2) If at any stage of the proceedings on an application for an order under this Part it appears to the court that there is a reasonable possibility of a reconciliation between the civil partners, the court may adjourn the proceedings for such period as it thinks fit to enable attempts to be made to effect a reconciliation.

(3) If the court adjourns any proceedings under sub-paragraph (1) or (2), it may request that—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) a suitably qualified person acting under arrangements made by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, or

(b) any other person, willing and able to do so and acceptable to both parties, whom the court may appoint,

should attempt to effect a reconciliation between the civil partners.

(4) If any such request is made, the person—

(a) must report in writing to the court whether the attempt has been successful, but

(b) must not include in the report any other information.

(5) The powers conferred by this paragraph are additional to any other power of the court to adjourn proceedings.

Refusal of order in case more suitable for High Court

8 (1) If on hearing an application for an order under this Part a court of summary jurisdiction is of the opinion that any of the matters in question between the civil partners would be more suitably dealt with by the High Court, the court of summary jurisdiction must refuse to make any order on the application.

(2) No appeal lies from a refusal under sub-paragraph (1).

(3) But, in any proceedings in the High Court relating to or comprising the same subject matter as an application in respect of which a court of summary jurisdiction has refused to make any order, the High Court may order the application to be reheard and determined by a court of summary jurisdiction [F618]....

Textual Amendments

F618 Words in Sch. 16 para. 8(3) repealed (31.10.2016) by Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (c. 9), s. 106(2), Sch. 1 para. 124(5), **Sch. 9 Pt. 1** (with Sch. 8 para. 1); S.R. 2016/387, art. 2(k)(m) (with art. 3)

PART 2

ORDERS FOR AGREED FINANCIAL PROVISION

Orders for payments which have been agreed by the parties

9 (1) Either civil partner may apply to the court for an order under this Part on the ground that that civil partner or the other civil partner has agreed to make such financial provision as may be specified in the application.

(2) On such an application or on a request under paragraph 14, the court may order that the applicant or the respondent (as the case may be) is to make the financial provision specified in the application or request, if—

(a) it is satisfied that the applicant or the respondent (as the case may be) has agreed in writing to make that provision, and

(b) it has no reason to think that it would be contrary to the interests of justice to do so.

(3) Sub-paragraph (2) is subject to paragraph 12.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(4) The making of an order under this Part ("Part 2 order") does not prevent the making of an order under Part 1 ("Part 1 order") on a subsequent application for a Part 1 order.

(5) On the making of a Part 2 order, the Part 1 order ceases to have effect.

(6) Sub-paragraph (5) does not affect the power of the court under Part 6 to revoke the Part 1 order.

Meaning of "financial provision" and of references to specified financial provision

10 (1) In this Part "financial provision" means any one or more of the following—

(a) the making of periodical payments by one civil partner to the other;

(b) the payment of a lump sum by one civil partner to the other;

(c) the making of periodical payments by one civil partner to a child of the family or to the other civil partner for the benefit of such a child;

(d) the payment by one party of a lump sum to a child of the family or to the other civil partner for the benefit of such a child.

(2) Any reference in this Part to the financial provision specified in an application under this Part or a request under paragraph 14 or specified by the court is a reference—

(a) to the type of provision specified in the application or request or by the court,

(b) to the amount so specified as the amount of any payment to be made under the application or order, and

(c) in the case of periodical payments, to the term so specified as the term for which the payments are to be made.

Commencement Information

I75 Sch. 16 para. 10 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 16 para. 10 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 16 para. 10 in force for certain purposes at 5.9.2005 by S.I. 2005/2399, **art. 2**, Sch. and Sch. 16 para. 10 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.

Evidence to be produced where respondent not present etc.

11 (1) This paragraph applies if the respondent—

(a) is not present, or

(b) is not represented by counsel or a solicitor,

at the hearing of an application for an order under this Part.

(2) The court must not make an order under this Part unless there is produced to it such evidence as may be prescribed by rules of court of—

(a) the consent of the respondent to the making of the order,

(b) the financial resources of the respondent, and

(c) if the financial provision specified in the application includes or consists of provision in respect of a child of the family to be made by the applicant to the respondent for the benefit of the child or to the child, the financial resources of the child.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Commencement Information

I76 Sch. 16 para. 11 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 16 para. 11 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 16 para. 11(2) in force for certain purposes at 5.9.2005 by S.I. 2005/2399, **art. 2**, Sch. and Sch. 16 para. 11 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.

Exercise of powers in relation to children

12 (1) This paragraph applies if the financial provision specified in an application under this Part or a request under paragraph 14—

(a) includes, or

(b) consists of,

provision in respect of a child of the family.

(2) The court must not make an order under this Part unless it considers that the provision which the applicant or the respondent (as the case may be) has agreed to make in respect of the child provides for, or makes a proper contribution towards, the financial needs of the child.

Power to make alternative orders

13 (1) This paragraph applies if on an application under this Part or a request under paragraph 14 the court decides—

(a) that it would be contrary to the interests of justice to make an order for the making of the financial provision specified in the application or request, or

(b) that any financial provision which the applicant or the respondent (as the case may be) has agreed to make in respect of a child of the family does not provide for, or make a proper contribution towards, the financial needs of that child.

(2) If the court is of the opinion—

(a) that it would not be contrary to the interests of justice to make an order for the making of some other financial provision specified by the court, and

(b) that, in so far as that other financial provision contains any provision for a child of the family, it provides for, or makes a proper contribution towards, the financial needs of that child,

then, if both the civil partners agree, the court may order the applicant or the respondent (as the case may be) is to make that other financial provision.

Request for order under this Part in proceedings under Part 1

14 (1) On an application for an order under Part 1, both civil partners may, before the determination of the application, request the court to make an order under this Part that the applicant or the respondent (as the case may be) is to make the financial provision specified in the request.

(2) If an order is made under this Part on a request under this paragraph the application for the Part 1 order is to be treated as if it had been withdrawn.

(3) In any of the following provisions of this Schedule —

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) references to an application for an order under this Part include a request under this paragraph, and

(b) references to an applicant or respondent, in relation to any such request, are to the applicant or respondent in relation to the pending application under Part 1.

PART 3

ORDERS OF COURT WHERE CIVIL PARTNERS LIVING APART BY AGREEMENT

Powers of court where civil partners are living apart by agreement

15 (1) If—

(a) the civil partners have been living apart for a continuous period exceeding 3 months, neither civil partner having deserted the other, and

(b) one of the civil partners has been making periodical payments for the benefit of the other civil partner or of a child of the family,

the other civil partner may apply to the court for an order under this Part.

(2) An application made under sub-paragraph (1) must specify the total amount of the payments made by the respondent during the period of 3 months immediately preceding the date of the making of the application.

(3) If on an application for an order under this Part the court is satisfied that the respondent has made the payments specified in the application, the court may make one or both of the orders set out in paragraph 16.

(4) Sub-paragraph (3) is subject to the provisions of this Schedule.

The orders that may be made under this Part

16 (1) The orders are—

(a) an order that the respondent is to make to the applicant such periodical payments for such term as may be specified;

(b) an order that the respondent is to make—

(i) to the applicant for the benefit of a child of the family to whom the application relates, or

(ii) to a child of the family to whom the application relates,

such periodical payments for such term as may be specified.

(2) "Specified" means specified in the order.

Restrictions on orders under this Part

17 The court in the exercise of its powers under this Part must not require—

(a) the respondent to make payments whose total amount during any period of 3 months exceeds the total amount paid by him for the benefit of—

(i) the applicant, or

(ii) a child of the family,

during the period of 3 months immediately preceding the date of the making of the application;

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) the respondent to make payments to or for the benefit of any person which exceed in amount the payments which the court considers that it would have required the respondent to make to or for the benefit of that person on an application under Part 1;

(c) payments to be made to or for the benefit of a child of the family who is not the respondent's child, unless the court considers that it would have made an order in favour of that child on an application under Part 1.

Relationship with powers under Part 1

18 (1) Sub-paragraph (2) applies if on an application under this Part the court considers that the orders which it has the power to make under this Part—

(a) would not provide reasonable maintenance for the applicant, or

(b) if the application relates to a child of the family, would not provide, or make a proper contribution towards, reasonable maintenance for that child.

(2) The court—

(a) must refuse to make an order under this Part, but

(b) may treat the application as if it were an application for an order under Part 1.

Matters to be taken into consideration

19 Paragraphs 4 to 6 apply in relation to an application for an order under this Part as they apply in relation to an application for an order under Part 1, subject to the modification that for the reference in paragraph 5(2)(c) to the occurrence of the conduct which is alleged as the ground of the application substitute a reference to the living apart of the civil partners.

PART 4

INTERIM ORDERS

Circumstances in which interim orders may be made

20 (1) This paragraph applies if an application has been made for an order under Part 1, 2 or 3.

(2) The court may make an interim order—

(a) at any time before making a final order on, or dismissing, the application, or

(b) on refusing (under paragraph 8) to make an order on the application.

(3) The High Court may make an interim order on ordering the application to be reheard by a court (after the refusal of an order under paragraph 8).

(4) The county court may make an interim order on an appeal from the order made by the court on the application at any time before making a final order on, or dismissing, an appeal made by virtue of paragraph 46.

(5) Not more than one interim order may be made with respect to an application for an order under Part 1, 2 or 3.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(6) Sub-paragraph (5) does not affect the power of a court to make an interim order on a further application under Part 1, 2 or 3.

Meaning of interim order

21 (1) An interim order is an order requiring the respondent to make such periodical payments as the court thinks reasonable—

(a) to the applicant,

(b) to any child of the family who is under 18, or

(c) to the applicant for the benefit of such a child.

(2) In relation to an interim order in respect of an application for an order under Part 2 by the civil partner who has agreed to make the financial provision specified in the application, sub-paragraph (1) applies as if—

(a) the reference to the respondent were a reference to the applicant, and

(b) the references to the applicant were references to the respondent.

When interim order may start

22 (1) An interim order may provide for payments to be made from such date as the court may specify, except that the date must not be earlier than the date of the making of the application for an order under Part 1, 2 or 3.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) is subject to paragraph 27(10) and (11).

Payments which can be treated as having been paid on account

23 (1) If an order under Part 1, 2 or 3 made by the county court on an appeal from the court provides for payments to be made from a date earlier than the date of the making of the order, the interim order may provide that payments made by the respondent under an order made by the court are to be treated, to such extent and in such manner as may be provided by the interim order, as having been paid on account of any payment provided for by the interim order.

(2) In relation to an interim order in respect of an application for an order under Part 2 by the civil partner who has agreed to make the financial provision specified in the application, sub-paragraph (1) applies as if the reference to the respondent were a reference to the applicant.

When interim order ceases to have effect

24 (1) Subject to sub-paragraphs (2) and (3), an interim order made on an application for an order under Part 1, 2 or 3 ceases to have effect on the earliest of the following dates—

(a) the date, if any, specified for the purpose in the interim order;

(b) the date on which the period of 14 weeks from the date of the making of the interim order ends;

(c) the date on which the court either makes a final order on, or dismisses, the application, or, where the interim order was made by a county court on an appeal, the date on which that court either makes a final order on, or dismisses, the appeal.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(2) If an interim order made under this Part would, but for this sub-paragraph, cease to have effect under sub-paragraph (1)(a) or (b)—

(a) the court which made the order, or

(b) in the case of an interim order made by the High Court, the court by which the application for an order under Part 1, 2 or 3 is to be reheard,

may by order provide that the interim order is to continue in force for a further period.

(3) An order continued in force under sub-paragraph (2) ceases to have effect on the earliest of the following dates—

(a) the date, if any, specified for the purpose in the order continuing it;

(b) the date on which ends the period of 14 weeks from—

(i) the date of the making of the order continuing it, or

(ii) if more than one such order has been made with respect to the application, the date of the making of the first such order;

(c) the date on which the court either makes a final order on, or dismisses, the application, or, where the interim order was made by a county court on an appeal, the date on which that court either makes a final order on, or dismisses, the appeal.

Supplementary

25 An interim order made by the High Court under paragraph 20(3) on ordering an application to be reheard by the court is to be treated for the purposes of—

(a) its enforcement, and

(b) Part 6 (variation etc. of orders),

as if it were an order of the court (and not of the High Court).

PART 5

COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION OF ORDERS UNDER PARTS 1, 2 AND 3

Duration of periodical payments order for a civil partner

26 (1) The court may specify in a periodical payments order made under paragraph 2(1)(a) or Part 3 in favour of a civil partner such term as it thinks fit, except that the term must not—

(a) begin before the date of the making of the application for the order, or

(b) extend beyond the death of either of the civil partners.

(2) If—

(a) a periodical payments order is made under paragraph 2(1)(a) or Part 3 in favour of one of the civil partners, and

(b) the civil partnership is subsequently dissolved or annulled but the order continues in force,

the periodical payments order ceases to have effect (regardless of anything in it) on the formation of a subsequent civil partnership or marriage by that civil partner, except in relation to any arrears due under the order on the date of that event.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(3) If a periodical payments order ceases to have effect by virtue of sub-paragraph (2) on the formation of a subsequent civil partnership or marriage by a person, that person must give notice of the subsequent civil partnership or marriage to the court.

(4) Any person who without reasonable excuse fails to give notice as required by sub-paragraph (3) is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

Age limit on making orders for financial provision for children and duration of such orders

27 (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (5), no order is to be made under paragraph 2(1)(c) or (d) or Part 3 in favour of a child who has reached 18.

(2) The term to be specified in a periodical payments order made under paragraph 2(1)(c) or Part 3 in favour of a child may begin with—

(a) the date of the making of an application for the order or a later date, or

(b) a date ascertained in accordance with sub-paragraph (7) or (8).

(3) The term to be specified in such an order—

(a) must not in the first instance extend beyond the date of the birthday of the child next following his reaching the upper limit of the compulsory school age unless the court considers that in the circumstances of the case the welfare of the child requires that it should extend to a later date, and

(b) must not in any event, subject to sub-paragraph (5), extend beyond the date of the child's 18th birthday.

(4) In sub-paragraph (3)(a) "compulsory school age" has the meaning given in Article 46 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 (S.I. 1986/594 (N.I. 3)).

(5) Sub-paragraphs (1) and (3)(b) do not apply in the case of a child if it appears to the court that—

(a) the child is, or will be, or, if such an order were made without complying with either or both of those provisions, would be—

(i) receiving instruction at an educational establishment, or

(ii) undergoing training for a trade, profession or vocation,

whether or not also the child is, will be or would be, in gainful employment, or

(b) there are special circumstances which justify the making of the order without complying with either or both of sub-paragraphs (1) and (3)(b).

(6) Any order made under paragraph 2(1)(c) or Part 3 in favour of a child, regardless of anything in the order, ceases to have effect on the death of the person liable to make payments under the order.

(7) An order made under paragraph 2(1)(c) or Part 3 in favour of a child to whom sub-paragraph (5)(a) applies ceases to have effect if the child ceases to receive instruction or undergo training as mentioned in sub-paragraph (5)(a).

(8) If an order made under paragraph 2(1)(c) or Part 3 ceases to have effect by virtue of an event mentioned in sub-paragraph (7), the person to whom the periodical payments are directed by the order to be made must give notice of the event to the court.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(9) A person who without reasonable excuse fails to give notice as required by sub-paragraph (8) is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

(10) If—

(a) a maintenance calculation ("current calculation") is in force with respect to a child, and

(b) an application is made for an order under paragraph 2(1)(c) or Part 3 before the end of 6 months beginning with the making of the current calculation,

the term to be specified in any such order made on that application may be expressed to begin on, or at any time after, the earliest permitted date.

(11) "The earliest permitted date" is whichever is the later of—

(a) the date 6 months before the application is made, or

(b) the date on which the current calculation took effect or, where successive maintenance calculations have been continuously in force with respect to a child, on which the first of those calculations took effect.

(12) If—

(a) a maintenance calculation ceases to have effect by or under any provision of the Child Support (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 (S.I. 1991/2628 (N.I. 23)), and

(b) an application is made, before the end of 6 months beginning with the relevant date, for a periodical payments order under paragraph 2(1)(c) or Part 3 in favour of a child with respect to whom that maintenance calculation was in force immediately before it ceased to have effect,

the term to be specified in any such order, or in any interim order under Part 4, made on that application, may begin with the relevant date or any later date.

(13) "The relevant date" means the date on which the maintenance calculation ceased to have effect.

(14) In this Schedule "maintenance calculation" means a calculation of maintenance made under the Child Support (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 and includes, except in circumstances prescribed for the purposes of the definition of that expression in Article 2(2) of that Order, a default or interim maintenance decision within the meaning of that Order.

Application of paragraphs 26 and 27 to Part 2 orders

28 (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (3), paragraph 26 applies in relation to an order under Part 2 which requires periodical payments to be made to a civil partner for his own benefit as it applies in relation to an order under paragraph 2(1)(a).

(2) Subject to sub-paragraph (3), paragraph 27 applies in relation to an order under Part 2 for the making of financial provision in respect of a child of the family as it applies in relation to an order under paragraph 2(1)(c) or (d).

(3) If—

(a) the court makes an order under Part 2 which contains provision for the making of periodical payments, and

(b) by virtue of paragraph 14, an application for an order under Part 1 is treated as if it had been withdrawn,

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

the term which may be specified under Part 2 as the term for which the payments are to be made may begin with the date of the making of the application for the order under Part 1 or any later date.

Effect on certain orders of parties living together

29 (1) Sub-paragraph (2) applies if periodical payments are required to be made to a civil partner (whether for the civil partner's own benefit or for the benefit of a child of the family)—

(a) by an order made under Part 1 or 2, or

(b) by an interim order made under Part 4 (otherwise than on an application under Part 3).

(2) The order is enforceable even if—

(a) the civil partners are living with each other at the date of the making of the order, or

(b) if they are not living with each other at that date, they subsequently resume living with each other;

but the order ceases to have effect if after that date the civil partners continue to live with each other, or resume living with each other, for a continuous period exceeding 6 months.

(3) Sub-paragraph (4) applies if—

(a) an order is made under Part 1 or 2 which requires periodical payments to be made to a child of the family, or

(b) an interim order is made under Part 4 (otherwise than on an application under Part 3) which requires periodical payments to be made to a child of the family.

(4) Unless the court otherwise directs, the order continues to have effect and is enforceable even if—

(a) the civil partners are living with each other at the date of the making of the order, or

(b) if they are not living with each other at that date, they subsequently resume living with each other.

(5) An order made under Part 3, and any interim order made on an application for an order under that Part, ceases to have effect if the civil partners resume living with each other.

(6) If an order made under this Schedule ceases to have effect under—

(a) sub-paragraph (2) or (5), or

(b) a direction given under sub-paragraph (4),

the court may, on an application made by either civil partner, make an order declaring that the order ceased to have effect from such date as the court may specify.

(7) If an order made under this Schedule ceases to have effect under sub-paragraph (2) or (5), the civil partners shall give notice of that fact to the court straight away.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

PART 6

VARIATION ETC. OF ORDERS

Power to vary, revoke, suspend or revive order

30 (1) If the court has made an order for the making of periodical payments under **[**F619Part 1, 2 or 3**]**, it may, on an application made under this Part—

(a) vary or revoke the order,

(b) suspend any provision of it temporarily, or

(c) revive any provision so suspended.

(2) If the court has made an order under Part 4, it may, on an application made under this Part—

(a) vary or revoke the order,

(b) suspend any provision of it temporarily, or

(c) revive any provision so suspended,

except that it may not by virtue of this sub-paragraph extend the period for which the order is in force.

Textual Amendments

F619 Words in Sch. 16 para. 30(1) substituted (20.9.2006) by The Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 (S.I. 2006/1945 (N.I. 14)), **art. 6**

Powers to order lump sum on variation

31 (1) If the court has made an order under paragraph 2(1)(a) or (c) for the making of periodical payments, it may, on an application made under this Part, make an order for the payment of a lump sum under paragraph 2(1)(b) or (d).

(2) If the court has made an order under Part 2 for the making of periodical payments by a civil partner, it may, on an application made under this Part, make an order for the payment of a lump sum by that civil partner—

(a) to the other civil partner, or

(b) to a child of the family or to that other civil partner for the benefit of that child.

(3) Where the court has power by virtue of this paragraph to make an order for the payment of a lump sum—

(a) the amount of the lump sum must not exceed the maximum amount that may at that time be required to be paid under Part 1, but

(b) the court may make an order for the payment of a lump sum not exceeding that amount even if the person required to pay it was required to pay a lump sum by a previous order under this Schedule.

(4) Where—

(a) the court has power by virtue of this paragraph to make an order for the payment of a lump sum, and

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) the respondent or the applicant (as the case may be) has agreed to pay a lump sum of an amount exceeding the maximum amount that may at that time be required to be paid under Part 1,

the court may, regardless of sub-paragraph (3), make an order for the payment of a lump sum of that amount.

Power to specify when order as varied is to take effect

32 An order made under this Part which varies an order for the making of periodical payments may provide that the payments as so varied are to be made from such date as the court may specify, except that, subject to paragraph 33, the date must not be earlier than the date of the making of the application under this Part.

33 (1) If—

(a) there is in force an order ("the order")—

(i) under paragraph 2(1)(c),

(ii) under Part 2 making provision of a kind set out in paragraph 10(1)(c) (regardless of whether it makes provision of any other kind mentioned in paragraph 10(1)(c)),

(iii) under paragraph 16(1)(b), or

(iv) which is an interim order under Part 4 under which the payments are to be made to a child or to the applicant for the benefit of a child,

(b) the order requires payments specified in it to be made to or for the benefit of more than one child without apportioning those payments between them,

(c) a maintenance calculation ("the calculation") is made with respect to one or more, but not all, of the children with respect to whom those payments are to be made, and

(d) an application is made, before the end of 6 months beginning with the date on which the calculation was made, for the variation or revocation of the order,

the court may, in exercise of its powers under this Part to vary or revoke the order, direct that the variation or revocation is to take effect from the date on which the calculation took effect or any later date.

(2) If—

(a) an order ("the child order") of a kind prescribed for the purposes of Article 12(1) of the Child Support (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 (S.I. 1991/2628 (N.I. 23)) is affected by a maintenance calculation,

(b) on the date on which the child order became so affected there was in force an order ("the civil partner's order")—

(i) under paragraph 2(1)(a),

(ii) under Part 2 making provision of a kind set out in paragraph 10(1)(a) (regardless of whether it makes provision of any other kind mentioned in paragraph 10(1)(a)),

(iii) under paragraph 16(1)(a), or

(iv) which is an interim order under Part 4 under which the payments are to be made to the applicant (otherwise than for the benefit of a child), and

(c) an application is made, before the end of 6 months beginning with the date on which the maintenance calculation was made, for the civil partner's order to be varied or revoked,

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

the court may, in exercise of its powers under this Part to vary or revoke the civil partner's order, direct that the variation or revocation is to take effect from the date on which the child order became so affected or any later date.

(3) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (2), an order is affected if it ceases to have effect or is modified by or under Article 12 of the 1991 Order.

Matters to which court is to have regard in exercising powers under this Part

34 (1) In exercising the powers conferred by this Part the court must, so far as it appears to the court just to do so, give effect to any agreement which has been reached between the civil partners in relation to the application.

(2) If—

(a) there is no such agreement, or

(b) the court decides not to give effect to the agreement,

the court must have regard to all the circumstances of the case, giving first consideration to the welfare while under 18 of any child of the family who has not reached 18.

(3) Those circumstances include any change in any of the matters—

(a) to which the court was required to have regard when making the order to which the application relates, or

(b) in the case of an application for the variation or revocation of an order made under Part 2 or on an appeal, to which the court would have been required to have regard if that order had been made under Part 1.

Variation of orders for periodical payments: further provisions

35 (1) The power of the court under paragraphs 30 to 34 to vary an order for the making of periodical payments includes power, if the court is satisfied that payment has not been made in accordance with the order, to exercise one of its powers under Article 85(3)(a) to (d) of the Magistrates' Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 (S.I. 1981/1675 (N.I. 26)).

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) is subject to paragraph 37.

36 (1) If—

(a) a court of summary jurisdiction has made an order under this Schedule for the making of periodical payments, and

(b) payments under the order are required to be made by any method of payment falling within Article 85(7) of the 1981 Order (standing order, etc.),

an application may be made under this sub-paragraph to the clerk of petty sessions for the order to be varied as mentioned in sub-paragraph (2).

(2) Subject to sub-paragraph (4), if an application is made under sub-paragraph (1), the clerk, after—

(a) serving written notice of the application on the respondent, and

(b) allowing the respondent, within the period of 14 days from the date of the serving of that notice, an opportunity to make written representations,

may vary the order to provide that payments under the order are to be made to the collecting officer.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(3) The clerk may proceed with an application under sub-paragraph (1) even if the respondent has not received written notice of the application.

(4) If an application has been made under sub-paragraph (1), the clerk may, if he considers it inappropriate to exercise his power under sub-paragraph (2), refer the matter to the court which, subject to paragraph 37, may vary the order by exercising one of its powers under Article 85(3)(a) to (d) of the 1981 Order.

37 (1) Before varying the order by exercising one of its powers under Article 85(3)(a) to (d) of the 1981 Order, the court must have regard to any representations made by the parties to the application.

(2) If the court does not propose to exercise its power under Article 85(3)(c) or (d) of the 1981 Order, the court must, unless upon representations expressly made in that behalf by the person to whom payments under the order are required to be made it is satisfied that it is undesirable to do so, exercise its power under Article 85(5)(b).

38 (1) Article 85(5) of the 1981 Order (power of court to order that account be opened) applies for the purposes of paragraphs 35 and 36(4) as it applies for the purposes of Article 85.

(2) None of the powers of the court, or of the clerk of petty sessions, conferred by paragraphs 35 to 37 and sub-paragraph (1) is exercisable in relation to an order under this Schedule for the making of periodical payments which is not a qualifying maintenance order (within the meaning of Article 85 of the 1981 Order).

Persons who may apply under this Part

39 An application under paragraph 30, 31 or 36 may be made—

(a) if it is for the variation or revocation of an order under Part 1, 2, 3 or 4 for periodical payments, by either civil partner, and

(b) if it is for the variation of an order under paragraph 2(1)(c) or Part 2 or 3 for periodical payments to or in respect of a child, also by the child himself, if he has reached 16.

Revival of orders for periodical payments

40 (1) If an order made by the court under this Schedule for the making of periodical payments to or in respect of a child (other than an interim order) ceases to have effect—

(a) on the date on which the child reaches 16, or

(b) at any time after that date but before or on the date on which he reaches 18,

the child may apply to the court for an order for its revival.

(2) If on such an application it appears to the court that—

(a) the child is, will be or (if an order were made under this sub-paragraph) would be receiving instruction at an educational establishment or undergoing training for a trade, profession or vocation, whether or not while in gainful employment, or

(b) there are special circumstances which justify the making of an order under this sub-paragraph,

the court may by order to revive the order from such date as the court may specify, not being earlier than the date of the making of the application.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(3) Any order revived under this paragraph may be varied or revoked under paragraphs 30 to 34 in the same way as it could have been varied or revoked had it continued in being.

Variation of instalments or remission of lump sum

41 (1) If in the exercise of its powers under Article 97 of the 1981 Order the court orders that a lump sum required to be paid under this Schedule is to be paid by instalments, the court, on an application made by either the person liable to pay or the person entitled to receive that sum, may vary that order by varying—

(a) the number of instalments payable,

(b) the amount of any instalment payable, and

(c) the date on which any instalment becomes payable.

(2) On the hearing of a complaint for the enforcement, revocation, suspension or variation of an order under this Schedule which provides for the payment of a lump sum the court may remit the whole or any part of that sum.

Supplementary provisions with respect to variation and revocation of orders

42 The powers of a court of summary jurisdiction to revoke, suspend, revive or vary an order for the periodical payment of money and the power of the clerk of petty sessions to vary such an order under Article 86 of the 1981 Order do not apply in relation to an order made under this Schedule.

PART 7

ARREARS AND REPAYMENTS

Enforcement etc. of orders for payment of money

43 Article 36 of the Domestic Proceedings (Northern Ireland) Order 1980 (S.I. 1980/563 (N.I. 5)) applies in relation to orders under this Schedule as it applies in relation to orders under that Order.

Orders for repayment after cessation of order because of subsequent civil partnership etc.

44 (1) Sub-paragraphs (3) and (4) apply if—

(a) an order made under paragraph 2(1)(a) or Part 2 or 3 has, under paragraph 26(2), ceased to have effect because of the formation of a subsequent civil partnership or marriage by the party ("R") in whose favour it was made, and

(b) the person liable to make payments under the order ("P") made payments in accordance with it in respect of a relevant period in the mistaken belief that the order was still subsisting.

(2) "Relevant period" means a period after the date of the formation of the subsequent civil partnership or marriage.

(3) No proceedings in respect of a cause of action arising out of the circumstances mentioned in sub-paragraph (1)(a) and (b) is maintainable by P (or P's personal representatives) against R (or R's personal representatives).

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(4) But on an application made under this paragraph by P (or P's personal representatives) against R (or R's personal representatives) the court—

(a) may order the respondent to an application made under this paragraph to pay to the applicant a sum equal to the amount of the payments made in respect of the relevant period, or

(b) if it appears to the court that it would be unjust to make that order, may—

(i) order the respondent to pay to the applicant such lesser sum as it thinks fit, or

(ii) dismiss the application.

(5) An order under this paragraph for the payment of any sum may provide for the payment of that sum by instalments of such amount as may be specified in the order.

(6) An application under this paragraph—

(a) may be made in proceedings in the High Court for leave to enforce, or in proceedings in the High Court or a court of summary jurisdiction for the enforcement of, the payment of arrears under an order made under paragraph 2(1)(a) or Part 2 or 3, but

(b) if not made in such proceedings, must be made to a county court,

and accordingly references in this paragraph to the court are references to the High Court or a county court or a court of summary jurisdiction, as the circumstances require.

(7) The jurisdiction conferred on a county court by this paragraph is exercisable by a county court even though, because of the amount claimed in an application under this paragraph, the jurisdiction would not but for this sub-paragraph be exercisable by a county court.

(8) A person dissatisfied with an order made by a county court in the exercise of the jurisdiction conferred by this paragraph or with the dismissal of any application instituted by him under the provisions of this paragraph shall be entitled to appeal from the order or from the dismissal as if the order or dismissal had been made in exercise of the jurisdiction conferred by Part 3 of the County Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1980 (S.I. 1980/397 (N.I. 3)) and the appeal brought under Part 6 of that Order, and Articles 61 (cases stated by county court judge) and 62 (cases stated by High Court on appeal from county court) of that Order shall apply accordingly.

(9) Subject to sub-paragraph (10), the collecting officer of a court of summary jurisdiction to whom any payments under an order made under paragraph 2(1)(a) or Part 2 or 3, or under an attachment of earnings order made to secure payments under the first-mentioned order, are required to be made is not liable—

(a) for any act done by him in pursuance of the first-mentioned order after the date on which that order or a provision of it ceased to have effect because of the formation of a subsequent civil partnership or marriage by the person entitled to payments under it, and

(b) for any act done by him after that date in accordance with any statutory provision specifying how payments made to him in compliance with the attachment of earnings order are to be dealt with.

(10) Sub-paragraph (9) applies if (but only if) the act—

(a) was one which he would have been under a duty to do had the order under paragraph 2(1)(a) or Part 2 or 3 not ceased to have effect, and

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
***Changes to legislation:** Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) was done before notice in writing of the formation of the subsequent civil partnership or marriage was given to him by or on behalf of—

(i) the person entitled to payments under the order,

(ii) the person liable to make payments under it, or

(iii) the personal representatives of either of them.

(11) In this paragraph—

"collecting officer" means the officer mentioned in Article 85(2) or (3) of the Magistrates' Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 (S.I. 1981/ 1675 (N.I. 26)), and

"statutory provision" has the meaning given by section 1(f) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954 (c. 33(N.I.)).

PART 8

SUPPLEMENTARY

Restrictions on making of orders under this Schedule: welfare of children

45 If—

(a) an application is made by a civil partner for an order under Part 1, 2 or 3, and

(b) there is a child of the family who is under 18,

the court must not dismiss or make a final order on the application until it has decided whether to exercise any of its powers under the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 (S.I. 1995/755 (N.I. 2)) with respect to the child.

Application of certain provisions of the Domestic Proceedings (Northern Ireland) Order 1980

46 Articles 30 to 35 of the Domestic Proceedings (Northern Ireland) Order 1980 (S.I. 1980/563 (N.I. 5)) apply for the purposes of this Schedule as they apply for the purposes of that Order.

Interpretation

47 (1) In this Schedule "child of the family", in relation to two people who are civil partners of each other, means—

(a) a child of both of them, and

(b) any other child, other than a child placed with them as foster parents by an authority or a voluntary organisation, who has been treated by both the civil partners as a child of their family.

(2) In sub-paragraph (1) "authority" and "voluntary organisation" have the same meaning as in the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 (S.I. 1995/ 755 (N.I. 2)).

(3) In any provision of this Schedule "the court" (except where the context otherwise requires) means a court of summary jurisdiction which by virtue of this Schedule or of rules of court has jurisdiction for the purposes of that provision.

(4) References in this Schedule to a subsequent civil partnership include a civil partnership which is by law void or voidable.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(5) References in this Schedule to a subsequent marriage include a marriage which is by law void or voidable.

SCHEDULE 17

Section 196(4)

FINANCIAL RELIEF IN NORTHERN IRELAND AFTER OVERSEAS DISSOLUTION ETC. OF A CIVIL PARTNERSHIP

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C55 Sch. 17: functions transferred (12.4.2010) by The Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/976), art. 15(1), **Sch. 17 para. 21(b)** (with arts. 15(6), 28-31)

PART 1

FINANCIAL RELIEF

Part applies where civil partnership has been dissolved etc. overseas

1 (1) This Part of this Schedule applies where—

(a) a civil partnership has been dissolved or annulled, or the civil partners have been legally separated, by means of judicial or other proceedings in an overseas country, and

(b) the dissolution, annulment or legal separation is entitled to be recognised as valid in Northern Ireland.

(2) This Part of this Schedule applies even if the date of the dissolution, annulment or legal separation is earlier than the date on which the Part comes into force.

(3) In this Schedule "overseas country" means a country or territory outside the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

(4) In this Part of this Schedule "child of the family" means—

(a) a child of both of the civil partners, and

(b) any other child, other than a child placed with them as foster parents or by an authority or voluntary organisation, who has been treated by both the civil partners as a child of their family.

(5) In sub-paragraph (4) "authority" and "voluntary organisation" have the same meaning as in the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 (S.I. 1995/ 755 (N.I. 2)).

Either civil partner may make application for financial relief

2 (1) Either of the civil partners may make an application to the court for an order under paragraph 9 or 13.

(2) The rights conferred by sub-paragraph (1) are subject to—

(a) paragraph 3 (civil partner may not apply after forming subsequent civil partnership etc.), and

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) paragraph 4 (application may not be made until leave to make it has been granted).

(3) An application for an order under paragraph 9 or 13 must be made in a manner prescribed by rules of court.

Commencement Information

I77 Sch. 17 para. 2 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 17 para. 2 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 17 para. 2(3) in force for certain purposes at 5.9.2005 by S.I. 2005/2399, **art. 2**, Sch. and Sch. 17 para. 2 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.

No application after formation of subsequent civil partnership or marriage

3 (1) If—

(a) the civil partnership has been dissolved or annulled, and

(b) after the dissolution or annulment, one of the civil partners forms a subsequent civil partnership or marriage,

that civil partner shall not be entitled to make, in relation to the civil partnership, an application for an order under paragraph 9 or 13.

(2) The reference in sub-paragraph (1) to the forming of a subsequent civil partnership or marriage includes a reference to the forming of a civil partnership or marriage which is by law void or voidable.

Leave of court required for making of application

4 (1) No application for an order under paragraph 9 or 13 shall be made unless the leave of the court has been obtained in accordance with rules of court.

(2) The court shall not grant leave under this paragraph unless it considers that there is substantial ground for the making of an application for such an order.

(3) The court may grant leave under this paragraph notwithstanding that an order has been made by a court in a country outside Northern Ireland requiring the other civil partner to make any payment, or transfer any property, to the applicant or to a child of the family.

(4) Leave under this paragraph may be granted subject to such conditions as the court thinks fit.

Commencement Information

I78 Sch. 17 para. 4 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 17 para. 4 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 17 para. 4(1) in force for certain purposes at 5.9.2005 by S.I. 2005/2399, **art. 2**, Sch. and Sch. 17 para. 4 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

PROSPECTIVE

Interim orders for maintenance

5 (1) Where—

(a) leave is granted under paragraph 4, and

(b) it appears to the court that the civil partner who applied for leave, or any child of the family, is in immediate need of financial assistance,

the court may, subject to sub-paragraph (4), make an interim order for maintenance.

(2) An interim order for maintenance is one requiring the other civil partner to make—

(a) to the applicant, or

(b) to the child,

such periodical payments as the court thinks reasonable for such term as the court thinks reasonable.

(3) The term must be one—

(a) beginning not earlier than the date of the grant of leave, and

(b) ending with the date of the determination of the application made under the leave.

(4) If it appears to the court that the court will, in the event of an application being made under the leave, have jurisdiction to entertain the application only under paragraph 7(4), the court shall not make an interim order under this paragraph.

(5) An interim order under this paragraph may be made subject to such conditions as the court thinks fit.

PROSPECTIVE

Paragraphs 7 and 8 apply where application made for relief under paragraph 9 or 13

6 Paragraphs 7 and 8 apply where—

(a) one of the civil partners has been granted leave under paragraph 4, and

(b) acting under the leave, that civil partner makes an application for an order under paragraph 9 or 13.

PROSPECTIVE

Jurisdiction of the court

7 (1) **[**F620Subject to sub-paragraph (6),**]** the court shall have jurisdiction to entertain the application only if one or more of the following jurisdictional requirements is satisfied.

(2) The first requirement is that either of the civil partners—

(a) was domiciled in Northern Ireland on the date when the leave was applied for, or

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) was domiciled in Northern Ireland on the date when the dissolution, annulment or legal separation took effect in the overseas country in which it was obtained.

(3) The second is that either of the civil partners—

(a) was habitually resident in Northern Ireland throughout the period of one year ending with the date when the leave was applied for, or

(b) was habitually resident in Northern Ireland throughout the period of one year ending with the date on which the dissolution, annulment or legal separation took effect in the overseas country in which it was obtained.

(4) The third is that either or both of the civil partners had, at the date when the leave was applied for, a beneficial interest in possession in a dwelling-house situated in Northern Ireland which was at some time during the civil partnership a civil partnership home of the civil partners.

(5) In sub-paragraph (4) "possession" includes receipt of, or the right to receive, rents and profits, but here "rent" does not include mortgage interest.

[F621(6) If an application or part of an application relates to a matter **[**F622to which Article 18 of the 2007 Hague Convention applies, the court may not entertain the application or that part of it except where permitted by Article 18**]**.

(7) In sub-paragraph (6) **[**F623"the 2007 Hague Convention" means the Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance concluded on 23 November 2007 at The Hague**].]**

Textual Amendments

F620 Words in Sch. 17 para. 7(1) inserted (18.6.2011) by The Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments (Maintenance) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 2011/1484), reg. 9, **Sch. 7 para. 16(10)(a)(i)**

F621 Sch. 17 para. 7(6)(7) inserted (18.6.2011) by The Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments (Maintenance) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 2011/1484), reg. 9, **Sch. 7 para. 16(10)(a)(ii)**

F622 Words in Sch. 17 para. 7(6) substituted (31.12.2020) by S.I. 2019/519, Sch. para. 25(9)(a)(i) (as substituted by The Jurisdiction, Judgments and Applicable Law (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/1574), regs. 1, **5(3)(j)(vi)**)

F623 Words in Sch. 17 para. 7(7) substituted (31.12.2020) by S.I. 2019/519, Sch. para. 25(9)(a)(ii) (as substituted by The Jurisdiction, Judgments and Applicable Law (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/1574), regs. 1, **5(3)(j)(vi)**)

PROSPECTIVE

Duty of the court to consider whether Northern Ireland is appropriate venue for application

8 (1) Before deciding the application, the court must consider whether in all the circumstances of the case it would be appropriate for an order of the kind applied for to be made by a court in Northern Ireland.

(2) F624... If the court is not satisfied that it would be appropriate, the court shall dismiss the application.

(3) The court must, in particular, have regard to the following matters—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) the connection which the civil partners have with Northern Ireland;

(b) the connection which the civil partners have with the country in which the civil partnership was dissolved or annulled or in which they were legally separated;

(c) the connection which the civil partners have with any other country outside Northern Ireland;

(d) any financial benefit which, in consequence of the dissolution, annulment or legal separation—

(i) the applicant, or

(ii) a child of the family,

has received, or is likely to receive, by virtue of any agreement or the operation of the law of a country outside Northern Ireland;

(e) in a case where an order has been made by a court in a country outside Northern Ireland requiring the other civil partner—

(i) to make any payment, or

(ii) to transfer any property,

for the benefit of the applicant or a child of the family, the financial relief given by the order and the extent to which the order has been complied with or is likely to be complied with;

(f) any right which the applicant has, or has had, to apply for financial relief from the other civil partner under the law of any country outside Northern Ireland and, if the applicant has omitted to exercise that right, the reason for that omission;

(g) the availability in Northern Ireland of any property in respect of which an order under this Schedule in favour of the applicant could be made;

(h) the extent to which any order made under this Schedule is likely to be enforceable;

(i) the length of time which has elapsed since the date of the dissolution, annulment or legal separation.

[F625(4) F626. . . . . .

(5) F627. . . . . .]

Textual Amendments

F624 Words in Sch. 17 para. 8(2) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Jurisdiction and Judgments (Family) (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/519), reg. 1(1), **Sch. para. 25(9)(b)(i)** (with reg. 8) (as amended by S.I. 2020/1574, regs. 1, 5(2)); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

F625 Sch. 17 para. 8(4)(5) inserted (18.6.2011) by The Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments (Maintenance) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 2011/1484), reg. 9, **Sch. 7 para. 16(10)(b)(ii)**

F626 Sch. 17 para. 8(4) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Jurisdiction and Judgments (Family) (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/519), reg. 1(1), **Sch. para. 25(9)(b)(ii)** (with reg. 8) (as amended by S.I. 2020/1574, regs. 1, 5(2)); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

F627 Sch. 17 para. 8(5) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Jurisdiction and Judgments (Family) (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/519), reg. 1(1), **Sch. para. 25(9)(b)(iii)** (with reg. 8) (as amended by S.I. 2020/1574, regs. 1, 5(2)); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

PROSPECTIVE

Orders for financial provision, property adjustment [F628 and pension sharing]F628, pension sharing and pension compensation sharing]

Textual Amendments

F628 Words in Sch. 17 para. 9 heading substituted (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 118, **Sch. 5 para. 20(1)**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

9 (1) Sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) apply where one of the civil partners has made an application for an order under this paragraph.

(2) If the civil partnership has been dissolved or annulled, the court may on the application make any one or more of the orders which it could make under Part 1, 2 [F629, 3 or 3A] of Schedule 15 (financial provision, property adjustment [F630, pension sharing and pension compensation sharing]) if a dissolution order or nullity order had been made in respect of the civil partnership under Chapter 2 of Part 4 of this Act.

(3) If the civil partners have been legally separated, the court may on the application make any one or more of the orders which it could make under Part 1 or 2 of Schedule 15 (financial provision and property adjustment) if a separation order had been made in respect of the civil partners under Chapter 2 of Part 4 of this Act.

(4) The powers under sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) are subject to paragraph 11.

Textual Amendments

F629 Words in Sch. 17 para. 9(2) substituted (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 118, **Sch. 5 para. 20(2)(a)**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

F630 Words in Sch. 17 para. 9(2) substituted (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 118, **Sch. 5 para. 20(2)(b)**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

Matters to which court is to have regard in exercising its powers under paragraph 9

10 (1) The court, in deciding—

(a) whether to exercise its powers under paragraph 9, and

(b) if so, in what way,

must act in accordance with this paragraph.

(2) The court must have regard to all the circumstances of the case, giving first consideration to the welfare, while under 18, of any child of the family who has not reached 18.

(3) The court, in exercising its powers under paragraph 9 in relation to one of the civil partners—

(a) must in particular have regard to the matters mentioned in paragraph 16(2) of Schedule 15, and

(b) shall be under duties corresponding to those imposed by sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) of paragraph 18 of that Schedule (duties to consider termination of

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

financial obligations) where it decides to exercise under paragraph 9 powers corresponding to the powers referred to in those sub-paragraphs.

(4) The matters to which the court is to have regard under sub-paragraph (3)(a), so far as relating to paragraph 16(2)(a) of Schedule 15 (regard to be had to financial resources), include—

(a) any benefits under a pension arrangement which either of the civil partners has or is likely to have, and

(b) any PPF compensation to which a civil partner is or is likely to be entitled,

(whether or not in the foreseeable future).

(5) The matters to which the court is to have regard under sub-paragraph (3)(a), so far as relating to paragraph 16(2)(h) of Schedule 15 (regard to be had to benefits that cease to be acquirable), include—

(a) any benefits under a pension arrangement which, because of the dissolution or annulment of the civil partnership, one of the civil partners will lose the chance of acquiring, and

(b) any PPF compensation which, because of the making of the dissolution or nullity order, a civil partner will lose the chance of acquiring entitlement to.

(6) The court, in exercising its powers under paragraph 9 in relation to a child of the family, must in particular have regard to the matters mentioned in paragraph 17(2) of Schedule 15.

(7) The court, in exercising its powers under paragraph 9 against a civil partner ("A") in favour of a child of the family who is not A's child, must also have regard to the matters mentioned in paragraph 17(3) of Schedule 15.

(8) Where an order has been made by a court outside Northern Ireland for—

(a) the making of payments, or

(b) the transfer of property,

by one of the civil partners, the court in considering in accordance with this paragraph the financial resources of the other civil partner, or of a child of the family, shall have regard to the extent to which that order has been complied with or is likely to be complied with.

(9) In this paragraph—

(a) "pension arrangement" has the same meaning as in Part 3 of Schedule 15,

(b) references to benefits under a pension arrangement include any benefits by way of pension, whether under a pension arrangement or not, and

(c) "PPF compensation" has the same meaning as in [F631]. . . Schedule 15.

Textual Amendments

F631 Words in Sch. 17 para. 10(9)(c) repealed (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 116, 118, Sch. 5 para. 20(3), **Sch. 10 Pt. 4**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

Commencement Information

I79 Sch. 17 para. 10 wholly in force at 6.4.2006; Sch. 17 para. 10 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 17 para. 10(1)-(3)(4)(a)(5)(a)(6)-(8)(9)(a)(b) in force at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1 and Sch. 17 para. 10(4)(b)(5)(b)(9)(c) in force at 6.4.2006 by S.I. 2006/928, **art. 2(b)**

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Restriction of powers under paragraph 9 where jurisdiction depends on civil partnership home in Northern Ireland

11 (1) Sub-paragraphs (2) to (4) apply where the court has jurisdiction to entertain an application for an order under paragraph 9 only because a dwelling-house which was a civil partnership home of the civil partners is situated in Northern Ireland.

(2) The court may make under paragraph 9 any one or more of the following orders (but no other)—

(a) an order that one of the civil partners shall pay to the other a specified lump sum;

(b) an order that one of the civil partners shall pay to a child of the family, or to a specified person for the benefit of a child of the family, a specified lump sum;

(c) an order that one of the civil partners shall transfer that civil partner's interest in the dwelling-house, or a specified part of that interest—

(i) to the other,

(ii) to a child of the family, or

(iii) to a specified person for the benefit of a child of the family;

(d) an order that a settlement of the interest of one of the civil partners in the dwelling-house, or a specified part of that interest, be made to the satisfaction of the court for the benefit of any one or more of—

(i) the other civil partner and the children of the family, or

(ii) either or any of them;

(e) an order varying for the benefit of any one or more of—

(i) the civil partners and the children of the family, or

(ii) either or any of them,

a relevant settlement so far as that settlement relates to an interest in the dwelling-house;

(f) an order extinguishing or reducing the interest of either of the civil partners under a relevant settlement so far as that interest is an interest in the dwelling-house;

(g) an order for the sale of the interest of one of the civil partners in the dwelling-house.

(3) Where under paragraph 9 the court makes just one order for the payment of a lump sum by one of the civil partners, the amount of the lump sum must not exceed the amount specified in sub-paragraph (5).

(4) Where under paragraph 9 the court makes two or more orders each of which is an order for the payment of a lump sum by the same civil partner, the total of the amounts of the lump sums must not exceed the amount specified in sub-paragraph (5).

(5) That amount is—

(a) if the interest of the paying civil partner in the dwelling-house is sold in pursuance of an order made under sub-paragraph (2)(g), the amount of the proceeds of sale of that interest after deducting from those proceeds any costs incurred in the sale of that interest;

(b) if that interest is not so sold, the amount which in the opinion of the court represents the value of that interest.

(6) Where the interest of one of the civil partners in the dwelling-house is held jointly or in common with any other person or persons—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) the reference in sub-paragraph (2)(g) to the interest of one of the civil partners shall be construed as including a reference to the interest of that other person, or the interest of those other persons, in the dwelling-house, and

(b) the reference in sub-paragraph (5)(a) to the amount of the proceeds of a sale ordered under sub-paragraph (2)(g) shall be construed as a reference to that part of those proceeds which is attributable to the interest of that civil partner in the dwelling-house.

(7) In sub-paragraph (2)—

"relevant settlement" means a settlement made, during the subsistence of the civil partnership or in anticipation of its formation, on the civil partners, including one made by will or codicil;

"specified" means specified in the order.

Consent orders under paragraph 9

12 (1) On an application for a consent order under paragraph 9, the court may make an order in the terms agreed on the basis only of the prescribed information furnished with the application.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) does not apply if the court has reason to think that there are other circumstances into which it ought to inquire.

(3) Sub-paragraph (1) applies to an application for a consent order varying or discharging an order under paragraph 9 as it applies to an application for such an order.

(4) Sub-paragraph (1) applies despite paragraph 10.

(5) In this paragraph—

"consent order", in relation to an application for an order, means an order in the terms applied for to which the respondent agrees;

"prescribed" means prescribed by rules of court.

Commencement Information

I80 Sch. 17 para. 12 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 17 para. 12 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 17 para. 12(1)(5) in force for certain purposes at 5.9.2005 by S.I. 2005/2399, **art. 2**, Sch. and Sch. 17 para. 12 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.

Orders for transfers of tenancies of dwelling-houses

13 (1) This paragraph applies if—

(a) an application is made by one of the civil partners for an order under this paragraph, and

(b) one of the civil partners is entitled, either in his own right or jointly with the other civil partner, to occupy a dwelling-house in Northern Ireland by virtue of a tenancy which is a tenancy mentioned in Schedule 2 to the Family Homes and Domestic Violence (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 (S.I. 1998/1071 (N.I. 6)).

(2) The court may make in relation to that dwelling-house any order which it could make under Part 2 of that Schedule (order transferring tenancy or switching statutory

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

tenants) if it had power to make a property adjustment order under Part 2 of Schedule 15 to this Act with respect to the civil partnership.

(3) The provisions of paragraphs 9, 10 and 13(1) of Schedule 2 to the Family Homes and Domestic Violence (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 (payments by transferee, pre-transfer liabilities and right of landlord to be heard) apply in relation to any order under this paragraph as they apply to any order under Part 2 of that Schedule.

Application to orders under paragraphs 5 and 9 of provisions of Schedule 15

14 (1) The following provisions of Schedule 15 apply in relation to an order made under paragraph 5 or 9 of this Schedule as they apply in relation to a like order made under that Schedule—

(a) paragraph 3(1) to (3) and (7) (lump sums);

(b) paragraphs 12, 13 and 14(2) to (4) (pension sharing);

[F632(ba) paragraphs 14C, 14D and 14E(2) to (4) (pension compensation sharing);**]**

(c) paragraphs 20 and 21 (orders under Part 1 relating to pensions);

(d) paragraphs 26 to **[**F633 29 and 30 to 32**]** (orders under Part 1 relating to pensions where Board has assumed responsibility for scheme);

[F634(da) paragraph 29A (orders under Part 1 relating to pension compensation attachment);**]**

(e) paragraphs 42(1) to (4) and (6) and 44 (duration of orders);

(f) paragraphs 45 to 47, and 50 to 55, except paragraph 45(1)(g) (variation etc. of orders);

(g) paragraphs 56 to 58 (arrears and repayments);

(h) paragraphs 71 to **[**F635 74A**]** (drafting of instruments, bankruptcy, mental disorder, **[**F636 pension-sharing appeals and pension compensation-sharing appeals**]**).

(2) Sub-paragraph (1)(d) **[**F637 and (da)**]** does not apply where the court has jurisdiction to entertain an application for an order under paragraph 9 only because a dwelling-house which was a civil partnership home of the civil partners is situated in Northern Ireland.

(3) Paragraph 22 of Schedule 15 (change of pension arrangement under which rights are shared) applies in relation to an order made under paragraph 9 of this Schedule by virtue of sub-paragraph (1)(d) as it applies to an order made under Part 1 of Schedule 15 by virtue of paragraph 20 or 21 of that Schedule.

(4) The Lord Chancellor may by regulations make for the purposes of this Schedule provision corresponding to any provision which may be made by him under paragraph 23(1) to (3) of Schedule 15 (supplementary provision about orders relating to pensions under Part 1 of that Schedule) **[**F638 or under paragraphs 29B to 31 of that Schedule (supplementary provision about orders relating to pension compensation)**]**.

(5) The power to make regulations under this paragraph is exercisable by statutory rule for the purposes of the Statutory Rules (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 (S.I. 1979/1573 (N.I. 12)).

(6) Regulations under this paragraph are subject to **[**F639 negative resolution within the meaning of section 41(6) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954**]**.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F632 Sch. 17 para. 14(1)(ba) inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 118, **Sch. 5 para. 20(4)(a)**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

F633 Words in Sch. 17 para. 14(1)(d) substituted (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 118, **Sch. 5 para. 20(4)(b)**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

F634 Sch. 17 para. 14(1)(da) inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 118, **Sch. 5 para. 20(4)(c)**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

F635 Word in Sch. 17 para. 14(1)(h) substituted (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 118, **Sch. 5 para. 20(4)(d)**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

F636 Words in Sch. 17 para. 14(1)(h) substituted (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 118, **Sch. 5 para. 20(4)(e)**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

F637 Words in Sch. 17 para. 14(2) inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 118, **Sch. 5 para. 20(2)(f)**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

F638 Words in Sch. 17 para. 14(4) inserted (6.4.2011) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), ss. 98, 118, **Sch. 5 para. 20(2)(g)**; S.R. 2011/108, **art. 2(2)**, Sch.

F639 Words in Sch. 17 para. 14(6) substituted (12.4.2010) by The Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/976), art. 15(5), **Sch. 18 para. 77** (with arts. 28-31)

Commencement Information

I81 Sch. 17 para. 14 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 17 para. 14 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 17 para. 14(4)-(6) in force for certain purposes at 5.9.2005 by S.I. 2005/2399, **art. 2**, Sch. and Sch. 17 para. 14 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.

Avoidance of transactions designed to defeat claims under paragraphs 5 and 9

15 (1) Sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) apply where one of the civil partners ("A") is granted leave under paragraph 4 to make an application for an order under paragraph 9.

(2) If the court is satisfied, on application by A, that the other civil partner ("B") is, with the intention of defeating a claim by A, about to—

(a) make any disposition, or

(b) transfer out of the jurisdiction, or otherwise deal with, any property,

it may make such order as it thinks fit for restraining B from doing so or otherwise for protecting the claim.

(3) If the court is satisfied, on application by A—

(a) that the other civil partner ("B") has, with the intention of defeating a claim by A, made a reviewable disposition, and

(b) that, if the disposition were set aside—

(i) financial relief under paragraph 5 or 9, or

(ii) different financial relief under paragraph 5 or 9,

would be granted to A,

it may make an order setting aside the disposition.

(4) If—

(a) an order under paragraph 5 or 9 has been made by the court at the instance of one of the civil partners ("A"), and

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) the court is satisfied, on application by A, that the other civil partner ("B") has, with the intention of defeating a claim by A, made a reviewable disposition,

the court may make an order setting aside the disposition.

(5) Where the court has jurisdiction to entertain an application for an order under paragraph 9 only under paragraph 7(4), it shall not make any order under sub-paragraph (2), (3) or (4) in respect of any property other than the dwelling-house concerned.

(6) Where the court makes an order under sub-paragraph (3) or (4) setting aside a disposition, it shall give such consequential directions as it thinks fit for giving effect to the order (including directions requiring the making of any payments or the disposal of any property).

(7) For the purposes of sub-paragraphs (3) and (4), but subject to sub-paragraph (8), any disposition made by B is a "reviewable disposition" (whether made before or after the commencement of A's application under that sub-paragraph).

(8) A disposition made by B is not a reviewable disposition for those purposes if made for valuable consideration (other than formation of a civil partnership) to a person who, at the time of the disposition, acted in relation to it in good faith and without notice of any intention on the part of B to defeat A's claim.

(9) A reference in this paragraph to defeating a claim by one of the civil partners is a reference to—

(a) preventing financial relief being granted, or reducing the amount of financial relief which might be granted, under paragraph 5 or 9 at the instance of that civil partner, or

(b) frustrating or impeding the enforcement of any order which might be, or has been, made under paragraph 5 or 9 at the instance of that civil partner.

Presumptions for the purposes of paragraph 15

16 (1) Sub-paragraph (3) applies where—

(a) an application is made under paragraph 15(2) or (3) by one of the civil partners with respect to—

(i) a disposition which took place less than 3 years before the date of the application, or

(ii) a disposition or other dealing with property which is about to take place, and

(b) the court is satisfied that the disposition or other dealing would (apart from paragraph 15 and this paragraph of this Schedule) have the consequence of defeating a claim by the applicant.

(2) Sub-paragraph (3) also applies where—

(a) an application is made under paragraph 15(4) by one of the civil partners with respect to a disposition which took place less than 3 years before the date of the application, and

(b) the court is satisfied that the disposition has had the consequence of defeating a claim by the applicant.

(3) It shall be presumed, unless the contrary is shown, that the person who—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) disposed of, or

(b) is about to dispose of or deal with the property,

did so, or (as the case may be) is about to do so, with the intention of defeating the applicant's claim.

(4) A reference in this paragraph to defeating a claim by one of the civil partners has the meaning given by paragraph 15(9).

PART 2

STEPS TO PREVENT AVOIDANCE PRIOR TO APPLICATION FOR LEAVE UNDER PARAGRAPH 4

Prevention of transactions intended to defeat prospective claims under paragraphs 5 and 9

17 (1) If it appears to the court, on application by one of the persons ("A") who formed a civil partnership—

(a) that the civil partnership has been dissolved or annulled, or that the civil partners have been legally separated, by means of judicial or other proceedings in an overseas country,

(b) that A intends to apply for leave to make an application for an order under paragraph 9 as soon as he or she has been habitually resident in Northern Ireland for the period of one year, and

(c) that the other civil partner ("B") is, with the intention of defeating A's claim, about to—

(i) make any disposition, or

(ii) transfer out of the jurisdiction, or otherwise deal with, any property,

the court may make such order as it thinks fit for restraining B from taking such action as is mentioned in paragraph (c).

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) applies even if the date of the dissolution, annulment or legal separation is earlier than the date on which that sub-paragraph comes into force.

(3) Sub-paragraph (4) applies where—

(a) an application is made under sub-paragraph (1) with respect to—

(i) a disposition which took place less than 3 years before the date of the application, or

(ii) a disposition or other dealing with property which is about to take place, and

(b) the court is satisfied that the disposition or other dealing would (apart from this paragraph of this Schedule) have the consequence of defeating a claim by the applicant.

(4) It shall be presumed, unless the contrary is shown, that the person who—

(a) disposed of, or

(b) is about to dispose of or deal with the property,

did so, or (as the case may be) is about to do so, with the intention of defeating the applicant's claim.

(5) A reference in this paragraph to defeating a person's claim is a reference to preventing financial relief being granted, or reducing the amount of financial relief which might be granted, under paragraph 5 or 9 at the instance of that person.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

PART 3

SUPPLEMENTARY

Paragraphs 15 to 17: meaning of "disposition" and saving

18 (1) In paragraphs 15 to 17 "disposition" does not include any provision contained in a will or codicil but, with that exception, includes any conveyance, assurance or gift of property of any description, whether made by an instrument or otherwise.

(2) The provisions of paragraphs 15 to 17 are without prejudice to any power of the court to grant injunctions under section 91 of the Judicature (Northern Ireland) Act 1978 (c. 23).

Interpretation of Schedule

19 In this Schedule—

"the court" means the High Court;

"dwelling-house" includes—

(a) any building, or part of a building, which is occupied as a dwelling, and

(b) any yard, garden, garage or outhouse belonging to, and occupied with, the dwelling-house;

"overseas country" has the meaning given by paragraph 1(3).

SCHEDULE 18 Section 205

HOUSING AND TENANCIES: NORTHERN IRELAND

Rent (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 (S.I. 1978/1050 (N.I. 20))

1 In Article 14 (extended discretion of court), in paragraph (2), after "spouse" (in both places) insert " or civil partner ".

2 (1) Amend Schedule 1 (statutory tenants by succession) as follows.

(2) In paragraph 2, after "surviving spouse" insert " , or surviving civil partner, ".

(3) F640 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F640 Words in Sch. 18 para. 2(3) repealed (1.4.2007) by The Private Tenancies (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 (S.I. 2006/1459 (N.I. 10)), art. 75, **Sch. 5**; S.R. 2006/428, **art. 3(b)(c)**

3 In Schedule 4 (grounds for possession), in Case 3 in Part 1 (dwelling-house required as residence for landlord or member of his family), in paragraph (d), for "wife or husband" substitute " spouse or civil partner ".

Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 (S.I. 1981/156 (N.I. 3))

4 (1) Amend Article 2A (meaning of member of a person's family) as follows.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(2) In paragraph (1)(a)—

(a) after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) after "live together as husband and wife" insert " or as if they were civil partners ".

(3) In paragraph (2)(a), after "a relationship by marriage" insert " or civil partnership ".

Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 (S.I. 1983/1118 (N.I. 15))

5 (1) In Article 24 (interpretation), amend paragraph (3) (meaning of member of another's family) as follows.

(2) After "spouse" insert " , civil partner ".

(3) After "marriage" insert " or civil partnership ".

(4) After "live together as husband and wife" insert " or as if they were civil partners ".

6 (1) Amend Article 26 (succession on death of tenant) as follows.

(2) In paragraph (2)(a), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

(3) In paragraph (3)(a), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

(4) In paragraph (4), for "paragraph (4A)" substitute " paragraphs (4A) and (4B) ".

(5) After paragraph (4A) insert—

"(4B) A tenant to whom the tenancy was assigned in pursuance of an order under any of the following provisions of the Civil Partnership Act 2004—

(a) Part 2 of Schedule 15; or

(b) paragraph 9(2) or (3) of Schedule 17,

is a successor only if the other civil partner was a successor."

7 In Article 32 (assignments), in paragraph (1), after sub-paragraph (a) insert—

"(aa) the assignment is made in pursuance of an order made under Part 2 of Schedule 15, or paragraph 9(2) or (3) of Schedule 17, to the Civil Partnership Act 2004; or".

8 In Article 33 (other disposals), in paragraph (2), after sub-paragraph (a) insert—

"(aa) the vesting or other disposal is in pursuance of an order made under Part 2 of Schedule 15, or paragraph 9(2) or (3) of Schedule 17, to the Civil Partnership Act 2004; or".

9 In Article 94 (subletting or assignment), in paragraph (2), after "1978" insert " or Part 2 of Schedule 15, or paragraph 9(2) or (3) of Schedule 17, to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 ".

10 In Schedule 3 (grounds for possession of dwelling-houses let under secure tenancies), in Ground 2A—

(a) for "a married couple or" substitute " a married couple, a couple who are civil partners of each other ", and

(b) after "as husband and wife" insert " or a couple living together as if they were civil partners ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 (S.I. 2003/412 (N.I. 2))

11 (1) Amend Article 3 (meaning of a person's family) as follows.

(2) In paragraph (1)(a)—

(a) after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) after "live together as husband and wife" insert " or as if they were civil partners ".

(3) In paragraph (2)(a), after "a relationship by marriage" insert " or civil partnership ".

12 In Article 13 (persons qualified to succeed tenant under an introductory tenancy), in paragraph (a), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

13 Article 14 (cases where tenant is a successor), in paragraph (2), after sub-paragraph (c) insert—

"(d) Part 2 of Schedule 15, or paragraph 9(2) or (3) of Schedule 17, to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (property adjustment orders in connection with civil partnership proceedings or after overseas dissolution of civil partnership, etc.),".

14 (1) Amend Article 15 (persons qualified to succeed tenant under an introductory tenancy) as follows.

(2) In paragraph (2)(a), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

(3) In paragraph (3)(a), after head (iv) insert—

"(v) Part 2 of Schedule 15, or paragraph 9(2) or (3) of Schedule 17, to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (property adjustment orders in connection with civil partnership proceedings or after overseas dissolution of civil partnership, etc.),".

15 Article 16 (assignment in general prohibited), in paragraph (2)(a), after head (iv) insert—

"(v) Part 2 of Schedule 15, or paragraph 9(2) or (3) of Schedule 17, to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (property adjustment orders in connection with civil partnership proceedings or after overseas dissolution of civil partnership, etc.),".

16 In Article 28 (interpretation of Part 3), in the definition of "partner"—

(a) after "spouse" (in both places) insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) after "husband or wife" insert " or as if they were civil partners ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

SCHEDULE 19 Section 206

FAMILY HOMES AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: NORTHERN IRELAND

PART 1

AMENDMENTS OF THE FAMILY HOMES AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER (SI 1998/1071 (NI 6))

1 (1) Amend Article 2 (interpretation) as follows.

(2) In paragraph (2), after the definition of "health" insert—

""home rights" has the meaning given by Article 4;".

(3) In the definition of "matrimonial charge" in that paragraph, after "matrimonial" insert " or civil partnership ".

(4) Omit the definition of "matrimonial home rights" in that paragraph.

(5) In the definition of "relative" in that paragraph—

(a) in paragraphs (a) and (b) for "spouse or former spouse" substitute " spouse, former spouse, civil partner or former civil partner ", and

(b) after "were married to each other" insert " or were civil partners of each other ".

(6) After paragraph (3)(g) insert—

"(h) the Civil Partnership Act 2004."

(7) In paragraph (7), after "matrimonial" insert " or civil partnership ".

2 (1) Amend Article 3 (meaning of "cohabitees", "relevant child" and "associated persons") as follows.

(2) For paragraph (1)(a) substitute—

"(a) "cohabitees" are two persons who are neither married to each other nor civil partners of each other but are living together as husband and wife or as if they were civil partners;".

(3) In paragraph (1)(b), after "have subsequently married each other" insert " or become civil partners of each other ".

(4) After paragraph (3)(a) insert—

"(aa) they are or have been civil partners of each other;".

(5) After paragraph (3)(e) insert—

"(eza) they have entered into a civil partnership agreement (as defined by section 197 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004) (whether or not that agreement has been terminated);".

3 (1) Amend Article 4 (rights concerning matrimonial home where one spouse has no estate, etc.) as follows.

(2) In paragraph (1)—

(a) in sub-paragraph (a)—

(i) after "one spouse" insert " or civil partner ("A") ", and

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(ii) for "that spouse" substitute " A ",

(b) in sub-paragraph (b), after "other spouse" insert " or civil partner ("B") ".

(3) In paragraph (2)—

(a) for "the spouse not so entitled" substitute " B ",

(b) for "("matrimonial home rights")" substitute " ("home rights") ", and

(c) in sub-paragraph (a), for "the other spouse" substitute " A ".

(4) In paragraph (3)—

(a) for "a spouse" and for "that spouse" substitute " B ", and

(b) for "the other spouse" (in both places) substitute " A ".

(5) In paragraph (4)—

(a) for "A spouse's" substitute " B's ",

(b) in sub-paragraph (a), for "by the other spouse as the other spouse's" substitute " by A as A's ", and

(c) in sub-paragraph (b)—

(i) for "the spouse occupies the dwelling-house as that spouse's" substitute " B occupies the dwelling-house as B's ", and

(ii) for "by the other spouse as the other spouse's" substitute " by A as A's ".

(6) In paragraph (5)—

(a) for "a spouse ("the first spouse")" substitute " B ", and

(b) in sub-paragraph (b), for "the other spouse ("the second spouse")" substitute " A ",

(c) for "the second spouse" (in both places) substitute " A ", and

(d) for "the first spouse" substitute " B ".

(7) In paragraph (6)—

(a) for "a spouse" substitute " B ", and

(b) for "the other spouse" (in both places) substitute " A ".

(8) In paragraph (7), for the words from first "which" to the end substitute "which—

(a) in the case of spouses, has at no time been, and was at no time intended by them to be, a matrimonial home of theirs; and

(b) in the case of civil partners, has at no time been, and was at no time intended by them to be, a civil partnership home of theirs."

(9) In paragraph (8)—

(a) for "A spouse's matrimonial home rights" substitute " B's home rights ",

(b) in sub-paragraph (a), after "marriage" insert " or civil partnership ", and

(c) in sub-paragraph (b), for "the other spouse" substitute " A ".

(10) In paragraph (9)—

(a) for "a spouse" substitute " a person ",

(b) for "matrimonial home rights" substitute " home rights ", and

(c) after "spouses" insert " or civil partners ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(11) In the heading to Article 4, for "matrimonial home where one spouse" substitute " home where one spouse or civil partner " and, in the preceding cross-heading, after "matrimonial" insert " or civil partnership ".

4 (1) Amend Article 5 (effect of matrimonial home rights as charge on dwelling-house) as follows.

(2) In paragraph (1), for "marriage, one spouse" substitute " marriage or civil partnership, A ".

(3) In paragraph (2), for "The other spouse's matrimonial home rights" substitute " B's home rights ".

(4) In paragraph (3)—

(a) in sub-paragraph (a), for "the spouse so entitled" substitute " A ", and

(b) in sub-paragraph (b), after "marriage" insert " or of the formation of the civil partnership ".

(5) In paragraph (4)—

(a) for "a spouse's matrimonial home rights" substitute " B's home rights ",

(b) for "the other spouse" substitute " A ", and

(c) for "either of the spouses" substitute " A or B ".

(6) In paragraph (5), for "the other spouse" substitute " A ".

(7) In paragraph (6), for "the spouses" substitute " A and B ".

(8) In paragraph (7)—

(a) for "a spouse's matrimonial home rights" substitute " B's home rights ",

(b) in sub-paragraph (a), for "the other spouse" substitute " A ", and

(c) in sub-paragraph (b), after "marriage" insert " or civil partnership ".

(9) In paragraph (8)—

(a) in sub-paragraph (a), for "a spouse's matrimonial home rights" substitute " B's home rights ", and

(b) for "the other spouse" (in both places) substitute " A ".

(10) In the heading to Article 5, for "matrimonial home rights" substitute " home rights ".

5 (1) Amend Article 6 (registration, etc. of matrimonial charge) as follows.

(2) In paragraphs (1), (3), (4), (5) and (6), after "matrimonial" insert " or civil partnership ".

(3) In the heading to Article 6, after "matrimonial" insert " or civil partnership ".

6 (1) Amend Article 7 (restriction on registration where spouse entitled to more than one matrimonial charge) as follows.

(2) In paragraphs (1), (2) and (3), after "spouse" (in each place) insert " or civil partner ".

(3) In paragraphs (1), (2), (3) and (4), after "matrimonial" (in each place) insert " or civil partnership ".

(4) In paragraph (3), for "matrimonial home rights" substitute " home rights ".

(5) In the heading to Article 7, after "matrimonial" insert " or civil partnership ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

7 (1) Amend Article 8 (cancellation of registration of matrimonial charge before completion of disposal of dwelling-house) as follows.

(2) In paragraphs (1) and (2), after "matrimonial" insert " or civil partnership ".

(3) In the heading to Article 8, after "matrimonial" insert " or civil partnership ".

8 (1) Amend Article 9 (cancellation of registration after termination of marriage, etc.) as follows.

(2) In paragraph (1), for "matrimonial charge" substitute " matrimonial or civil partnership charge ".

(3) In paragraphs (1)(a), (2)(a) and (b) and (3), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

(4) In paragraphs (1)(b), (2)(a) and (4), after "marriage" (in each place) insert " or civil partnership ".

(5) In paragraphs (1)(c), (2), (3) and (4), after "matrimonial" (in each place) insert " or civil partnership ".

(6) In paragraph (1)(c), for "spouse's matrimonial home rights" substitute " spouse's or civil partner's home rights ".

(7) In the heading to Article 9, after "marriage" insert " or civil partnership ".

9 (1) Amend Article 10 (release of matrimonial home rights and postponement of priority of matrimonial charge) as follows.

(2) In paragraph (1), for "spouse entitled to matrimonial home rights" substitute " spouse or civil partner entitled to home rights ".

(3) In paragraphs (2) and (3), for "matrimonial charge" (in each place) substitute " matrimonial or civil partnership charge ".

(4) In paragraph (2), for "matrimonial home rights" substitute " home rights ".

(5) In paragraph (3), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

(6) In the heading to Article 10, after "matrimonial" (in each place) insert " or civil partnership ".

10 (1) Amend Article 11 (occupation orders where applicant has estate or interest etc. or has matrimonial home rights) as follows.

(2) In paragraph (1)(a)(ii), for "matrimonial home rights" substitute " home rights ".

(3) After paragraph (2) insert—

"(2A) If a civil partnership agreement (within the meaning of the Civil Partnership Act 2004) is terminated, no application under this Article may be made by virtue of Article 3(3)(eza) by reference to that agreement after the end of the period of three years beginning with the day on which it is terminated."

(4) In paragraph (3)(f)—

(a) for "matrimonial home rights" substitute " home rights ", and

(b) after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

(5) In paragraph (4), for "matrimonial home rights" substitute " home rights ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(6) In paragraph (5)—

(a) for "matrimonial home rights" substitute " home rights ",

(b) after "is the other spouse" insert " or civil partner ",

(c) after "during the marriage" insert " or civil partnership ",

(d) in sub-paragraph (a), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ", and

(e) in sub-paragraph (b), after "marriage" insert " or civil partnership ".

(7) In the heading to Article 11, for "matrimonial home rights" substitute " home rights ".

11 In Article 12 (effect of order under Article 11 where rights are charge on dwelling-house), in paragraph (1)—

(a) for "a spouse's matrimonial home rights" substitute " B's home rights ", and

(b) for "the other spouse" (in each place) substitute " A ".

12 (1) Amend Article 13 (one former spouse with no existing right to occupy) as follows.

(2) In paragraph (1)(a) and (b), after "former spouse" insert " or former civil partner ".

(3) For paragraph (1)(c) substitute—

"(c) the dwelling house—

(i) in the case of former spouses, was at any time their matrimonial home or was at any time intended by them to be their matrimonial home, or

(ii) in the case of former civil partners, was at any time their civil partnership home or was at any time intended by them to be their civil partnership home."

(4) In paragraph (2), after "former spouse" (in both places) insert " or former civil partner ".

(5) In paragraph (6)(f), after "marriage" insert " or civil partnership ".

(6) After paragraph (6)(g)(i), insert—

"(ia) for a property adjustment order under Part 2 of Schedule 15 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004;".

(7) In paragraph (9)(a), after "former spouses" insert " or former civil partners ".

(8) In paragraphs (11) and (12), after "former spouse" insert " or former civil partner ".

(9) For paragraph (13)(a) and (b) substitute—

"(a) as if he were B (the person entitled to occupy the dwelling-house by virtue of that Article); and

(b) as if the respondent were A (the person entitled as mentioned in paragraph (1)(a) of that Article)."

(10) In the heading to Article 13, after "former spouse" insert " or former civil partner ".

13 In Article 14 (one cohabitee or former cohabitee with no existing right to occupy), for paragraph (13)(a) and (b) substitute—

"(a) as if he were B (the person entitled to occupy the dwelling-house by virtue of that Article); and

(b) as if the respondent were A (the person entitled as mentioned in paragraph (1)(a) of that Article)."

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

14 (1) Amend Article 15 (neither spouse entitled to occupy) as follows.

(2) After paragraph (1) insert—

"(1A) This Article also applies if—

(a) one civil partner or former civil partner and the other civil partner or former civil partner occupy a dwelling-house which is or was the civil partnership home; but

(b) neither of them is entitled to remain in occupation—

(i) by virtue of a beneficial estate or contract; or

(ii) by virtue of any statutory provision giving him the right to remain in occupation."

(3) In paragraph (3)(c), for "spouses" substitute " parties ".

(4) In the heading to Article 15, after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

15 In Article 20 (non-molestation orders), after paragraph (4) insert—

"(4ZA) If a civil partnership agreement (within the meaning of the Civil Partnership Act 2004) is terminated, no application under this Article may be made by virtue of Article 3(3)(eza) by reference to that agreement after the end of the period of three years beginning with the day on which it is terminated."

16 (1) In Article 22 (evidence of agreement to marry), after paragraph (2) insert—

"(3) Subject to paragraph (4), the court shall not make an order under Article 11 or 20 by virtue of Article 3(3)(eza) unless there is produced to it evidence in writing of the existence of the civil partnership agreement (within the meaning of the Civil Partnership Act 2004).

(4) Paragraph (3) does not apply if the court is satisfied that the civil partnership agreement was evidenced by—

(a) a gift by one party to the agreement to the other as a token of the agreement, or

(b) a ceremony entered into by the parties in the presence of one or more other persons assembled for the purpose of witnessing the ceremony."

(2) In the heading to Article 22, after "marry" insert " or form a civil partnership ".

17 In Article 24 (variation and discharge of orders), in paragraph (3)—

(a) for "a spouse's matrimonial home rights are" substitute " B's home rights are, under Article 12, ", and

(b) for "the other spouse" (in each place) substitute " A ".

18 (1) Amend Article 31 (dwelling-house subject to mortgage) as follows.

(2) In paragraphs (3)(a) and (4), for "matrimonial home rights" substitute " home rights ".

(3) In paragraph (5), after "spouse, former spouse" insert " , civil partner, former civil partner ".

19 (1) Amend Article 33 (actions by mortgagees: service of notice on certain persons) as follows.

(2) In paragraphs (1) and (2), after "matrimonial" insert " or civil partnership ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

20 (1) Amend Article 39 (appeals) as follows.

(2) At the end of paragraph (2)(b) insert "or

(c) where the county court is a civil partnership proceedings county court exercising jurisdiction under the Civil Partnership Act 2004."

(3) At the end of paragraph (6) insert " or a civil partnership proceedings county court exercising jurisdiction under the Civil Partnership Act 2004 in the same proceedings ".

21 (1) Amend Schedule 2 (transfer of certain tenancies on divorce etc. or on separation of cohabitees) as follows.

(2) In paragraph 1(2), before the definition of "cohabitee" insert—

""civil partner", except in paragraph 2, includes (where the context requires) former civil partner;".

(3) In paragraph 2(1), after "spouse" (in both places) insert " or civil partner ".

(4) For paragraph 2(2) substitute—

"(2) The court may make a Part II order—

(a) on granting a decree of divorce, a decree of nullity of marriage or a decree of judicial separation or at any time thereafter (whether, in the case of a decree of divorce or nullity of marriage, before or after the decree is made absolute), or

(b) at any time when it has power to make a property adjustment order under Part 2 of Schedule 15 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 with respect to the civil partnership."

(5) In paragraph 2(3), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

(6) Omit "or" at the end of paragraph 4(1)(a) and insert—

"(aa) in the case of civil partners, a civil partnership home; or".

(7) In paragraph 5(a), after "spouses" insert " , civil partners ".

(8) In paragraph 6, after "spouse" (in both places) insert " , civil partner ".

(9) In paragraph 7(1) and (2), after "spouse" (in each place) insert " , civil partner ".

(10) For paragraph 7(3) substitute—

"(3) If the spouse, civil partner or cohabitee so entitled is a successor within the meaning of Chapter 2 of Part 2 of the Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 (S.I. 1983/1118 (N.I. 15))—

(a) his former spouse (or, in the case of judicial separation, his spouse),

(b) his former civil partner (or, if a separation order is in force, his civil partner), or

(c) his former cohabitee,

is to be deemed also to be a successor within the meaning of that Chapter."

(11) In paragraph 8(1) and (2)(a) and (b), after "spouse" insert " , civil partner ".

(12) In paragraph 8(3), after "widower" insert " or surviving civil partner ".

(13) In paragraph 9(1) (in both places), after "spouse" insert " , civil partner ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(14) In paragraph 10(1), after "spouses" insert " , civil partners ".

(15) In paragraph 10(2), after "spouse" insert " , civil partner ".

(16) For paragraph 11 and the heading preceding it, substitute—

"Date when order made between spouses or civil partners takes effect

11 The date specified in a Part II order as the date on which the order is to take effect must not be earlier than—

(a) in the case of a marriage in respect of which a decree of divorce or nullity has been granted, the date on which the decree is made absolute;

(b) in the case of a civil partnership in respect of which a dissolution or nullity order has been made, the date on which the order is made final."

(17) For paragraph 12 and the heading preceding it substitute—

"Effect of remarriage or subsequent civil partnership

12 (1) If after the grant of a decree dissolving or annulling a marriage either spouse remarries or forms a civil partnership, that spouse is not entitled to apply, by reference to the grant of that decree, for a Part II order.

(2) If after the making of a dissolution or nullity order either civil partner forms a subsequent civil partnership or marries, that civil partner is not entitled to apply, by reference to the making of that order, for a Part II order.

(3) In sub-paragraphs (1) and (2)—

(a) the references to remarrying and marrying, include references to cases where the marriage is by law void or voidable, and

(b) the references to forming a civil partnership, include references to cases where the civil partnership is by law void or voidable."

(18) In paragraph 14(1)—

(a) after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) for "spouse's matrimonial home rights" substitute " spouse's or civil partner's home rights ".

(19) In paragraph 14(2), after "spouse" insert " , civil partner ".

PART 2

CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS

Land Registration Act (Northern Ireland) 1970 (c. 18)

22 In Part 1 of Schedule 6 (registration of certain burdens), in paragraph 14A for "matrimonial charge (within the meaning of Article 5(1) of the Family Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1984 or" substitute " matrimonial or civil partnership charge (".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Registration of Deeds Act (Northern Ireland) 1970 (c. 25)

23 In section 4(4A), for "matrimonial charge (within the meaning of Article 5(1) of the Family Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1984 or" substitute " matrimonial or civil partnership charge (".

Land Acquisition and Compensation (Northern Ireland) Order 1973 (S.I. 1973/1896 (N.I. 21))

24 (1) Amend Article 30A (spouses having statutory rights of occupation) as follows.

(2) In paragraph (1)—

(a) for "one spouse ("A")" substitute " one spouse or civil partner ("A") ", and

(b) for "the other spouse ("B") acquires matrimonial home rights" substitute " the other spouse or civil partner ("B") acquires home rights ".

(3) In paragraph (2), for "matrimonial home rights" substitute " home rights ".

(4) In the heading to Article 30A, after "spouses" insert " and civil partners ".

Rent (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 (S.I. 1978/1050 (N.I. 20))

25 (1) Amend Article 14 (extended discretion of court in certain proceedings for possession) as follows.

(2) In paragraph (4A)(b), for "tenant's spouse or former spouse, having matrimonial home rights" substitute " tenant's spouse or former spouse, or civil partner or former civil partner, having home rights ".

(3) In paragraph (4B)—

(a) after "the spouse or former spouse" insert " , or the civil partner or former civil partner, ", and

(b) for "those matrimonial home rights" substitute " those home rights ".

(4) In paragraph (4C)—

(a) in sub-paragraph (b), for "former spouse of the tenant" substitute " former spouse or former civil partner of the tenant ", and

(b) in sub-paragraph (c) after "former spouse," insert " former civil partner, ".

(5) In paragraph (4D), after "former spouse," insert " former civil partner, ".

Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 (S.I. 1983/1118 (N.I. 15))

26 In Article 36(1)(d) (rent not to be increased on account of tenant's improvements), after "former spouse" insert " civil partner, former civil partner, ".

27 (1) Amend Article 47 (extended discretion of court in possession claims) as follows.

(2) In paragraph (5), for "tenant's spouse or former spouse, having matrimonial home rights" substitute " tenant's spouse or former spouse, or civil partner or former civil partner, having home rights ".

(3) In paragraph (6)—

(a) after "the spouse or former spouse" insert " , or the civil partner or former civil partner ", and

(b) for "those matrimonial home rights" substitute " those home rights ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(4) In paragraph (7)—

(a) in sub-paragraph (b), for "former spouse of the tenant" substitute " former spouse or former civil partner of the tenant ",

(b) in sub-paragraph (c), after "former spouse" insert " former civil partner ".

(5) In paragraph (8) after "former spouse," insert " former civil partner, ".

Insolvency (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 (S.I. 1989/2405 (N.I. 19))

28 (1) Amend Article 309 (rights of occupation etc. of bankrupt's spouse) as follows.

(2) In paragraph (1), for "matrimonial home rights" substitute " home rights ".

(3) In paragraph (2)—

(a) for "a spouse's matrimonial home rights" substitute " a spouse's or civil partner's home rights ", and

(b) after "the other spouse" (in each place) insert " or civil partner ".

(4) In paragraph (3) after "spouse or former spouse" insert " or civil partner or former civil partner ".

29 (1) Amend Article 310 (rights of occupation of bankrupt) as follows.

(2) In paragraph (2), for "spouse (if any) has matrimonial home rights" substitute " spouse or civil partner (if any) has home rights ".

(3) In paragraph (3)—

(a) in sub-paragraph (a), for "matrimonial home rights" substitute " home rights ", and

(b) in sub-paragraph (c), after "spouse" insert or " civil partner ".

PART 3

TRANSITIONAL PROVISION

30 (1) Any reference (however expressed) in any enactment, instrument or document (whether passed or made before or after the passing of this Act)—

(a) to rights of occupation under, or within the meaning of, Part II of the Family Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1984 (S.I. 1984/1984 (N.I. 14)), or

(b) to matrimonial home rights under, or within the meaning of, the Family Homes and Domestic Violence (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 (S.I. 1998/1071 (N.I. 6)),

is to be construed, so far as is required for continuing the effect of the instrument or document, as being or as the case requires including a reference to home rights under, or within the meaning of, the 1998 Order as amended by this Schedule.

(2) Any reference (however expressed) in the 1998 Order or in any other enactment, instrument or document (including any enactment amended by this Schedule) to home rights under, or within the meaning of, the 1998 Order is to be construed as including, in relation to times, circumstances and purposes before the commencement of this Schedule, references to rights of occupation under, or within the meaning of, Part II of the 1984 Order and to matrimonial home rights under,

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

or within the meaning of, the 1998 Order without the amendments made by this Schedule.

(3) Any reference (however expressed) in any enactment, instrument or document (whether passed or made before or after the passing of this Act) to a matrimonial charge under, or within the meaning of—

(a) Article 5(1) of the 1984 Order, or

(b) the 1998 Order,

is to be construed, so far as is required for continuing the effect of the instrument or document, as being or as the case requires including a reference to a matrimonial or civil partnership charge under, or within the meaning of, the 1998 Order as amended by this Schedule.

(4) Any reference (however expressed) in the 1998 Order or in any other enactment, instrument or document (including any enactment amended by this Schedule) to a matrimonial or civil partnership charge under, or within the meaning of, the 1998 Order is to be construed as including, in relation to times, circumstances and purposes before the commencement of this Schedule, references to a matrimonial charge under, or within the meaning of—

(a) Article 5(1) of the 1984 Order, or

(b) the 1998 Order.

SCHEDULE 20 Section 213

MEANING OF OVERSEAS RELATIONSHIP: SPECIFIED RELATIONSHIPS

[F641PART 1]

[F642SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIPS]

Textual Amendments

F641 Sch. 20 renumbered as Sch. 20 Pt. 1 (E.W.) (2.12.2019) by The Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1458), regs. 1(2), **5(6)(a)**; (N.I.) (13.1.2020) by The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), **17(7)(a)** (with regs. 6-9); and (S.) (1.2.2021 for specified purposes, 1.6.2021 in so far as not already in force) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 2(6)(a)**, 16; S.S.I. 2020/414, **reg. 2(1)(a)(2)**; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, **sch.** (with reg. 3)

F642 Sch. 20 Pt. 1 heading inserted (E.W.) (2.12.2019) by The Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1458), regs. 1(2), **5(6)(b)**

A relationship is specified for the purposes of **[**F643section 213(1)(a) (specified relationships between two people of the same sex)**]** if it is registered in a country or territory given in the first column of the table and fits the description given in relation to that country or territory in the second column—

Country or territory	*Description*
[F644Andorra	unió estable de parella

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

[F645**[**F646Argentina	marriage**]**
Argentina: Autonomous City of Buenos Aires	unión civil
Australia: Australian Capital Territory	civil partnership
Australia: New South Wales	a relationship registered under the Relationships Register Act 2010
Australia: Queensland	civil partnership**]**
Australia: Tasmania	significant relationship**]**
[F647Australia: Victoria	registered domestic relationship
Austria	eingetragene Partnerschaft**]**
Belgium	**[**F648the relationship referred to as cohabitation légale, wettelijke samenwoning or gesetzliches zusammenwohnen**]**
[F646Belgium	marriage**]**
[F649**[**F646Brazil	marriage**]**
Brazil	união estável**]**
[F650**[**F646Canada	marriage**]]**
[F651Canada: Manitoba	the relationship referred to as common-law relationship or as union de fait**]**
Canada: Nova Scotia	domestic partnership
Canada: Quebec	**[**F652the relationship referred to as union civile or as civil union**]**
[F653Colombia	unión de hecho
Czech Republic	registrované partnertsví
[F646Denmark	marriage**]]**
Denmark	registreret partnerskab F654 . . .
[F655Ecuador	unión civil**]**
Finland	**[**F656the relationship referred to as rekisteröity parisuhde or as registrerad partnerskap**]**
France	**[**F657pacte civil de solidarité**]**
Germany	Lebenspartnerschaft F654 . . .
[F658Greenland	the relationship referred to as nalunaarsukkamik inooqatigiinneq or as registreret partnerskab

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Hungary	bejegyzett élettársi kapcsolat
[[F646]Iceland	marriage**]]**
Iceland	staðfesta samvist F654
	. . .
[[F659]Ireland	civil partnership
Isle of Man	civil partnership
Jersey	civil partnership
Liechtenstein	eingetragene Partnerschaft**]**
[[F660]Luxembourg	the relationship referred to as partenariat enregistré or eingetragene partnerschaft**]**
[[F661]Mexico: Coahuila**]**	**[**[F661]pacto civil de solidaridad**]**
[[F661][[F662]Mexico: Mexico City Federal District**]]**	**[**[F661][[F662]marriage**]]**
[[F661]Mexico: Mexico City Federal District**]**	**[**[F661]sociedad de convivencia**]**
Netherlands	**[**[F663]geregistreerd partnerschap**]**
[[F646]Netherlands	marriage**]**
[[F664]New Zealand	civil union**]**
[[F665][[F662]Norway	marriage**]]**
Norway	registrert partnerskap F654
	. . .
[[F666][[F662]Portugal	marriage**]]**
[[F666]Slovenia	zakon o registraciji istospolne partnerske skupnosti**]**
[[F666]South Africa	civil partnership**]**
[[F666][[F662]South Africa	marriage**]]**
[[F667][[F646]Spain	marriage**]]**
[[F668][[F646]Sweden	marriage**]]**
Sweden	registrerat partnerskap F654
	. . .
[[F669]Switzerland	the relationship referred to as eingetragene Partnerschaft, as partnenariat enregistré or as unione domestica registrata**]**
[[F670]United States of America: California	domestic partnership**]**
[[F671][[F646]United States of America: California	marriage**]]**

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

[[F671]United States of America: Colorado	the relationship between designated beneficiaries**]**
[[F670]United States of America: Connecticut	civil union**]**
[[F672]**[**[F646]United States of America: Connecticut**]]**	**[**[F672]**[**[F646]marriage**]]**
[[F672]United States of America: Delaware**]**	**[**[F672]civil union**]**
[[F672]**[**[F646]United States of America: District of Columbia**]]**	**[**[F672]**[**[F646]marriage**]]**
[[F672]United States of America: Hawaii**]**	**[**[F672]civil union**]**
[[F672]United States of America: Hawaii**]**	**[**[F672]reciprocal beneficiary relationship**]**
[[F672]United States of America: Illinois**]**	**[**[F672]civil union**]**
[[F672]**[**[F646]United States of America: Iowa**]]**	**[**[F672]**[**[F646]marriage**]]**
[[F670]United States of America: Maine	domestic partnership**]**
[[F670]**[**[F646]United States of America: Massachusetts	marriage**]]**
[[F673]United States of America: Nevada**]**	**[**[F673]domestic partnership**]**
[[F673]**[**[F646]United States of America: New Hampshire**]]**	**[**[F673]**[**[F646]marriage**]]**
[[F673]United States of America: New Jersey**]**	**[**[F673]civil union**]**
[[F670]United States of America: New Jersey	domestic partnership**]**
[[F674]**[**[F646]United States of America: New York**]]**	**[**[F674]**[**[F646]marriage**]]**
[[F674]United States of America: Oregon**]**	**[**[F674]domestic partnership**]**
[[F674]United States of America: Rhode Island**]**	**[**[F674]civil union**]**
United States of America: Vermont	civil union
[[F675]**[**[F646]United States of America: Vermont**]]**	**[**[F675]**[**[F646]marriage**]]**
[[F675]United States of America: Washington**]**	**[**[F675]state registered domestic partnership**]**
[[F675]United States of America: Wisconsin**]**	**[**[F675]domestic partnership**]**
[[F675]Uruguay**]**	**[**[F675]unión concubinaria**]**

Textual Amendments

F643 Words in Sch. 20 Pt. 1 substituted: (E.W.) (2.12.2019) by The Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1458), regs. 1(2), **5(6)(c)**; (N.I.) (13.1.2020) by The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), **17(7)(b)(i)** (with regs. 6-9); and words "section 213(1)(a)" substituted for "section 213" (S.) (1.2.2021 for specified purposes, 1.6.2021 in so far as not already in force) by Civil

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 2(6)(b)**, 16; S.S.I. 2020/414, reg. 2(1)(a)(2); S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

F644 Sch. 20: entries inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3135), **art. 2(a)**

F645 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 2**

F646 Sch. 20: entries repealed (S.) (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 26(3)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, **sch.** (with art. 5); and words omitted (N.I.) (13.1.2020) by virtue of The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), **17(7)(b)(ii)** (with regs. 6-9)

F647 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 3**

F648 Sch. 20: words in entry substituted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships and Consequential, etc. Amendments) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3129), **art. 3(a)**

F649 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 4**

F650 Sch. 20: entry inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3135), **art. 2(b)**

F651 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 5**

F652 Sch. 20: words in entry substituted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships and Consequential, etc. Amendments) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3129), **art. 3(b)**

F653 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 6**

F654 Sch. 20: words in brackets omitted (5.12.2005) by virtue of The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships and Consequential, etc. Amendments) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3129), **art. 3(f)**

F655 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 7**

F656 Sch. 20: words in entry substituted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships and Consequential, etc. Amendments) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3129), **art. 3(c)**

F657 Sch. 20: words in entry substituted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships and Consequential, etc. Amendments) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3129), **art. 3(d)**

F658 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 8**

F659 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 9**

F660 Sch. 20: entry inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3135), **art. 2(c)**

F661 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 10**

F662 Sch. 20: entries repealed (S.) (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 26(3)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, **sch.** (with art. 5); and words omitted (N.I.) (13.1.2020) by virtue of The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), **17(7)(b)(ii)** (with regs. 6-9)

F663 Sch. 20: words in entry substituted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships and Consequential, etc. Amendments) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3129), **art. 3(e)**

F664 Sch. 20: entry inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3135), **art. 2(d)**

F665 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 11**

F666 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 12**

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

F667 Sch. 20: entry inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3135), **art. 2(e)**

F668 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 13**

F669 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 14**

F670 Sch. 20: entries inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3135), **art. 2(f)**

F671 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 15**

F672 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 16**

F673 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 17**

F674 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 18**

F675 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 19**

Textual Amendments

F643 Words in Sch. 20 Pt. 1 substituted: (E.W.) (2.12.2019) by The Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1458), regs. 1(2), **5(6)(c)**; (N.I.) (13.1.2020) by The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), **17(7)(b)(i)** (with regs. 6-9); and words "section 213(1)(a)" substituted for "section 213" (S.) (1.2.2021 for specified purposes, 1.6.2021 in so far as not already in force) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), **ss. 2(6)(b)**, 16; S.S.I. 2020/414, reg. 2(1)(a)(2); S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

F644 Sch. 20: entries inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3135), **art. 2(a)**

F645 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 2**

F646 Sch. 20: entries repealed (S.) (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 26(3)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, **sch.** (with art. 5); and words omitted (N.I.) (13.1.2020) by virtue of The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), **17(7)(b)(ii)** (with regs. 6-9)

F647 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 3**

F648 Sch. 20: words in entry substituted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships and Consequential, etc. Amendments) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3129), **art. 3(a)**

F649 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 4**

F650 Sch. 20: entry inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3135), **art. 2(b)**

F651 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 5**

F652 Sch. 20: words in entry substituted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships and Consequential, etc. Amendments) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3129), **art. 3(b)**

F653 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 6**

F654 Sch. 20: words in brackets omitted (5.12.2005) by virtue of The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships and Consequential, etc. Amendments) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3129), **art. 3(f)**

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

F655 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 7**

F656 Sch. 20: words in entry substituted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships and Consequential, etc. Amendments) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3129), **art. 3(c)**

F657 Sch. 20: words in entry substituted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships and Consequential, etc. Amendments) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3129), **art. 3(d)**

F658 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 8**

F659 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 9**

F660 Sch. 20: entry inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3135), **art. 2(c)**

F661 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 10**

F662 Sch. 20: entries repealed (S.) (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 26(3)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, **sch.** (with art. 5); and words omitted (N.I.) (13.1.2020) by virtue of The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), **17(7)(b)(ii)** (with regs. 6-9)

F663 Sch. 20: words in entry substituted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships and Consequential, etc. Amendments) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3129), **art. 3(e)**

F664 Sch. 20: entry inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3135), **art. 2(d)**

F665 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 11**

F666 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 12**

F667 Sch. 20: entry inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3135), **art. 2(e)**

F668 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 13**

F669 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 14**

F670 Sch. 20: entries inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3135), **art. 2(f)**

F671 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 15**

F672 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 16**

F673 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 17**

F674 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 18**

F675 Words in Sch. 20 inserted (31.1.2013) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Overseas Relationships) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2976), art. 1, **Sch. para. 19**

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

[F676PART 2

OPPOSITE-SEX RELATIONSHIPS

[F677SPECIFIED RELATIONSHIPS: DIFFERENT SEX COUPLES]

Textual Amendments

F676 Sch. 20 Pt. 2 inserted: (E.W.) (2.12.2019) by The Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1458), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 1**; (N.I.) (13.1.2020) by The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), **17(7)(c)** (with regs. 6-9); and (S.) (1.2.2021 for specified purposes, 1.6.2021 in so far as not already in force) by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), s. 16, **sch. 1**; S.S.I. 2020/414, **reg. 2(1)(a)(2)**; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, **sch.** (with reg. 3)

F677 Additional words inserted (S.) (1.2.2021 for specified purposes, 1.6.2021 in so far as not already in force) as part of the insertion of Sch. 20 Pt. 2 by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), s. 16, **sch. 1**; S.S.I. 2020/414, **reg. 2(1)(a)(2)**; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, **sch.** (with reg. 3)

A relationship is specified for the purposes of section 213(1)(b) (specified relationships between two people who are not of the same sex) [F677(meaning of "overseas relationship")] if it is registered in a country or territory given in the first column of the table and fits the description given in relation to that country or territory in the second column—

Country or territory	Description
Andorra	unió estable de parella [F677(stable couple union)]
[F678Argentina	unión convivencial]
[F677Argentina: Autonomous City of Buenos Aires]	[F677unión civil (civil union)]
[F678Aruba	geregistreerd partnerschap]
Australia: Australian Capital Territory	civil partnership
Australia: New South Wales	a relationship registered under the Relationships Register Act 2010
Australia: Queensland	civil partnership
Australia: South Australia	registered relationship
Australia: Tasmania	significant relationship
Australia: Victoria	registered domestic relationship
Austria	eingetragene Partnerschaft [F677(registered partnership)]
Belgium	the relationship referred to as cohabitation légale, wettelijke samenwoning or gesetzliches Zusammenwohnen [F677(legal cohabitation)]
Bermuda	domestic partnership

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Brazil	união estável **[**F677(stable union)**]**
[F678Canada: Alberta	adult interdependent partner**]**
Canada: Manitoba	the relationship referred to as common-law relationship or as union de fait
Canada: Nova Scotia	domestic partnership
Canada: Quebec	union civile **[**F677the relationship referred to as union civile or as civil union**]**
Chile	unión civil **[**F677acuerdo de unión civil (civil union agreement)**]**
Colombia	unión marital de hecho **[**F677unión de hecho (de facto union)**]**
Cyprus	politiki symviosi **[**F677civil cohabitation**]**
Ecuador	unión de hecho **[**F677unión civil (civil union)**]**
[F678Estonia	Kooselulepingu**]**
[F677the**]** Falkland Islands	civil partnership
France	pacte civil de solidarité **[**F677(civil solidarity pact)**]**
Gibraltar	civil partnership
Greece	simfono simviosis **[**F677σύμφωνο συμβίωσης (cohabitation agreement)**]**
[F677Hungary**]**	**[**F677bejegyzett élettársi kapcsolat (registered partnership)**]**
Isle of Man	civil partnership
Israel	civil union
Luxembourg	the relationship referred to as partenariat enregistré or eingetragene Partnerschaft**[**F677(registered partnership)**]**
Malta	civil union
Mexico: Campeche	sociedad civil de Convivencia **[**F677(civil cohabitation union)**]**
Mexico: Coahuila	pacto civil de solidaridad **[**F677(civil solidarity pact)**]**
Mexico: Mexico City Federal District	sociedad de convivencia **[**F677(cohabitation arrangement)**]**
Mexico: Michoacán	sociedad de Convivencia **[**F677(cohabitation arrangement)**]**
Mexico: Tlaxcala	sociedad de convivencia solidaria **[**F677(permanent cohabitation arrangement)**]**

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Netherlands	geregistreerd partnerschap **[**F677(registered partnership)**]**
New Zealand	civil union
San Marino	unione civile **[**F677(civil union)**]**
South Africa	civil partnership
Spain: Balearic Islands	pareja estable
Spain: Basque Country	pareja de hecho
Spain: Galicia	pareja de hecho
United States of America: California	domestic partnership
[F677United States of America: Colorado**]**	**[**F677the relationship between designated beneficiaries**]**
United States of America: Colorado	civil union
United States of America: District of Columbia	domestic partnership
United States of America: Hawaii	civil union
United States of America: Illinois	civil union
United States of America: Maine	domestic partnership
United States of America: Nevada	domestic partnership
United States of America: New Jersey	domestic partnership
United States of America: Washington	state registered domestic partnership**]**

Textual Amendments

F678 Words omitted (S.) (1.2.2021 for specified purposes, 1.6.2021 in so far as not already in force) since they were not included as part of the insertion of Sch. 20 Pt. 2 by Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 15), s. 16, **sch. 1**; S.S.I. 2020/414, **reg. 2(1)(a)(2)**; S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, **sch.** (with reg. 3)

SCHEDULE 21 Section 247

REFERENCES TO STEPCHILDREN ETC. IN EXISTING ACTS

1	The Declinature Act 1681 (c. 79) (Senators of College of Justice not to sit in causes of persons related to them).
2	Section 21 of the Small Landholders (Scotland) Act 1911 (c. 49) (assignment of holding).
[F6792A	Section 4(3) of the Workmen's Compensation Act 1925 (c. 84) (Member of a family).**]**

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F679 Sch. 21 para. 2A inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Relationships Arising Through Civil Partnership) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3137), **art. 2(a)**

3 Section 68(2)(e) of the Marriage Act 1949 (c. 76) (solemnisation of marriages of stepchildren of servicemen in naval, military and air force chapels etc.).

4 Section 7(7) of the Leasehold Reform Act 1967 (c. 88) (rights of members of family succeeding to tenancy on death: member of another's family).

5 Section 18(3) of that Act (residential rights and exclusion of enfranchisement or extension: adult member of another's family).

6 Section 2(2) of the Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969 (c. 57) (employees to be covered).

7 Section 27(5) of the Parliamentary and other Pensions Act 1972 (c. 48) (pensions for dependants of Prime Minister or Speaker).

8 Section 184(5) of the Consumer Credit Act 1974 (c. 39) (associates).

. . . . . .

9 Section 1(5) of the Fatal Accidents Act 1976 (c. 30) (right of action for wrongful act causing death: who are dependants).

10 The definition of "relative" in section 31(1) of the Credit Unions Act 1979 (c. 34) (interpretation, etc.).

11 Section 32(3) of the Estate Agents Act 1979 (c. 38) ("associate": meaning of relative).

[F681 11A Section 3(4) of the Pneumoconiosis etc. (Workers' Compensation) Act 1979 ("child" and "relative": establishment of relationship).**]**

Textual Amendments

F681 Sch. 21 para. 11A inserted (3.7.2007) by Welfare Reform Act 2007 (c. 5), **ss. 59(4)**, 70

12 Section 13(1) of the Administration of Justice Act 1982 (c. 53) (deduction of relationships).

13 Section 12(5) of the Mental Health Act 1983 (c. 20) (general provisions as to medical recommendations: persons who may not give recommendations).

14 Section 25C(10) of that Act (supervision applications: meaning of "close relative").

15 Section 5(3) of the Mobile Homes Act 1983 (c. 34) (interpretation: member of another's family).

[F682 15A Section 11(6) of the Inheritance Tax Act 1984 (c. 51) (dispositions for maintenance of family).

Textual Amendments

F682 Sch. 21 para. 15A-15C inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Relationships Arising Through Civil Partnership) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3137), **art. 2(b)**

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

15B Section 22(2) of that Act (gifts in consideration of marriage).

Textual Amendments

F682 Sch. 21 para. 15A-15C inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Relationships Arising Through Civil Partnership) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3137), **art. 2(b)**

15C Section 71(8) of that Act (accumulation and maintenance trusts).**]**

Textual Amendments

F682 Sch. 21 para. 15A-15C inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Relationships Arising Through Civil Partnership) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3137), **art. 2(b)**

16 Section 153(4) of the Companies Act 1985 (c. 6) (transactions not prohibited by section 151).

17 Section 203(1) of that Act (notification of family and corporate interests: person interested in shares).

18 Section 327(2) of that Act (extension of section 323 to spouses and children).

19 Section 328(8) of that Act (extension of section 324 to spouses and children).

20 Section 346(2) of that Act ("connected persons").

21 Section 430E(8) of that Act (associates).

22 Section 742A(6) of that Act (meaning of "offer to the public").

[F683 22A Section 743(b) of that Act ("employees' share scheme").**]**

Textual Amendments

F683 Sch. 21 para. 22A inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Relationships Arising Through Civil Partnership) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3137), **art. 2(c)**

23 Section 74(4)(a) of the Bankruptcy (Scotland) Act 1985 (c. 66) (meaning of "associate").

24 Section 113(2) of the Housing Act 1985 (c. 68) (members of a person's family).

25 Section 186(2) of that Act (members of a person's family).

26 Section 105(2) of the Housing Associations Act 1985 (c. 69) (members of a person's family).

27 Section 20(6) of the Airports Act 1986 (c. 31) (powers of investment and disposal in relation to public airport companies).

28 Section 435(8) of the Insolvency Act 1986 (c. 45) (meaning of "associate").

29 Section 70(2)(a) and (c), (3)(a) and (4) of the Building Societies Act 1986 (c. 53) (interpretation).

30 Section 83(2)(c) of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 (c. 26) (members of a person's family).

31 Section 4(6) of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1987 (c. 31) (relevant disposals).

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

[F684 31A Paragraph 2(5) of Schedule 14 to the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 (c. 1) (life assurance premiums payable to friendly societies and industrial assurance companies).**]**

Textual Amendments

F684 Sch. 21 para. 31A inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Relationships Arising Through Civil Partnership) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3137), **art. 2(d)**

32 Section 52(2)(a) of the Companies Act 1989 (c. 40) (meaning of "associate").

33 The definition of "relative" in section 105(1) of the Children Act 1989 (c. 41) (interpretation).

34 Paragraph 1(2) of Schedule 2 to the Broadcasting Act 1990 (c. 42) (restrictions on the holding of licences).

35 Section 11(1) of the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 1991 (c. 55) (bequest of lease).

[F685 35A Paragraphs 2(7), 2A(10) and 9(11) of Schedule 5 to the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 (c. 12) (attribution of gains to settlors with interest in non-resident or dual resident settlement).**]**

Textual Amendments

F685 Sch. 21 para. 35A inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Relationships Arising Through Civil Partnership) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3137), **art. 2(e)**

36 Section 77(3)(c) of the Friendly Societies Act 1992 (c. 40) (information on appointed actuary to be annexed to balance sheet).

37 The definitions of "son" and "daughter" in section 119A(2) of that Act (meaning of "associate").

F686 38 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F686 Sch. 21 para. 38 repealed (14.3.2012) by Charities Act 2011 (c. 25), ss. 354(4), 355, **Sch. 10** (with s. 20(2), Sch. 8)

39 Section 10(5) of the Leasehold Reform, Housing and Urban Development Act 1993 (c. 28) (premises with a resident landlord: adult member of another's family).

40 Section 61(2) of the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993 (c. 44) (member of family).

41 Section 2 of the Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 1995 (c. 39) (intercourse with stepchild).

42 Section 161(1) of the Employment Rights Act 1996 (c. 18) (domestic servants).

43 The definition of "relative" in section 63(1) of the Family Law Act 1996 (c. 27) (interpretation of Part 4 of the 1996 Act).

44 Section 62(2) of the Housing Act 1996 (c. 52) (members of a person's family: Part 1).

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

45 Section 140(2) of that Act (members of a person's family: Chapter 1).

46 Section 143P(3) of that Act (members of a person's family: Chapter 1A).

47 The definition of "relative" in section 178(3) of that Act (meaning of associated person).

48 Section 422(4)(b) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (c. 8) (controller).

49 Paragraph 16(2) of Schedule 11 to that Act (offers of securities).

[F687 49A Section 80(4A) of the Care Standards Act 2000 (c. 14) (basic definitions).**]**

Textual Amendments

F687 Sch. 21 para. 49A inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Relationships Arising Through Civil Partnership) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3137), **art. 2(f)**

50 Section 108(2)(c) of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 (asp 10) (meaning of certain terms).

51 Section 1(3) of the Mortgage Rights (Scotland) Act 2001 (asp 11) (application to suspend enforcement of standard security).

52 Paragraph 3(8) of Schedule 6 to the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 (c. 15) (premises excluded from right to manage).

53 Section 127(6) of the Enterprise Act 2002 (c. 40) (associated persons).

[F688 54 Section 242(2) of the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003 (c. 1) (works transport services).

Textual Amendments

F688 Sch. 21 para. 54-63 inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Relationships Arising Through Civil Partnership) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3137), **art. 2(g)**

55 Section 270A(3)(a) of that Act (limited exemption for qualifying childcare vouchers).

Textual Amendments

F688 Sch. 21 para. 54-63 inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Relationships Arising Through Civil Partnership) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3137), **art. 2(g)**

56 Section 318(3) of that Act (childcare: exemption for employer-provided care).

Textual Amendments

F688 Sch. 21 para. 54-63 inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Relationships Arising Through Civil Partnership) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3137), **art. 2(g)**

57 Section 318A(3) of that Act (childcare: limited exemption for other care).

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F688 Sch. 21 para. 54-63 inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Relationships Arising Through Civil Partnership) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3137), **art. 2(g)**

58 Section 318C(8) of that Act (childcare: meaning of "qualifying child care").

Textual Amendments

F688 Sch. 21 para. 54-63 inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Relationships Arising Through Civil Partnership) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3137), **art. 2(g)**

59 Section 371(7) of that Act (travel costs and expenses where duties performed abroad: visiting spouse's or child's travel).

Textual Amendments

F688 Sch. 21 para. 54-63 inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Relationships Arising Through Civil Partnership) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3137), **art. 2(g)**

60 Section 374(9) of that Act (non-domiciled employee's spouse's or child's travel costs and expenses where duties performed in UK).

Textual Amendments

F688 Sch. 21 para. 54-63 inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Relationships Arising Through Civil Partnership) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3137), **art. 2(g)**

61 Section 27(3)(a) and (c) of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (c. 42) (family relationships).

Textual Amendments

F688 Sch. 21 para. 54-63 inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Relationships Arising Through Civil Partnership) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3137), **art. 2(g)**

. . . . . .
. . . . . .

62 Section 27(4) of the Human Tissue Act 2004 (c. 30) (provision with respect to consent).

Textual Amendments

F688 Sch. 21 para. 54-63 inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Relationships Arising Through Civil Partnership) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3137), **art. 2(g)**

63 Section 54(9) of that Act (general interpretation).**]**

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F688 Sch. 21 para. 54-63 inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Relationships Arising Through Civil Partnership) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3137), **art. 2(g)**

SCHEDULE 22 Section 248

REFERENCES TO STEPCHILDREN ETC. IN EXISTING NORTHERN IRELAND LEGISLATION

1 The definition of "member of the family" in section 101 of the Industrial and Provident Societies Act (Northern Ireland) 1969 (c. 24 (N.I.)) (interpretation).

2 Section 1(3)(f) of the Leasehold (Enlargement and Extension) Act (Northern Ireland) 1971 (c. 7 (N.I.)) (persons to have rights to acquire a fee simple or to obtain extension of a lease).

3 Section 19(1)(a) of that Act (family of a person).

4 Section 3(7) of the Pensions (Increase) Act (Northern Ireland) 1971 (c. 35 (N.I.)) (dependants).

5 Article 6 of the Employers' Liability (Defective Equipment and Compulsory Insurance) (Northern Ireland) Order 1972 (S.I. 1972/963 (N.I. 6)) (employees to be exempted).

6 Article 2(2) of the Fatal Accidents (Northern Ireland) Order 1977 (S.I. 1977/ 1251 (N.I. 18)) (dependants).

⌊F690 6A Article 5(3) of the Pneumoconiosis, etc., (Workers' Compensation) (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 ("child" and "relative": establishment of relationship).⌋

Textual Amendments

F690 Sch. 22 para. 6A inserted (29.6.2007) by Welfare Reform Act (Northern Ireland) 2007 (c. 2) (N.I.), {ss. 53(3)}, 60

7 Article 2(5) of the Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 (S.I. 1981/156 (N.I. 3)) (interpretation).

8 Article 24(3) of the Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 (S.I. 1983/1118 (N.I. 15)) (interpretation).

9 The definition of "member of the family" in Article 2(2) of the Credit Unions (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (S.I. 1985/1205 (N.I. 12)) (interpretation).

10 Schedule 1 to the Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 (S.I. 1986/ 595 (N.I. 4)) (general provisions as to medical recommendations: persons who may not give recommendations).

11 F691 . . . . . .

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F691 Sch. 22 paras. 11-16, 18 omitted (1.10.2009) by virtue of The Companies Act 2006 (Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/1941), art. 2(1), **Sch. 1 para. 242** (with art. 10)

12 F692 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F692 Sch. 22 paras. 11-16, 18 omitted (1.10.2009) by virtue of The Companies Act 2006 (Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/1941), art. 2(1), **Sch. 1 para. 242** (with art. 10)

13 F693 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F693 Sch. 22 paras. 11-16, 18 omitted (1.10.2009) by virtue of The Companies Act 2006 (Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/1941), art. 2(1), **Sch. 1 para. 242** (with art. 10)

14 F694 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F694 Sch. 22 paras. 11-16, 18 omitted (1.10.2009) by virtue of The Companies Act 2006 (Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/1941), art. 2(1), **Sch. 1 para. 242** (with art. 10)

15 F695 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F695 Sch. 22 paras. 11-16, 18 omitted (1.10.2009) by virtue of The Companies Act 2006 (Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/1941), art. 2(1), **Sch. 1 para. 242** (with art. 10)

16 F696 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F696 Sch. 22 paras. 11-16, 18 omitted (1.10.2009) by virtue of The Companies Act 2006 (Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/1941), art. 2(1), **Sch. 1 para. 242** (with art. 10)

17 Article 4(8) of the Insolvency (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 (S.I. 1989/2405 (N.I. 19)) (meaning of "associate").

18 F697 . . . . . .

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F697 Sch. 22 paras. 11-16, 18 omitted (1.10.2009) by virtue of The Companies Act 2006 (Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/1941), art. 2(1), **Sch. 1 para. 242** (with art. 10)

PROSPECTIVE

19	Article 2(4) of the Registered Homes (Northern Ireland) Order 1992 (S.I. 1992/3204 (N.I. 20)) (meaning of "relative").
20	The definition of "relative" in Article 2(2) of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 (S.I. 1995/755 (N.I. 2)).
21	Article 196(1) of the Employment Rights (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 (S.I. 1996/1919 (N.I. 16)) (domestic servants).
22	The definition of "relative" in Article 2(2) of the Family Homes and Domestic Violence (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 (S.I. 1998/1071 (N.I. 6)) (interpretation).
23	Article 3(2) of the Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 (S.I. 2003/412 (N.I. 2)) (members of a person's family).
24	The definition of "relative" in Article 2(2) of the Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004 (S.I. 2004/702 (N.I. 3)) (interpretation).
[F698 25	Section 4(3) of the Workmen's Compensation Act (Northern Ireland) 1927 (Meaning of "workman".).

Textual Amendments

F698 Sch. 22 paras. 25, 26 inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Relationships Arising Through Civil Partnership) Order (Northern Ireland) 2005 (S.R. 2005/542), **art. 2**

26	Article 5(3) of the Pneumoconiosis, etc., (Workers' Compensation) (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 (Meaning of "dependant").**]**

Textual Amendments

F698 Sch. 22 paras. 25, 26 inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Relationships Arising Through Civil Partnership) Order (Northern Ireland) 2005 (S.R. 2005/542), **art. 2**

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

SCHEDULE 23 Section 249

IMMIGRATION CONTROL AND FORMATION OF CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

PART 1

INTRODUCTION

Application of Schedule

[F699A1(1) Part 2 of this Schedule applies to a civil partnership that is to be formed in England and Wales by signing a civil partnership schedule unless each party to the civil partnership falls within exception A or exception B.

(2) A party to the civil partnership falls within exception A if the person is a relevant national.

(3) A party to the civil partnership falls within exception B if—

(a) the person is exempt from immigration control, and

(b) the notice of civil partnership is accompanied by the specified evidence required by section 9A(2) that the person is exempt from immigration control.

(4) In this **[**F700Schedule**]**, a reference to a person being a relevant national, or being exempt from immigration control, has the same meaning as in section 49 of the Immigration Act 2014.**]**

Textual Amendments

F699 Sch. 23 para. A1 inserted (1.3.2015) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), **ss. 58(5)**, 75(3); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(j) (with art. 6)

F700 Word in Sch. 23 para. A1(4) substituted (1.3.2015) by The Referral and Investigation of Proposed Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Northern Ireland and Miscellaneous Provisions) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/395), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 8(a)** (with art. 1(3))

[F701(1A) Part 3 of this Schedule applies if—

(a) two people wish to register in Scotland as civil partners of each other, and

(b) one of them is subject to immigration control.

(1B) Part 4 of this Schedule applies if—

(a) two people wish to register in Northern Ireland as civil partners of each other, and

(b) one of them is subject to immigration control.**]**

(2) Part 4 of this Schedule applies to a civil partnership that is to be formed in Northern Ireland by signing a civil partnership schedule unless each party to the civil partnership falls within exception A or exception B.

(3) A party to the civil partnership falls within exception A if the person is a relevant national.

(4) A party to the civil partnership falls within exception B if—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) the person is exempt from immigration control, and

(b) the notice of civil partnership is accompanied by the evidence required by regulations made under section 54(2) of, and paragraph 3 of Schedule 5 to, the Immigration Act 2014.**]**

Textual Amendments

F701 Sch. 23 para. 1 substituted (1.3.2015) by The Referral and Investigation of Proposed Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Northern Ireland and Miscellaneous Provisions) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/395), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 8(b)** (with art. 1(3))

F702 Sch. 23 para. 1(1A)(1B) substituted for Sch. 23 para. 1(1) (1.3.2015) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), **ss. 58(6)**, 75(3); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(j) (with art. 6)

The qualifying condition

2 **F703** . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F703 Sch. 23 para. 2 repealed (9.5.2011) by The Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc) Act 2004 (Remedial) Order 2011 (S.I. 2011/1158), **art. 5(1)(a)**

PART 2

ENGLAND AND WALES

Application of this Part

[F704 3 This Part of this Schedule applies as mentioned in paragraph A1.**]**

Textual Amendments

F704 Sch. 23 para. 3 substituted (1.3.2015) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), **ss. 58(7)**, 75(3); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(j) (with art. 6)

Procedure for giving notice of proposed civil partnership

4 (1) Each notice of proposed civil partnership under Chapter 1 of Part 2 of this Act—

(a) must be given to a registration authority **[**F705which is**]** specified for the purposes of this paragraph by regulations made by the Secretary of State **[**F706and is the appropriate registration authority**]**, F707 . . .

(b) must be delivered to the relevant individual in person by the two proposed civil partners.

[F708(c) may be given only if each of the proposed civil partners has been resident in the area of a registration authority for the period of 7 days immediately before the giving of his or her notice (but the area need not be that of the registration authority to which the notice is given and the proposed civil partners need not have resided in the area of same registration authority), and

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(d) must state, in relation to each of the proposed civil partners, the registration authority by reference to the area of which paragraph (c) is satisfied.**]**

(2) "The relevant individual" means such employee or officer or other person provided by the **[**[F709]appropriate**]** registration authority as is determined in accordance with regulations made by the Secretary of State for the purposes of this sub-paragraph.

(3) Regulations under sub-paragraph (2) may, in particular, describe a person by reference to the location or office where he works.

[[F710](3A) For the purposes of this paragraph, "the appropriate registration authority" means—

(a) if the proposed civil partners have resided in the area of the same specified registration authority for the period of 7 days immediately before the giving of the notice ("the 7 day period"), that specified registration authority, or

(b) if one or both of the proposed civil partners have resided in the area of a specified registration authority (but not the same specified registration authority) for the 7 day period, the specified registration authority of the area in which one of them has resided for that period, or

(c) if neither of the proposed civil partners has resided in the area of a specified registration authority for the 7 day period, any specified registration authority.

(3B) In sub-paragraph (3A), "specified registration authority" means a registration authority specified for the purposes of sub-paragraph (1)(a) by regulations made under that provision.***/***

(4) Before making any regulations under this paragraph the Secretary of State must consult the Registrar General.

Textual Amendments

F705 Words in Sch. 23 para. 4(1)(a) inserted (1.7.2021) by The Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Act 2020 (Consequential, Saving, Transitional and Transitory Provisions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/1309), regs. 1(2)(c), **16(5)(a)(i)** (with Sch. 5 para. 9(2))

F706 Words in Sch. 23 para. 4(1)(a) inserted (1.7.2021) by The Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Act 2020 (Consequential, Saving, Transitional and Transitory Provisions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/1309), regs. 1(2)(c), **16(5)(a)(ii)** (with Sch. 5 para. 9(2))

F707 Word in Sch. 23 para. 4(1)(a) omitted (5.12.2005) by virtue of The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 19(2)(a)** (subject to art. 1(2)(3))

F708 Sch. 23 para. 4(1)(c)(d) inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 19(2)(b)** (subject to art. 1(2)(3))

F709 Word in Sch. 23 para. 4(2) substituted (1.7.2021) by The Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Act 2020 (Consequential, Saving, Transitional and Transitory Provisions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/1309), regs. 1(2)(c), **16(5)(b)** (with Sch. 5 para. 9(2))

F710 Sch. 23 para. 4(3A)(3B) inserted (1.7.2021) by The Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Act 2020 (Consequential, Saving, Transitional and Transitory Provisions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/1309), regs. 1(2)(c), **16(5)(c)** (with Sch. 5 para. 9(2))

Commencement Information

I82 Sch. 23 para. 4 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 23 para. 4 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 23 para. 4 in force for certain purposes at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and Sch. 23 para. 4 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Declaration

5 F711 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F711 Sch. 23 para. 5 repealed (9.5.2011) by The Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc) Act 2004 (Remedial) Order 2011 (S.I. 2011/1158), **art. 5(1)(b)**

Recording of notice

6 F712 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F712 Sch. 23 para. 6 repealed (9.5.2011) by The Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc) Act 2004 (Remedial) Order 2011 (S.I. 2011/1158), **art. 5(1)(b)**

Supplementary

7 (1) Part 2 of this Act has effect in any case where this Part of this Schedule applies subject to any necessary modification.

(2) In particular **[**F713—

(a) section 8(4)(b) has effect as if it required a declaration that the notice of proposed civil partnership is given in compliance with paragraph 4(1) above, and

(b) section 52 has effect as if the matters proof of which is not necessary in support of the civil partnership included compliance with this Part of this Schedule.**]**

(3) An expression used in this Part of this Schedule and in Chapter 1 of Part 2 of this Act has the same meaning as in that Chapter.

Textual Amendments

F713 Words in Sch. 23 para. 7(2) inserted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Amendments to Registration Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2000), art. 3, **Sch. para. 19(3)** (subject to art. 1(2)(3))

PART 3

SCOTLAND

Application of this Part

[F714 8 This Part of this Schedule applies as mentioned in paragraph **[**F715 1(1)**]**.**]**

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F714 Sch. 23 para. 8 substituted (1.3.2015) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), **ss. 58(8)**, 75(3); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(j) (with art. 6)

F715 Word in Sch. 23 para. 8 substituted (1.3.2015) by The Referral and Investigation of Proposed Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Northern Ireland and Miscellaneous Provisions) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/395), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 8(c)** (with art. 1(3))

Procedure for giving notice of proposed civil partnership

9 (1) Notice under section 88—

(a) may be submitted to the district registrar of a district specified for the purposes of this paragraph by regulations made by the Secretary of State, and

(b) may not be submitted to the district registrar of any other registration district.

(2) Before making any regulations under this paragraph the Secretary of State must consult the Registrar General.

Commencement Information

I83 Sch. 23 para. 9 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 23 para. 9 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 23 para. 9 in force for certain purposes at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and Sch. 23 para. 9 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

Pre-condition for making entry in civil partnership notice book etc.

10 (1) F716 . . . . . .

(2) Where the district registrar to whom notice is **[**F717submitted by virtue of paragraph 9(1)**]** (here the "notified registrar") is not the district registrar for the proposed place of registration (here the "second registrar")—

(a) the notified registrar shall F718. . . send the notices and any fee, **[**F719paid, or any certificate or declaration submitted, in pursuance of section 88 in relation to the proposed civil partnership**]**, to the second registrar, and

(b) the second registrar shall be treated as having received the notices from the intended partners on the dates on which the notified registrar received them.

(3) F720 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F716 Sch. 23 para. 10(1) repealed (9.5.2011) by The Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc) Act 2004 (Remedial) Order 2011 (S.I. 2011/1158), **art. 5(1)(c)**

F717 Words in Sch. 23 para. 10(2) substituted (9.5.2011) by The Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc) Act 2004 (Remedial) Order 2011 (S.I. 2011/1158), **art. 5(2)**

F718 Words in Sch. 23 para. 10(2)(a) repealed (9.5.2011) by The Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc) Act 2004 (Remedial) Order 2011 (S.I. 2011/1158), **art. 5(1)(d)**

F719 Words in Sch. 23 para. 10(2)(a) substituted (S.) (1.1.2007) by Local Electoral Administration and Registration Services (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 14), **ss. 59(5)**, 63(2); S.S.I. 2006/469, **art. 3**, Sch. 2

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

F720 Sch. 23 para. 10(3) repealed (9.5.2011) by The Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc) Act 2004 (Remedial) Order 2011 (S.I. 2011/1158), **art. 5(1)(e)**

Commencement Information

I84 Sch. 23 para. 10 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 23 para. 10 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 23 para. 10(1)(3) in force for certain purposes at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and Sch. 23 para. 10 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

Supplementary

11 (1) Part 3 of this Act has effect in any case where this Part of this Schedule applies subject to any necessary modification.

(2) An expression used in this Part of this Schedule and in Part 3 of this Act has the same meaning as in that Part.

PART 4

NORTHERN IRELAND

Application of this Part

[[F721]12 This Part of this Schedule applies as mentioned in paragraph **[**[F722]1(2)**]**.**]**

Textual Amendments

F721 Sch. 23 para. 12 substituted (1.3.2015) by Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), **ss. 58(9)**, 75(3); S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(j) (with art. 6)

F722 Word in Sch. 23 para. 12 substituted (1.3.2015) by The Referral and Investigation of Proposed Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Northern Ireland and Miscellaneous Provisions) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/395), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 8(d)** (with art. 1(3))

Procedure for giving civil partnership notices

13 (1) The civil partnership notices must be given—

(a) only to a prescribed registrar, and

(b) in prescribed cases by both parties together in person at a prescribed register office.

(2) Before making any regulations under this paragraph the Secretary of State must consult the Registrar General.

Commencement Information

I85 Sch. 23 para. 13 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 23 para. 13 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 23 para. 13 in force for certain purposes at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and Sch. 23 para. 13 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Accompanying statement as to the qualifying condition

14 F723 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F723 Sch. 23 para. 14 repealed (9.5.2011) by The Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc) Act 2004 (Remedial) Order 2011 (S.I. 2011/1158), **art. 5(1)(f)**

Civil partnership notice book and civil partnership schedule

15 (1) F724 . . . . . .

(2) If the prescribed registrar F725 . . . is not the registrar for the purposes of section 140(1), the prescribed registrar must send him the civil partnership notices and he is to be treated as having received them when the prescribed registrar received them.

(3) F726 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F724 Sch. 23 para. 15(1) repealed (9.5.2011) by The Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc) Act 2004 (Remedial) Order 2011 (S.I. 2011/1158), **art. 5(1)(g)**

F725 Words in Sch. 23 para. 15(2) repealed (9.5.2011) by The Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc) Act 2004 (Remedial) Order 2011 (S.I. 2011/1158), **art. 5(1)(h)**

F726 Sch. 23 para. 15(3) repealed (9.5.2011) by The Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc) Act 2004 (Remedial) Order 2011 (S.I. 2011/1158), **art. 5(1)(i)**

Commencement Information

I86 Sch. 23 para. 15 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 23 para. 15 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 23 para. 15(1)(3) in force for certain purposes at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and Sch. 23 para. 15 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

Supplementary

16 (1) Part 4 of this Act has effect in any case where this Part of this Schedule applies subject to any necessary modification.

(2) In particular, section 176 has effect as if the matters proof of which is not necessary in support of the civil partnership included compliance with this Part of this Schedule.

(3) In this Part of this Schedule—

(a) "prescribed" means prescribed by regulations made by the Secretary of State;

(b) "registrar" means a person appointed under section 152(1)(a) or (b) or (3);

(c) other expressions have the same meaning as in Chapter 1 of Part 4 of this Act.

(4) Section 18(3) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954 (c. 33 (N.I.)) (provisions as to holders of offices) shall apply to this Part of this Schedule as if it were an enactment within the meaning of that Act.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Commencement Information

I87 Sch. 23 para. 16 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 23 para. 16 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 23 para. 16(3)(a) in force for certain purposes at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and Sch. 23 para. 16 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

PART 5

REGULATIONS

17 Any power to make regulations under this Schedule is exercisable by statutory instrument which is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

SCHEDULE 24 Section 254

SOCIAL SECURITY, CHILD SUPPORT AND TAX CREDITS

PART 1

AMENDMENTS OF THE CHILD SUPPORT ACT 1991 (C. 48)

1 In section 8 (role of the courts with respect to maintenance for children), after subsection (11)(e) insert—

"(ea) Schedule 5, 6 or 7 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004; or".

2 In section 15 (powers of inspectors), in subsection (7)—

(a) after "married" insert " or is a civil partner ", and

(b) after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

3 **[**F727In section 55 (meaning of "child"), in subsection (2)—

(a) in paragraph (a), after "married" insert " or a civil partner ",

(b) in paragraph (b), after "marriage" insert " , or been a party to a civil partnership, ", and

(c) in paragraph (c), after "granted" insert " or has been a party to a civil partnership in respect of which a nullity order has been made ".**]**

Textual Amendments

F727 Sch. 24 para. 3 repealed (10.12.2012 for specified purposes, 29.7.2013 for specified purposes, 25.11.2013 in so far as not already in force) by Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 (c. 6), s. 62(3), **Sch. 8**; S.I. 2012/3042, arts. 2(g)(ii), 3 (with arts. 5, 6) (as amended (29.7.2013) by S.I. 2013/1860, art. 6 and (24.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1635, art. 6); S.I. 2013/1860, arts. 2(g)(ii), 3 (with arts. 5, 7) (as amended (24.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1635, art. 7); S.I. 2013/2947, art. 2(e)(ii) (with arts. 3-5)

4 For paragraph 6(5)(b) (as originally enacted) of Schedule 1 (maintenance assessments) substitute—

"(b) where the absent parent—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(i) is living together in the same household with another adult of the opposite sex (regardless of whether or not they are married),

(ii) is living together in the same household with another adult of the same sex who is his civil partner, or

(iii) is living together in the same household with another adult of the same sex as if they were civil partners,

income of that other adult,".

5 After paragraph 6(5) (as originally enacted) of that Schedule insert—

"(5A) For the purposes of this paragraph, two adults of the same sex are to be regarded as living together in the same household as if they were civil partners if, but only if, they would be regarded as living together as husband and wife were they instead two adults of the opposite sex."

6 In paragraph 10C of that Schedule (as substituted by section 1(3) of, and Schedule 1 to, the Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act 2000 (c. 19)), for sub-paragraph (5) substitute—

"(5) In sub-paragraph (4)(a), "couple" means—

(a) a man and a woman who are married to each other and are members of the same household,

(b) a man and a woman who are not married to each other but are living together as husband and wife,

(c) two people of the same sex who are civil partners of each other and are members of the same household, or

(d) two people of the same sex who are not civil partners of each other but are living together as if they were civil partners.

(6) For the purposes of this paragraph, two people of the same sex are to be regarded as living together as if they were civil partners if, but only if, they would be regarded as living together as husband and wife were they instead two people of the opposite sex."

PART 2

AMENDMENTS OF THE CHILD SUPPORT (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1991 (S.I. 1991/ 2628 (N.I. 23))

7 **[**[F728]In Article 3 (meaning of "child"), in paragraph (2)—

(a) in sub-paragraph (a), after "married" insert " or a civil partner ",

(b) in sub-paragraph (b), after "marriage" insert " , or been a party to a civil partnership, ", and

(c) in sub-paragraph (c), after "granted" insert " or has been a party to a civil partnership in respect of which a nullity order has been made ".**]**

Textual Amendments

F728 Sch. 24 para. 7 repealed (N.I.) (10.12.2012 for specified purposes, 29.7.2013 for specified purposes, 25.11.2013 in so far as not already in force) by Child Maintenance Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 10), s. 41(1), **Sch. 5**; S.R. 2012/440, arts. 2(1)(d)(ii), 3 (with art. 4) (as modified (30.6.2014) by S.R. 2014/194,

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

art. 4); S.R. 2013/201, arts. 2(1)(d)(ii), 3 (with art. 4) (as modified (30.6.2014) by S.R. 2014/194, art. 5); S.R. 2013/276, art. 2(e)(ii) (with arts. 3-5)

8 In Article 10 (role of the courts with respect to maintenance for children), after paragraph (11)(d) insert—

"(da) Schedule 15, 16 or 17 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004; or".

9 In Article 17 (powers of inspectors), in paragraph (7)—

(a) after "married" insert " or is a civil partner ", and

(b) after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

10 For paragraph 6(5)(b) (as originally enacted) of Schedule 1 (maintenance assessments) substitute—

"(b) where the absent parent—

(i) is living together in the same household with another adult of the opposite sex (regardless of whether or not they are married),

(ii) is living together in the same household with another adult of the same sex who is his civil partner, or

(iii) is living together in the same household with another adult of the same sex as if they were civil partners,

income of that other adult,".

11 After paragraph 6(5) (as originally enacted) of that Schedule insert—

"(5A) For the purposes of this paragraph, two adults of the same sex are to be regarded as living together in the same household as if they were civil partners if, but only if, they would be regarded as living together as husband and wife were they instead two adults of the opposite sex."

12 In paragraph 10C of that Schedule (as substituted by section 1(3) of, and Schedule 1 to, the Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act (Northern Ireland) 2000 (c. 4 (N.I.))), for sub-paragraph (5) substitute—

"(5) In sub-paragraph (4)(a), "couple" means—

(a) a man and a woman who are married to each other and are members of the same household,

(b) a man and a woman who are not married to each other but are living together as husband and wife,

(c) two people of the same sex who are civil partners of each other and are members of the same household, or

(d) two people of the same sex who are not civil partners of each other but are living together as if they were civil partners.

(6) For the purposes of this paragraph, two people of the same sex are to be regarded as living together as if they were civil partners if, but only if, they would be regarded as living together as husband and wife were they instead two people of the opposite sex."

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

PART 3

AMENDMENTS OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY CONTRIBUTIONS AND BENEFITS ACT 1992 (C. 4)

13 In section 20 (descriptions of contributory benefits), in subsection (1)(f)(ii), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

14 In section 30A (incapacity benefit: entitlement), in subsection (2)(b)(ii), after "spouse" insert " or deceased civil partner ".

15 In section 30B (incapacity benefit: rate), in subsection (3)(a), after "people" insert " or civil partners ".

16 (1) Amend section 36 (bereavement payment) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1), after "spouse" (in each place) insert " or civil partner ".

(3) For subsection (2) substitute—

"(2) A bereavement payment shall not be payable to a person if—

(a) that person and a person of the opposite sex to whom that person was not married were living together as husband and wife at the time of the spouse's or civil partner's death, or

(b) that person and a person of the same sex who was not his or her civil partner were living together as if they were civil partners at the time of the spouse's or civil partner's death."

17 In section 36A (cases in which sections 37 to 41 apply), in subsection (2), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

18 (1) Amend section 37 (widowed mother's allowance) as follows.

(2) In subsection (3), after "remarries" insert " or forms a civil partnership ".

(3) After subsection (4)(b) insert "or

(c) for any period during which she and a woman who is not her civil partner are living together as if they were civil partners."

19 (1) Amend section 38 (widow's pension) as follows.

(2) In subsection (2), after "remarries" insert " or forms a civil partnership ".

(3) After subsection (3)(c) insert "or

(d) for any period during which she and a woman who is not her civil partner are living together as if they were civil partners."

20 (1) Amend section 39A (widowed parent's allowance) as follows.

(2) After "spouse" (in each place other than subsections (2)(b) and (4)), insert " or civil partner ".

(3) After "spouse's" (in each place) insert " or civil partner's ".

(4) In subsection (2), after paragraph (b) insert "or

(c) the surviving civil partner is a woman who—

(i) was residing together with the deceased civil partner immediately before the time of the death, and

(ii) is pregnant as the result of being artificially inseminated before that time with the semen of some person, or as a result

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

of the placing in her before that time of an embryo, of an egg in the process of fertilisation, or of sperm and eggs."

(5) In subsection (4), after "remarries" insert " or forms a civil partnership ".

(6) After subsection (4) insert—

"(4A) The surviving civil partner shall not be entitled to the allowance for any period after she or he forms a subsequent civil partnership or marries, but, subject to that, the surviving civil partner shall continue to be entitled to it for any period throughout which she or he—

(a) satisfies the requirements of subsection (2)(a) or (b) above; and

(b) is under pensionable age."

(7) After subsection (5)(b) insert "or

(c) for any period during which the surviving spouse or civil partner and a person of the same sex who is not his or her civil partner are living together as if they were civil partners."

21 (1) Amend section 39B (bereavement allowance where no dependent children) as follows.

(2) After "spouse" (in each place) other than subsection (4), insert " or civil partner ".

(3) After "spouse's" (in each place) insert " or civil partner's ".

(4) In subsection (4), after "remarries" insert " or forms a civil partnership ".

(5) After subsection (4) insert—

"(4A) The surviving civil partner shall not be entitled to the allowance for any period after she or he forms a subsequent civil partnership or marries, but, subject to that, the surviving civil partner shall continue to be entitled to it until—

(a) she or he attains pensionable age, or

(b) the period of 52 weeks mentioned in subsection (3) above expires,

whichever happens first."

(6) After subsection (5)(b) insert "or

(c) for any period during which the surviving spouse or civil partner and a person of the same sex who is not his or her civil partner are living together as if they were civil partners."

22 In section 39C (rate of widowed parent's allowance and bereavement allowance)—

(a) after "spouse" (in each place) insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) in subsection (5), after "spouse's" insert " or civil partner's ".

23 In section 46 (modifications of section 45 for calculating the additional pension in certain benefits)—

(a) after "under pensionable age", in subsection (2), insert " or by virtue of section 39C(1) above or section 48A(4), 48B(2) or 48BB(5) below in a case where the deceased civil partner died under pensionable age ",

(b) after "spouse", in paragraph (b)(i) of the definition of "N" in subsection (2), insert " or civil partner ", and

(c) after "spouse" (in each place) in subsection (3), insert " or civil partner ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

24 (1) Amend section 48 (use of former spouse's contributions) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1)—

(a) for "married" substitute " in a relevant relationship ",

(b) for "marriage" substitute " relationship ", and

(c) after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

(3) In subsection (2), for "marriage" substitute " relevant relationship ".

(4) For subsection (3) substitute—

"(3) Where a person has been in a relevant relationship more than once, this section applies only to the last relevant relationship and the references to his relevant relationship and his former spouse or civil partner shall be construed accordingly.

(4) In this section, "relevant relationship" means a marriage or civil partnership."

25 (1) Amend section 48A (category B retirement pension for married person) as follows.

(2) After subsection (2) insert—

"(2A) A person who—

(a) has attained pensionable age, and

(b) on attaining that age was a civil partner or forms a civil partnership after attaining that age,

shall be entitled to a Category B retirement pension by virtue of the contributions of the other party to the civil partnership ("the contributing civil partner") if the following requirement is met.

(2B) The requirement is that the contributing civil partner—

(a) has attained pensionable age and become entitled to a Category A retirement pension, and

(b) satisfies the conditions specified in Schedule 3, Part 1, paragraph 5."

(3) In subsections (3) and (4), after "spouse" insert " or contributing civil partner ".

(4) In subsection (4A), for "widow or widower" substitute " widow, widower or surviving civil partner ".

(5) F729 . . . . . .

F730(6) . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F729 Sch. 24 Pt. 3 para. 25(5) repealed (6.4.2010) by Pensions Act 2007 (c. 22), ss. 27(4)(a), 30, **Sch. 7 Pt. 1**

F730 Sch. 24 para. 25(6) omitted (6.4.2016) by virtue of Pensions Act 2014 (c. 19), s. 56(4), **Sch. 12 para. 75**

26 (1) Amend section 48B (category B retirement pension for widows and widowers) as follows.

(2) After subsection (1) insert—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

"(1A) A person ("the pensioner") who attains pensionable age on or after 6th April 2010 and whose civil partner died—

(a) while they were civil partners of each other, and

(b) after the pensioner attained pensionable age,

shall be entitled to a Category B retirement pension by virtue of the contributions of the civil partner if the civil partner satisfied the conditions specified in Schedule 3, Part 1, paragraph 5."

(3) In subsection (2), after "subsection (1)" insert " or (1A) ".

(4) In subsection (3), after "spouse" (in each place) insert " or civil partner ".

27 (1) Amend section 48BB (category B retirement pension: entitlement by reference to benefits under section 39A or 39B) as follows.

(2) After "spouse" (in each place) insert " or civil partner ".

(3) After "spouse's" (in each place) insert " or civil partner's ".

(4) In subsections (1)(b) and (3)(b), for "remarried" substitute " following that death married or formed a civil partnership ".

28 (1) Amend section 51 (category B retirement pension for widowers) as follows.

(2) After subsection (1) insert—

"(1A) A civil partner shall be entitled to a Category B retirement pension if—

(a) his or her civil partner has died and they were civil partners of each other at the time of that death,

(b) they were both over pensionable age at the time of that death, and

(c) before that death the deceased civil partner satisfied the contribution conditions for a Category A retirement pension in Schedule 3, Part 1, paragraph 5."

(3) In subsection (2)—

(a) for "man's" substitute " person's ", and

(b) after "wife" insert " or deceased civil partner ".

(4) In subsection (3), after "2002" insert " or a surviving civil partner ".

(5) In subsection (4)—

(a) for "man" substitute " person ", and

(b) after "pension" insert " under this section ".

F731(6) . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F731 Sch. 24 para. 28(6) omitted (6.4.2016) by virtue of Pensions Act 2014 (c. 19), s. 56(4), **Sch. 12 para. 75**

29 In section 51A (special provision for married people), in subsection (1)—

(a) after "person" insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) after "marriage" insert " or civil partnership ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

30 In section 52 (special provision for surviving spouses), in subsection (1), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

31 In section 60 (complete or partial failure to satisfy contributions conditions), in subsection (2)—

(a) after "married" insert " or a civil partner ", and

(b) for "widow or widower" substitute " widow, widower or surviving civil partner ".

32 In section 61A (contributions paid in error), in subsection (3)—

(a) after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) in paragraph (b), for "widows or widowers" substitute " widows, widowers or surviving civil partners ".

33 In section 62 (graduated retirement benefit), after subsection (1)(aa) insert—

"(ab) for extending section 37 of that Act (increase of woman's retirement pension by reference to her late husband's graduated retirement benefit) to civil partners and their late civil partners and for that section (except subsection (5)) so to apply as it applies to women and their late husbands;".

34 In section 77 (guardian's allowance)—

(a) in subsection (6)(a)(ii), after "spouses" insert " or civil partners ", and

(b) in subsection (8)(a), after "divorce" insert " or the civil partnership of the child's parents has been dissolved ".

35 F732 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F732 Sch. 24 para. 35 repealed (12.1.2010 (with effect on 6.4.2010)) by Welfare Reform Act 2009 (c. 24), ss. 58, 61, **Sch. 7 Pt. 2**

36 F733 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F733 Sch. 24 Pt. 3 para. 36 repealed (26.9.2007) by Pensions Act 2007 (c. 22), ss. 27(3)(b), 30, **Sch. 7 Pt. 2**

37 F734 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F734 Sch. 24 Pt. 3 para. 37 repealed (6.4.2010) by Pensions Act 2007 (c. 22), ss. 27(4)(b), 30, **Sch. 7 Pt. 2**

38 In section 113 (general provisions as to disqualification and suspension), in subsection (1), for "wife or husband," substitute " wife, husband or civil partner, ".

39 In section 114 (persons maintaining dependants etc.)—

(a) in subsection (2), for "wife" substitute " wife, civil partner ", and

(b) in subsection (3)(a), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

40 After subsection (1)(a) of section 121 (treatment of certain marriages) insert—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

"(aa) for a voidable civil partnership which has been annulled, whether before or after the date when the regulations come into force, to be treated for the purposes of the provisions to which this subsection applies as if it had been a valid civil partnership which was dissolved at the date of annulment;".

41 (1) Amend section 122 (interpretation of Parts 1 to 6 and supplementary provisions) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1), in the definition of "relative" after "by marriage" insert " or civil partnership ".

(3) After subsection (1) insert—

"(1A) For the purposes of Parts 1 to 5 and this Part of this Act, two people of the same sex are to be regarded as living together as if they were civil partners if, but only if, they would be regarded as living together as husband and wife were they instead two people of the opposite sex."

42 In section 124 (income support), in subsection (1)(c), (f) and (g), for "married or unmarried couple" substitute " couple ".

43 In section 126 (trade disputes), in subsection (3)(b), (c) and (d), for "married or unmarried couple" substitute " couple ".

44 In section 127 (effect of return to work), for "married or unmarried couple" (in each place) substitute " couple ".

45 In section 132 (couples), in subsection (1), for "married or unmarried couple" substitute " couple ".

46 (1) Amend section 137 (interpretation of Part 7 and supplementary provisions) as follows.

(2) In paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of the definition of "family" in subsection (1), for "married or unmarried couple" substitute " couple ".

(3) After the definition of "child" in subsection (1) insert—

""couple" means—

(a) a man and woman who are married to each other and are members of the same household;

(b) a man and woman who are not married to each other but are living together as husband and wife otherwise than in prescribed circumstances;

(c) two people of the same sex who are civil partners of each other and are members of the same household; or

(d) two people of the same sex who are not civil partners of each other but are living together as if they were civil partners otherwise than in prescribed circumstances;".

(4) Omit the definitions of "married couple" and "unmarried couple" in subsection (1).

(5) After subsection (1) insert—

"(1A) For the purposes of this Part, two people of the same sex are to be regarded as living together as if they were civil partners if, but only if, they would

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

be regarded as living together as husband and wife were they instead two people of the opposite sex."

47 In section 143 (meaning of "person responsible for child"), in subsection (5), after "spouses" insert " or civil partners ".

48 (1) Amend section 145A (entitlement after death of child) as follows.

(2) In subsection (2)—

(a) in paragraph (a), after "couple" insert " or civil partnership " and after "to whom he was married" insert " or who was his civil partner ",

(b) in paragraph (b), after "couple" insert " or a cohabiting same-sex couple ", and

(c) for "married couple or unmarried couple" substitute " couple or partnership ".

(3) Before the definition of "married couple" in subsection (5) insert—

""civil partnership" means two people of the same sex who are civil partners of each other and are neither—

(a) separated under a court order, nor

(b) separated in circumstances in which the separation is likely to be permanent,

"cohabiting same-sex couple" means two people of the same sex who are not civil partners of each other but are living together as if they were civil partners,".

(4) After subsection (5) insert—

"(6) For the purposes of this section, two people of the same sex are to be regarded as living together as if they were civil partners if, but only if, they would be regarded as living together as husband and wife were they instead two people of the opposite sex."

49 (1) Amend section 150 (interpretation of Part 10) as follows.

(2) In the definition of "war widow's pension" in subsection (2)—

(a) after "any widow's" insert " or surviving civil partner's ", and

(b) after "widow" insert " or surviving civil partner ".

(3) For subsection (3) substitute—

"(3) In this Part of this Act, "couple" has the meaning given by section 137(1) above."

50 In section 171ZL (entitlement to statutory adoption pay), in subsection (4)(b)—

(a) after "married couple" insert " or civil partnership ", and

(b) after "spouse" (in each place) insert " or civil partner ".

51 (1) Amend Schedule 4A (additional pension) as follows.

(2) In paragraph 1(2), after "under pensionable age," insert " or by virtue of section 39C(1), 48A(4) or 48B(2) above, in a case where the deceased civil partner died under pensionable age, ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(3) In paragraph 1(4)(a) and (b), (5), (6) and (7)(a) and (b), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

52 (1) Amend Schedule 7 (industrial injuries benefits) as follows.

(2) For paragraph 4(3)(a) of Part 1 substitute—

"(a) a beneficiary is one of two persons who are—

(i) spouses or civil partners residing together,

(ii) a man and woman who are not married to each other but are living together as if they were husband and wife, or

(iii) two people of the same sex who are not civil partners of each other but are living together as if they were civil partners, and".

(3) In paragraph 5(2)(a)(ii) of Part 1, after "spouses" insert " or civil partners ".

(4) In Part 1—

(a) in paragraph 6(1), (3) and (4), after "spouse" (in each place) insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) in paragraph 6(4)(a), after "spouse's" insert " or civil partner's ".

(5) In paragraph 15 of Part 6—

(a) in sub-paragraph (2), after "remarries" insert " or forms a civil partnership ", and

(b) at the end of sub-paragraph (3), insert " or is living together with a person of the same sex as if they were civil partners ".

53 (1) Amend Schedule 8 (industrial injuries and diseases: old cases) as follows.

(2) In paragraph 6(4)(d), and the substituted paragraph (d) in paragraph 6(5), after "spouse" (in each place) insert " or civil partner ".

(3) After paragraph 8(1) insert—

"(1A) Any reference in this Schedule to a member of a person's family within the meaning of the Workmen's Compensation Act 1925 is to be read as including a civil partner of his."

54 In Schedule 9 (exclusions from entitlement to child benefit), in paragraph 3, after "married" insert " or is a civil partner ".

PART 4

AMENDMENTS OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION ACT 1992 (C. 5)

55 In section 2AA (full entitlement to certain benefits conditional on work-focused interview for partner), in subsection (7), for the definition of "couple" substitute—

""couple" has the meaning given by section 137(1) of the Contributions and Benefits Act;".

56 In section 3 (late claims for bereavement benefit where death is difficult to establish)—

(a) after "spouse" (in each place) insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) after "spouse's" (in each place) insert " or civil partner's ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

F735 57 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F735 Sch. 24 para. 57 repealed (6.4.2018) by Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016 (c. 7), **ss. 20(11)(d)**, 36(6); S.I. 2018/438, reg. 2(1) (with reg. 2(2)(3))

58 (1) Amend section 71 (overpayments – general) as follows.

(2) In subsection (9), for "married or unmarried couple" substitute " couple ".

(3) After subsection (11) insert—

"(12) In this section, "couple" has the meaning given by section 137(1) of the Contributions and Benefits Act."

59 In section 73 (overlapping benefits – general), in subsections (2)(b) and (d) and (5)(b) and (d), for "wife or husband" substitute " wife, husband or civil partner ".

60 In section 74A (payment of benefit where maintenance payments collected by Secretary of State), in subsection (5)—

(a) after the definition of "child maintenance" insert—

""couple" has the meaning given by section 137(1) of the Contributions and Benefits Act;",

(b) in the definition of "family", for "married or unmarried couple" (in each place) substitute " couple ", and

(c) omit the definitions of "married couple" and "unmarried couple".

61 (1) Amend section 78 (recovery of social fund awards) as follows.

(2) In subsection (3)(b), for "married or unmarried couple" substitute " couple ".

(3) For subsection (5) substitute—

"(5) In this section "couple" has the meaning given by section 137(1) of the Contributions and Benefits Act."

(4) In subsection (6)—

(a) in paragraph (a), after "wife" insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) in paragraph (b), after "husband" insert " or civil partner ".

62 In section 105 (failure to maintain – general), in subsection (4), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

63 (1) Amend section 107 (recovery of expenditure on income support: additional amounts and transfer of orders) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1)(b), after "wife" insert " or civil partner ".

(3) In subsection (15), after paragraph (a)(ii) of the definition of "maintenance order" insert—

"(iii) any order under Schedule 7 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 for the making of periodical payments or for the payment of a lump sum;".

64 In section 109B (power to require information), in subsection (5)(a), for "married, his spouse" substitute " married or is a civil partner, his spouse or civil partner ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

65 F736 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F736 Sch. 24 para. 65 repealed (3.7.2007) by Welfare Reform Act 2007 (c. 5), ss. 40, 67, 70, Sch. 5 para. 14, **Sch. 8**

66 In section 156 (up-rating under section 150 of pensions increased under section 52(3) of the Contributions and Benefits Act)—

(a) in subsection (1), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) in subsections (2) and (3), after "spouse's" (in each place) insert " or civil partner's ".

PART 5

AMENDMENTS OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY CONTRIBUTIONS AND BENEFITS (NORTHERN IRELAND) ACT 1992 (C. 7)

67 In section 20 (descriptions of contributory benefits), in subsection (1)(f)(ii), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

68 In section 30A (incapacity benefit: entitlement), in subsection (2)(b)(ii), after "spouse" insert " or deceased civil partner ".

69 In section 30B (incapacity benefit: rate), in subsection (3)(a), after "people" insert " or civil partners ".

70 (1) Amend section 36 (bereavement payment) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1), after "spouse" (in each place) insert " or civil partner ".

(3) For subsection (2) substitute—

"(2) A bereavement payment shall not be payable to a person if—

(a) that person and a person of the opposite sex to whom that person was not married were living together as husband and wife at the time of the spouse's or civil partner's death, or

(b) that person and a person of the same sex who was not his or her civil partner were living together as if they were civil partners at the time of the spouse's or civil partner's death."

71 In section 36A (cases in which sections 37 to 41 apply), in subsection (2), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

72 (1) Amend section 37 (widowed mother's allowance) as follows.

(2) In subsection (3), after "remarries" insert " or forms a civil partnership ".

(3) After subsection (4)(b) insert "or

(c) for any period during which she and a woman who is not her civil partner are living together as if they were civil partners."

73 (1) Amend section 38 (widow's pension) as follows.

(2) In subsection (2), after "remarries" insert " or forms a civil partnership ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(3) After subsection (3)(c) insert "or

(d) for any period during which she and a woman who is not her civil partner are living together as if they were civil partners."

74 (1) Amend section 39A (widowed parent's allowance) as follows.

(2) After "spouse" (in each place other than subsections (2)(b) and (4)), insert " or civil partner ".

(3) After "spouse's" (in each place) insert " or civil partner's ".

(4) In subsection (2), after paragraph (b) insert "or

(c) the surviving civil partner is a woman who—

(i) was residing together with the deceased civil partner immediately before the time of the death, and

(ii) is pregnant as the result of being artificially inseminated before that time with the semen of some person, or as a result of the placing in her before that time of an embryo, of an egg in the process of fertilisation, or of sperm and eggs."

(5) In subsection (4), after "remarries" insert " or forms a civil partnership ".

(6) After subsection (4) insert—

"(4A) The surviving civil partner shall not be entitled to the allowance for any period after she or he forms a subsequent civil partnership or marries, but, subject to that, the surviving civil partner shall continue to be entitled to it for any period throughout which she or he—

(a) satisfies the requirements of subsection (2)(a) or (b) above; and

(b) is under pensionable age."

(7) After subsection (5)(b) insert "or

(c) for any period during which the surviving spouse or civil partner and a person of the same sex who is not his or her civil partner are living together as if they were civil partners."

75 (1) Amend section 39B (bereavement allowance where no dependent children) as follows.

(2) After "spouse" (in each place other than subsection (4)), insert " or civil partner ".

(3) After "spouse's" (in each place) insert " or civil partner's ".

(4) In subsection (4), after "remarries" insert " or forms a civil partnership ".

(5) After subsection (4) insert—

"(4A) The surviving civil partner shall not be entitled to the allowance for any period after she or he forms a subsequent civil partnership or marries, but, subject to that, the surviving civil partner shall continue to be entitled to it until—

(a) she or he attains pensionable age, or

(b) the period of 52 weeks mentioned in subsection (3) above expires,

whichever happens first."

(6) After subsection (5)(b) insert "or

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(c) for any period during which the surviving spouse or civil partner and a person of the same sex who is not his or her civil partner are living together as if they were civil partners."

76 In section 39C (rate of widowed parent's allowance and bereavement allowance)—

(a) after "spouse" (in each place) insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) in subsection (5), after "spouse's" insert " or civil partner's ".

77 In section 46 (modifications of section 45 for calculating the additional pension in certain benefits)—

(a) after "under pensionable age", in subsection (2), insert " or by virtue of section 39C(1) above or section 48A(4), 48B(2) or 48BB(5) below in a case where the deceased civil partner died under pensionable age ",

(b) after "spouse", in paragraph (b)(i) of the definition of "N" in subsection (2), insert " or civil partner ", and

(c) after "spouse" (in each place) in subsection (3), insert " or civil partner ".

78 (1) Amend section 48 (use of former spouse's contributions) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1)—

(a) for "married" substitute " in a relevant relationship ",

(b) for "marriage" substitute " relationship ", and

(c) after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

(3) In subsection (2), for "marriage" substitute " relevant relationship ".

(4) For subsection (3) substitute—

"(3) Where a person has been in a relevant relationship more than once, this section applies only to the last relevant relationship and the references to his relevant relationship and his former spouse or civil partner shall be construed accordingly.

(4) In this section, "relevant relationship" means a marriage or civil partnership."

79 (1) Amend section 48A (category B retirement pension for married person) as follows.

(2) After subsection (2) insert—

"(2A) A person who—

(a) has attained pensionable age, and

(b) on attaining that age was a civil partner or forms a civil partnership after attaining that age,

shall be entitled to a Category B retirement pension by virtue of the contributions of the other party to the civil partnership ("the contributing civil partner") if the following requirement is met.

(2B) The requirement is that the contributing civil partner—

(a) has attained pensionable age and become entitled to a Category A retirement pension, and

(b) satisfies the conditions specified in Schedule 3, Part 1, paragraph 5."

(3) In subsections (3) and (4), after "spouse" insert " or contributing civil partner ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(4) In subsection (4A), for "widow or widower" substitute " widow, widower or surviving civil partner ".

F737(5) . . . . . .

F738(6) . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F737 Sch. 24 para. 79(5) repealed (N.I.) (6.4.2010) by Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 1), s. 19(4)(a), **Sch. 6 Pt. 1** (with s. 4(5)(8), Sch. 4 Pt. 3)

F738 Sch. 24 para. 79(6) omitted (N.I.) (6.4.2016 unless brought into operation earlier by an order under s. 53(1) of the amending Act) by virtue of Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (c. 5), s. 53(3), **Sch. 12 para. 64**

80 (1) Amend section 48B (category B retirement pension for widows and widowers) as follows.

(2) After subsection (1) insert—

"(1A) A person ("the pensioner") who attains pensionable age on or after 6th April 2010 and whose civil partner died—

(a) while they were civil partners of each other, and

(b) after the pensioner attained pensionable age,

shall be entitled to a Category B retirement pension by virtue of the contributions of the civil partner if the civil partner satisfied the conditions specified in Schedule 3, Part 1, paragraph 5."

(3) In subsection (2), after "subsection (1)" insert " or (1A) ".

(4) In subsection (3), after "spouse" (in each place) insert " or civil partner ".

81 (1) Amend section 48BB (category B retirement pension: entitlement by reference to benefits under section 39A or 39B) as follows.

(2) After "spouse" (in each place) insert " or civil partner ".

(3) After "spouse's" (in each place) insert " or civil partner's ".

(4) In subsections (1)(b) and (3)(b), for "remarried" substitute " following that death married or formed a civil partnership ".

82 (1) Amend section 51 (category B retirement pension for widowers) as follows.

(2) After subsection (1) insert—

"(1A) A civil partner shall be entitled to a Category B retirement pension if—

(a) his or her civil partner has died and they were civil partners of each other at the time of that death,

(b) they were both over pensionable age at the time of that death, and

(c) before that death the deceased civil partner satisfied the contribution conditions for a Category A retirement pension in Schedule 3, Part 1, paragraph 5."

(3) In subsection (2)—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) for "man's" substitute " person's ", and
(b) after "wife" insert " or deceased civil partner ".

(4) In subsection (3), after "2002" insert " or a surviving civil partner ".

(5) In subsection (4)—
(a) for "man" substitute " person ", and
(b) after "pension" insert " under this section ".

F739(6) . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F739 Sch. 24 para. 82(6) omitted (N.I.) (6.4.2016 unless brought into operation earlier by an order under s. 53(1) of the amending Act) by virtue of Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (c. 5), s. 53(3), **Sch. 12 para. 64**

83 In section 51A (special provision for married people), in subsection (1)—
(a) after "person" insert " or civil partner ", and
(b) after "marriage" insert " or civil partnership ".

84 In section 52 (special provision for surviving spouses), in subsection (1), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

85 In section 60 (complete or partial failure to satisfy contribution conditions), in subsection (2)—
(a) after "married" insert " or a civil partner ", and
(b) for "widow or widower" substitute " widow, widower or surviving civil partner ".

86 In section 61A (contributions paid in error), in subsection (3)—
(a) after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ", and
(b) in paragraph (b), for "widows or widowers" substitute " widows, widowers or surviving civil partners ".

87 In section 62 (graduated retirement benefit), after subsection (1)(aa) insert—
"(ab) for extending section 36 of that Act (increase of woman's retirement pension by reference to her late husband's graduated retirement benefit) to civil partners and their late civil partners and for that section (except subsection (5)) so to apply as it applies to women and their late husbands;".

88 In section 77 (guardian's allowance)—
(a) in subsection (6)(a)(ii), after "spouses" insert " or civil partners ", and
(b) in subsection (8)(a), after "divorce" insert " or the civil partnership of the child's parents has been dissolved ".

89 F740 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F740 Sch. 24 para. 89 repealed (14.8.2010) by Welfare Reform Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 (c. 13), ss. 34(1)(2)(c), 36(1)(p), **Sch. 4 Pt. 2** (with s. 14(2))

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

90 **[**[F741]In section 83A (pension increase for spouse)—

(a) in subsection (1), for "married pensioner" substitute " pensioner who is married or a civil partner ", and

(b) in subsections (2) and (3), after "spouse" (in each place) insert " or civil partner ".**]**

Textual Amendments

F741 Sch. 24 para. 90 repealed (N.I.) (11.2.2008) by Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 1 (N.I.)), ss. 19, 21, **Sch. 6 Pt. 2** (with s. 4(5), Sch. 4 Pt. 3)

91 **[**[F742](1) Amend section 85 (pension increase (person with care of children)) as follows.

(2) Omit subsection (1).

(3) After subsection (1) insert—

"(1A) Subject to subsections (2A) and (4) below, the weekly rate of a Category A retirement pension shall be increased by the amount specified in relation to that pension in Schedule 4, Part 4, column (3) for any period during which a person who is neither the spouse or civil partner of the pensioner nor a child has the care of a child or children in respect of whom the pensioner is entitled to child benefit."

(4) In subsection (2)—

(a) for "the following provisions" substitute " subsections (3) and (4) below ", and

(b) for "pension to which this section applies" substitute " Category C retirement pension payable by virtue of section 78(1) above ".

(5) After subsection (2) insert—

"(2A) Subsection (1A) above does not apply if the pensioner is a person whose spouse or civil partner is entitled to a Category B retirement pension, or to a Category C retirement pension by virtue of section 78(2) above or in such other cases as may be prescribed."

(6) In subsection (4), after "subsection" insert " (1A) or ".**]**

Textual Amendments

F742 Sch. 24 Pt. 5 para. 91 repealed (N.I.) (6.4.2010) by Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 1), s. 19(4)(b), **Sch. 6 Pt. 2** (with s. 4(5)(8), Sch. 4 Pt. 3)

92 In section 113 (general provisions as to disqualification and suspension), in subsection (1), for "wife or husband," substitute " wife, husband or civil partner, ".

93 In section 114 (persons maintaining dependants etc.)—

(a) in subsection (2), for "wife" substitute " wife, civil partner ", and

(b) in subsection (3)(a), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

94 In section 120 (treatment of certain marriages), after subsection (1)(a) insert—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

"(aa) for a voidable civil partnership which has been annulled, whether before or after the date when the regulations come into force, to be treated for the purposes of the provisions to which this subsection applies as if it had been a valid civil partnership which was dissolved at the date of annulment;".

95 (1) Amend section 121 (interpretation of Parts 1 to 6 and supplementary provisions) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1), in the definition of "relative" after "by marriage" insert " or civil partnership ".

(3) After subsection (1) insert—

"(1A) For the purposes of Parts 1 to 5 and this Part of this Act, two people of the same sex are to be regarded as living together as if they were civil partners if, but only if, they would be regarded as living together as husband and wife were they instead two people of the opposite sex."

96 In section 123 (income support), in subsection (1)(c), (f) and (g), for "married or unmarried couple" substitute " couple ".

97 In section 125 (trade disputes), in subsection (3)(b), (c) and (d), for "married or unmarried couple" substitute " couple ".

98 In section 126 (effect of return to work), for "married or unmarried couple" (in each place) substitute " couple ".

99 (1) Amend section 133 (interpretation of Part 7 and supplementary provisions) as follows.

(2) In paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of the definition of "family" in subsection (1), for "married or unmarried couple" substitute " couple ".

(3) After the definition of "child" in subsection (1) insert—

""couple" means—

(a) a man and woman who are married to each other and are members of the same household;

(b) a man and woman who are not married to each other but are living together as husband and wife otherwise than in prescribed circumstances;

(c) two people of the same sex who are civil partners of each other and are members of the same household; or

(d) two people of the same sex who are not civil partners of each other but are living together as if they were civil partners otherwise than in prescribed circumstances;".

(4) Omit the definitions of "married couple" and "unmarried couple" in subsection (1).

(5) After subsection (1) insert—

"(1A) For the purposes of this Part, two people of the same sex are to be regarded as living together as if they were civil partners if, but only if, they would be regarded as living together as husband and wife were they instead two people of the opposite sex."

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

100 In section 139 (meaning of "person responsible for child"), in subsection (5), after "spouses" insert " or civil partners ".

101 (1) Amend section 141A (entitlement after death of child) as follows.

(2) In subsection (2)—

(a) in paragraph (a), after "couple" insert " or civil partnership " and after "to whom he was married" insert " or who was his civil partner ",

(b) in paragraph (b), after "couple" insert " or a cohabiting same-sex couple ", and

(c) for "married couple or unmarried couple" substitute " couple or partnership ".

(3) Before the definition of "married couple" in subsection (5) insert—

""civil partnership" means two people of the same sex who are civil partners of each other and are neither—

(a) separated under a court order, nor

(b) separated in circumstances in which the separation is likely to be permanent,

"cohabiting same-sex couple" means two people of the same sex who are not civil partners of each other but are living together as if they were civil partners,".

(4) After subsection (5) insert—

"(6) For the purposes of this section, two people of the same sex are to be regarded as living together as if they were civil partners if, but only if, they would be regarded as living together as husband and wife were they instead two people of the opposite sex."

102 (1) Amend section 146 (interpretation of Part 10) as follows.

(2) In the definition of "war widow's pension" in subsection (2)—

(a) after "any widow's" insert " or surviving civil partner's ", and

(b) after "widow" insert " or surviving civil partner ".

(3) For subsection (3) substitute—

"(3) In this Part of this Act, "couple" has the meaning given by section 133(1) above."

103 In section 167ZL (entitlement to statutory adoption pay), in subsection (4)(b)—

(a) after "married couple" insert " or civil partnership ", and

(b) after "spouse" (in each place) insert " or civil partner ".

104 (1) Amend Schedule 4A (additional pension) as follows.

(2) In paragraph 1(2), after "under pensionable age," insert " or by virtue of section 39C(1), 48A(4) or 48B(2) above, in a case where the deceased civil partner died under pensionable age, ".

(3) In paragraph 1(4)(a) and (b), (5), (6) and (7)(a) and (b), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

105 (1) Amend Schedule 7 (industrial injuries benefits) as follows.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(2) For paragraph 4(3)(a) of Part 1 substitute—

"(a) a beneficiary is one of two persons who are—

(i) spouses or civil partners residing together,

(ii) a man and woman who are not married to each other but are living together as if they were husband and wife, or

(iii) two people of the same sex who are not civil partners of each other but are living together as if they were civil partners, and".

(3) In paragraph 5(2)(a)(ii) of Part 1, after "spouses" insert " or civil partners ".

(4) In Part 1—

(a) in paragraph 6(1), (3) and (4), after "spouse" (in each place) insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) in paragraph 6(4)(a), after "spouse's" insert " or civil partner's ".

(5) In paragraph 15 of Part 6—

(a) in sub-paragraph (2), after "remarries" insert " or forms a civil partnership ", and

(b) at the end of sub-paragraph (3), insert " or is living together with a person of the same sex as if they were civil partners ".

106 In Schedule 9 (exclusions from entitlement to child benefit), in paragraph 3, after "married" insert " or is a civil partner ".

PART 6

AMENDMENTS OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION (NORTHERN IRELAND) ACT 1992 (C. 8)

107 In section 2AA (full entitlement to certain benefits conditional on work-focused interview for partner), in subsection (7), for the definition of "couple" substitute—

""couple" has the meaning given by section 133(1) of the Contributions and Benefits Act;".

108 In section 3 (late claims for bereavement benefit where death is difficult to establish) —

(a) after "spouse" (in each place) insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) after "spouse's" (in each place) insert " or civil partner's ".

F743 109 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F743 Sch. 24 para. 109 repealed (6.4.2018) by The Welfare Reform and Work (Northern Ireland) Order 2016 (S.I. 2016/999), arts. 2(1), **15(12)(d)**; S.R. 2018/66, art. 2(1) (with art. 2(2)(3))

110 (1) Amend section 69 (overpayments – general) as follows.

(2) In subsection (9), for "married or unmarried couple" substitute " couple ".

(3) After subsection (11) insert—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

"(12) In this section, "couple" has the meaning given by section 133(1) of the Contributions and Benefits Act."

111 In section 71 (overlapping benefits – general), in subsections (2)(b) and (d) and (5)(b) and (d), for "wife or husband" substitute " wife, husband or civil partner ".

112 In section 72A (payment of benefit where maintenance payments collected by Department), in subsection (5)—

(a) after the definition of "child maintenance" insert—

""couple" has the meaning given by section 133(1) of the Contributions and Benefits Act;",

(b) in the definition of "family", for "married or unmarried couple" (in each place) substitute " couple ", and

(c) omit the definitions of "married couple" and "unmarried couple".

113 (1) Amend section 74 (recovery of social fund awards) as follows.

(2) In subsection (3)(b), for "married or unmarried couple" substitute " couple ".

(3) For subsection (5) substitute—

"(5) In this section, "couple" has the meaning given by section 133(1) of the Contributions and Benefits Act."

(4) In subsection (6)—

(a) in paragraph (a), after "wife" insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) in paragraph (b), after "husband" insert " or civil partner ".

114 In section 100 (failure to maintain – general), in subsection (4), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

115 In section 102 (recovery of expenditure on income support: additional amounts and transfer of orders), in subsection (1)(b), after "wife" insert " or civil partner ".

116 In section 103B (power to require information), in subsection (5)(a), for "married, his spouse" substitute " married or is a civil partner, his spouse or civil partner ".

117 In section 136 (up-rating under section 132 of pensions increased under section 52(3) of the Contributions and Benefits Act)—

(a) in subsection (1), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) in subsections (2) and (3), after "spouse's" (in each place) insert " or civil partner's ".

PART 7

AMENDMENTS OF THE JOBSEEKERS ACT 1995 (C. 18)

118 **[**[F744]In section 1 (the jobseeker's allowance), in subsection (4), in the definition of "a joint-claim couple", for "married or unmarried couple" substitute " couple ".**]**

Textual Amendments

F744 Sch. 24 paras. 118-122 repealed (29.4.2013 for specified purposes, 1.7.2013 and 29.7.2013 for specified purposes, 28.10.2013 for specified purposes, 25.11.2013 for specified purposes, 24.2.2014 and 7.4.2014

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

for specified purposes, 23.6.2014 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 15.9.2014 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 26.11.2014 for specified purposes, 28.1.2015 for specified purposes, 16.2.2015 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 18.3.2015 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 21.9.2015 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 2.12.2015 for specified purposes, 27.1.2016 and 24.2.2016 for specified purposes, 23.3.2016 and 27.4.2016 for specified purposes, 1.2.2019 for specified purposes) by Welfare Reform Act 2012 (c. 5), s. 150(3), **Sch. 14 Pt. 1**; S.I. 2013/983, arts. 4(1)(c), 5, Sch. 1 (with arts. 6, 9(1), 22, Sch. 4) (as amended: (1.7.2013) by S.I. 2013/1511; (29.10.2013) by S.I. 2013/2657; (16.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1452; (30.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (15.9.2014) by S.I. 2014/2321; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (21.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3094; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32 (as amended (10.2.2015) by S.I. 2015/101); (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537; (23.11.2015) by S.I. 2015/1930; (6.4.2017) by S.I. 2017/483; (2.2.2018) by S.I. 2018/138; (16.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/10; and (31.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/167); S.I. 2013/1511, art. 4, Sch. (as amended: (29.10.2013) by S.I. 2013/2657; (16.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1452; (30.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; and (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537); S.I. 2013/2657, art. 4, Sch. (with art. 6) (as amended: (16.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1452; (30.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; and (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537); S.I. 2013/2846, art. 4, Sch. (with art. 5) (as amended: (16.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1452; (30.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; and (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537); S.I. 2014/209, art. 4, Sch. (as amended: (16.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1452; (30.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2105) by S.I. 2015/634; and (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537); S.I. 2014/1583, art. 4, Sch. (as amended (30.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; and (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537); S.I. 2014/2321, art. 4 (as amended: (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3057; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; and (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537); S.I. 2014/3094, art. 4 (with art. 6); S.I. 2015/33, art. 4 (with art. 6) (as amended: (11.2.2015) by S.I. 2015/101; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; (6.4.2017) by S.I. 2017/483; (11.4.2018) by S.I. 2018/138; (16.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/10; (15.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/37); and (31.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/167); S.I. 2015/101, art. 4 (as amended (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/534; (17.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/740; and (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537); S.I. 2015/634, art. 4 (with art. 6) (as amended: (17.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/740; (6.4.2017) by S.I. 2017/376; (16.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/10; (15.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/37; and (31.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/167); S.I. 2015/1537, art. 4 (as modified (23.11.2015) by S.I. 2015/1930, art. 6); S.I. 2015/1930, art. 4; S.I. 2016/33, art. 4, Sch.; S.I. 2016/407, art. 4, Sch.; S.I. 2019/167, art. 4(5)-(7) (with art. 4(8)-(12))

119 **[**[F744]In section 3 (the income-based conditions), in subsection (1)(dd) and (e), for "married or unmarried couple" substitute " couple ".**]**

Textual Amendments

F744 Sch. 24 paras. 118-122 repealed (29.4.2013 for specified purposes, 1.7.2013 and 29.7.2013 for specified purposes, 28.10.2013 for specified purposes, 25.11.2013 for specified purposes, 24.2.2014 and 7.4.2014 for specified purposes, 23.6.2014 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 15.9.2014 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 26.11.2014 for specified purposes, 28.1.2015 for specified purposes, 16.2.2015 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 18.3.2015 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 21.9.2015 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 2.12.2015 for specified purposes, 27.1.2016 and 24.2.2016 for specified purposes, 23.3.2016 and 27.4.2016 for specified purposes, 1.2.2019 for specified purposes) by Welfare Reform Act 2012 (c. 5), s. 150(3), **Sch. 14 Pt. 1**; S.I. 2013/983, arts. 4(1)(c), 5, Sch. 1 (with arts. 6, 9(1), 22, Sch. 4) (as amended: (1.7.2013) by S.I. 2013/1511; (29.10.2013) by S.I. 2013/2657; (16.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1452; (30.6.2014) by

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (15.9.2014) by S.I. 2014/2321; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (21.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3094; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32 (as amended (10.2.2015) by S.I. 2015/101); (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537; (23.11.2015) by S.I. 2015/1930; (6.4.2017) by S.I. 2017/483; (2.2.2018) by S.I. 2018/138; (16.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/10; and (31.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/167); S.I. 2013/1511, art. 4, Sch. (as amended: (29.10.2013) by S.I. 2013/2657; (16.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1452; (30.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; and (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537); S.I. 2013/2657, art. 4, Sch. (with art. 6) (as amended: (16.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1452; (30.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; and (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537); S.I. 2013/2846, art. 4, Sch. (with art. 5) (as amended: (16.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1452; (30.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; and (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537); S.I. 2014/209, art. 4, Sch. (as amended: (16.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1452; (30.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2105) by S.I. 2015/634; and (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537); S.I. 2014/1583, art. 4, Sch. (as amended (30.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; and (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537); S.I. 2014/2321, art. 4 (as amended: (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3057; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; and (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537); S.I. 2014/3094, art. 4 (with art. 6); S.I. 2015/33, art. 4 (with art. 6) (as amended: (11.2.2015) by S.I. 2015/101; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; (6.4.2017) by S.I. 2017/483; (11.4.2018) by S.I. 2018/138; (16.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/10; (15.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/37); and (31.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/167); S.I. 2015/101, art. 4 (as amended (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/534; (17.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/740; and (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537); S.I. 2015/634, art. 4 (with art. 6) (as amended: (17.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/740; (6.4.2017) by S.I. 2017/376; (16.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/10; (15.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/37; and (31.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/167); S.I. 2015/1537, art. 4 (as modified (23.11.2015) by S.I. 2015/1930, art. 6); S.I. 2015/1930, art. 4; S.I. 2016/33, art. 4, Sch.; S.I. 2016/407, art. 4, Sch.; S.I. 2019/167, art. 4(5)-(7) (with art. 4(8)-(12))

120 **[**[F744]In section 15 (effect on other claimants), in subsection (2)(b), for "married or unmarried couple" substitute " couple ".**]**

Textual Amendments

F744 Sch. 24 paras. 118-122 repealed (29.4.2013 for specified purposes, 1.7.2013 and 29.7.2013 for specified purposes, 28.10.2013 for specified purposes, 25.11.2013 for specified purposes, 24.2.2014 and 7.4.2014 for specified purposes, 23.6.2014 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 15.9.2014 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 26.11.2014 for specified purposes, 28.1.2015 for specified purposes, 16.2.2015 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 18.3.2015 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 21.9.2015 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 2.12.2015 for specified purposes, 27.1.2016 and 24.2.2016 for specified purposes, 23.3.2016 and 27.4.2016 for specified purposes, 1.2.2019 for specified purposes) by Welfare Reform Act 2012 (c. 5), s. 150(3), **Sch. 14 Pt. 1**; S.I. 2013/983, arts. 4(1)(c), 5, Sch. 1 (with arts. 6, 9(1), 22, Sch. 4) (as amended: (1.7.2013) by S.I. 2013/1511; (29.10.2013) by S.I. 2013/2657; (16.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1452; (30.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (15.9.2014) by S.I. 2014/2321; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (21.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3094; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32 (as amended (10.2.2015) by S.I. 2015/101); (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537; (23.11.2015) by S.I. 2015/1930; (6.4.2017) by S.I. 2017/483; (2.2.2018) by S.I. 2018/138; (16.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/10; and (31.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/167); S.I. 2013/1511, art. 4, Sch. (as amended: (29.10.2013) by S.I. 2013/2657; (16.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1452; (30.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; and (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537); S.I. 2013/2657, art. 4, Sch. (with art. 6) (as amended: (16.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1452;

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(30.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; and (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537); S.I. 2013/2846, art. 4, Sch. (with art. 5) (as amended: (16.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1452; (30.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; and (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537); S.I. 2014/209, art. 4, Sch. (as amended: (16.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1452; (30.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2105) by S.I. 2015/634; and (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537); S.I. 2014/1583, art. 4, Sch. (as amended (30.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; and (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537); S.I. 2014/2321, art. 4 (as amended: (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3057; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; and (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537); S.I. 2014/3094, art. 4 (with art. 6); S.I. 2015/33, art. 4 (with art. 6) (as amended: (11.2.2015) by S.I. 2015/101; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; (6.4.2017) by S.I. 2017/483; (11.4.2018) by S.I. 2018/138; (16.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/10; (15.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/37); and (31.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/167); S.I. 2015/101, art. 4 (as amended (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/534; (17.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/740; and (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537); S.I. 2015/634, art. 4 (with art. 6) (as amended: (17.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/740; (6.4.2017) by S.I. 2017/376; (16.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/10; (15.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/37; and (31.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/167); S.I. 2015/1537, art. 4 (as modified (23.11.2015) by S.I. 2015/1930, art. 6); S.I. 2015/1930, art. 4; S.I. 2016/33, art. 4, Sch.; S.I. 2016/407, art. 4, Sch.; S.I. 2019/167, art. 4(5)-(7) (with art. 4(8)-(12))

121 **[**[F744]In section 15A (trade disputes: joint-claim couples), in subsection (5)(c), for "married or unmarried couple" substitute " couple ".**]**

Textual Amendments

F744 Sch. 24 paras. 118-122 repealed (29.4.2013 for specified purposes, 1.7.2013 and 29.7.2013 for specified purposes, 28.10.2013 for specified purposes, 25.11.2013 for specified purposes, 24.2.2014 and 7.4.2014 for specified purposes, 23.6.2014 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 15.9.2014 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 26.11.2014 for specified purposes, 28.1.2015 for specified purposes, 16.2.2015 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 18.3.2015 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 21.9.2015 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 2.12.2015 for specified purposes, 27.1.2016 and 24.2.2016 for specified purposes, 23.3.2016 and 27.4.2016 for specified purposes, 1.2.2019 for specified purposes) by Welfare Reform Act 2012 (c. 5), s. 150(3), **Sch. 14 Pt. 1**; S.I. 2013/983, arts. 4(1)(c), 5, Sch. 1 (with arts. 6, 9(1), 22, Sch. 4) (as amended: (1.7.2013) by S.I. 2013/1511; (29.10.2013) by S.I. 2013/2657; (16.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1452; (30.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (15.9.2014) by S.I. 2014/2321; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (21.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3094; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32 (as amended (10.2.2015) by S.I. 2015/101); (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537; (23.11.2015) by S.I. 2015/1930; (6.4.2017) by S.I. 2017/483; (2.2.2018) by S.I. 2018/138; (16.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/10; and (31.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/167); S.I. 2013/1511, art. 4, Sch. (as amended: (29.10.2013) by S.I. 2013/2657; (16.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1452; (30.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; and (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537); S.I. 2013/2657, art. 4, Sch. (with art. 6) (as amended: (16.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1452; (30.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; and (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537); S.I. 2013/2846, art. 4, Sch. (with art. 5) (as amended: (16.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1452; (30.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; and (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537); S.I. 2014/209, art. 4, Sch. (as amended: (16.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1452; (30.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2105) by S.I. 2015/634; and (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537); S.I. 2014/1583, art. 4, Sch. (as amended (30.6.2014)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

by S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; and (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537); S.I. 2014/2321, art. 4 (as amended: (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3057; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; and (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537); S.I. 2014/3094, art. 4 (with art. 6); S.I. 2015/33, art. 4 (with art. 6) (as amended: (11.2.2015) by S.I. 2015/101; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; (6.4.2017) by S.I. 2017/483; (11.4.2018) by S.I. 2018/138; (16.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/10; (15.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/37); and (31.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/167); S.I. 2015/101, art. 4 (as amended (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/534; (17.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/740; and (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537); S.I. 2015/634, art. 4 (with art. 6) (as amended: (17.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/740; (6.4.2017) by S.I. 2017/376; (16.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/10; (15.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/37; and (31.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/167); S.I. 2015/1537, art. 4 (as modified (23.11.2015) by S.I. 2015/1930, art. 6); S.I. 2015/1930, art. 4; S.I. 2016/33, art. 4, Sch.; S.I. 2016/407, art. 4, Sch.; S.I. 2019/167, art. 4(5)-(7) (with art. 4(8)-(12))

122 **[**[F744]In section 23 (recovery of sums in respect of maintenance), in subsection (1), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".**]**

Textual Amendments

F744 Sch. 24 paras. 118-122 repealed (29.4.2013 for specified purposes, 1.7.2013 and 29.7.2013 for specified purposes, 28.10.2013 for specified purposes, 25.11.2013 for specified purposes, 24.2.2014 and 7.4.2014 for specified purposes, 23.6.2014 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 15.9.2014 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 26.11.2014 for specified purposes, 28.1.2015 for specified purposes, 16.2.2015 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 18.3.2015 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 21.9.2015 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 2.12.2015 for specified purposes, 27.1.2016 and 24.2.2016 for specified purposes, 23.3.2016 and 27.4.2016 for specified purposes, 1.2.2019 for specified purposes) by Welfare Reform Act 2012 (c. 5), s. 150(3), **Sch. 14 Pt. 1**; S.I. 2013/983, arts. 4(1)(c), 5, Sch. 1 (with arts. 6, 9(1), 22, Sch. 4) (as amended: (1.7.2013) by S.I. 2013/1511; (29.10.2013) by S.I. 2013/2657; (16.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1452; (30.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (15.9.2014) by S.I. 2014/2321; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (21.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3094; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32 (as amended (10.2.2015) by S.I. 2015/101); (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537; (23.11.2015) by S.I. 2015/1930; (6.4.2017) by S.I. 2017/483; (2.2.2018) by S.I. 2018/138; (16.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/10; and (31.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/167); S.I. 2013/1511, art. 4, Sch. (as amended: (29.10.2013) by S.I. 2013/2657; (16.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1452; (30.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; and (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537); S.I. 2013/2657, art. 4, Sch. (with art. 6) (as amended: (16.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1452; (30.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; and (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537); S.I. 2013/2846, art. 4, Sch. (with art. 5) (as amended: (16.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1452; (30.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; and (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537); S.I. 2014/209, art. 4, Sch. (as amended: (16.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1452; (30.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2105) by S.I. 2015/634; and (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537); S.I. 2014/1583, art. 4, Sch. (as amended (30.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; and (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537); S.I. 2014/2321, art. 4 (as amended: (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3057; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; and (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537); S.I. 2014/3094, art. 4 (with art. 6); S.I. 2015/33, art. 4 (with art. 6) (as amended: (11.2.2015) by S.I. 2015/101; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; (6.4.2017) by S.I. 2017/483; (11.4.2018) by S.I. 2018/138; (16.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/10; (15.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/37); and (31.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/167); S.I. 2015/101, art. 4 (as amended (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/534; (17.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/740; and (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537); S.I. 2015/634, art. 4 (with art. 6) (as amended: (17.3.2015)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

by S.I. 2015/740; (6.4.2017) by S.I. 2017/376; (16.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/10; (15.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/37; and (31.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/167); S.I. 2015/1537, art. 4 (as modified (23.11.2015) by S.I. 2015/1930, art. 6); S.I. 2015/1930, art. 4; S.I. 2016/33, art. 4, Sch.; S.I. 2016/407, art. 4, Sch.; S.I. 2019/167, art. 4(5)-(7) (with art. 4(8)-(12))

123 In section 31 (termination of awards), in subsections (1) and (2), for "married or unmarried couple" substitute " couple ".

124 (1) Amend section 35 (interpretation) as follows.

(2) After the definition of "contribution-based jobseeker's allowance" in subsection (1) insert—

""couple" means—

(a) a man and woman who are married to each other and are members of the same household;

(b) a man and woman who are not married to each other but are living together as husband and wife otherwise than in prescribed circumstances;

(c) two people of the same sex who are civil partners of each other and are members of the same household; or

(d) two people of the same sex who are not civil partners of each other but are living together as if they were civil partners otherwise than in prescribed circumstances;".

(3) In paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of the definition of "family" in subsection (1), for "married or unmarried couple" substitute " couple ".

(4) Omit the definitions of "married couple" and "unmarried couple" in subsection (1).

(5) After subsection (1) insert—

"(1A) For the purposes of this Act, two people of the same sex are to be regarded as living together as if they were civil partners if, but only if, they would be regarded as living together as husband and wife were they instead two people of the opposite sex."

125 In Schedule 1 (supplementary provisions), in paragraph 9C(1), for "married or unmarried couple" substitute " couple ".

PART 8

AMENDMENTS OF THE CHILD SUPPORT ACT 1995 (C. 34)

126 (1) Amend subsection (7) of section 10 (the child maintenance bonus) as follows.

(2) After the definition of "child maintenance" insert—

""couple" means—

(a) a man and woman who are married to each other and are members of the same household;

(b) a man and woman who are not married to each other but are living together as husband and wife otherwise than in prescribed circumstances;

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(c) two people of the same sex who are civil partners of each other and are members of the same household; or

(d) two people of the same sex who are not civil partners of each other but are living together as if they were civil partners otherwise than in prescribed circumstances;".

(3) In the definition of "family" for "married or unmarried couple" (in each place) substitute " couple ".

(4) Omit the definitions of "married couple" and "unmarried couple".

127 After section 10(7) insert—

"(7A) For the purposes of this section, two people of the same sex are to be regarded as living together as if they were civil partners if, but only if, they would be regarded as living together as husband and wife were they instead two people of the opposite sex."

PART 9

AMENDMENTS OF THE CHILD SUPPORT (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1995 (S.I. 1995/ 2702 (N.I. 13))

128 (1) Amend paragraph (7) of Article 4 (the child maintenance bonus) as follows.

(2) After the definition of "child maintenance" insert—

""couple" means—

(a) a man and woman who are married to each other and are members of the same household;

(b) a man and woman who are not married to each other but are living together as husband and wife otherwise than in prescribed circumstances;

(c) two people of the same sex who are civil partners of each other and are members of the same household; or

(d) two people of the same sex who are not civil partners of each other but are living together as if they were civil partners otherwise than in prescribed circumstances;".

(3) In the definition of "family" for "married or unmarried couple" (in each place) substitute " couple ".

(4) Omit the definitions of "married couple" and "unmarried couple".

129 After that paragraph insert—

"(7A) For the purposes of this Article, two people of the same sex are to be regarded as living together as if they were civil partners if, but only if, they would be regarded as living together as husband and wife were they instead two people of the opposite sex."

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

PART 10

AMENDMENTS OF THE JOBSEEKERS (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1995 (S.I. 1995/2705 (N.I. 15))

130 (1) Amend Article 2 (interpretation) as follows.

(2) After the definition of "contribution-based jobseeker's allowance" in paragraph (2) insert—

""couple" means—

(a) a man and woman who are married to each other and are members of the same household;

(b) a man and woman who are not married to each other but are living together as husband and wife otherwise than in prescribed circumstances;

(c) two people of the same sex who are civil partners of each other and are members of the same household; or

(d) two people of the same sex who are not civil partners of each other but are living together as if they were civil partners otherwise than in prescribed circumstances;".

(3) In paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of the definition of "family" in paragraph (2), for "married or unmarried couple" substitute " couple ".

(4) Omit the definitions of "married couple" and "unmarried couple" in paragraph (2).

(5) After paragraph (2) insert—

"(2A) For the purposes of this Order, two people of the same sex are to be regarded as living together as if they were civil partners if, but only if, they would be regarded as living together as husband and wife were they instead two people of the opposite sex."

131 **[**F745In Article 3 (the jobseeker's allowance), in paragraph (4), in the definition of "a joint-claim couple", for "married or unmarried couple" substitute " couple ".**]**

Textual Amendments

F745 Sch. 24 paras. 131-137 repealed (27.9.2017 for specified purposes, 15.11.2017 and 13.12.2017 for specified purposes, 17.1.2018 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 16.5.2018 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 5.9.2018 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 1.2.2019 for specified purposes) by The Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/2006), art. 2(2), **Sch. 12 Pt. 1**; S.R. 2017/190, art. 6, Sch. 2 (with arts. 7, 8, 10-25, Sch. 3); S.R. 2017/216, art. 4 (with art. 5); S.R. 2018/1, art. 4 (with art. 5); S.R. 2018/97, art. 4 (with art. 5); S.R. 2018/138, art. 4 (with art. 5); S.R. 2019/7, art. 2(5)-(7) (with art. 2(8)-(12))

132 **[**F745In Article 5 (the income-based conditions), in paragraphs (1)(dd) and (e), for "married or unmarried couple" substitute " couple ".**]**

Textual Amendments

F745 Sch. 24 paras. 131-137 repealed (27.9.2017 for specified purposes, 15.11.2017 and 13.12.2017 for specified purposes, 17.1.2018 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 16.5.2018 and further

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

specified dates for specified purposes, 5.9.2018 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 1.2.2019 for specified purposes) by The Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/2006), art. 2(2), **Sch. 12 Pt. 1**; S.R. 2017/190, art. 6, Sch. 2 (with arts. 7, 8, 10-25, Sch. 3); S.R. 2017/216, art. 4 (with art. 5); S.R. 2018/1, art. 4 (with art. 5); S.R. 2018/97, art. 4 (with art. 5); S.R. 2018/138, art. 4 (with art. 5); S.R. 2019/7, art. 2(5)-(7) (with art. 2(8)-(12))

133 **[**[F745]In Article 17 (effect on other claimants), in paragraph (2)(b), for "married or unmarried couple" substitute " couple ".**]**

Textual Amendments

F745 Sch. 24 paras. 131-137 repealed (27.9.2017 for specified purposes, 15.11.2017 and 13.12.2017 for specified purposes, 17.1.2018 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 16.5.2018 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 5.9.2018 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 1.2.2019 for specified purposes) by The Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/2006), art. 2(2), **Sch. 12 Pt. 1**; S.R. 2017/190, art. 6, Sch. 2 (with arts. 7, 8, 10-25, Sch. 3); S.R. 2017/216, art. 4 (with art. 5); S.R. 2018/1, art. 4 (with art. 5); S.R. 2018/97, art. 4 (with art. 5); S.R. 2018/138, art. 4 (with art. 5); S.R. 2019/7, art. 2(5)-(7) (with art. 2(8)-(12))

134 **[**[F745]In Article 17A (trade disputes: joint-claim couples), in paragraph (5)(c), for "married or unmarried couple" substitute " couple ".**]**

Textual Amendments

F745 Sch. 24 paras. 131-137 repealed (27.9.2017 for specified purposes, 15.11.2017 and 13.12.2017 for specified purposes, 17.1.2018 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 16.5.2018 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 5.9.2018 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 1.2.2019 for specified purposes) by The Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/2006), art. 2(2), **Sch. 12 Pt. 1**; S.R. 2017/190, art. 6, Sch. 2 (with arts. 7, 8, 10-25, Sch. 3); S.R. 2017/216, art. 4 (with art. 5); S.R. 2018/1, art. 4 (with art. 5); S.R. 2018/97, art. 4 (with art. 5); S.R. 2018/138, art. 4 (with art. 5); S.R. 2019/7, art. 2(5)-(7) (with art. 2(8)-(12))

135 **[**[F745]In Article 25 (recovery of sums in respect of maintenance), in paragraph (1), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".**]**

Textual Amendments

F745 Sch. 24 paras. 131-137 repealed (27.9.2017 for specified purposes, 15.11.2017 and 13.12.2017 for specified purposes, 17.1.2018 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 16.5.2018 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 5.9.2018 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 1.2.2019 for specified purposes) by The Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/2006), art. 2(2), **Sch. 12 Pt. 1**; S.R. 2017/190, art. 6, Sch. 2 (with arts. 7, 8, 10-25, Sch. 3); S.R. 2017/216, art. 4 (with art. 5); S.R. 2018/1, art. 4 (with art. 5); S.R. 2018/97, art. 4 (with art. 5); S.R. 2018/138, art. 4 (with art. 5); S.R. 2019/7, art. 2(5)-(7) (with art. 2(8)-(12))

136 **[**[F745]In Article 32 (termination of awards), in paragraphs (1) and (2), for "married or unmarried couple" substitute " couple ".**]**

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F745 Sch. 24 paras. 131-137 repealed (27.9.2017 for specified purposes, 15.11.2017 and 13.12.2017 for specified purposes, 17.1.2018 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 16.5.2018 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 5.9.2018 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 1.2.2019 for specified purposes) by The Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/2006), art. 2(2), **Sch. 12 Pt. 1**; S.R. 2017/190, art. 6, Sch. 2 (with arts. 7, 8, 10-25, Sch. 3); S.R. 2017/216, art. 4 (with art. 5); S.R. 2018/1, art. 4 (with art. 5); S.R. 2018/97, art. 4 (with art. 5); S.R. 2018/138, art. 4 (with art. 5); S.R. 2019/7, art. 2(5)-(7) (with art. 2(8)-(12))

137 **[**[F745]In Schedule 1 (supplementary provisions), in paragraph 9C(1), for "married or unmarried couple" substitute " couple ".**]**

Textual Amendments

F745 Sch. 24 paras. 131-137 repealed (27.9.2017 for specified purposes, 15.11.2017 and 13.12.2017 for specified purposes, 17.1.2018 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 16.5.2018 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 5.9.2018 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 1.2.2019 for specified purposes) by The Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/2006), art. 2(2), **Sch. 12 Pt. 1**; S.R. 2017/190, art. 6, Sch. 2 (with arts. 7, 8, 10-25, Sch. 3); S.R. 2017/216, art. 4 (with art. 5); S.R. 2018/1, art. 4 (with art. 5); S.R. 2018/97, art. 4 (with art. 5); S.R. 2018/138, art. 4 (with art. 5); S.R. 2019/7, art. 2(5)-(7) (with art. 2(8)-(12))

PART 11

AMENDMENTS OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT 1998 (C. 14)

138 (1) Amend section 72 (power to reduce child benefit for lone parents) as follows.

(2) In subsection (2), after "spouse" (in each place) insert " or civil partner ".

(3) After subsection (2) insert—

"(3) For the purpose of this section, a parent is to be regarded as living with another person as his civil partner if, but only if, he would be regarded as living with the other person as his spouse, were they instead two people of the opposite sex."

PART 12

AMENDMENTS OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1998 (S.I. 1998/ 1506 (N.I. 10))

139 (1) Amend Article 68 (power to reduce child benefit for lone parents) as follows.

(2) In paragraph (2), after "spouse" (in each place) insert " or civil partner ".

(3) After paragraph (2) insert—

"(3) For the purpose of this Article, a parent is to be regarded as living with another person as his civil partner if, but only if, he would be regarded as

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

living with the other person as his spouse, were they instead two people of the opposite sex.".

PART 13

AMENDMENTS OF THE STATE PENSION CREDIT ACT 2002 (C. 16)

140 In sections 2(5)(a) and (8)(b), 3(1)(b), 4(1), 5, 6(3)(c)(ii) and 9(4)(a), (b) and (d), for "married or unmarried couple" substitute " couple ".

141 In section 2(5)(b), for "such a couple" substitute " a couple ".

142 (1) Amend subsection (1) of section 17 (other interpretation provisions) as follows.

(2) After the definition of "the Contributions and Benefits Act" insert—

""couple" means—

(a) a man and woman who are married to each other and are members of the same household;

(b) a man and woman who are not married to each other but are living together as husband and wife otherwise than in prescribed circumstances;

(c) two people of the same sex who are civil partners of each other and are members of the same household; or

(d) two people of the same sex who are not civil partners of each other but are living together as if they were civil partners otherwise than in prescribed circumstances;".

(3) In the definition of "foreign war widow's or widower's pension" for "widow or widower" (in each place) substitute " widow, widower or surviving civil partner ".

(4) Omit the definitions of "married couple" and "unmarried couple".

(5) In the definition of "war widow's or widower's pension"—

(a) in paragraph (a), for "any widow's or widower's" substitute " any widow's, widower's or surviving civil partner's ", and

(b) in paragraph (b), for "widow or widower" substitute " widow, widower or surviving civil partner ".

143 After section 17(1) insert—

"(1A) For the purposes of this Act, two people of the same sex are to be regarded as living together as if they were civil partners if, but only if, they would be regarded as living together as husband and wife were they instead two people of the opposite sex."

PART 14

AMENDMENTS OF THE TAX CREDITS ACT 2002 (C. 21)

144 (1) Amend section 3 (claims) as follows.

(2) In subsection (3)(a), for "married couple or unmarried couple" substitute " couple ".

(3) For subsections (5) and (6) substitute—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

"(5A) In this Part "couple" means—

(a) a man and woman who are married to each other and are neither—

(i) separated under a court order, nor

(ii) separated in circumstances in which the separation is likely to be permanent,

(b) a man and woman who are not married to each other but are living together as husband and wife,

(c) two people of the same sex who are civil partners of each other and are neither—

(i) separated under a court order, nor

(ii) separated in circumstances in which the separation is likely to be permanent, or

(d) two people of the same sex who are not civil partners of each other but are living together as if they were civil partners."

145 In sections 4(1)(g), 11(6)(b) and (c), 17(10)(b), 24(2) and 32(6), for "married couple or an unmarried couple" (in each place) substitute " couple ".

146 In sections 4(1)(g) and 17(10)(b), for "the married couple or unmarried couple" substitute " the couple ".

147 (1) Renumber section 48 (interpretation) as subsection (1) of that section.

(2) In subsection (1), after the definition of "child" insert—

""couple" has the meaning given by section 3(5A),",

and omit the definitions of "married couple" and "unmarried couple".

(3) After subsection (1) insert—

"(2) For the purposes of this Part, two people of the same sex are to be regarded as living together as if they were civil partners if, but only if, they would be regarded as living together as husband and wife were they instead two people of the opposite sex."

PART 15

AMENDMENTS OF THE STATE PENSION CREDIT ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2002 (C. 14 (N.I.))

148 In sections 2(5)(a) and (8)(b), 3(1)(b), 4(1), 5, 6(3)(c)(ii) and 9(4)(a), (b) and (d), for "married or unmarried couple" substitute " couple ".

149 In section 2(5)(b), for "such a couple" substitute " a couple ".

150 (1) Amend subsection (1) of section 17 (other interpretation provisions) as follows.

(2) After the definition of "the Contributions and Benefits Act" insert—

""couple" means—

(a) a man and woman who are married to each other and are members of the same household;

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) a man and woman who are not married to each other but are living together as husband and wife otherwise than in prescribed circumstances;

(c) two people of the same sex who are civil partners of each other and are members of the same household; or

(d) two people of the same sex who are not civil partners of each other but are living together as if they were civil partners otherwise than in prescribed circumstances;".

(3) In the definition of "foreign war widow's or widower's pension" for "widow or widower" (in each place) substitute " widow, widower or surviving civil partner ".

(4) Omit the definitions of "married couple" and "unmarried couple".

(5) In the definition of "war widow's or widower's pension"—

(a) in paragraph (a), for "any widow's or widower's" substitute " any widow's, widower's or surviving civil partner's ", and

(b) in paragraph (b), for "widow or widower" substitute " widow, widower or surviving civil partner ".

151 After section 17(1) insert—

"(1A) For the purposes of this Act, two people of the same sex are to be regarded as living together as if they were civil partners if, but only if, they would be regarded as living together as husband and wife were they instead two people of the opposite sex."

SCHEDULE 25 Section 256

AMENDMENT OF CERTAIN ENACTMENTS RELATING TO PENSIONS

Fire Services Act 1947 (c. 41)

1 In section 26 (firemen's pension scheme), in subsections (1) and (2A), for "widows," substitute " surviving spouses, surviving civil partners, ".

House of Commons Members' Fund Act 1948 (c. 36)

2 In section 4 (provision for cases of special hardship), in subsection (1)(b), for "widowers" substitute " widowers, surviving civil partners ".

Parliamentary and other Pensions Act 1972 (c. 48)

F746 3 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F746 Sch. 25 para. 3 repealed (25.4.2013) by Public Service Pensions Act 2013 (c. 25), s. 41(1)(b), **Sch. 11 para. 7** (with Sch. 11 para. 8)

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Theatres Trust Act 1976 (c. 27)

4 In section 3 (employment of staff), in subsection (d)(iii) (power to secure pensions and gratuities payable to or in respect of officers and servants), for "widow," substitute " surviving spouse, surviving civil partner, ".

SCHEDULE 26 Section 257

AMENDMENT OF CERTAIN ENACTMENTS RELATING TO THE ARMED FORCES

Greenwich Hospital Act 1865 (c. 89)

1 In section 5 (power to appoint pensions to officers, etc.), after "widows" insert " or surviving civil partners ".

Navy and Marines (Property of Deceased) Act 1865 (c. 111)

2 In section 4 (disposal of residue belonging to deceased person in civil service of navy), after "widow" insert " or surviving civil partner ".

Pensions Commutation Act 1871 (c. 36)

3 (1) In section 4 (power to Treasury to commute pensions), in subsection (2) —
(a) after "marries" insert " or forms a civil partnership ", and
(b) after "widow" insert " or surviving civil partner ".

(2) In section 4(3), for "wife" substitute " wife, civil partner ".

Greenwich Hospital Act 1883 (c. 32)

4 In section 2 (power to grant pensions, allowances, and gratuities), in subsection (1), after "widows" insert " or surviving civil partners ".

Commencement Information
I88 Sch. 26 para. 4 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 26 para. 4 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 26 para. 4 in force for certain purposes at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and Sch. 26 para. 4 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

Pensions and Yeomanry Pay Act 1884 (c. 55)

5 In section 4 (distribution of money not exceeding £5,000 without requiring probate), after "widower" insert " surviving civil partner ".

Commencement Information
I89 Sch. 26 para. 5 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 26 para. 5 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 26 para. 5 in force for certain purposes at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and Sch. 26 para. 5 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Regimental Debts Act 1893 (c. 5)

6 In section 10 (application of residue undisposed of), in subsection (2), for "widows" substitute " widows, surviving civil partners ".

7 In section 24 (application of Act to cases of insanity), in paragraph (a), for "wife or husband" substitute " wife, husband or civil partner ".

Naval Medical Compassionate Fund Act 1915 (c. 28)

F747 8 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F747 Sch. 26 para. 8 repealed (2.4.2012) by Armed Forces Act 2011 (c. 18), s. 32(3), **Sch. 5**; S.I. 2012/669, art. 4(f)(i)

Naval and Military War Pensions, &c., (Administrative Expenses) Act 1917 (c. 14)

9 (1) In section 5 (alteration of purposes for which voluntary funds may be applied in certain cases)—

(a) after "wives," (in each place) insert " civil partners, ", and

(b) after "widows," (in each place) insert " surviving civil partners, ".

(2) In section 6 (power of Secretary of State to accept and administer gifts for assisting disabled officers and men), after "widows," insert " surviving civil partners, ".

War Pensions (Administrative Provisions) Act 1919 (c. 53)

10 In section 8 (appeals to Pensions Appeal Tribunals), in subsection (1), for "the motherless child or" substitute " surviving civil partner or the orphan, ".

War Pensions Act 1920 (c. 23)

11 In section 7 (restoration of forfeited pensions), in subsection (2), after "wife," insert " civil partner, ".

12 In section 8 (statutory right of widow or dependant to a pension), for "widow" substitute " widow, surviving civil partner ".

Admiralty Pensions Act 1921 (c. 39)

13 In section 2 (restoration of forfeited pension), in subsection (2), after "wife," insert " civil partner, ".

Greenwich Hospital Act 1942 (c. 35)

14 (1) In section 1 (extension of powers to grant pensions to persons employed for the purposes of Greenwich Hospital), in subsection (1)(a) and (b) for "widows" substitute " widows, surviving civil partners ".

(2) In section 1(2), for "spouses" substitute " spouses, civil partners ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Pensions Appeal Tribunals Act 1943 (c. 39)

15 In section 1 (appeals against rejection of war pension claims made in respect of members of the naval, military or air forces), in subsection (4)(ii) —

(a) after "widower," insert " surviving civil partner, ",

(b) for "husband" substitute " husband, civil partner ",

(c) after "marriage" insert " or civil partnership ", and

(d) after "place" insert " or been formed ".

Greenwich Hospital Act 1947 (10 & 11 Geo. 6 c. 5)

16 In section 2 (extension of power to grant pensions, etc.), in subsection (1), after "widows" insert " and surviving civil partners ".

Polish Resettlement Act 1947 (c. 19)

17 In section 1 (power to apply Royal Warrant as to pensions etc. to certain Polish forces), in subsection (1), after "widows," insert " surviving civil partners, ".

Commencement Information

I90 Sch. 26 para. 17 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 26 para. 17 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 26 para. 17 in force for certain purposes at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and Sch. 26 para. 17 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1

18 In section 2 (allowances from the Assistance Board), in subsection (2)(c)—

(a) for "of men" substitute " or civil partners of persons ",

(b) for "woman" substitute " person ",

(c) for "of a man" substitute " or civil partner of a person ", and

(d) for "re-married" substitute " subsequently married or formed a civil partnership ".

Naval Forces (Enforcement of Maintenance Liabilities) Act 1947 (c. 24)

19 (1) Amend section 1 (deduction from pay in respect of liabilities for maintenance, etc.) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1), in paragraphs (a), (aa) and (b) after "wife" insert " or civil partner ".

(3) In subsection (2A), after paragraph (a) insert—

"(aa) if, in proceedings in connection with the dissolution or annulment of a civil partnership, an order has been made for the payment of any periodical or other sum in respect of the maintenance of the person who, if the civil partnership had subsisted, would have been the civil partner of any such person as is mentioned in subsection (1) above, references in this section to that person's civil partner include references to the person in whose favour the order was made; and".

Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation Act 1950 (c. 10)

20 In section 1 (extension of objects of soldiers' effects fund), in subsection (1)—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) for "widows or children" substitute " widows, surviving civil partners or children ", and

(b) after "widows," insert " surviving civil partners, ".

Reserve and Auxiliary Forces (Protection of Civil Interests) Act 1951 (c. 65)

21 In section 23(1) (interpretation of Part 2)—

(a) in paragraph (a) of the definition of "dependant", for "wife" substitute " spouse or civil partner ", and

(b) in the definition of "statutory tenancy", for "widow" substitute " surviving spouse or surviving civil partner ".

22 In paragraph (a) of section 25(6) (meaning of "dependant"), for "wife" substitute " spouse or civil partner ".

23 In section 27(5) (interpretation of section), for "wife" (in each place) substitute " spouse or civil partner ".

24 In section 38(5) (interpretation of section), for "wife" (in each place) substitute " spouse or civil partner ".

25 (1) Amend section 46 (general provisions as to payments to make up civil remuneration) as follows.

(2) In subsection (2), for "wife" substitute " spouse or civil partner ".

(3) In subsection (3)—

(a) the words from "a widow entitled to a widow's pension" to the end of paragraph (iv) become paragraph (a) of the subsection (so that paragraphs (i) to (iv) become sub-paragraphs of that paragraph (a)),

(b) in that paragraph (a), for "widow entitled to a widow's pension" substitute " surviving spouse entitled to a surviving spouse's pension ",

(c) in sub-paragraph (iv) of that paragraph (a), at the end insert " or ", and

(d) before "there may" insert the following paragraph—

"(b) a surviving civil partner entitled to a surviving civil partner's pension by virtue of any of those provisions,".

26 In section 52(2)(a) ("service pay" includes marriage etc. allowances), after "marriage," insert " civil partnership, ".

27 (1) Amend Schedule 3 (financial provisions consequential on treating a person dying on service as alive and the converse) as follows.

(2) In paragraph 1(3), for "widow" substitute " surviving spouse, surviving civil partner ".

(3) In paragraph 2(4), for "wife" (in each place) substitute " spouse, civil partner ".

Army Act 1955 (3 & 4 Eliz. 2 c. 18)

28 (1) Section 150 (enforcement of maintenance and affiliation orders by deduction from pay) is amended as follows.

(2) In subsection (1)(a) and (aa), after "wife" insert " or civil partner ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(3) In subsection (5), after "marriage had subsisted;" insert— " references to a civil partner include, in relation to an order made in proceedings in connection with the dissolution or annulment of a civil partnership, references to a person who would have been the civil partner of the defendant if the civil partnership had subsisted. "

29 In section 151 (deductions from pay for maintenance of wife or child), in subsection (1)—

(a) after "wife" (in the first place) insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) for "wife" (in the second place) substitute " wife, civil partner ".

Air Force Act 1955 (3 & 4 Eliz. 2 c. 19)

30 (1) Section 150 (enforcement of maintenance and affiliation orders by deduction from pay) is amended as follows.

(2) In subsection (1)(a) and (aa), after "wife" insert " or civil partner ".

(3) In subsection (5), after "marriage had subsisted;" insert— " references to a civil partner include, in relation to an order made in proceedings in connection with the dissolution or annulment of a civil partnership, references to a person who would have been the civil partner of the defendant if the civil partnership had subsisted. "

31 In section 151 (deductions from pay for maintenance of wife or child), in subsection (1)—

(a) after "wife" (in the first place) insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) for "wife" (in the second place) substitute " wife, civil partner ".

Naval Discipline Act 1957 (c. 53)

32 (1) Section 101 (service of proceedings for maintenance etc.) is amended as follows.

(2) In subsection (5)(a) and (b), after "wife" insert " or civil partner ".

(3) In subsection (5A), after paragraph (a) insert—

"(aa) references to the civil partner of a person include, in relation to an order made in proceedings in connection with the dissolution or annulment of a civil partnership, references to a person who would have been his civil partner if the civil partnership had subsisted; and".

Courts-Martial (Appeals) Act 1968 (c. 20)

33 In section 48A (appeals on behalf of deceased persons), in subsection (3)(a), for "widow or widower" substitute " widow, widower or surviving civil partner ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

SCHEDULE 27 Section 261(1)

MINOR AND CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS: GENERAL

Explosive Substances Act 1883 (c. 3)

1 In section 6 (inquiry by Attorney-General, and apprehension of absconding witnesses), in subsection (2), for "husband or wife" (in both places) substitute " spouse or civil partner ".

Partnership Act 1890 (c. 39)

2 In section 2 (rules for determining existence of partnership), in rule (3)(c), after "widow" insert " , widower, surviving civil partner ".

Law of Distress Amendment Act 1908 (c. 53)

3 In section 4(1) (exclusion of certain goods), after "husband or wife", insert " or civil partner ".

Census Act 1920 (c. 41)

4 In the Schedule (matters in respect of which particulars may be required), in paragraph 5 after "as to marriage" insert " or civil partnership ".

Trustee Act 1925 (c. 19)

5 (1) Amend section 31(2)(i) (trust on reaching 18 or marrying under that age of accumulations during infancy) as follows.

(2) In sub-paragraph (a)—

(a) after "marries under that age" insert " or forms a civil partnership under that age ", and

(b) for "or until his marriage" substitute " , or until his marriage or his formation of a civil partnership, ".

(3) In sub-paragraph (b), after "marriage" insert " , or formation of a civil partnership, ".

(4) In the words after that sub-paragraph, after "marriage" insert " or formation of a civil partnership ".

6 In section 33(1)(ii)(a) and (b) (trust to maintain principal beneficiary and his spouse and issue on failure of protective trust under paragraph (i)), for "wife or husband" substitute " spouse or civil partner ".

Law of Property Act 1925 (c. 20)

7 In section 205(1)(xxi) (which defines "valuable consideration" as including marriage), after "includes marriage" insert " , and formation of a civil partnership, ".

Judicial Proceedings (Regulation of Reports) Act 1926 (c. 61)

8 (1) Amend section 1 (restriction on publication of reports of judicial proceedings) as follows.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(2) In subsection (1)(b), for "or for restitution of conjugal rights" substitute " or for the dissolution or annulment of a civil partnership or for the separation of civil partners ".

(3) Omit subsection (5).

Population (Statistics) Act 1938 (c. 12)

9 In the Schedule (particulars which may be required), in paragraph 2—

(a) in paragraph (a), for "or divorced;" substitute " , divorced, a civil partner or former civil partner, and, if a former civil partner, whether the civil partnership ended on death or dissolution; ", and

(b) in paragraph (b), after "surviving spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

Landlord and Tenant (Requisitioned Land) Act 1942 (c. 13)

10 In section 13(1) (definition of "member of the family"), after "the wife or husband of the tenant," insert " the civil partner of the tenant, ".

Limitation (Enemies and War Prisoners) Act 1945 (c. 16)

11 In section 2 (interpretation), in the definition of "statute of limitation", after the entry relating to the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 insert— " section 51(2) of the Civil Partnership Act 2004, ".

Statistics of Trade Act 1947 (c. 39)

12 In section 10 (information from persons entering or leaving the United Kingdom by air), in subsection (1), after "marriage" insert " or civil partnership ".

Marriage Act 1949 (c. 76)

13 (1) Amend section 1 (marriages within prohibited degrees) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1), for the words from "between a man" to "the said Part I," substitute " between a person and any person mentioned in the list in Part 1 of Schedule 1 ".

(3) In subsection (2), for the words from "between a man" to "the said Part II," substitute " between a person and any person mentioned in the list in Part 2 of Schedule 1 ".

(4) F748 . . . . . .

(5) F748 . . . . . .

(6) F748 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F748 Sch. 27 para. 13(4)-(6) repealed (1.3.2007) by The Marriage Act 1949 (Remedial) Order 2007 (S.I. 2007/438), **art. 3(c)**

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Commencement Information

I91 Sch. 27 para. 13 fully in force (so far as unrepealed); Sch. 23 para. 13 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 27 para. 13(1)-(3) in force at 5.12.2005 and Sch. 27 para. 13(6) in force at 5.12.2005 for specified purposes by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2**

14 In section 27 (notice of marriage), in subsection (3), for "the name and surname, marital status, occupation, place of residence and nationality of each of the persons to be married" substitute " the name and surname, occupation, place of residence and nationality of each of the persons to be married, whether either of them has previously been married or formed a civil partnership and, if so, how the marriage or civil partnership ended ".

Commencement Information

I92 Sch. 27 para. 14 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 27 para. 14 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 27 para. 14 in force for certain purposes at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and Sch. 27 para. 14 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(2)**

15 In section 28A (power to require evidence), for subsection (3) substitute—

"(3) "Specified evidence", in relation to a person, means such evidence as may be specified in guidance issued by the Registrar General—

(a) of the person's name and surname,

(b) of the person's age,

(c) as to whether the person has previously been married or formed a civil partnership and, if so, as to the ending of the marriage or civil partnership, and

(d) of the person's nationality."

16 In section 78(1) (interpretation), in the definition of "child", after " "child"" insert " , except where used to express a relationship, ".

17 For Schedule 1 (kindred and affinity) substitute—

"SCHEDULE 1

KINDRED AND AFFINITY

PART 1

PROHIBITED DEGREES: KINDRED

1 (1) The list referred to in section 1(1) is—

Adoptive child
Adoptive parent
Child
Former adoptive child
Former adoptive parent
Grandparent
Grandchild
Parent

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Parent's sibling
Sibling
Sibling's child

(2) In the list "sibling" means a brother, sister, half-brother or half-sister.

PART 2

DEGREES OF AFFINITY REFERRED TO IN SECTION 1(2) AND (3)

2 The list referred to in section 1(2) is as follows—

Child of former civil partner
Child of former spouse
Former civil partner of grandparent
Former civil partner of parent
Former spouse of grandparent
Former spouse of parent
Grandchild of former civil partner
Grandchild of former spouse

PART 3

DEGREES OF AFFINITY REFERRED TO IN SECTION 1(4) AND (5)

3 The list referred to in section 1(4) is as follows—

Parent of former spouse
Parent of former civil partner
Former spouse of child
Former civil partner of child."

Commencement Information

I93 Sch. 27 para. 17 partly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 27 para. 17 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 27 para. 17 in force for certain purposes at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)(5)**, Sch. 1

Maintenance Orders Act 1950 (c. 37)

18 (1) Amend section 16 (application of Part 2) as follows.

(2) After subsection (2)(a)(viii) insert—

"(ix) Part 1, 8 or 9 of Schedule 5 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004, Schedule 6 to that Act or paragraph 5 or 9 of Schedule 7 to that Act;".

(3) After subsection (2)(b)(ix) insert—

"(x) an order made on an application under Schedule 11 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004;".

(4) After subsection (2)(c)(ix) insert—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

"(x) Part 1, 7 or 8 of Schedule 15 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004, Schedule 16 to that Act or paragraph 5 or 9 of Schedule 17 to that Act;".

Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953 (c. 20)

19 In section 41 (interpretation), in the definition of "relative", after "by marriage" insert " or civil partnership ".

Pharmacy Act 1954 (c. 61)

20 In section 17(c) (benevolent fund: distressed relatives eligible for relief), for "widows," substitute " surviving spouses, surviving civil partners, ".

Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages (Special Provisions) Act 1957 (c. 58)

21 In section 1 (records of deaths, births and marriages among armed forces and service civilians and their families overseas), in subsection (1), for "and marriages solemnised," substitute " marriages solemnised and civil partnerships formed, ".

Commencement Information

I94 Sch. 27 para. 21 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 27 para. 21 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 27 para. 21 in force for certain purposes at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and Sch. 27 para. 21 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(2)**

Maintenance Orders Act 1958 (c. 39)

22 (1) Amend section 4 (variation of orders registered in magistrates' courts) as follows.

F749(2) . . . . . .

(3) In subsection (6B) (no application may be made for variation under the Act of certain registered orders), after "1984" insert " or under Schedule 7 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 ".

Textual Amendments

F749 Sch. 27 para. 22(2) repealed (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 10 para. 99**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(d) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963 (c. 41)

23 In section 2 (exception for premises in which only employer's relatives or outworkers work), in subsection (1), after "wife" insert " , civil partner ".

Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1965 (c. 12)

F750 24 . . . . . .

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F750 Sch. 27 para. 24 repealed (1.8.2014) by Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 (c. 14), s. 154, **Sch. 7** (with Sch. 5)

25 In section 25 (provision for intestacy), in subsection (2), after "widower" insert " , surviving civil partner ".

Criminal Appeal Act 1968 (c. 19)

26 In section 44A (appeals in cases of death), in subsection (3)(a), after "widower" insert " or surviving civil partner ".

Theft Act 1968 (c. 60)

27 (1) Amend section 30 (husband and wife) as follows.

(2) In subsections (4) and (5), after "wife or husband" in each place except paragraph (a)(ii) to the proviso to subsection (4) insert " or civil partner ".

(3) At the end of paragraph (a)(ii) to the proviso insert "or

(iii) an order (wherever made) is in force providing for the separation of that person and his or her civil partner.",

and omit "or" at the end of paragraph (a)(i) to the proviso.

(4) For the heading to section 30 substitute " Spouses and civil partners ".

28 In section 31 (effect on civil proceedings and rights), in subsection (1)—

(a) for "wife or husband" substitute " spouse or civil partner ", and

(b) for "married after the making of the statement or admission) against the wife or husband" substitute " married or became civil partners after the making of the statement or admission) against the spouse or civil partner ".

Domestic and Appellate Proceedings (Restriction of Publicity) Act 1968 (c. 63)

29 (1) Amend section 2 (restriction of publicity for certain matrimonial etc. proceedings) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1), after paragraph (d) insert—

"(da) proceedings under Part 9 of Schedule 5 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (provision corresponding to the provision referred to in paragraph (c) above);

(db) proceedings under section 58 of the 2004 Act (declarations as to subsistence etc. of civil partnership);".

(3) In subsection (3), after "(1)(d)" insert " or (db) ".

Civil Evidence Act 1968 (c. 64)

30 In section 14 (privilege against incrimination of self or spouse)—

(a) in subsection (1)(b), for "husband or wife" substitute " spouse or civil partner ", and

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) in the heading, after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

Gaming Act 1968 (c. 65)

31 In Schedule 2 (grant, renewal, cancellation and transfer of licences), in paragraph 35A(8)(a) for "wife or husband" substitute " spouse or civil partner ".

Medicines Act 1968 (c. 67)

32 In section 114 (supplementary provisions as to rights of entry and related rights), in subsection (4), for "married) the husband or wife" substitute " married or a civil partner) the spouse or civil partner ".

Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969 (c. 57)

33 In section 2(2)(a) (persons whom employer is not required to insure) after "husband, wife," insert " civil partner, ".

Administration of Justice Act 1970 (c. 31)

34 In Schedule 8 (meaning of "maintenance order" in Part 2 of the Act and in the Maintenance Orders Act 1958), after paragraph 14 insert—

"15 An order for periodical or other payments made under Schedule 5, 6 or 7 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004."

Attachment of Earnings Act 1971 (c. 32)

35 In Schedule 1 (maintenance orders to which the 1971 Act applies), after paragraph 14 insert—

"15 An order made under Schedule 5 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (financial relief in the High Court or a county court etc.), for periodical or other payments.

16 An order made under Schedule 6 to the 2004 Act (financial relief in magistrates' courts etc.), for maintenance or other payments to or in respect of a civil partner or child."

Criminal Damage Act 1971 (c. 48)

36 In section 9 (evidence in connection with offences under the 1971 Act)—

(a) for "wife or husband" substitute " spouse or civil partner ", and

(b) for "married after the making of the statement or admission) against the wife or husband" substitute " married or became civil partners after the making of the statement or admission) against the spouse or civil partner ".

Immigration Act 1971 (c. 77)

37 In section 5(4) (members of another's family for purposes of deportation)—

(a) in paragraph (a), after "his wife" insert " or civil partner, " and

(b) in paragraph (b), after "her husband" insert " or civil partner, ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Local Government Act 1972 (c. 70)

38 In section 95 (pecuniary interests for purposes of section 94), after subsection (3) insert—

"(4) In the case of civil partners living together the interest of one civil partner, shall, if known to the other, be deemed for the purpose of section 94 above to be also an interest of the other."

39 In section 96 (general notices and recording of disclosures for purposes of section 94), in subsection (1), after "spouse" (in each place) insert " or civil partner ".

Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 (c. 18)

40 In section 11 (grounds on which marriage is void), at the end of paragraph (b) insert " or a civil partner ".

41 (1) Amend section 14 (marriages governed by foreign law or celebrated abroad under English law) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1), at the beginning insert " Subject to subsection (3) ".

(3) After subsection (2) insert—

"(3) No marriage is to be treated as valid by virtue of subsection (1) if, at the time when it purports to have been celebrated, either party was already a civil partner."

42 In section 24A (orders for sale of property), in subsection (5), after "re-marriage of" insert " , or formation of a civil partnership by, ".

43 (1) Amend section 28 (duration of continuing financial provision orders in favour of party to marriage, and effect of remarriage) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1)(a) and (b) after "remarriage of" insert " , or formation of a civil partnership by, ".

(3) In subsection (2)—

(a) after "remarriage of" insert " , or formation of a civil partnership by, ", and

(b) after "the remarriage" insert " or formation of the civil partnership ".

(4) In subsection (3), after "remarries whether at any time before or after the commencement of this Act", insert " or forms a civil partnership ".

(5) In the heading to section 28, after "remarriage" insert " or formation of civil partnership ".

44 In section 35 (alteration of agreements by court during lives of parties), in subsection (4)(a) and (b), after "remarriage of" insert " , or formation of a civil partnership by, ".

45 (1) Amend section 38 (orders for repayment in certain cases of sums paid after cessation of order by reason of remarriage) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1)—

(a) in paragraph (a), after "remarriage of", insert " , or formation of a civil partnership by, ", and

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) in paragraph (b), after "remarriage" insert " or formation of the civil partnership ".

(3) In subsection (6)—

(a) in paragraph (a), after "remarriage of" insert " , or formation of a civil partnership by, " and

(b) in the words following paragraph (b), after "had remarried" insert " or formed a civil partnership ".

(4) In the heading to section 38, after "remarriage" insert " or formation of civil partnership ".

46 In section 52 (interpretation), after subsection (3), insert —

"(3A) References in this Act to the formation of a civil partnership by a person include references to a civil partnership which is by law void or voidable."

Fair Trading Act 1973 (c. 41)

47 In section 30 (offences in connection with exercise of powers under section 29), in subsection (6) for "married) the husband or wife" substitute " married or a civil partner) the spouse or civil partner ".

Slaughterhouses Act 1974 (c. 3)

48 In section 10 (temporary continuance of licence on death), for "his personal representative, or of his widow or any other member of his family, until the expiration of two months from his death," substitute " the deceased's personal representative, or widow or widower or surviving civil partner or any other member of the deceased's family, until the end of two months from the deceased's death, ".

Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (c. 37)

49 In section 20 (powers of inspectors), in subsection (7), for "husband or wife" substitute " spouse or civil partner ".

Consumer Credit Act 1974 (c. 39)

F751 50 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F751 Sch. 27 para. 50 repealed (1.10.2015) by Consumer Rights Act 2015 (c. 15), s. 100(5), **Sch. 6 para. 85(d)**; S.I. 2015/1630, art. 3(i) (with art. 8)

51 (1) Amend section 184 (associates) as follows.

(2) For subsection (1) substitute—

"(1) A person is an associate of an individual if that person is—

(a) the individual's husband or wife or civil partner,

(b) a relative of—

(i) the individual, or

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(ii) the individual's husband or wife or civil partner, or

(c) the husband or wife or civil partner of a relative of—

(i) the individual, or

(ii) the individual's husband or wife or civil partner."

(3) In subsection (2), after "husband or wife" insert " or civil partner ".

(4) In subsection (5)—

(a) omit the word "and" immediately before "references",

(b) for "or wife;" substitute " or wife, and references to a civil partner include a former civil partner; ", and

(c) for "had been a child born to him in wedlock" substitute " were the legitimate child of the relationship in question ".

Friendly Societies Act 1974 (c. 46)

52 (1) Amend section 66 (power of member to nominate person to receive sums payable on his death) as follows.

(2) In subsection (5), for "husband, wife," substitute " spouse, civil partner, ".

(3) After subsection (7) insert—

"(7A) The formation of a civil partnership by a member of the society or branch revokes any nomination previously made by that member under this section."

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (c. 53)

53 In section 7 (limitations on rehabilitation under the 1974 Act, etc.), in subsection (2)(c), after "the marriage of any minor," insert " or the formation of a civil partnership by any minor, ".

Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (c. 65)

54 In section 82(5) (general interpretation: meaning of "near relative")

(a) after "wife or husband" (in both places) insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) for "by affinity)" substitute " by marriage or civil partnership) ".

Race Relations Act 1976 (c. 74)

55 In section 78(5) (general interpretation: meaning of "near relative")—

(a) after "wife or husband" (in both places) insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) for "by affinity)" substitute " by marriage or civil partnership) ".

Criminal Law Act 1977 (c. 45)

56 In section 2 (exemptions from liability for conspiracy), in subsection (2)(a), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Domestic Proceedings and Magistrates' Courts Act 1978 (c. 22)

57 In section 4 (duration of orders for financial provision for a party to a marriage), in subsection (2)—

(a) after "remarriage of" insert " , or formation of a civil partnership by, ", and

(b) after "the remarriage" insert " or formation of the civil partnership ".

58 (1) Amend section 35 (orders for repayment in certain cases of sums paid after cessation of order by reason of remarriage) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1)—

(a) in paragraph (a), after "remarriage of" insert " , or formation of a civil partnership by, ", and

(b) in paragraph (b), after "that remarriage" insert " or the formation of that civil partnership ".

(3) In subsection (7)—

(a) in paragraph (a), after "remarriage of" insert " , or formation of a civil partnership by, ", and

(b) in the words following paragraph (b)—

(i) after "the remarriage" insert " or the formation of that civil partnership ", and

(ii) after "had remarried" insert " or formed a civil partnership ".

(4) In the heading to section 35, after "remarriage" insert " or formation of civil partnership ".

Interpretation Act 1978 (c. 30)

59 At the appropriate place in Schedule 1 (words and expressions defined) insert—

""Civil partnership" means a civil partnership which exists under or by virtue of the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (and any reference to a civil partner is to be read accordingly)."

Protection of Children Act 1978 (c. 37)

60 In section 1A (marriage and other relationships), in subsections (1)(a) and (2)(a) after "were married" insert " or civil partners of each other ".

Credit Unions Act 1979 (c. 34)

61 (1) Amend section 31(1) (interpretation) as follows.

(2) After the definition of "charitable" insert—

""civil partner" includes former civil partner;".

(3) In the definition of "relative"—

(a) in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) in the words following paragraph (c), for "a child born in wedlock" substitute " the legitimate child of the relationship in question ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Estate Agents Act 1979 (c. 38)

F752 62 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F752 Sch. 27 para. 62 repealed (1.10.2015) by Consumer Rights Act 2015 (c. 15), s. 100(5), **Sch. 6 para. 85(d)**; S.I. 2015/1630, art. 3(i) (with art. 8)

63 (1) Amend section 32 (associates) as follows.

(2) In subsection (2), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

(3) In subsection (3)—

(a) omit the word "and" immediately before "references",

(b) for "reputed spouse;" substitute " reputed spouse, and references to a civil partner include a former civil partner; ", and

(c) for "had been a child born to him in wedlock" substitute " were the legitimate child of the relationship in question ".

Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 (c. 43)

F753 64 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F753 Sch. 27 para. 64 repealed (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 10 para. 99**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(d) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

F754 65 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F754 Sch. 27 para. 65 repealed (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 10 para. 99**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(d) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act 1981 (c. 18)

66 In section 9 (interpretation), in the definition of "relative", for "husband or wife" substitute " spouse or civil partner ".

Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 (c. 45)

67 In section 5 (offences relating to money orders, share certificates, passports, etc.), in subsection (5)(l)—

(a) after "adoptions, marriages" insert " , civil partnerships ", and

(b) for "register marriages" substitute " issue certified copies relating to such entries ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

[F755Senior Courts Act 1981](c. 54)

Textual Amendments

F755 Words in Sch. 27 para. 68 cross-heading substituted (1.10.2009) by Constitutional Reform Act 2005 (c. 4), ss. 59, 148, **Sch. 11 para. 1(2)**; S.I. 2009/1604, **art. 2(d)**

68 In section 18(1) (restrictions on appeals to Court of Appeal), before paragraph (g) insert—

"(fa) from a dissolution order, nullity order or presumption of death order under Chapter 2 of Part 2 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004 that has been made final, by a party who, having had time and opportunity to appeal from the conditional order on which that final order was founded, has not appealed from the conditional order;".

69 (1) Amend section 72 (withdrawal of privilege against incrimination of self or spouse in certain proceedings) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

(3) In subsection (3), for "married after the making of the statement or admission) against the spouse" substitute " married or became civil partners after the making of the statement or admission) against the spouse or civil partner ".

70 In paragraph 3 of Schedule 1 (business assigned to Family Division of High Court), after sub-paragraph (h) insert—

"(i) all civil partnership causes and matters (whether at first instance or on appeal);

(j) applications for consent to the formation of a civil partnership by a minor or for a declaration under paragraph 7 of Schedule 1 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004;

(k) applications under section 58 of that Act (declarations relating to civil partnerships)."

Commencement Information

I95 Sch. 27 para. 70 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 27 para. 70 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 27 para. 70 in force for certain purposes at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and Sch. 27 para. 70 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(2)**

British Nationality Act 1981 (c. 61)

71 In section 3(6)(a) (registration as British citizen of minor whose parents' marriage has terminated etc.), after "marriage" insert " or civil partnership ".

72 In section 6(2) (naturalisation of person married to British citizen), after "is married to a British citizen" insert " or is the civil partner of a British citizen ".

73 In section 10(2)(b) (registration as British citizen after pre-1983 renunciation of citizenship), after "has been married to" insert " , or has been the civil partner of, ".

74 In section 12(5) (renunciation: persons who have married deemed of full age), after "has been married" insert " , or has formed a civil partnership, ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

75 In section 17(6)(a) (registration as British overseas territories citizen of minor whose parents' marriage has terminated etc.), after "marriage" insert " or civil partnership ".

76 In section 18(2) (naturalisation of person married to a British overseas territories citizen), after "is married to such a citizen" insert " or is the civil partner of such a citizen ".

77 In section 22(2)(b) (naturalisation as British overseas territories citizen after pre-1983 renunciation of citizenship), after "has been married to" insert " , or has been the civil partner of, ".

78 (1) Amend paragraphs 4(d) and 8(d) of Schedule 1 (requirements for naturalisation under sections 6(2) and 18(2)) as follows.

(2) In the paragraph (f) set out in each of those provisions, after "to whom the applicant is married" insert " , or of whom the applicant is the civil partner, ".

Forfeiture Act 1982 (c. 34)

79 In section 3 (application for financial provision not affected by forfeiture rule), in subsection (2), for paragraph (b) and the word "and" immediately preceding it substitute—

"(b) sections 31(6) and 36(1) of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 (variation by court in England and Wales of periodical payments orders and maintenance agreements in respect of marriages);

(c) paragraphs 60(2) and 73(2) of Schedule 5 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (variation by court in England and Wales of periodical payments orders and maintenance agreements in respect of civil partnerships); and

(d) section 13(4) of the Family Law (Scotland) Act 1985 (variation etc. of periodical allowances in respect of marriages and civil partnerships)."

Representation of the People Act 1983 (c. 2)

80 (1) Amend section 14 (service qualification) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1)(d), for "wife or husband" substitute " spouse or civil partner ".

(3) For subsection (1)(e) substitute—

"(e) is the spouse or civil partner of a person mentioned in paragraph (b) or paragraph (c) above and is residing outside the United Kingdom to be with his or her spouse or civil partner,".

81 In section 16 (contents of service declaration), for "wife or husband" substitute " spouse or civil partner ".

82 In section 59 (supplemental provisions as to members of forces and service voters), in subsection (3)(b), for "by him and any wife of his or, as the case may be, by her and any husband of hers," substitute " by that person and any spouse or civil partner of that person ".

83 In section 61 (other voting offences), in subsection (4), for "husband, wife," substitute " spouse, civil partner, ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

84 In section 141 (duty to answer relevant questions), in subsections (1)(a)(i) and (2)(a), for "husband or wife," substitute " spouse or civil partner, ".

85 (1) Amend Schedule 1 (parliamentary elections rules) as follows.

(2) F756 . . . . . .

(3) F756 . . . . . .

(4) In rule 39(3)(b), for "husband, wife," substitute " spouse, civil partner, ".

(5) F756 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F756 Sch. 27 para. 85(2)(3)(5) repealed (1.1.2007 for E.W.S. except in so far as relating to sub para. (4) and 1.7.2008 for N.I. except in so far as relating to sub para. (4)) by Electoral Administration Act 2006 (c. 22), ss. 74(2), 77, **Sch. 2**; S.I. 2006/3412, **art. 3**, Sch. 1 para. 14(cc)(vii); S.I. 2008/1316, **arts. 2(2)**, 4(aa)(iv)

Mental Health Act 1983 (c. 20)

86 In—

(a) F757 . . . . . .

(b) F758 . . . . . .

after "husband, wife" insert " , civil partner ".

Textual Amendments

F757 Sch. 27 para. 86(a) repealed (3.11.2008) by Mental Health Act 2007 (c. 12), ss. 55, 56, **Sch. 11 Pt. 3**; S.I. 2008/1900, **art. 2(p)** (with art. 3, Sch.)

F758 Sch. 27 para. 86(b) and preceding word repealed (3.11.2008) by Mental Health Act 2007 (c. 12), ss. 55, 56, **Sch. 11 Pt. 5**; S.I. 2008/1210, **art. 2(d)** (with art. 4)

Mobile Homes Act 1983 (c. 34)

87 In section 3(3) (succession to agreements to which Act applies), for "or widower" (in each place) substitute " , widower or surviving civil partner ".

88 In section 5(3) (meaning of "member of another's family")—

(a) after "spouse," insert " civil partner, "

(b) in paragraph (a), after "marriage" insert " or civil partnership ", and

(c) in the words after paragraph (b), after "as husband and wife" insert " or as if they were civil partners ".

Dentists Act 1984 (c. 24)

89 In section 41(4) (family or representatives may carry on deceased dentist's business for three years), for "his widow" (in each place) substitute " his surviving spouse or his surviving civil partner ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act 1984 (c. 42)

90 (1) Amend section 12 (applications for financial relief after overseas divorce etc.) as follows.

(2) In subsection (2) (no application may be made after remarriage), for "remarries" substitute " forms a subsequent marriage or civil partnership, ".

(3) For subsection (3) substitute—

"(3) The reference in subsection (2) above to the forming of a subsequent marriage or civil partnership includes a reference to the forming of a marriage or civil partnership which is by law void or voidable."

F759 91 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F759 Sch. 27 paras. 91-94 repealed (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 210**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

F759 92 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F759 Sch. 27 paras. 91-94 repealed (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 210**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

F759 93 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F759 Sch. 27 paras. 91-94 repealed (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 210**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

F759 94 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F759 Sch. 27 paras. 91-94 repealed (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 210**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

95 In section 40(4)(b) (enforcement in High Court of orders of divorce county court), after "a divorce county court" insert " or a civil partnership proceedings county court ".

F760 96 . . . . . .

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F760 Sch. 27 para. 96 repealed (22.4.2014) by Crime and Courts Act 2013 (c. 22), s. 61(3), **Sch. 11 para. 210**; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (c. 60)

97 (1) Amend section 80 (compellability of accused's spouse) as follows.

(2) In subsections (2), (2A) and (3), for "wife or husband" (in each place) substitute " spouse or civil partner ".

(3) After subsection (5) insert—

"(5A) In any proceedings a person who has been but is no longer the civil partner of the accused shall be compellable to give evidence as if that person and the accused had never been civil partners."

(4) In the heading to section 80, after "accused's spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

98 In section 80A (rule where accused's spouse not compellable)—

(a) for "wife or husband" substitute " spouse or civil partner ", and

(b) in the heading, after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

Companies Act 1985 (c. 6)

99 F761 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F761 Sch. 27 para. 99 repealed (20.1.2007) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2006/3428, **art. 7(b)**, Sch. 3 Pt. 1 (with arts. 6, 8, Sch. 5) (as amended by S.I. 2007/3495, art. 11, Sch. 5)

100 F762 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F762 Sch. 27 para. 100 repealed (6.4.2007) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2006/3428, **art. 7(c)**, Sch. 4 Pt. 1 (with arts. 6, 8, Sch. 5) (as amended by S.I. 2007/3495, art. 11, Sch. 5)

101 F763 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F763 Sch. 27 para. 101 repealed (6.4.2007) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2006/3428, **art. 7(c)**, Sch. 4 Pt. 1 (with arts. 6, 8, Sch. 5) (as amended by S.I. 2007/3495, art. 11, Sch. 5)

102 F764 . . . . . .

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F764 Sch. 27 para. 102 repealed (1.10.2007) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2007/2194, **art. 8**, Sch. 2 Pt. 1 (with arts. 7, 12)

103 In section 430E (associates), in subsection (8) after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

104 F765 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F765 Sch. 27 para. 104 repealed (6.4.2008 and 1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2007/3495, **art. 8(a)**, Sch. 2 Pt. 1 (with arts. 7, 12); S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4**, Sch. 1 Pt. 1 (with arts. 7, 8)

105 F766 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F766 Sch. 27 para. 105 repealed (6.4.2008) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2007/3495, **art. 8(a)**, Sch. 2 Pt. 1 (with arts. 7, 12)

Enduring Powers of Attorney Act 1985 (c. 29)

106 In section 3 (scope of authority etc. of attorney under enduring power), in subsection (5)(a), for "or marriage" substitute " , marriage or the formation of a civil partnership ".

107 In Schedule 1 (notification prior to registration of instrument creating power of attorney), in paragraph 2(1)—

(a) in paragraph (a), after "wife" insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) in paragraph (e), after "widower" insert " or surviving civil partner ".

108 Paragraphs 106 and 107 apply in relation to the exercise of powers under enduring powers of attorney created before the passing of this Act as well as in relation to those created on or after its passing.

Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 (c. 48)

109 In Schedule 2 (officers and their powers), in paragraph 2A(4), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

Child Abduction and Custody Act 1985 (c. 60)

110 In section 24A (power to order disclosure of child's whereabouts), in subsection (2), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Airports Act 1986 (c. 31)

111 In section 20 (powers of investment and disposal in relation to public airport companies), in subsection (6)(b), after "widowers" insert " , civil partners, surviving civil partners ".

Insolvency Act 1986 (c. 45)

112 In section 215 (proceedings under sections 213, 214), in subsection (3)(b), after "marriage" insert " or the formation of a civil partnership ".

113 In section 283A (bankrupt's home ceasing to form part of estate), in subsection (1) —

(a) in paragraph (b), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) in paragraph (c), after "spouse" insert " or former civil partner ".

114 In section 313 (charge on bankrupt's home), in subsection (1), after "former spouse" insert " or by his civil partner or former civil partner ".

115 In section 313A (low value home: application for sale, possession or charge), in subsection (1)—

(a) in paragraph (a)(ii), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) in paragraph (a)(iii), after "spouse" insert " or former civil partner ".

116 In section 329 (debts to spouse), in subsection (1), after "spouse" (in each place) insert " or civil partner ".

117 In section 332 (saving for bankrupt's home), in subsection (1), after "former spouse" insert " or by his civil partner or former civil partner ".

118 In section 335A (rights under trusts of land), in subsection (2)(b)—

(a) for "bankrupt's spouse or former spouse" substitute " bankrupt's spouse or civil partner or former spouse or former civil partner ", and

(b) in sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii), for "spouse or former spouse" substitute " spouse, civil partner, former spouse or former civil partner ".

119 In section 339 (transactions at an undervalue), in subsection (3)(b), after "marriage" insert " or the formation of a civil partnership ".

120 In section 366 (inquiry into bankrupt's dealings and property), in subsection (1)(a), after "former spouse" insert " or civil partner or former civil partner ".

121 In section 423 (transactions defrauding creditors), in subsection (1)(b), after "marriage" insert " or the formation of a civil partnership ".

122 (1) Amend section 435 (meaning of "associate") as follows.

(2) For subsection (2) substitute—

"(2) A person is an associate of an individual if that person is—

(a) the individual's husband or wife or civil partner,

(b) a relative of—

(i) the individual, or

(ii) the individual's husband or wife or civil partner, or

(c) the husband or wife or civil partner of a relative of—

(i) the individual, or

(ii) the individual's husband or wife or civil partner."

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(3) In subsection (3), after "husband or wife" insert " or civil partner ".

(4) In subsection (8), at the end insert " and references to a civil partner include a former civil partner ".

Building Societies Act 1986 (c. 53)

123 In section 70 (interpretation), in—

(a) subsection (2)(a) and (c), and

(b) subsection (4),

after "spouse" (in each place) insert " or civil partner ".

Family Law Act 1986 (c. 55)

124 In section 33 (power to order disclosure of child's whereabouts), in subsection (2), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

125 In section 50 (non-recognition of divorce or annulment in another jurisdiction no bar to remarriage), for the words from "re-marrying" to the end substitute " forming a subsequent marriage or civil partnership in that part of the United Kingdom or cause the subsequent marriage or civil partnership of either party (wherever it takes place) to be treated as invalid in that part. "

Consumer Protection Act 1987 (c. 43)

126 In section 47 (savings for certain privileges), in subsection (2), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

Criminal Justice Act 1988 (c. 33)

127 In section 160A (marriage and other relationships), in subsections (1)(a) and (2)(a), after "were married" insert " or civil partners of each other ".

Companies Act 1989 (c. 40)

128 F767 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F767 Sch. 27 para. 128 repealed (6.4.2008) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2007/3495, **art. 8(a)**, Sch. 2 Pt. 1 (with arts. 7, 12)

Children Act 1989 (c. 41)

129 (1) Amend section 8 (residence, contact and other orders with respect to children) as follows.

(2) After subsection (4)(b) insert—

"(ba) Schedule 5 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004;".

(3) After subsection (4)(e) insert—

"(ea) Schedule 6 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004;".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

130 In section 48 (powers to assist in discovery of children who may be in need of emergency protection), in subsection (2), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

131 In section 50 (recovery of abducted children etc.), in subsection (11), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

132 In section 98 (self-incrimination), in subsections (1) and (2), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (c. 42)

133 In section 19 (members' interests) in subsection (7), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

134 In section 69 (companies subject to local authority influence), in subsection (6)(c), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

Opticians Act 1989 (c. 44)

135 In section 29(1) (family or representatives may use deceased optician's title for three years), in paragraphs (b) and (d), for "his widow" substitute " his surviving spouse or his surviving civil partner ".

Food Safety Act 1990 (c. 16)

136 In section 43 (continuance of registration or licence on death) in subsection (2), for the words from "the deceased's personal representative" to "his death" substitute "the deceased's personal representative, or widow or widower or surviving civil partner or any other member of the deceased's family, until the end of—

(a) the period of three months beginning with the deceased's death".

Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41)

137 In section 10 (family proceedings in magistrates' courts and related matters), in subsection (1), after "Domestic Proceedings and Magistrates' Courts Act 1978" insert " or Schedule 6 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 ".

138 In section 58A (conditional fee agreements: supplementary), omit "and" at the end of subsection (2)(f) and insert—

"(fa) Chapter 2 of Part 2 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (proceedings for dissolution etc. of civil partnership);

(fb) Schedule 5 to the 2004 Act (financial relief in the High Court or a county court etc.);

(fc) Schedule 6 to the 2004 Act (financial relief in magistrates' courts etc.);

(fd) Schedule 7 to the 2004 Act (financial relief in England and Wales after overseas dissolution etc. of a civil partnership); and".

Broadcasting Act 1990 (c. 42)

139 In paragraph 1(2) of Part 1 of Schedule 2 (restrictions on the holding of licences)—

(a) in paragraphs (a) and (d), after "husband or wife" (in each place) insert " or civil partner ", and

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) at the end insert " and references to a civil partner shall include a former civil partner ".

Local Government Finance Act 1992 (c. 14)

140 (1) In section 9(1)(a) (joint and several liability for council tax of married couple resident in same dwelling), after "is married to" insert " , or is the civil partner of, ".

(2) After section 9(3) insert—

"(4) For the purposes of this section two persons are civil partners of each other if they are of the same sex and either—

(a) they are civil partners of each other; or

(b) they are not civil partners of each other but are living together as if they were civil partners."

(3) In section 18(1)(b) (power to make regulations to deal with death of a person liable for council tax as a spouse under section 9), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

Commencement Information

I96 Sch. 27 para. 140 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 27 para. 140 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 27 para. 140(3) in force for certain purposes at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and Sch. 27 para. 140 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(2)**

Friendly Societies Act 1992 (c. 40)

141 In section 77 (information on appointed actuary to be annexed to balance sheet), in subsection (3)(a), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

142 In section 119A (meaning of "associate"), in subsection (1)(a), after "wife or husband" insert " or civil partner ".

143 In Schedule 2 (the activities of a friendly society), in Head A, in class II—

(a) in the second column (description), after "Marriage" insert " , civil partnership ", and

(b) in the third column (nature of business), after "sum on marriage" insert " or on the formation of a civil partnership ".

Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1992 (c. 52)

144 In section 23 (restriction on enforcement of awards against certain property), in subsection (3)(b) for "the wife" substitute " the spouse or civil partner ".

145 In section 241 (intimidation or annoyance by violence or otherwise), in subsection (1)(a), for "wife" substitute " spouse or civil partner ".

146 In section 292 (death of employee or employer), in subsection (3)(b), after "widow," insert " surviving civil partner, ".

Charities Act 1993 (c. 10)

F768 147 . . . . . .

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F768 Sch. 27 para. 147 repealed (14.3.2012) by Charities Act 2011 (c. 25), ss. 354(4), 355, **Sch. 10** (with s. 20(2), Sch. 8)

Pension Schemes Act 1993 (c. 48)

148 In section 101E(1)(b) after "or widower" insert " or surviving civil partner ".

Pension Schemes (Northern Ireland) Act 1993 (c. 49)

149 In section 97E(1)(b) after "or widower" insert " or surviving civil partner ".

Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (c. 50)

150 (1) In section 23 (exemption for small dwellings), amend subsection (7) as follows.

(2) In the definition of "near relative"—

(a) after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) for "by affinity)" substitute " by marriage or civil partnership) ".

(3) For the definition of "partner" substitute—

""partner" means the other member of a couple consisting of—

(a) a man and a woman who are not married to each other but are living together as husband and wife, or

(b) two people of the same sex who are not civil partners of each other but are living together as if they were civil partners."

Employment Rights Act 1996 (c. 18)

151 In section 57A (time off for dependants), in subsection (3)(a), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

Family Law Act 1996 (c. 27)

152 (1) Amend section 64 (provision for separate representation for children) as follows.

(2) Omit "or" at the end of subsection (1)(c).

(3) At the end of subsection (1)(d) insert "or

(e) Schedule 5 or 6 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004."

Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996 (c. 47)

153 In paragraph 3 of Schedule 1 (family charges), after "in consideration of marriage" insert " or the formation of a civil partnership ".

Civil Procedure Act 1997 (c. 12)

154 In section 7 (power of courts to make orders for preserving evidence etc.), in subsection (7), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
***Changes to legislation:** Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

National Minimum Wage Act 1998 (c. 39)

155 In section 14 (powers of officers), in subsection (2), for "married, the person's spouse" substitute " married or a civil partner, the person's spouse or civil partner ".

Access to Justice Act 1999 (c. 22)

F769 156 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F769 Sch. 27 para. 156 repealed (1.4.2013) by Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (c. 10), s. 151(1), **Sch. 5 Pt. 2**; S.I. 2013/453, art. 3(h) (with savings and transitional provisions in S.I. 2013/534, art. 6)

Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999 (c. 30)

157 (1) Amend section 23 (supply of pension information in connection with divorce etc.) as follows.

(2) After subsection (1)(a)(i) insert—

"(ia) financial relief under Schedule 5 or 7 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (England and Wales powers in relation to domestic and overseas dissolution of civil partnerships etc.),".

(3) In subsection (1)(a)(ii)—

(a) after "1984" insert " or Schedule 11 to the 2004 Act ", and

(b) at the end, omit "or".

(4) In subsection (1)(a)(iii) for "(corresponding Northern Ireland powers);" substitute "(Northern Ireland powers corresponding to those mentioned in sub-paragraph (i)), or

(iv) financial relief under Schedule 15 or 17 to the 2004 Act (Northern Ireland powers corresponding to those mentioned in sub-paragraph (ia));".

(5) In subsection (1)(b), for "or (iii)" substitute " (ia), (iii) or (iv) ".

158 (1) Amend section 24 (charges by pension arrangements in relation to earmarking orders) as follows.

(2) After paragraph (a) insert—

"(aa) an order under Part 1 of Schedule 5 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (financial provision orders in connection with dissolution of civil partnerships etc.) so far as it includes provision made by virtue of Part 6 of that Schedule (powers to include provision about pensions),".

(3) At the end of paragraph (b) omit "or" and after paragraph (c) insert ", or

(d) an order under Part 1 of Schedule 15 to the 2004 Act so far as it includes provision made by virtue of Part 5 of that Schedule (Northern Ireland powers corresponding to those mentioned in paragraph (aa)).".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

159 (1) Amend section 28 (activation of pension sharing) as follows.

(2) After subsection (1)(a) insert—

"(aa) a pension sharing order under Schedule 5 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004,".

(3) After subsection (1)(d) insert—

"(da) an order under Schedule 7 to the 2004 Act (financial relief in England and Wales after overseas dissolution etc. of a civil partnership) corresponding to such an order as is mentioned in paragraph (aa),".

(4) In subsection (1)(f)—

(a) at the end of sub-paragraph (i) insert " or between persons who are civil partners of each other ", and

(b) at the end of sub-paragraph (iii) insert " or (as the case may be) on the grant, in relation to the civil partnership, of decree of dissolution or of declarator of nullity ".

(5) In subsection (1)(g), after "divorce etc.)" insert " or under Schedule 11 to the 2004 Act (financial provision in Scotland after overseas proceedings) ".

(6) In subsection (1)(h) for "Northern Ireland legislation, and" substitute " the Matrimonial Causes (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 (S.I. 1978/1045 (N.I. 15)), ".

(7) After subsection (1)(i) insert—

"(j) a pension sharing order under Schedule 15 to the 2004 Act, and

(k) an order under Schedule 17 to the 2004 Act (financial relief in Northern Ireland after overseas dissolution etc. of a civil partnership) corresponding to such an order as is mentioned in paragraph (j)."

(8) In subsection (7)(a), omit "matrimonial".

(9) In subsection (8)—

(a) in paragraph (a), after "divorce" insert " , dissolution ", and

(b) at the end of paragraph (b) insert " or, where the order is under Schedule 11 to the 2004 Act, the date of disposal of the application under paragraph 2 of that Schedule ".

(10) In subsection (9)—

(a) omit "matrimonial", and

(b) in paragraphs (a) and (b)(i), after "divorce" insert " , dissolution ".

160 (1) Amend section 34 ("implementation period") as follows.

(2) In subsection (1)(b)(i), omit "matrimonial".

(3) In subsection (2)—

(a) omit "matrimonial", and

(b) in paragraph (b), after "divorce" insert " , dissolution ".

161 (1) Amend section 48 (activation of benefit sharing) as follows.

(2) After subsection (1)(a) insert—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

"(aa) a pension sharing order under Schedule 5 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004,".

(3) After subsection (1)(d) insert—

"(da) an order under Schedule 7 to the 2004 Act (financial relief in England and Wales after overseas dissolution etc. of a civil partnership) corresponding to such an order as is mentioned in paragraph (aa),".

(4) In subsection (1)(f)—

(a) at the end of sub-paragraph (i) insert " or between persons who are civil partners of each other ", and

(b) at the end of sub-paragraph (iii) insert " or (as the case may be) on the grant, in relation to the civil partnership, of decree of dissolution or of declarator of nullity ".

(5) In subsection (1)(g), after "divorce etc.)" insert " or under Schedule 11 to the 2004 Act (financial provision in Scotland after overseas proceedings) ".

(6) In subsection (1)(h) for "Northern Ireland legislation, and" substitute " the Matrimonial Causes (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 (S.I. 1978/1045 (N.I. 15)), ".

(7) After subsection (1)(i) insert—

"(j) a pension sharing order under Schedule 15 to the 2004 Act, and

(k) an order under Schedule 17 to the 2004 Act (financial relief in Northern Ireland after overseas dissolution etc. of a civil partnership) corresponding to such an order as is mentioned in paragraph (j)."

(8) In subsection (6)(a), omit "matrimonial".

(9) In subsection (7)—

(a) in paragraph (a), after "divorce" insert " , dissolution ", and

(b) at the end of paragraph (b) insert " or, where the order is under Schedule 11 to the 2004 Act, the date of disposal of the application under paragraph 2 of that Schedule ".

(10) In subsection (8)—

(a) omit "matrimonial", and

(b) in paragraphs (a) and (b)(i), after "divorce" insert " , dissolution ".

Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (c. 33)

162 After section 24 insert—

"**24A Duty to report suspicious civil partnerships**

(1) Subsection (3) applies if—

(a) a registration authority to whom a notice of proposed civil partnership has been given under section 8 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004,

(b) any person who, under section 8 of the 2004 Act, has attested a declaration accompanying such a notice,

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(c) a district registrar to whom a notice of proposed civil partnership has been given under section 88 of the 2004 Act, or

(d) a registrar to whom a civil partnership notice has been given under section 139 of the 2004 Act,

has reasonable grounds for suspecting that the civil partnership will be a sham civil partnership.

(2) Subsection (3) also applies if—

(a) two people register as civil partners of each other under Part 2, 3 or 4 of the 2004 Act in the presence of the registrar, and

(b) before, during or immediately after they do so, the registrar has reasonable grounds for suspecting that the civil partnership will be, or is, a sham civil partnership.

(3) The person concerned must report his suspicion to the Secretary of State without delay and in such form and manner as may be prescribed by regulations.

(4) The regulations are to be made—

(a) in relation to England and Wales, by the Registrar General for England and Wales with the approval of the Chancellor of the Exchequer;

(b) in relation to Scotland, by the Secretary of State after consulting the Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages for Scotland;

(c) in relation to Northern Ireland, by the Secretary of State after consulting the Registrar General in Northern Ireland.

(5) "Sham civil partnership" means a civil partnership (whether or not void)—

(a) formed between a person ("A") who is neither a British citizen nor a national of an EEA State other than the United Kingdom and another person (whether or not such a citizen or such a national), and

(b) formed by A for the purpose of avoiding the effect of one or more provisions of United Kingdom immigration law or the immigration rules.

(6) "The registrar" means—

(a) in relation to England and Wales, the civil partnership registrar acting under Part 2 of the 2004 Act;

(b) in relation to Scotland, the authorised registrar acting under Part 3 of the 2004 Act;

(c) in relation to Northern Ireland, the registrar acting under Part 4 of the 2004 Act."

Commencement Information

I97 Sch. 27 para. 162 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 27 para. 162 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 27 para. 162 in force for certain purposes at 15.4.2005 by S.I. 2005/1112, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 and Sch. 27 para. 162 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(2)**

163 In section 166 (regulations and orders), in subsection (6)(b) after "24(3)" insert " , 24A(3) ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Representation of the People Act 2000 (c. 2)

164 (1) Amend Schedule 4 (absent voting in Great Britain) as follows.

(2) In paragraph 3(3)(c), for "his spouse," (in both places) substitute " his spouse or civil partner, ".

(3) In paragraph 6(6), for "husband, wife," substitute " spouse, civil partner, ".

Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (c. 8)

165 F770 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F770 Sch. 27 para. 165 repealed (21.3.2009) by The Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Controllers) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 2009/534), **reg. 9(1)**

166 In Schedule 11 (offers of securities), in paragraph 16(2), after "wife, husband, widow, widower" insert " , civil partner, surviving civil partner, ".

Land Registration Act 2002 (c. 9)

167 In section 125 (privilege against self-incrimination), in subsection (2), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

Enterprise Act 2002 (c. 40)

168 In section 127 (associated persons), in subsections (4)(a) and (c) and (6), after "spouse" (in each place) insert " , civil partner ".

169 In section 222 (bodies corporate: accessories), in subsection (10), after "spouse" in paragraphs (a), (c), (d) and (e) (in each place) insert " or civil partner ".

Licensing Act 2003 (c. 17)

170 In section 101 (minimum of 24 hours between event periods), in subsection (3)(a) and (d), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

Local Government Act 2003 (c. 26)

171 In paragraph 2(1)(a) of Schedule 4 (spouse of employee of the Valuation Tribunal Service disqualified for appointment as member of the Service), after "is married to" insert " or is the civil partner of ".

Courts Act 2003 (c. 39)

172 In section 76 (further provision about scope of Family Procedure Rules), in subsection (2)(b), after "divorce county court" insert " or civil partnership proceedings county court (within the meaning of Part 5 of the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act 1984) ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Sexual Offences Act 2003 (c. 42)

173 (1) Amend section 23 (sections 16 to 19: marriage exception) as follows.

(2) At the end of subsection (1)(b) insert " or civil partners of each other ".

(3) In subsection (2), for "were lawfully married at the time" substitute " were at the time lawfully married or civil partners of each other ".

(4) In the heading to section 23 for "marriage exception" substitute " exception for spouses and civil partners ".

174 (1) Amend section 28 (sections 25 and 26: marriage exception) as follows.

(2) At the end of subsection (1)(b) insert " or civil partners of each other ".

(3) In subsection (2), for "were lawfully married at the time" substitute " were at the time lawfully married or civil partners of each other ".

(4) In the heading to section 28 for "marriage exception" substitute " exception for spouses and civil partners ".

175 (1) Amend section 43 (sections 38 and 41: marriage exception) as follows.

(2) At the end of subsection (1)(b) insert " or civil partners of each other ".

(3) In subsection (2), for "were lawfully married at the time" substitute " were at the time lawfully married or civil partners of each other ".

(4) In the heading to section 43 for "marriage exception" substitute " exception for spouses and civil partners ".

SCHEDULE 28 Section 261(2)

CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS: SCOTLAND

PART 1

AMENDMENTS OF THE SUCCESSION (SCOTLAND) ACT 1964 (C. 41)

1 In section 1(2) (intestacy: saving for legal rights or prior rights), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

2 In section 2(1)(e) (intestacy: succession rights of surviving spouse)—

(a) for "or a wife" substitute, " , wife or civil partner ", and

(b) after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

3 In section 5(1) (representation on intestacy), for "or spouse" substitute " , spouse or civil partner ".

4 In section 8 (prior rights on intestacy in dwelling house and furniture), in subsections (1), (3) and (4), after "spouse" (in each place, including the provisos to subsections (1) and (3)) insert " or civil partner ".

5 In section 9 (prior right to financial provision on intestacy)—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) in subsection (1), for "or wife, the surviving spouse" substitute " , wife or civil partner the survivor ", and

(b) in the proviso to that subsection and in subsections (2), (3), (4) and (6), after "spouse", (in each place) insert " or civil partner ".

6 In section 10(2) (calculation of legal rights), for "jus relicti, jus relictae or legitim" substitute " legal rights ".

7 In section 15(2)(a) (transfer of heritage in satisfaction of claim to legal rights or prior rights), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

8 In section 16(2) (transfer of interest of tenant notwithstanding condition prohibiting assignation), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

9 In section 31(1) (presumption of survivorship in respect of claims to property)—

(a) after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) in paragraph (a), after "wife" insert " or civil partners to each other ".

10 In section 36(1) (interpretation), in the definition of "prior rights", after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

PART 2

AMENDMENTS OF THE FAMILY LAW (SCOTLAND) ACT 1985 (C. 37)

11 In section 1(1) (obligation of aliment), after paragraph (b) insert—

"(bb) a partner in a civil partnership to the other partner,".

12 (1) Amend section 2 (actions for aliment) as follows.

(2) in subsection (2), after paragraph (a) insert—

"(aa) for dissolution of a civil partnership, separation of civil partners or declarator of nullity of a civil partnership,".

(3) In subsection (9), after "wife" insert " or the partners in a civil partnership ".

13 In section 6(1) (interim aliment)—

(a) in paragraph (a), for "party" (in both places) substitute " person ",

(b) after paragraph (b) insert—

"(c) in an action for dissolution of a civil partnership, separation of civil partners or declarator of nullity of a civil partnership, by either partner against the other partner,".

14 (1) Amend section 8 (orders for financial provision) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1)—

(a) after "either party to the marriage" insert " and in an action for dissolution of a civil partnership, either partner ", and

(b) in each of paragraphs (a) to (c), for "marriage" substitute " action ".

(3) In subsection (5), after "marriage" insert " or the partners in a civil partnership ".

15 (1) Amend section 9 (principles to be applied in deciding what order if any to make for financial provision) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1)—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(a) in paragraph (a), at the end insert " or as the case may be the net value of the partnership property should be so shared between the partners in the civil partnership ",

(b) in paragraph (b), for "party" (in each place) substitute " person ",

(c) in paragraph (c), the existing words "after divorce, for a child of the marriage under the age of 16 years" become sub-paragraph (i), after that sub-paragraph insert—

"(ii) after dissolution of the civil partnership, for a child under that age who has been accepted by both partners as a child of the family,",

and for "parties" substitute " persons ",

(d) in paragraph (d), for "party" (in both places) substitute " person ", the existing words "the date of the decree of divorce, to the loss of that support on divorce" become sub-paragraph (i) and after that sub-paragraph insert—

"(ii) the date of the decree of dissolution of the civil partnership, to the loss of that support on dissolution," and

(e) in paragraph (e), for "party" substitute " person ", after first "divorce" insert " or of the dissolution of the civil partnership, " and after second "divorce" insert " or dissolution ".

(3) In subsection (2), in the definitions of "economic advantage" and "contributions", after "marriage" insert " or civil partnership ".

16 (1) Amend section 10 (sharing of value of matrimonial property) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1)—

(a) after "property" insert " or partnership property ", and

(b) for "the parties to the marriage" substitute " persons ".

(3) In subsection (2)—

(a) omit first "matrimonial",

(b) for "the parties or either of them" substitute " one or both of the parties to the marriage or as the case may be of the partners ",

(c) in paragraph (a), after "property" insert " or before the registration of the partnership so far as they relate to the partnership property ", and

(d) in paragraph (b), at the end insert " or partnership ".

(4) In subsection (3)—

(a) in paragraph (a), for "parties" substitute " persons ", and

(b) in paragraph (b), at the end insert " or for dissolution of the civil partnership ".

(5) After subsection (4) insert—

"(4A) Subject to subsection (5) below, in this section and in section 11 of this Act "the partnership property" means all the property belonging to the partners or either of them at the relevant date which was acquired by them or by one of them (otherwise than by way of gift or succession from a third party)—

(a) before the registration of the partnership for use by them as a family home or as furniture or plenishings for such a home, or

(b) during the partnership but before the relevant date."

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(6) In subsection (5)—

(a) for "party" (in each place) substitute " person ", and

(b) at the end insert " or partnership property ".

(7) In subsection (6)—

(a) in paragraph (a), for "parties" substitute " persons " and at the end insert " or partnership property ",

(b) in paragraph (b), after "property" insert " or partnership property ", for "parties" substitute " persons " and at the end insert " or partnership ",

(c) in paragraph (c), for "party" substitute " person ",

(d) in paragraph (d), after "property" insert " or partnership property " and for "matrimonial" substitute " family ", and

(e) in paragraph (e), at the end insert " or the dissolution of the civil partnership ".

(8) In subsection (7), for "parties" (in both places) substitute " persons ".

17 (1) Amend section 11 (factors to be taken into account) as follows.

(2) In subsection (2)—

(a) in paragraph (a), for "party" (in both places) substitute " person ", and

(b) in paragraph (b), after "property" insert " or the partnership property ".

(3) In subsection (3)(g), for "parties" substitute " persons ".

(4) In subsection (4)—

(a) in each of paragraphs (a) and (c), for "party" substitute " person ",

(b) in paragraph (b), for "party prior to divorce" substitute " person prior to divorce or to the dissolution of the civil partnership ", and

(c) in paragraph (d), for "parties" substitute " persons ".

(5) In subsection (5)—

(a) in paragraph (a), for "party" substitute " person ",

(b) in paragraph (b), at the end insert " or of the civil partnership ",

(c) in paragraph (c), for "parties during the marriage" substitute " persons during the marriage or civil partnership ", and

(d) in paragraph (d), for "parties" substitute " persons ".

(6) In subsection (6), for "party" substitute " person ".

(7) In subsection (7), after "party" insert " to the marriage or as the case may be of either partner ".

18 (1) Amend section 12 (orders for payment of capital sum or transfer of property) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1)—

(a) in paragraph (a), at the end insert " or of dissolution of a civil partnership ", and

(b) in paragraph (b), for "decree of divorce" substitute " the decree ".

(3) In subsection (4), the existing words "either party to the marriage" become paragraph (a) and after that paragraph insert the following paragraph—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

"(b) either partner,".

19 (1) Amend section 12A (orders for payment of capital sum: pensions lump sums) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1)—

(a) for "("the liable party")" substitute " or a partner in a civil partnership ("the liable person") ", and

(b) in paragraph (a), after "property" insert " or the partnership property " and for "party" substitute " person ".

(3) In subsection (2), for "("the other party")" substitute " or as the case may be to the other partner ("the other person") ".

(4) In each of subsections (3) to (8), for "party", wherever it occurs, substitute " person ".

20 (1) Amend section 13 (orders for periodical allowance) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1)—

(a) in paragraph (a), at the end insert " or of dissolution of a civil partnership ",

(b) in paragraph (b), for "decree of divorce" substitute " the decree ", and

(c) in paragraph (c), for "decree of divorce" substitute " such decree ".

(3) In subsection (4), after "executor" insert " , or as the case may be either partner or his executor, ".

(4) in subsection (7)—

(a) in paragraph (a), for "party" substitute " person " and for "party's" substitute " person's ", and

(b) for paragraph (b) substitute—

"(b) shall cease to have effect on the person receiving payment—

(i) marrying,

(ii) entering into a civil partnership, or

(iii) dying,

except in relation to any arrears due under it.".

21 (1) Amend section 14 (incidental orders) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1), at the end insert " or of dissolution of a civil partnership ".

(3) In subsection (2)—

(a) in paragraph (c), after "marriage" insert " , or as the case may be the partners, ",

(b) in paragraph (d), the existing words "the matrimonial home" become sub-paragraph (i), after that sub-paragraph insert " or " and the following sub-paragraph—

"(ii) the family home of the partnership,",

and for "party to the marriage" substitute " person ",

(c) in paragraph (e), for "parties" substitute " persons ", the existing words "the matrimonial home" become sub-paragraph (i) and after that sub-paragraph insert " or " and the following sub-paragraph—

"(ii) the family home of the partnership,",

(d) in paragraph (g), for "party to the marriage" substitute " person ", and

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(e) in paragraph (h), at the end insert " or in any corresponding settlement in respect of the civil partnership ".

(4) In subsection (3), for "decree of divorce" substitute " the decree ".

(5) After subsection (5) insert—

"(5A) So long as an incidental order granting a partner in a civil partnership the right to occupy a family home or the right to use furnishings and plenishings therein remains in force then—

(a) section 102(1), (2), (5)(a) and (9) of the Civil Partnership Act 2004, and

(b) subject to section 15(3) of this Act, section 111 of that Act,

shall, except to the extent that the order otherwise provides, apply in relation to the order in accordance with subsection (5B).

(5B) Those provisions apply—

(a) as if that partner were a non-entitled partner and the other partner were an entitled partner within the meaning of section 101 or 106(2) of that Act as the case may require,

(b) as if the right to occupy a family home under that order were a right specified in paragraph (a) or (b) of section 101(1) of that Act, and

(c) with any other necessary modification."

(6) In subsection (7), at the end insert " or of dissolution of a civil partnership ".

22 (1) Amend section 16 (agreements on financial provision) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1)—

(a) after "marriage" insert " or the partners in a civil partnership ", and

(b) after "divorce" insert " or on dissolution of the civil partnership ".

(3) In subsection (3)—

(a) after "marriage" insert " or the partners in a civil partnership ",

(b) after first "divorce" insert " or on dissolution of the civil partnership ",

(c) in paragraphs (a) to (c), for "party" and "party's" (in each place) substitute, respectively, " person " and " person's ", and

(d) after second "divorce" insert " or of dissolution of the civil partnership ".

23 (1) Amend section 17 (financial provision on declarator of nullity of marriage) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1)—

(a) after first "marriage" insert " or of a civil partnership ",

(b) after first "divorce" insert " or for dissolution of a civil partnership ",

(c) after second "marriage" insert " and "action for dissolution of a civil partnership" includes an action for declarator of nullity of a civil partnership ", and

(d) for "and "divorce"" substitute " , "divorce" and "dissolution of a civil partnership" ".

(3) In subsection (2)—

(a) after first "marriage" insert " or of nullity of a civil partnership ", and

(b) at the end insert " or civil partnership ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

24 In section 18(1) (orders relating to avoidance transactions), for "party" (in both places) substitute " person ".

25 In section 21 (award of aliment or custody where divorce or separation refused)—

(a) for "or separation" substitute " , separation or dissolution of a civil partnership ", and

(b) for "parties" substitute " persons ".

26 (1) In section 22 (expenses of action)—

(a) for "party to a marriage" substitute " person ",

(b) for paragraph (a) substitute—

"(a) an action for aliment brought—

(i) by either party to a marriage, or

(ii) by either party in a civil partnership,

on his own behalf against the other party or partner,",

(c) in paragraph (b), after "separation" insert " (whether of the parties to a marriage or the civil partners in a civil partnership) ",

(d) after paragraph (b) insert—

"(bb) an action for dissolution of a civil partnership, declarator that a civil partnership exists or declarator of nullity of a civil partnership,", and

(e) after fifth "marriage" insert " or the other partner in the civil partnership ".

27 In section 24(1) (marriage not to affect property rights or legal capacity)—

(a) after fifth "marriage" insert " or civil partnership ",

(b) in paragraph (a), after "marriage" insert " , or as the case may be the partners in the civil partnership, ", and

(c) in paragraph (b), for "the parties to the marriage" substitute " those parties or partners ".

28 (1) Amend section 25 (presumption of equal shares in household goods) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1)—

(a) after first and third "marriage" insert " or civil partnership ", and

(b) after second "marriage" insert " or the partners in a civil partnership ",

(3) In subsection (2), the existing words "the parties were married" become paragraph (a) and after that paragraph insert—

"(b) the partners were in civil partnership,", and

(4) In subsection (3)—

(a) for "in any matrimonial" substitute " or civil partnership in any family ", and

(b) after second "marriage" insert " or the partners ".

29 In section 26 (presumption of equal shares in money and property derived from housekeeping allowance)—

(a) after first "marriage" insert " or civil partnership ",

(b) after second "marriage" insert " or as the case may be of a partner in a civil partnership ", and

(c) after second and third "party" insert " or partner ".

30 In section 27(1) (interpretation)—

(a) at the appropriate places insert—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

""civil partnership", in relation to an action for declarator of nullity of a civil partnership, means purported civil partnership,",

""partner", in relation to a civil partnership, includes a person who has a partner in a civil partnership which has been terminated and an ostensible partner in a civil partnership which has been annulled,", and

(b) in the definition of "family", at the end insert " and in relation to a civil partnership means the members of the civil partnership together with any child accepted by them both as a child of the family. "

F771 PART 3

AMENDMENTS OF THE BANKRUPTCY (SCOTLAND) ACT 1985 (C. 66)

Textual Amendments

F771 Sch. 28 Pt. 3 repealed (30.11.2016) by The Bankruptcy (Scotland) Act 2016 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2016 (S.I. 2016/1034), art. 1, **Sch. 2 Pt. 1**

31 . . . . . .

32 . . . . . .

33 . . . . . .

34 . . . . . .

35 . . . . . .

36 . . . . . .

37 . . . . . .

38 . . . . . .

39 . . . . . .

40 . . . . . .

41 . . . . . .

PART 4

MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS

PROSPECTIVE

Damages (Scotland) Act 1976 (c. 13)

42 F772 . . . . . .

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F772 Sch. 28 para. 42 repealed (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 45(2), 46(2), **Sch. 3**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

Marriage (Scotland) Act 1977 (c. 15)

43 Amend section 3 (notice of intention to marry) as follows—

(a) in subsection (1), after paragraph (a) insert—

"(aa) if he has previously been in civil partnership and the civil partnership has been dissolved, a copy of the decree of dissolution or annulment;", and

(b) in subsection (2), after "paragraph (a)" insert " , (aa) ".

44 In section 5(4)(b) (ground on which there is a legal impediment to a marriage), at the end insert " or in civil partnership ".

Presumption of Death (Scotland) Act 1977 (c. 27)

45 (1) Amend section 1(3) (jurisdiction of Court of Session to entertain action of declarator) as follows.

(2) In paragraph (b)(i), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

(3) After paragraph (b) insert "; or

(c) in a case where the pursuer in the action is the civil partner of the missing person, the following conditions are met—

(i) the two people concerned registered as civil partners of each other in Scotland; and

(ii) it appears to the court to be in the interests of justice to assume jurisdiction in the case."

46 (1) Amend section 3 (effect of decree) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1), after "marriage" insert " or of a civil partnership ".

(3) In subsection (3)—

(a) after first "marriage" insert " or civil partnership ", and

(b) for "the dissolution of the marriage" substitute " its dissolution ".

Administration of Justice Act 1982 (c. 53)

47 In section 13(1) (interpretation), in the definition of "relative", after paragraph (a) insert—

"(aa) the civil partner or former civil partner;".

Rent (Scotland) Act 1984 (c. 58)

48 In Schedule 1 (statutory tenants by succession)—

(a) in paragraph 2, after "spouse" (in both places) insert " or civil partner " and after "spouse's" insert " or civil partner's ", and

(b) in paragraph 6, after "spouse" (in both places) insert " or civil partner ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

49 In Schedule 1A (statutory or statutory assured tenants by succession: certain cases), in paragraph 2—

(a) in sub-paragraph (1), after "spouse" (in both places) insert " or civil partner " and after "spouse's" insert " or civil partner's ",

(b) in sub-paragraph (2), at the end insert " and a person who was living with the original tenant in a relationship which had the characteristics of the relationship between civil partners shall be treated as the civil partner of the original tenant ", and

(c) in sub-paragraph (3), after "couples)" insert " or under section 101 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004 " and after "spouse" insert " , or as the case may be as the surviving civil partner, ".

Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1984 (c. 36)

50 (1) Amend section 53 (definition of "relative" and "nearest relative") as follows.

(2) In subsection (1)(a), at the end insert " or civil partner ".

(3) In subsection (4)—

(a) in paragraph (b), for "or wife" substitute " , wife or civil partner " and after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) in paragraph (c), after "wife," insert " civil partner, ".

(4) After subsection (5) insert—

"(5A) In this section "civil partner" includes a person who is living with the patient in a relationship which has the characteristics of the relationship between civil partners (or, if the patient is for the time being an in-patient in a hospital, was so living until the patient was admitted), and has been or had been so living for a period of not less than 6 months; but a person shall not be treated by virtue of this subsection as the nearest relative of a partner in a civil partnership unless the civil partner of the patient is disregarded by virtue of paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of this section."

(5) In subsection (6)(b)—

(a) after "married patient" insert " or of a partner in a civil partnership ", and

(b) after "wife" insert " , or as the case may be the civil partner, ".

51 In section 54 (children and young persons in care of local authority), for "or wife" substitute " , wife or civil partner ".

Housing Associations Act 1985 (c. 69)

52 (1) Amend section 105 (meaning of "member of a person's family") as follows.

(2) In subsection (1)(a)—

(a) after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) at the end insert " or in a relationship which has the characteristics of the relationship between civil partners ".

(3) In subsection (2)(a), after "a relationship by marriage" insert " or civil partnership ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Debtors (Scotland) Act 1987 (c. 18)

53 In section 106 (interpretation), in paragraph (a) of the definition of "maintenance order"—

(a) after "divorce" insert " or on dissolution of a civil partnership ", and

(b) after "marriage" insert " or of nullity of a civil partnership ".

Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 (c. 26)

54 In section 83 ("members of a person's family")—

(a) in subsection (1)(a), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ",

(b) in subsection (2)(a), after "marriage" insert " or by virtue of civil partnership ", and

(c) in subsection (3), after "references to" insert " that person's civil partner or to ".

Civil Evidence (Scotland) Act 1988 (c. 32)

55 (1) Amend section 8 (evidence in actions concerning family relationships, etc.) as follows.

(2) In subsection (2), for "separation or declarator of marriage, nullity of marriage" substitute " for dissolution of civil partnership, for separation of spouses or of civil partners, for declarator of marriage or of nullity of marriage or of civil partnership or for ".

(3) After subsection (3) insert—

"(3A) Subject to subsection (4) below, in any action for dissolution of civil partnership, separation of civil partners or declarator of nullity of civil partnership, the evidence referred to in subsection (1) above shall consist of or include evidence other than that of a partner in the civil partnership (or purported civil partnership)."

(4) In subsection (4), after "(3)" insert " or (3A) ".

Housing (Scotland) Act 1988 (c. 43)

56 (1) Amend section 31 (right of succession of spouse) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1), after "spouse" (in both places) insert " or civil partner ".

(3) In subsection (3)(b), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

(4) In subsection (4)—

(a) the existing words from "as his" to the end become paragraph (a), and

(b) after that paragraph insert the following paragraph—

"(b) in a relationship which had the characteristics of the relationship between civil partners shall be treated as the tenant's civil partner".

57 In Part 1 of Schedule 5 (grounds on which sheriff must order possession), in paragraph (b) of ground 1, after "spouse's" insert " or civil partner's ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993 (c. 44)

58 In section 61(2) (interpretation), for "or husband" substitute " , husband or civil partner ".

Civil Evidence (Family Mediation) (Scotland) Act 1995 (c. 6)

59 In section 1(2) (inadmissibility in civil proceedings of information as to what occurred during family mediation), after paragraph (c) insert the following paragraph—

"(cc) between partners in a civil partnership or persons in a purported civil partnership concerning matters arising out of the breakdown or termination of their relationship,".

Children (Scotland) Act 1995 (c. 36)

60 (1) Amend section 12 (restrictions on decrees for divorce, separation or annulment affecting children) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1), the existing words "divorce, judicial separation, or declarator of nullity of marriage" become paragraph (a) and after that paragraph insert " or " and the following paragraph—

"(b) dissolution or declarator of nullity of a civil partnership or separation of civil partners,".

(3) [F773] . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F773 Sch. 28 para. 60(3) repealed (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 45(2), 46(2), **Sch. 3**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

Commencement Information

I98 Sch. 28 para. 60 partly in force; Sch. 28 para. 60 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 28 para. 60(1)(2) in force at 5.12.2005 by S.S.I. 2005/604, **arts. 2**, 4

[F774]61 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F774 Sch. 28 para. 61 repealed (24.6.2013) by The Childrens Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 (Modification of Primary Legislation) Order 2013 (S.S.I. 2013/211), art. 1, **sch. 2**

Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2000 (c. 44)

62 In section 3(2)(c) (abuse of position of trust: defence), after "to" insert " , or in civil partnership with, ".

Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 (asp 10)

63 In section 31(c) (effect of work on rent)—

(a) after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ", and

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) for "husband and wife except that the persons are of the same sex" substitute " civil partners ".

64 (1) Amend section 108 (meaning of "family" etc.) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1)(a), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

(3) In subsection (2)(a), after "marriage" insert " or by virtue of civil partnership ".

65 (1) Amend Schedule 2 (grounds for recovery of possession of house) as follows.

(2) In paragraph 5—

(a) in sub-paragraph (a), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) in sub-paragraph (b), for "husband and wife except that the persons are of the same sex" substitute " civil partners ".

(3) In paragraph 15—

(a) in sub-paragraph (a), for "(or former spouse)" substitute " or civil partner (or former spouse or former civil partner) ", and

(b) in sub-paragraph (b), for "husband and wife except that the persons are of the same sex" substitute " civil partners ".

66 In Schedule 3 (succession: qualified persons), in paragraph 2(1)(a)—

(a) in sub-head (i), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) in sub-head (ii), for "husband and wife except that the persons are of the same sex" substitute " civil partners ".

Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003 (asp 7)

67 (1) Amend section 14 (victim statements) as follows.

(2) In subsection (10)(a), at the end insert " or civil partner ".

(3) For subsection (11) substitute—

"(11) In subsection (10)(b), "cohabitee" means a person who has lived with the victim—

(a) as if in a married relationship; or

(b) in a relationship which had the characteristics of the relationship between civil partners,

for at least six months and was so living immediately before the offence (or apparent offence) was perpetrated."

Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 2003 (asp 11)

68 (1) Amend section 71 (meaning of "family") as follows.

(2) In subsection (2)(a), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ", and

(3) In subsection (3)(a), after "marriage" insert " or by virtue of civil partnership ".

Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 (asp 13)

69 (1) Amend section 254 (meaning of "nearest relative") as follows.

(2) In subsection (2)(a), at the end insert " or civil partner ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(3) In subsection (3), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

(4) In subsection (7)(a)(ii), for "husband and wife except that the person and the relevant person are of the same sex" substitute " civil partners ".

70 In section 313(5)(a)(ii) (defence in respect of sexual offence), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

SCHEDULE 29 Section 261(3)

MINOR AND CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS: NORTHERN IRELAND

Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954 (c. 33 (N.I.))

1 In section 46 (miscellaneous definitions), in subsection (2), after the definition of "barrister-at-law" insert—

> ""civil partnership" means a civil partnership which exists under the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (and any reference to a civil partner shall be construed accordingly);".

Trustee Act (Northern Ireland) 1958 (c. 23 (N.I.))

2 (1) Amend section 32(3)(a) (trust on reaching 18 or marrying under that age of accumulations during infancy) as follows.

(2) In sub-paragraph (i)—

(a) after "marries under that age" insert " or forms a civil partnership under that age ", and

(b) for "or until his marriage" substitute " , or until his marriage or his formation of a civil partnership, ".

(3) In sub-paragraph (ii), after "marriage" insert " , or on formation of a civil partnership, ".

(4) In the words after that sub-paragraph, after "marriage" insert " or formation of a civil partnership ".

3 (1) Amend section 34(1)(b) (trust to maintain principal beneficiary and his spouse and issue on failure of protective trust under paragraph (a)(ii)) as follows.

(2) In sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii), for "wife or husband" substitute " spouse or civil partner ".

(3) In sub-paragraph (ii), after "married" insert " or formed a civil partnership ".

Perpetuities Act (Northern Ireland) 1966 (c. 2 (N.I.))

4 (1) Amend section 3 (uncertainty as to remoteness) as follows.

(2) In subsection (4)(a), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

(3) In subsection (5)(f), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

5 (1) Amend section 5 (condition relating to death of surviving spouse) as follows.

(2) After "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

(3) In the heading to section 5, after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

Office and Shop Premises Act (Northern Ireland) 1966 (c. 26 (N.I.))

6 In section 2 (exception for premises in which only employer's relatives or outworkers work), in subsection (1), after "wife" insert " , civil partner ".

Maintenance and Affiliation Orders Act (Northern Ireland) 1966 (c. 35 (N.I.))

7 In section 10 (orders to which Part 2 of the Act applies), in subsection (2), after paragraph (h) insert—

"(i) paragraph 2(1)(a) or (d), 33, 34(3) or 36(1)(a) or (d) of Schedule 15, Schedule 16, or paragraph 9 of Schedule 17 so far as that paragraph applies Part 1 of Schedule 15, to the Civil Partnership Act 2004;".

8 (1) Amend section 13 (variation of orders registered in courts of summary jurisdiction) as follows.

(2) In subsection (5A), after "1980" insert " or paragraph 42 of Schedule 16 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 ".

(3) In subsection (7B), after "1989" insert " or paragraph 9 of Schedule 17 so far as that paragraph applies Part 1 of Schedule 15 ".

Census Act (Northern Ireland) 1969 (c. 8 (N.I.))

9 In the Schedule (matters of which particulars may be required), in paragraph 5, after "marriage" insert " or civil partnership ".

Theft Act (Northern Ireland) 1969 (c. 16 (N.I.))

10 (1) Amend section 29(1) (effect on civil proceedings and rights) as follows.

(2) For "wife or husband" substitute " spouse or civil partner ".

(3) For "married after the making of the statement or admission) against the wife or husband" substitute " married or became civil partners after the making of the statement or admission) against the spouse or civil partner ".

Industrial and Provident Societies Act (Northern Ireland) 1969 (c. 24 (N.I.))

11 (1) Amend section 22 (nomination to property in society) as follows.

(2) In subsection (2), for "husband, wife," substitute " spouse, civil partner, ".

(3) In subsection (6)—

(a) for "marriage of" substitute " formation of a marriage or civil partnership by ";

(b) after "before the marriage" insert " or civil partnership was formed ";

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(c) for "a marriage contracted" substitute " the formation of a marriage or civil partnership ".

12 In the definition of "member of the family" in section 101(1) (interpretation), for "husband, wife," substitute " spouse, civil partner, ".

Land Registration Act (Northern Ireland) 1970 (c. 18 (N.I.))

13 In Schedule 11 (matters required to be registered in the Statutory Charges Register), after paragraph 45 insert—

"46 An order under paragraph 67(2) of Schedule 15 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 to the extent that by virtue of paragraph 69(1)(b) of that Schedule it renders liable to be set aside at the instance of an applicant for financial relief a disposition of any land in Northern Ireland which is specified in the order."

Leasehold (Enlargement and Extension) Act (Northern Ireland) 1971 (c. 7 (N.I.))

14 In section 1 (general right to acquire fee simple or to obtain extension of lease), in subsection (3)(f)(i) to (iv), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

15 In section 19 (restrictions on right to extension of lease or to acquire fee simple), in subsection (1)(a)(i), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

Civil Evidence Act (Northern Ireland) 1971 (c. 36 (N.I.))

16 (1) Amend section 10 (privilege against incrimination of self or spouse).

(2) In subsection (1), for "husband or wife" substitute " spouse or civil partner ".

(3) In the heading to section 10, after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 (c. 9 (N.I.))

17 In section 30 (relatives of councillors), in subsection (6) (relevant family relationship)—

(a) after "husband and wife" insert " or civil partners ";

(b) after "husband or wife" insert (in both places) " or civil partner ".

18 In section 146 (interpretation: pecuniary interests), in subsection (2) (interests of spouses living together)—

(a) after "spouses" insert (in both places) " or civil partners ";

(b) after "spouse" insert (in both places) " or civil partner ".

Employer's Liability (Defective Equipment and Compulsory Insurance) (Northern Ireland) Order 1972 (S.I. 1972/963 (N.I. 6))

19 In Article 6(a) (persons whom employer is not required to insure) after "husband, wife," insert " civil partner, ".

Births and Deaths Registration (Northern Ireland) Order 1976 (S.I. 1976/1041 (N.I. 14))

20 In Article 2(2) (interpretation), in the definition of "relative", after "by marriage" insert " or civil partnership ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 1976 (S.I. 1976/1042 (N.I. 15))

21 In Article 2(6) (meaning of "near relative")—

(a) after "wife or husband" (in both places) insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) for "by affinity)" substitute " by marriage or civil partnership) ".

Pharmacy (Northern Ireland) Order 1976 (S.I. 1976/1213 (N.I. 22))

22 In Article 3(3)(e)(iii) (objects of Pharmaceutical Society include providing relief for distressed relatives), for "widows," substitute " surviving spouses, surviving civil partners, ".

Criminal Damage (Northern Ireland) Order 1977 (S.I. 1977/426 (N.I. 4))

23 (1) Amend Article 11 (evidence in connection with offences under the Order) as follows.

(2) For "wife or husband" substitute " spouse or civil partner ".

(3) For "married after the making of the statement or admission) against the wife or husband" substitute " married or became civil partners after the making of the statement or admission) against the spouse or civil partner ".

Judicature (Northern Ireland) Act 1978 (c. 23)

24 In section 31 (remittal and removal of proceedings), in subsection (7)(b), after "1882" insert " or section 191 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004 ".

25 (1) Amend section 35(2) (restrictions on appeals to Court of Appeal from High Court) as follows.

(2) After paragraph (e) insert—

"(ea) from a dissolution order, nullity order or presumption of death order under Chapter 2 of Part 4 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004 that has been made final, by a party who, having had time and the opportunity to appeal from the conditional order on which the final order was founded, has not appealed from that conditional order;".

(3) In paragraph (g)(iv), after "matrimonial cause" insert " , a conditional order in a civil partnership cause ".

26 (1) Amend section 94A (withdrawal of privilege against incrimination of self or spouse in certain proceedings) as follows.

(2) In subsection (1), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

(3) In subsection (3), for "married after the making of the statement or admission) against the spouse" substitute " married or became civil partners after the making of the statement or admission) against the spouse or civil partner ".

Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 (S.I. 1978/1039 (N.I. 9))

27 In Article 22 (powers of inspectors), in paragraph (7), for "husband or wife" substitute " spouse or civil partner ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Matrimonial Causes (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 (S.I. 1978/1045 (N.I. 15))

28 (1) Insert after Article 2(4)—

"(4A) References in this Order to the formation of a civil partnership by a person include references to a civil partnership which is by law void or voidable."

29 In Article 13 (grounds on which marriage is void), at the end of paragraph (1)(d) insert " or a civil partner ".

30 (1) Amend Article 17 (marriages governed by foreign law or celebrated abroad under certain enactments or common law) as follows.

(2) In paragraph (1), at the beginning insert " Subject to paragraph (3) ".

(3) After paragraph (2) insert—

"(3) No marriage is to be treated as valid by virtue of paragraph (1) if, at the time when it purports to have been celebrated, either party was already a civil partner."

31 (1) Amend Article 30 (duration of continuing financial provision orders in favour of party to marriage, and effect of remarriage) as follows.

(2) In paragraph (1)(a) and (b) after "remarriage of" insert " , or formation of a civil partnership by, ".

(3) In paragraph (2)—

(a) after "remarriage of" insert " , or formation of a civil partnership by, ", and

(b) after "the remarriage" insert " or formation of the civil partnership ".

(4) In paragraph (3), after "remarries whether at any time before or after the commencement of this Article", insert " or forms a civil partnership ".

(5) In the heading to Article 30, after "remarriage" insert " or formation of civil partnership ".

32 In Article 37 (alteration of agreements by court during lives of parties), in paragraph (4)(a) and (b), after "remarriage of" insert " , or formation of a civil partnership by, ".

33 (1) Amend Article 40 (orders for repayment in certain cases of sums paid after cessation of order by reason of remarriage) as follows.

(2) In paragraph (1)—

(a) in sub-paragraph (a), after "remarriage of" insert " , or formation of a civil partnership by, ", and

(b) in sub-paragraph (b), after "remarriage" insert " or formation of the civil partnership ".

(3) In paragraph (6)—

(a) in sub-paragraph (a), after "remarriage of" insert " , or formation of a civil partnership by, ", and

(b) in the words following sub-paragraph (b), after "had remarried" insert " or formed a civil partnership ".

(4) In the heading to Article 40, after "remarriage" insert " or formation of civil partnership ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Rehabilitation of Offenders (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 (S.I. 1978/1908 (N.I. 27))

34 In Article 8 (limitations on rehabilitation), in paragraph (2)(c), after "marriage," insert " civil partnership, ".

Criminal Appeal (Northern Ireland) Act 1980 (c. 47)

35 In section 47A (appeals in cases of death), in subsection (3)(a), after "widower" insert " or surviving civil partner ".

County Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1980 (S.I. 1980/397 (N.I. 3))

36 In Article 10 (general civil jurisdiction), after paragraph (3) insert—

"(3A) Except as provided by the Civil Partnership Act 2004, a county court which is not a civil partnership proceedings county court shall not have jurisdiction to hear any cause or matter to which that Act applies."

37 In Article 14 (jurisdiction in equity matters), in paragraph (j), after "1882" insert " or section 191 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004 ".

38 In Article 39 (capacity of parties), in paragraph (2)(d), after "marriage, death or bankruptcy of" insert " , or the formation of a civil partnership by, ".

Domestic Proceedings (Northern Ireland) Order 1980 (S.I. 1980/563 (N.I. 5))

39 In Article 6 (duration of orders for financial provision for a party to a marriage), in paragraph (2)—

(a) after "remarriage of" insert " , or formation of a civil partnership by, ", and

(b) after "the remarriage" insert " or formation of the civil partnership ".

40 (1) Amend Article 40 (orders for repayment in certain cases of sums paid after cessation of order by reason of remarriage) as follows.

(2) In paragraph (1)—

(a) in sub-paragraph (a), after "remarriage of" insert " , or formation of a civil partnership by, ", and

(b) in sub-paragraph (b), after "that remarriage" insert " or the formation of that civil partnership ".

(3) In paragraph (8)—

(a) in sub-paragraph (a), after "remarriage of" insert " , or formation of a civil partnership by, ", and

(b) in the words following sub-paragraph (b)—

(i) after "the remarriage" insert " or the formation of that civil partnership ", and

(ii) after "had remarried" insert " or formed a civil partnership ".

(4) In the heading to Article 40, after "remarriage" add " or formation of civil partnership ".

Judgments Enforcement (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 (S.I. 1981/226 (N.I. 6)

41 In Article 4 (judgments to which Order applies), in paragraph (e), after "1980" insert " or Part 1, 2 or 6 of Schedule 16 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

42 In Article 6 (judgments to which Order does not apply), in paragraph (c), after "matrimonial jurisdiction" insert " or by the High Court or a civil partnership proceedings county court in the exercise of its civil partnership jurisdiction ".

43 In Article 7 (The Enforcement of Judgments Office), in paragraph (3), after "domestic" insert " or civil partnership ".

44 In Article 25 (taking custody of goods under a money judgment), in paragraph (2)(b), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

45 In Article 32 (property which may be seized), in paragraph (d), after "spouse" (in each place) insert " or civil partner ".

46 In Article 33 (property exempt from seizure), in paragraph (a), after "spouse" (in each place) insert " or civil partner ".

47 In Article 36 (where seizure may be effected), in paragraph (a)(i), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

48 In Article 38 (power of entry under order of seizure), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

49 In Article 44 (interpleader), in paragraph (1), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

F775 50 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F775 Sch. 29 para. 50 repealed (31.10.2016) by Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (c. 9), s. 106(2), Sch. 1 para. 124(6), **Sch. 9 Pt. 1** (with Sch. 8 para. 1); S.R. 2016/387, art. 2(k)(m) (with art. 3)

51 (1) Amend Article 98 (power of courts to make attachment of earnings orders) as follows.

(2) In paragraph (a)(i), after "matrimonial" insert " or civil partnership ".

(3) In paragraph (a)(ii), after "matrimonial jurisdiction" insert " or a civil partnership proceedings county court in the exercise of its civil partnership jurisdiction ".

52 (1) Amend Article 107 (committal for default) as follows.

(2) In paragraph (1)(c), after "matrimonial jurisdiction" insert " or by the High Court or a civil partnership proceedings county court in the exercise of its civil partnership jurisdiction ".

(3) In paragraph (2)(a)(ii), after "matrimonial" insert " or civil partnership ".

Legal Aid, Advice and Assistance (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 (S.I. 1981/228 (N.I. 8))

F776 53 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F776 Sch. 29 para. 53 repealed (1.4.2015) by Legal Aid and Coroners' Courts Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 (c. 11), s. 12(1), **Sch. 3 Pt. 1** (with ss. 2(3), 9, Sch. 1 para. 3(3)); S.R. 2015/193, art. 2(f)

F777 54 . . . . . .

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F777 Sch. 29 para. 54 repealed (1.4.2015) by Legal Aid and Coroners' Courts Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 (c. 11), s. 12(1), **Sch. 3 Pt. 1** (with ss. 2(3), 9, Sch. 1 para. 3(3)); S.R. 2015/193, art. 2(f)

Magistrates' Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 (S.I. 1981/1675 (N.I. 26))

55 In Article 85 (orders for periodical payment: means of payment), in paragraph (8)(a)(ii), after "1980" insert " , the Civil Partnership Act 2004 ".

56 In Article 86 (revocation, variation, etc., of orders for periodical payment), in paragraph (1), after "1980" insert " and paragraph 42 of Schedule 16 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 ".

57 In Article 88 (nature of domestic proceedings), after paragraph (dh), insert—

"(di) under paragraph 54 of Schedule 15 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 or under Schedule 16 to that Act;".

58 In Article 98 (enforcement of orders for periodical payment of money), in paragraph (11)(i), after "1980" insert " or Schedule 16 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 ".

59 In Article 99 (enforcement of orders for payment of money other than periodical payments), in paragraph (11), after "1980" insert " or Part 1, 2 or 6 of Schedule 16 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 ".

60 In Article 143 (appeals in other cases), after paragraph (3) insert—

"(4) Paragraph (1) is also subject to paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 16 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 and Article 31(1) of the Domestic Proceedings (Northern Ireland) Order 1980 as applied by paragraph 46 of that Schedule."

61 In Article 164 (appearance by counsel or solicitor), in paragraph (3), for "husband, wife" substitute " spouse, civil partner ".

Criminal Attempts and Conspiracy (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 (S.I. 1983/1120 (N.I. 13))

62 In Article 10 (exemptions from liability for conspiracy), in paragraph (2)(a), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

Forfeiture (Northern Ireland) Order 1982 (S.I. 1982/1082 (N.I. 14))

63 In Article 5 (application for financial provision not affected by the forfeiture rule), at the end of paragraph (2)(b) insert "and

(c) paragraphs 53 (variation of secured periodical payments order) and 66 (alteration of maintenance agreements by court) of Schedule 15 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004".

Family Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1984 (S.I. 1984/1984 (N.I. 14))

64 (1) Amend Article 18 (prohibited degrees of relationship) as follows.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(2) In paragraph (1), for the words from "between a man" to "that Table" substitute " between a person and any person mentioned in the list in Part 1 of the following Table ".

(3) For the Table in paragraph (1) substitute—

"**PART 1**

PROHIBITED DEGREES OF RELATIONSHIP

Adoptive child

Adoptive parent

Child

Former adoptive child

Former adoptive parent

Grandparent

Grandchild

Parent

Parent's sibling

Sibling

Sibling's child

PART 2

DEGREES OF AFFINITY REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPHS (2A) AND (2B)

Child of former civil partner

Child of former spouse

Former civil partner of grandparent

Former civil partner of parent

Former spouse of grandparent

Former spouse of parent

Grandchild of former civil partner

Grandchild of former spouse

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

PART 3

DEGREES OF AFFINITY REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPHS (2C) AND (2D)

Parent of former spouse

Parent of former civil partner

Former spouse of child

Former civil partner of child".

(4) In paragraph (2)—

(a) in sub-paragraph (b), for the words "brother or sister" substitute " sibling ";

(b) in sub-paragraph (c), after the word "marriage" insert " or civil partnership ".

(5) In paragraph (2A), for the words from "between a man" to "that Part II" substitute " between a person and any person mentioned in the list in Part 2 of that Table ".

(6) F778 . . . . . .

(7) F778 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F778 Sch. 29 para. 64(6)(7) repealed (20.9.2006) by The Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 (S.I. 2006/1945 (N.I. 14)), **art. 3(3)**

Commencement Information

I99 Sch. 29 para. 64 partly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 29 para. 64 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 29 para. 64(1)(2)(4)(5) in force at 5.12.2005 and Sch. 29 para. 64(3) in force for certain purposes at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)(3)(4)**, Sch.

Credit Unions (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (S.I. 1985/1205 (N.I. 12))

65 (1) Amend Article 2(2) (interpretation) as follows.

(2) After the definition of "board of directors" insert—

""civil partner" includes former civil partner;".

(3) In the definition of "member of the family"—

(a) in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) in paragraph (ii), for "a child born in wedlock" substitute " the legitimate child of the relationship in question ".

66 (1) Amend Article 17 (nomination to property in credit union) as follows.

(2) In paragraph (2), after "wife," insert " civil partner, ".

(3) In paragraph (6)—

(a) for "marriage of" substitute " formation of a marriage or civil partnership by ";

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) after "before the marriage" insert " or civil partnership was formed ";

(c) for "a marriage contracted" substitute " the formation of a marriage or civil partnership ".

Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 (S.I. 1986/595 (N.I. 4))

67 (1) Amend Schedule 1 (persons by whom a medical recommendation or medical report under Article 12 may not be given) as follows.

(2) In paragraph 3, after "spouse," insert " civil partner, ".

(3) In paragraph 4, after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 (S.I. 1986/1032 (N.I. 6))

68 F779 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F779 Sch. 29 para. 68 repealed (1.10.2009) by The Companies Act 2006 (Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/1941), arts. 1(2), 2(2), **Sch. 2** (with art. 10)

69 F780 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F780 Sch. 29 para. 69 repealed (1.10.2009) by The Companies Act 2006 (Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/1941), arts. 1(2), 2(2), **Sch. 2** (with art. 10)

70 F781 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F781 Sch. 29 para. 70 repealed (1.10.2009) by The Companies Act 2006 (Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/1941), arts. 1(2), 2(2), **Sch. 2** (with art. 10)

71 F782 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F782 Sch. 29 para. 71 repealed (1.10.2009) by The Companies Act 2006 (Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/1941), arts. 1(2), 2(2), **Sch. 2** (with art. 10)

72 F783 . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F783 Sch. 29 para. 72 repealed (1.10.2009) by The Companies Act 2006 (Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/1941), arts. 1(2), 2(2), **Sch. 2** (with art. 10)

73 F784 . . . . . .

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Textual Amendments

F784 Sch. 29 para. 73 repealed (1.10.2007) by The Companies Act 2006 (Commencement No. 3, Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2007 (S.I. 2007/2194), art. 10(3), **Sch. 5** (with art. 12)

74 **F785** . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F785 Sch. 29 para. 74 repealed (1.10.2009) by The Companies Act 2006 (Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/1941), arts. 1(2), 2(2), **Sch. 2** (with art. 10)

75 **F786** . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F786 Sch. 29 para. 75 repealed (1.10.2009) by The Companies Act 2006 (Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/1941), arts. 1(2), 2(2), **Sch. 2** (with art. 10)

Enduring Powers of Attorney (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 (S.I. 1987/1627 (N.I. 16))

76 In Article 5 (scope of authority etc. of attorney under enduring power), in paragraph (5)(a), for "or marriage" substitute " marriage or the formation of a civil partnership ".

77 (1) Amend paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 1 (persons entitled to receive notice) as follows.

(2) In head (a), after "wife" insert " or civil partner ".

(3) In head (e), after "widower" insert " or surviving civil partner ".

78 Paragraphs 76 and 77 apply in relation to the exercise of powers under enduring powers of attorney created before the passing of this Act as well as to those created on or after its passing.

Matrimonial and Family Proceedings (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 (S.I. 1989/677 (N.I. 4))

79 (1) Amend Article 16 (applications for financial relief after overseas divorce etc.) as follows.

(2) In paragraph (2) (no application may be made after remarriage), for "remarries" substitute " forms a subsequent marriage or civil partnership, ".

(3) For paragraph (3) substitute—

"(3) The reference in paragraph (2) to the forming of a subsequent marriage or civil partnership includes a reference to the forming of a marriage or civil partnership which is by law void or voidable."

Insolvency (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 (S.I. 1989/2405 (N.I. 19))

80 (1) Amend Article 4 (meaning of "associate") as follows.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(2) For paragraph (2) substitute—

"(2) A person is an associate of an individual if that person is—

(a) the individual's husband or wife or civil partner,

(b) a relative of—

(i) the individual, or

(ii) the individual's husband or wife or civil partner, or

(c) the husband or wife or civil partner of a relative of—

(i) the individual, or

(ii) the individual's husband or wife or civil partner."

(3) In paragraph (3), after "husband or wife" insert " or civil partner ".

(4) In paragraph (8), at the end insert " and references to a civil partner include a former civil partner ".

81 In Article 179 (proceedings under Article 177 and 178), in paragraph (3)(b), after "marriage" insert " or the formation of a civil partnership ".

82 In Article 286 (charge on bankrupt's home), in paragraph (1), after "former spouse" insert " or by his civil partner or former civil partner ".

83 (1) Amend Article 302 (debts to spouse) as follows.

(2) In paragraph (1), after "spouse" (in each place) insert " or civil partner ".

(3) In the heading to Article 302, after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

84 In Article 305 (saving for bankrupt's home), in paragraph (1), after "former spouse" insert " or by his civil partner or former civil partner ".

85 In Article 312 (transactions at an undervalue), in paragraph (3)(b), after "marriage" insert " or the formation of a civil partnership ".

86 In Article 337 (inquiry into bankrupt's dealings and property), in paragraph (1)(a), after "former spouse" insert " or civil partner or former civil partner ".

87 In Article 367 (transactions defrauding creditors), in paragraph (1)(b), after "marriage" insert " or the formation of a civil partnership ".

Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 (S.I. 1989/1341 (N.I. 12))

88 (1) Amend Article 79 (compellability of accused's spouse) as follows.

(2) In paragraphs (2), (2A) and (3), for "wife or husband" (in each place) substitute " spouse or civil partner ".

(3) After paragraph (5) insert—

"(5A) In any criminal proceedings a person who has been but is no longer the civil partner of the accused shall be compellable to give evidence as if that person and the accused had never been civil partners."

(4) In the heading to Article 79, after "accused's spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

89 In Article 79A (rule where accused's spouse not compellable)—

(a) for "wife or husband" substitute " spouse or civil partner ", and

(b) in the heading, after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1990 (S.I. 1990/593 (N.I. 5))

90 In Article 54 (meaning of "associate"), in paragraph (2)(a) after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 (S.I. 1991/762 (N.I. 7))

91 In Article 42 (continuance of registration or licence on death), in paragraph (2), for the words from "the deceased's personal representative" to "his death" substitute "the deceased's personal representative, or widow or widower or surviving civil partner or any other member of the deceased's family, until the expiration of—

(a) the period of 3 months from the date of the deceased's death".

Industrial Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1992 (S.I.1992/807 (N.I.5))

92 In Article 23 (recovery of sums awarded in proceedings involving trade unions and employers' associations), in the definition of "provident benefits" in paragraph (3), for "wife" substitute " spouse or civil partner ".

PROSPECTIVE

Pension Schemes (Northern Ireland) Act 1993 (c. 49)

93 In section 97E (discharge of liability where pension credit or alternative benefits secured by insurance policies or annuity contracts), in subsection (1)(b), after "or widower" insert " or civil partner ".

Family Law (Northern Ireland) Order 1993 (S.I. 1993/1576 (N.I. 6))

94 (1) In Article 12 (family proceedings rules), amend paragraph (3)(g) as follows.

(2) After "1978" insert " or a civil partnership cause within the meaning of section 190(3) of the Civil Partnership Act 2004 ".

(3) After "that Article 48" insert (in both places) " that section 190(3) ".

F787(4) . . . . . .

Textual Amendments

F787 Sch. 29 para. 94(4) repealed (31.10.2016) by Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (c. 9), s. 106(2), Sch. 1 para. 124(6), **Sch. 9 Pt. 1** (with Sch. 8 para. 1); S.R. 2016/387, art. 2(k)(m) (with art. 3)

Commencement Information

I100 Sch. 29 para. 94 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; Sch. 29 para. 94 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 29 para. 94 in force for certain purposes at 5.9.2005 by S.I. 2005/2399, **art. 2**, Sch. and Sch. 29 para. 94 in force otherwise at 5.12.2005 by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. (subject to art. 2(2))

Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 (S.I. 1995/755 (N.I. 2))

95 In Article 8 (residence, contact and other orders with respect to children), after paragraph (4)(h) insert—

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

"(i) Chapter 2 of Part 4 of, or Schedule 15, 16 or 17 to, the Civil Partnership Act 2004".

96 In Article 50 (care orders and supervision orders), in paragraph (4), for "married)" substitute " married or a civil partner) ".

97 In Article 67 (powers to assist in discovery of children who may be in need of emergency protection), in paragraph (2), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

98 In Article 69 (recovery of abducted children, etc.), in paragraph (11), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

99 In Article 166 (appeals), at the end of paragraph (2)(b) insert "or

(c) where the county court is a civil partnership proceedings county court exercising jurisdiction under the Civil Partnership Act 2004 in the same proceedings".

100 In Article 171 (self-incrimination), in paragraph (2), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

Trade Union and Labour Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1995(S.I.1995/1980 (N.I.12))

101 In Article 125 (intimidation or annoyance by violence or otherwise), in paragraph (1)(a), for "wife" substitute " spouse or civil partner ".

Employment Rights (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 (S.I. 1996/1919 (N.I. 16))

102 In Article 85A (time off for dependants), in paragraph (3)(a), after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ".

103 In Article 248 (institution or continuance of tribunal proceedings), in paragraph (5)(b), for "widow or widower" substitute " surviving spouse, surviving civil partner ".

Registration of Clubs (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 (S.I. 1996/3159 (N.I. 23))

104 In Schedule 1 (provisions to be included in rules of club), in paragraph 11, for "husband, wife" substitute " spouse, civil partner ".

Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 (S.I. 1997/869 (N.I. 6))

105 In Article 23(7) (exceptions: meaning of "near relative")—

(a) after "spouse" (in both places) insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) for "by affinity)" substitute " by marriage or civil partnership) ".

Fair Employment and Treatment (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 (S.I. 1998/3162 (N.I. 21))

106 In Article 30(7) (exceptions: meaning of "near relative")—

(a) after "spouse" insert " or civil partner ", and

(b) for "by affinity)" substitute " by marriage or civil partnership) ".

107 In Article 69(3)(c) (interpretation: connected person), after "wife or husband" (in each place) substitute " or civil partner ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 (S.I. 1999/3147 (N.I. 11))

108 (1) Amend Article 21 (supply of pension information in connection with divorce etc.) as follows.

(2) After paragraph (1)(a)(i) insert—

"(ia) financial relief under Schedule 15 or 17 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (powers in relation to domestic and overseas dissolution of civil partnerships etc.);".

(3) In paragraph (1)(a)(ii), after "1984" insert " or Schedule 5 or 7 to the 2004 Act ".

(4) In paragraph (1)(a)(iii), after "1984" insert " or Schedule 11 to the 2004 Act ".

(5) In paragraph (1)(b), after "(a)(i)" insert " , (ia) ".

109 (1) Amend Article 22 (charges by pension arrangements in relation to earmarking orders) as follows.

(2) After paragraph (a) insert—

"(aa) an order under Part 1 of Schedule 15 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (financial provision orders in connection with dissolution of civil partnerships etc.) so far as it includes provision made by virtue of Part 5 of that Schedule (powers to include provision about pensions),".

(3) At the end of paragraph (b) omit "or" and after that paragraph insert—

"(bb) an order under Part 1 of Schedule 5 to the 2004 Act so far as it includes provision made by virtue of Part 6 of that Schedule (England and Wales powers corresponding to those mentioned in paragraph (aa)), or".

110 (1) Amend Article 25 (activation of pension sharing) as follows.

(2) After paragraph (1)(a) insert—

"(aa) a pension sharing order under Schedule 15 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004,".

(3) After paragraph (1)(b) insert—

"(ba) an order under Schedule 17 to the 2004 Act (financial relief in Northern Ireland after overseas dissolution etc. of a civil partnership) corresponding to such an order as is mentioned in paragraph (aa),".

111 (1) Amend Article 31 ("implementation period") as follows.

(2) In paragraph (1)(b)(i), omit "matrimonial".

(3) In paragraph (2)—

(a) omit "matrimonial", and

(b) in sub-paragraph (b), after "divorce" insert " , dissolution ".

112 (1) Amend Article 45 (activation of benefit sharing) as follows.

(2) After paragraph (1)(a) insert—

"(aa) a pension sharing order under Schedule 15 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004,".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(3) After paragraph (1)(b) insert—

"(ba) an order under Schedule 17 to the 2004 Act (financial relief in Northern Ireland after overseas dissolution etc. of a civil partnership) corresponding to such an order as is mentioned in paragraph (aa),".

Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 (S.I. 2003/412 (N.I. 2))

113 In Article 85 (meaning of exempt disposal), after paragraph (3)(d) insert—

"(e) Part 2 of Schedule 15 or 17 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004;."

Marriage (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 (S.I. 2003/413 (N.I. 3))

114 (1) Amend Article 5 (power to require evidence) as follows.

(2) In paragraph (3)(c), after "marital" insert " and civil partnership ".

(3) After paragraph (3) insert—

"(4) In paragraph (3)(c), "marital and civil partnership status", in relation to a person, means whether that person has previously formed a marriage or a civil partnership, and if so, whether that marriage or civil partnership has ended."

115 In Article 6 (objections), in paragraph (6)(b), after "married" insert " or a civil partner ".

Access to Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 (S.I. 2003/435 (N.I. 10))

116 In Article 39 (conditional fee agreements: supplementary), in paragraph (2) (definition of "family proceedings"), after sub-paragraph (f) insert—

"(g) Chapter 2 of Part 4 of, or Schedules 15, 16 or 17 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004,". In Schedule 2 (civil legal services: excluded services), in paragraph 2(d)(i), after "1998" insert " or Schedule 16 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 ".

Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004 (S.I. 2004/702 (N.I. 3))

117 In Article 2(2) (interpretation), in the definition of "relative"—

(a) in paragraphs (a) and (b), for "spouse or former spouse" substitute " spouse, former spouse, civil partner or former civil partner ";

(b) after "as husband and wife" insert " or as if they were civil partners ";

(c) after "married to each other" insert " or were civil partners of each other ".

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

SCHEDULE 30

Section 261(4)

REPEALS AND REVOCATIONS

Commencement Information

I101 Sch. 30 partly in force; Sch. 30 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; Sch. 30 in force at 5.12.2005 for certain purposes by S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(6)(7)**; Sch. 30 in force at 5.12.2005 for certain purposes by S.I. 2005/3255, **art. 2(1)**, Sch.; Sch. 30 in force at 5.12.2005 for certain purposes by S.S.I. 2005/604, **art. 2(d)**

FAMILY PROVISION

Short title and chapter	*Extent of repeal*
Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependants) Act 1975 (c. 63)	In section 3(2), "and," immediately following paragraph (b).

HOUSING AND TENANCIES

Short title and chapter	*Extent of repeal*
Housing Act 1980 (c. 51)	In section 54(2)(b), "or" at the end.
Housing Act 1985 (c. 68)	In each of sections 39(3)(c), 89(3)(a)(ii), 90(3)(a)(ii), 91(3)(b)(ii), 99B(2)(e)(ii), 101(3)(c)(ii) and 160(3)(c), and paragraph 1(2)(c)(iii) of Schedule 6A, "or" at the end.
Landlord and Tenant Act 1987 (c. 31)	In section 4(2)(c)(v), "or" at the end.
Housing Act 1988 (c. 50)	In paragraph 4(4)(c) of Schedule 11, "or" at the end.
Housing Act 1996 (c. 52)	In sections 15(6)(c), 133(3)(a)(ii), 134(2)(a)(ii) and 160(2)(e)(ii) and (3)(d)(ii), "or" at the end.

FAMILY HOMES AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Short title and chapter	*Extent of repeal*
Family Law Act 1996 (c. 27)	In section 63(1), the definition of "matrimonial home rights". In Schedule 7, "or" at the end of paragraph 4(a) and paragraph 7(6). In Schedule 8, paragraphs 48(3), 53(2)(b) and 59(2)(b), and "and" immediately preceding paragraphs 53(2)(b) and 59(2)(b).

FAMILY PROVISION: NORTHERN IRELAND

Title and number	*Extent of revocation*

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependants) (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 (S.I. 1979/924 (N.I. 8))	In Article 5(2), "and" immediately following sub-paragraph (b).

FAMILY HOMES AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: NORTHERN IRELAND

Title and number	***Extent of revocation***
Family Homes and Domestic Violence (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 (S.I. 1998/1071 (N.I. 6))	In Article 2(2), the definition of "matrimonial home rights". In Schedule 2, "or" at the end of paragraph 4(1)(a).

DISCRIMINATION

Short title and chapter	***Extent of repeal***
Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (c. 27)	Section 1(4).
Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 1976 (S.I. 1976/1042 (N.I. 15))	Article 3(4).

SOCIAL SECURITY, CHILD SUPPORT AND TAX CREDITS

Short title and chapter	***Extent of repeal or revocation***
Child Support Act 1991 (c. 48)	In section 8(11), "or" at the end of paragraph (e).
Child Support (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 (S.I. 1991/2628 (N.I. 23))	In Article 10(11), "or" at the end of sub-paragraph (dd).
Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 (c. 4)	In section 37(4) "or" at the end of paragraph (a). In section 38(3), "or" at the end of paragraph (b). In section 39A(2) and (5), "or" at the end of paragraph (a). In section 39B(5), "or" at the end of paragraph (a). Section 85(1). In section 137(1), the definitions of "married couple" and "unmarried couple".
Social Security Administration Act 1992 (c. 5)	In section 74A(5), the definitions of "married couple" and "unmarried couple".
Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 (c. 7)	In section 37(4), "or" at the end of paragraph (a). In section 38(3), "or" at the end of paragraph (b). In section 39A(2) and (5), "or" at the end of paragraph (a). In section 39B(5), "or" at the end of paragraph (a).

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

	Section 85(1). In section 133(1), the definitions of "married couple" and "unmarried couple".
Social Security Administration (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 (c. 8)	In section 72A(5), the definitions of "married couple" and "unmarried couple".
Jobseekers Act 1995 (c. 18)	In section 35(1), the definitions of "married couple" and "unmarried couple".
Child Support Act 1995 (c. 34)	In section 10(7), the definitions of "married couple" and "unmarried couple".
Child Support (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 (S.I. 1995/2702 (N.I. 13))	In Article 4(7), the definitions of "married couple" and "unmarried couple".
Jobseekers (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 (S.I. 1995/2705 (N.I. 15))	In Article 2(2), the definitions of "married couple" and "unmarried couple".
State Pension Credit Act 2002 (c. 16)	In section 17(1), the definitions of "married couple" and "unmarried couple".
Tax Credits Act 2002 (c. 21)	In section 48(1), the definitions of "married couple" and "unmarried couple", and "and" at the end of the definition of "tax year".
State Pension Credit Act (Northern Ireland) 2002 (c. 14 (N.I.))	In section 17(1), the definitions of "married couple" and "unmarried couple".

MINOR AND CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS: GENERAL

Short title and chapter	***Extent of repeal***
Judicial Proceedings (Regulation of Reports) Act 1926 (c. 61)	Section 1(5).
Marriage Act 1949 (c. 76)	Section 1(6) to (8).
Theft Act 1968 (c. 60)	In section 30(4), "or" at the end of paragraph (a)(i) to the proviso.
Consumer Credit Act 1974 (c. 39)	In section 184(5), "and" immediately before "references".
Estate Agents Act 1979 (c. 38)	In section 32(3), "and" immediately before "references".
Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41)	In section 58A, "and" at the end of subsection (2)(f).
Family Law Act 1996 (c. 27)	In section 64, "or" at the end of subsection (1)(c).
Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999 (c. 30)	At the end of section 23(1)(a)(ii), "or". At the end of section 24(b), "or". In sections 28(7)(a) and (9), 34(1)(b)(i) and (2) and 48(6)(a) and (8) "matrimonial".
Gender Recognition Act 2004 (c. 7)	In Schedule 4, paragraph 2.

Status: *This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*
Changes to legislation: *Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS: SCOTLAND

Short title and chapter	***Extent of repeal***
F788	**F788**
. . . . .	. . . . .
Family Law (Scotland) Act 1985 (c. 37)	In section 10(2), first "matrimonial".
Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000 (asp 4)	In section 87, in subsection (1), in the definition of "nearest relative", ", subject to subsection (2)," and subsections (2) and (3).

Textual Amendments

F788 Sch. 30: entry repealed (7.7.2011) by Damages (Scotland) Act 2011 (asp 7), ss. 16, 19(3), **sch. 2** (with ss. 17, 19(2)); S.S.I. 2011/268, **art. 3** (with art. 4)

MINOR AND CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS: NORTHERN IRELAND

Title and number	***Extent of revocation***
Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 (S.I. 1999/3147 (N.I. 11))	At the end of Article 22(b), "or". In Article 31(1)(b)(i) and (2), "matrimonial".

Status:
This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation:
Civil Partnership Act 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 July 2025. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.
View outstanding changes

Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- s. 70A inserted by 2010 c. 15 s. 201
- s. 94A(5) words substituted by 2020 asp 15 s. 7(2)(e)
- s. 203(3)-(5) repealed by 2022 c. 18 (N.I.) Sch. 5
- s. 203(7)(8) repealed by 2022 c. 18 (N.I.) Sch. 5
- s. 213(1A) inserted by 2013 c. 30 Sch. 2 para. 5(2)
- Sch. 9 para. 18 repealed by 2008 c. 17 Sch. 16
- Sch. 9 para. 23 and cross-heading repealed by 2008 c. 17 Sch. 16
- Sch. 21 para. 49A repealed by 2006 c. 47 Sch. 10
- Sch. 24 para. 68 repealed by 2007 c. 2 (N.I.) Sch. 8
- Sch. 24 para. 69 repealed by 2007 c. 2 (N.I.) Sch. 8
- Sch. 24 para. 131 repealed by 2010 c. 13 (N.I.) Sch. 4 Pt. 3
- Sch. 24 para. 133 repealed by 2010 c. 13 (N.I.) Sch. 4 Pt. 3
- Sch. 24 para. 134 repealed by 2010 c. 13 (N.I.) Sch. 4 Pt. 3
- Sch. 24 para. 96-99 repealed by S.I. 2015/2006 (N.I.) Sch. 12 Pt. 1
- Sch. 24 para. 102(3) repealed by S.I. 2015/2006 (N.I.) Sch. 12 Pt. 1
- Sch. 24 para. 107 repealed by S.I. 2015/2006 (N.I.) Sch. 12 Pt. 1
- Sch. 24 para. 113 repealed by S.I. 2015/2006 (N.I.) Sch. 12 Pt. 7
- Sch. 24 para. 14 repealed by 2007 c. 5 Sch. 8
- Sch. 24 para. 15 repealed by 2007 c. 5 Sch. 8
- Sch. 24 para. 42-44 repealed by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 7 Pt. 1
- Sch. 24 para. 118 repealed by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 7 Pt. 3
- Sch. 24 para. 120 repealed by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 7 Pt. 3
- Sch. 24 para. 121 repealed by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 7 Pt. 3
- Sch. 24 para. 123 repealed by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 7 Pt. 1
- Sch. 24 para. 42-46 repealed by 2012 c. 5 Sch. 14 Pt. 1
- Sch. 24 para. 53 repealed by 2012 c. 5 Sch. 14 Pt. 7
- Sch. 24 para. 55 repealed by 2012 c. 5 Sch. 14 Pt. 1
- Sch. 24 para. 61 repealed by 2012 c. 5 Sch. 14 Pt. 8
- Sch. 24 para. 144-147 repealed by 2012 c. 5 Sch. 14 Pt. 1

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:
Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 70A inserted by 2010 c. 15 s. 201
- s. 213(1A) inserted by 2013 c. 30 Sch. 2 para. 5(2)

Separation and Maintenance Orders Ordinance

(Cap. 16)

Contents

Section		Page
1.	Short title	2
2.	Interpretation	2
3.	Grounds on which an application for a section 5 order may be made	4
4.	*(Repealed)*	8
5.	Powers of District Court	8
6.	Limitation of powers of District Court	10
6A.	Condonation	12
7.	District Court may vary or discharge order	12
8.	District Court may refuse an order in cases more fit for the Court of First Instance	16
9.	Power to order interim payments where application for maintenance is adjourned	16
9A.	Attachment of income to satisfy order	18
9B.	Interest on arrears of maintenance	28
9C.	Surcharge on arrears of maintenance	32
10.	Notice of change of address	40

Section		Page
11.	Procedure	40
12.	Provisions as to powers of court to make orders in favour of children and duration of such orders	40
13.	Transitional	42

To make better provision in Hong Kong for the granting by the District Court of separation and maintenance orders.

(Amended 35 of 1969 Schedule; 25 of 1998 s. 2)

[6 December 1935]

(Format changes—E.R. 2 of 2019)

1. Short title

This Ordinance may be cited as the Separation and Maintenance Orders Ordinance.

2. Interpretation

In this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise requires—

education (教育) includes training; *(Added 69 of 1997 s. 9)*

habitual drunkard (慣性酗酒者) and ***drug addict*** (吸毒者) mean a person who is, by reason of habitual intemperate drinking of intoxicating liquor, or habitual taking or using, except upon and in accordance with medical advice, of opium, or any dangerous drug within the meaning of the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Cap. 134), at times dangerous to himself or herself or to others, or incapable of managing himself or herself, and his or her affairs; *[cf. 1879 c. 19 s. 3 U.K.; 1925 c. 51 s. 3 U.K.]*

husband (丈夫) means the husband or partner of a wife or married woman; *(Added 28 of 1971 s. 19)*

maintenance order (贍養令) means an order made—

(a) under section 5(1)(c) or (d) or 9(1) for periodical payments; or

(b) under section 5(1)(c) or (d) for payment of a lump sum; *(Added 18 of 2003 s. 5)*

married person (已婚人士) means a husband or a wife; *(Added 69 of 1997 s. 9)*

other party to the marriage (婚姻的另一方) means, in relation to a husband or a wife, the wife or husband of that person; *(Added 69 of 1997 s. 9)*

wife (妻子) and ***married woman*** (已婚女子) mean the wife or partner of a man by—

(a) a marriage celebrated or contracted in accordance with the provisions of the Marriage Ordinance (Cap. 181);

(b) a modern marriage validated by the Marriage Reform Ordinance (Cap. 178);

(c) a customary marriage declared to be valid by the Marriage Reform Ordinance (Cap. 178);

(d) a union of concubinage as defined by section 14 of the Legitimacy Ordinance (Cap. 184);

(e) a kim tiu marriage entered in accordance with Chinese law and custom applicable thereto in Hong Kong before the appointed day under the Marriage Reform Ordinance (Cap. 178); or

(f) a marriage celebrated or contracted outside Hong Kong in accordance with the law in force at the time and in the place where the marriage was performed. *(Replaced 28 of 1971 s. 19)*

3. Grounds on which an application for a section 5 order may be made

(1) Where a married person—

(a) has been convicted summarily of an assault upon the other party to the marriage which in the opinion of the convicting magistrate is of an aggravated character;

(b) has been convicted whether on indictment or summarily of an assault upon the other party to the marriage, and sentenced to pay a fine of more than $500 or to a term of imprisonment exceeding 2 months;

(c) has deserted the other party to the marriage;

(d) has been guilty of persistent cruelty to the other party to the marriage or that party's children;

(e) has failed to provide reasonable maintenance for the other party to the marriage or reasonable maintenance and education for that party's children whom the married person is legally liable to maintain;

(f) has, while suffering from a venereal disease, and knowing that he or she was so suffering, insisted on having sexual intercourse with the other party to the marriage;

(g) has compelled the other party to the marriage to submit to prostitution;

(h) is a habitual drunkard, or a drug addict,

that other party may apply to the District Court for an order under this Ordinance.

(2) For the purpose of subsection (1)(g), where a married person has, in the opinion of the District Court, been guilty of such conduct as was likely to result and has resulted in the other party to the marriage submitting to prostitution, that person shall be deemed to have compelled the other party to the marriage so to submit.

(Replaced 69 of 1997 s. 10)

4. *(Repealed 69 of 1997 s. 10)*

5. Powers of District Court

(1) On any application under section 3, the District Court may make an order containing all or any of the following provisions—

(a) that the applicant be no longer bound to cohabit with the other party to the marriage (which provision while in force shall have the effect of a decree of judicial separation on the ground of cruelty);

(b) that the legal custody of any children of the marriage be committed to the husband, or to the wife, until such children attain the age of 18 years;

(c) that the husband or wife shall pay to the other party to the marriage, or to the Registrar of the District Court or any third person on such other party's behalf, such lump sum (whether in one amount or by instalments) or periodical payments or both as the court, having regard to the means of both of the parties to the marriage, considers reasonable, and an order under this paragraph for the payment of a lump sum may be made for the purpose of enabling any liabilities or expenses reasonably incurred in maintaining such other party before the making of the order to be met;

(d) that the husband or wife shall pay to the other party to the marriage, or to the said Registrar or any third person on such other party's behalf, such lump sum (whether in one amount or by instalments) or periodical payments or both as the court considers reasonable, having regard to the means of both of the parties to the marriage, for the maintenance and education of each child of the marriage

committed to such other party's custody under paragraph (b);

(e) a provision for payment by the husband or the wife, or both of them, of such reasonable costs of the parties or either of them as the court may think fit.

(2) An order under subsection (1)(d) directing a lump sum payment for the maintenance and education of a child of the marriage shall only be made for the purpose of—

(a) providing for the immediate and non-recurring needs of the child; or

(b) enabling any liabilities or expenses reasonably incurred in maintaining or educating the child before the making of the order to be met,

or for both such purposes.

(3) In making an order under subsection (1), the court shall have regard primarily to the best interests of the children.

(Replaced 69 of 1997 s. 11)

6. Limitation of powers of District Court

(1) No order shall be made under this Ordinance if it is proved that the applicant has committed an act of adultery:

Provided that the husband or, as the case may be, the wife, of the applicant has not condoned, or connived at, or by his or her wilful neglect or misconduct conduced to such act of adultery.

(2) No order made under this Ordinance shall be enforceable and no liability shall accrue under any such order whilst the married woman, and her husband, with respect to whom the order was made, reside together, and any such order shall cease to have effect if for a period of 3 months after it is

made the married woman and her husband continue to reside together.

[cf. 1895 c. 39 s. 6 U.K.; 1925 c. 51 s. 1(4) U.K.]

6A. Condonation

For the purposes of this Ordinance, adultery and cruelty shall not be deemed to have been condoned by reason only of a continuation or resumption of cohabitation between the parties for one period not exceeding 3 months, or of any thing done during such cohabitation, if it is proved that cohabitation has continued or resumed, as the case may be, with a view to effecting a reconciliation.

(Added 33 of 1972 s. 25)

[cf. 1965 c. 72 s. 42(2) U.K.]

7. District Court may vary or discharge order

(1) The District Court may on the application of the husband or the wife, and upon cause being shown on fresh evidence, at any time alter, vary, discharge, suspend or revive after being so suspended any order (other than an order for a lump sum payment in one amount or for a lump sum to be paid in instalments where all such instalments have been paid) made under this Ordinance, and may from time to time increase or diminish the amount of any unpaid instalment of a lump sum payment or periodical payments or both ordered to be paid under section 5.

(2) The jurisdiction conferred by subsection (1) shall be exercisable notwithstanding that the proceedings for the revocation, variation, discharge or suspension of the order or the revival of an order which has been suspended are brought by or against a person residing outside Hong Kong.

(3) Subject to subsection (4), if any married person who has applied for an order and with respect to whom an order has been made under this Ordinance voluntarily resumes cohabitation with the other party to the marriage, or commits an act of adultery, such order shall upon proof of such matter be discharged.

(4) The District Court may, if it thinks fit—

(a) refuse to discharge an order under this Ordinance as provided in subsection (3) if in its opinion the act of adultery was conduced to by the failure of the other party to the marriage to make such payments as in the opinion of the court he or she was able to make under the order; and

(b) in the event of an order being discharged as provided in subsection (3), make a new order ordering that the legal custody of the children of the marriage shall continue to be committed to the married person mentioned in subsection (3) until such children attain the age of 18 years, and that the other party to the marriage shall pay to that married person, or to the Registrar of the District Court or any third person on the married person's behalf, either or both of the following—

(i) such lump sum (whether in one amount or by instalments) for—

(A) the immediate and non-recurring needs of the child; or

(B) the purpose of enabling any liabilities or expenses reasonably incurred in maintaining and educating the child before the making of the order to be met,

or for both, as the court considers reasonable, having regard to the means of both the husband

and the wife and to any payment previously made under any order for a lump sum payment;

(ii) such periodical payments as the court considers reasonable having regard to the means of both the husband and the wife for the maintenance and education of the child until that child attains the age of 18 years.

(5) In making an order under subsection (4)(b) the court shall have regard primarily to the best interests of the children.

(Replaced 69 of 1997 s. 12)

8. District Court may refuse an order in cases more fit for the Court of First Instance

If in the opinion of the District Court the matters in question between the parties or any of them would be more conveniently dealt with by the Court of First Instance, the District Court may refuse to make an order under this Ordinance, and in such case, without prejudice to the general right of appeal conferred by Part 4 of the District Court Ordinance (Cap. 336), no appeal shall lie from the decision of the District Court:

Provided that the Court of First Instance shall have power by order in any proceeding in the Court of First Instance relating to or comprising the same subject matter as the application so refused as aforesaid, or any part thereof, to direct the District Court to rehear and determine the same.

(Amended 35 of 1969 Schedule; 25 of 1998 s. 2; E.R. 1 of 2013)

[cf. 1895 c. 39 s. 10 U.K.]

9. Power to order interim payments where application for maintenance is adjourned

(1) Subject to subsection (2), where, on the hearing of an application for an order under this Ordinance for maintenance

or for maintenance and education, the application is adjourned for a period exceeding 1 week, the District Court may order the respondent to pay to the applicant or to the Registrar of the District Court or any third person on the applicant's behalf such periodical payments as the court considers reasonable for the maintenance of the applicant and the maintenance and education of any child or children in the applicant's custody until the final determination of the application.

(2) An order under this section shall operate for not more than 3 months from the date on which it is made.

(3) An order under this section shall be enforceable in like manner as if it were a final order of the District Court.

(Replaced 69 of 1997 s. 13)

9A. Attachment of income to satisfy order

(1AA) In this section—

Amendment Ordinance (《修訂條例》) means the Attachment of Income Order (Application to Government and Miscellaneous Amendments) Ordinance 2007 (20 of 2007); *(Added 20 of 2007 s. 5)*

attachment order (扣押令) means an order made under subsection (1);

designated payee (指定受款人) means, in relation to a maintenance order, the person named in that order as the person to whom the maintenance payments are to be made;

income source (入息來源) means a person by whom the income of the maintenance payer is payable and includes the Government; *(Added 20 of 2007 s. 5)*

maintenance payer (贍養費支付人) means, in relation to a maintenance order, the person against whom that order is made;

specified payee (指明受款人) means, in relation to an attachment order, the person named in that order as the person to whom an amount attached by that order is to be paid.

(Added 20 of 2001 s. 3. Amended 18 of 2003 s. 6)

(1) Where a maintenance order has been made against a maintenance payer and—

(a) (i) a court is satisfied that the payer has without reasonable excuse failed to make any payment which he is required to make by the maintenance order; or

(ii) a court is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the payer will not make full and punctual payment in compliance with the maintenance order; or

(iii) the payer and designated payee agree to the making of an order under this section; and

(b) there is any income capable of being attached payable to the payer,

the court may, in accordance with rules made under subsection (6), order the income to be attached as to the whole or part of the amount payable under the maintenance order and the amount attached to be paid to the specified payee. *(Replaced 20 of 2001 s. 3)*

(1A) For the purpose of subsection (1)(a)(ii), in deciding whether there are reasonable grounds to believe that the maintenance payer will not make full and punctual payment in compliance with the maintenance order, the court shall take into account all the circumstances of the case, including (but not limited to)—

(a) the payer's past record and conduct in discharging his reasonable financial obligation towards the designated payee before any maintenance order is made;

(b) the payer's past record and conduct in connection with the making of maintenance payments to the payee pursuant to the maintenance order or an undertaking in any proceedings; and

(c) the risk of the payer dissipating his property. *(Added 20 of 2001 s. 3)*

(2) *(Repealed 20 of 2001 s. 3)*

(2A) The court may, at any time after a maintenance order has been made, including in the same hearing in which the maintenance order is made or varied, make an attachment order. *(Added 20 of 2001 s. 3)*

(2B) An attachment order may be made by the court on its own motion or on the application by the maintenance payer or the designated payee or both. *(Added 20 of 2001 s. 3)*

(3) An attachment order is an authority to an income source to make the payment in accordance with the order, and the receipt of the specified payee is a good discharge to that income source. *(Replaced 20 of 2007 s. 5)*

(3A) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), that subsection applies to income that is wages or salary payable to a maintenance payer by the Government, and accordingly paragraph (a) of the proviso to section 23(1) of the Crown Proceedings Ordinance (Cap. 300) is not to be construed as precluding the court from making an attachment order in respect of such wages or salary. *(Added 20 of 2007 s. 5)*

(4) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), that subsection applies to income that is wages payable to a maintenance payer by a person other than the Government, and accordingly section 66 of the Employment Ordinance

(Cap. 57) is not to be construed as precluding the court from making an attachment order in respect of such wages. *(Replaced 20 of 2007 s. 5)*

(5) Where—

(a) pursuant to an attachment order, an employer is required to make a deduction from the wages of his employee in any wage period; and

(b) that deduction, together with any deduction authorized to be made under section 32 of the Employment Ordinance (Cap. 57) by the employer from the employee's wages in the same wage period would in total exceed the whole of the wages payable to the employee in respect of that wage period,

then the amount liable to be deducted by the employer pursuant to the attachment order shall be treated as being reduced by such an amount that the total of all deductions made by the employer does not exceed the whole of the wages payable to the employee in respect of the wage period.

(6) The Chief Justice may make such rules of court as he considers necessary or expedient for the purpose of giving effect to subsection (1), and rules made under this subsection may in particular provide for—

(a) the matters to be contained in any application for an attachment order, and the manner of filing and service of such an application;

(b) compliance with an attachment order;

(c) the obligations on the part of the income source; *(Replaced 20 of 2007 s. 5)*

(d) the obligations of the maintenance payer when an attachment order is in force or in the event of an attachment order ceasing to have effect for any reason;

(e) the recovery from the maintenance payer of the clerical and administrative costs incurred in complying with an attachment order;

(f) the variation or discharge of an attachment order;

(g) the enforcement of an attachment order.

(6A) Rules made under subsection (6) may empower the court to dispense with or relax any procedure or abridge any time limit specified in the rules if the court is satisfied that it is fair and reasonable to do so in the circumstances of the case. *(Added 20 of 2001 s. 3)*

(7) Rules made under subsection (6) may provide that the contravention of any rule shall constitute an offence punishable by a fine at level 2 and by imprisonment for 1 month.

(8) The Chief Justice may specify the form of any document which is to be or may be filed in proceedings under subsection (1).

(9) Any attachment order—

(a) made by the court before the commencement date* of the Amendment Ordinance in respect of the wages or salary payable to a maintenance payer by the Government; and

(b) which has not been discharged or declared invalid by the court as at that commencement date,

has effect from that commencement date as if it were made under subsection (1) as read with subsection (3A). *(Added 20 of 2007 s. 5)*

(10) An application—

(a) for an attachment order in respect of the wages or salary payable to a maintenance payer by the Government;

(b) that is pending immediately before the commencement date* of the Amendment Ordinance; and

(c) in which an attachment order has not been made as at that commencement date,

is to be determined in accordance with this section as amended by the Amendment Ordinance. *(Added 20 of 2007 s. 5)*

(Added 69 of 1997 s. 14)

Editorial Note:

* Commencement date: 23 November 2007.

9B. Interest on arrears of maintenance

(1) In this section and section 9C—

commencement date (生效日期) means the date on which the Interest and Surcharge on Arrears of Maintenance Ordinance 2003 (18 of 2003) comes into operation;

judgment creditor (判定債權人) means a person entitled to enforce a maintenance order;

judgment debtor (判定債務人) means a person liable under a maintenance order.

(2) Where a maintenance order has been made against a judgment debtor, and the judgment debtor fails to make full and punctual payment in compliance with the maintenance order, the judgment creditor is entitled to interest in respect of arrears of maintenance which accrue on or after the commencement date.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (2)—

(a) the arrears in respect of each periodical payment or payment of a lump sum, as the case may be, under a maintenance order shall be treated as a judgment debt

for the purposes of section 50 of the District Court Ordinance (Cap. 336);

(b) the interest under subsection (2) shall be calculated in accordance with that section 50; and

(c) for the purposes of that section 50, the date on which payment is due as specified by the maintenance order shall be treated as the date of the judgment.

(4) The judgment debtor is liable to pay the interest under subsection (2).

(5) If any payment under a maintenance order is not paid and interest in respect of the arrears has accrued under subsection (2), and subsequently the judgment debtor makes payment, the payment is deemed to be made in the following order in or towards the discharge of—

(a) interest accrued under subsection (2);

(b) surcharge payable under section 9C;

(c) if there are any proceedings instituted for enforcing the maintenance order, the costs ordered by the court to be paid under those proceedings;

(d) any sums from time to time falling due under the maintenance order, with the sums discharged in the reversed chronological sequence of the dates on which payment is due (that is, the most recent arrears will be discharged first);

(e) if the court makes an order in any proceedings instituted for enforcing the maintenance order, the amount of the maintenance in arrears, whether in one amount or by instalments, payable by the judgment debtor under the order.

(6) A judgment debtor who considers that he has reasonable grounds not to pay the interest under subsection (2) may,

within a reasonable time after having knowledge of the requirement to pay, apply by summons to the court not to pay the interest, and shall set out the grounds in the application.

(7) If an application is made under subsection (6), in deciding whether to require the judgment debtor to pay interest and, if so, the amount of interest, the court shall take into account all the circumstances of the case, including (but not limited to) the following—

(a) whether the judgment debtor has a reasonable excuse for his failure to comply with the maintenance order;

(b) whether the judgment debtor has evaded service of court documents;

(c) the judgment debtor's past record and conduct in connection with the making of maintenance payments to the judgment creditor pursuant to the maintenance order or an undertaking in any proceedings;

(d) whether the judgment debtor has given the judgment creditor a reasonable explanation for his failure to comply with the maintenance order; and

(e) the judgment debtor's ability to pay.

(8) A judgment debtor who is aggrieved by a requirement under subsection (7) to pay interest may appeal to the Court of Appeal against the decision under section 63 of the District Court Ordinance (Cap. 336).

(Added 18 of 2003 s. 7)

Editorial Note:

* Commencement date : 1 May 2005.

9C. Surcharge on arrears of maintenance

(1) Where a maintenance order has been made against a

judgment debtor, and the judgment debtor, without reasonable excuse, repeatedly fails to make full and punctual payment in compliance with the maintenance order, the court may, on application made by the judgment creditor, make an order requiring the judgment debtor to pay to the judgment creditor a surcharge in respect of the total arrears of maintenance which accrue on or after the commencement date.

(2) The application for a surcharge under subsection (1) may be made—

(a) in proceedings instituted for enforcing the maintenance order; or

(b) in a manner described in subsections (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8) and (9).

(3) For the purposes of subsection (2)(b), the application for a surcharge shall be made by a summons supported by an affidavit of the judgment creditor stating—

(a) the name of the judgment creditor and the address for service of the documents relating to the application;

(b) the name and the address for service or last known address of the judgment debtor;

(c) the particulars of the maintenance order;

(d) the total arrears of maintenance due and unpaid and the date on which the arrears first accrued;

(e) a request for an order requiring the judgment debtor to pay surcharge at a rate to be decided by the court under subsection (11);

(f) a request for fixing a date, time and place for the hearing of the application;

(g) a request for an order requiring the judgment debtor to pay to the judgment creditor the surcharge claimed if the judgment debtor does not appear at the hearing.

(4) On receipt of the summons and affidavit, the court shall fix a date, time and place for the hearing of the application.

(5) The judgment creditor shall serve a sealed copy of the summons and a copy of the affidavit, together with a notice of the hearing, on the judgment debtor.

(6) Without prejudice to any enactment relating to the service of documents and save as is otherwise expressly provided, the summons, affidavit and notice may—

(a) be personally served on the judgment debtor; or

(b) be sent—

(i) if the judgment debtor is represented, by post to the solicitor acting for that judgment debtor, or by leaving the same with the solicitor; or

(ii) if the judgment debtor is unrepresented, by post to the address for service given by him or his last known address, or by leaving the same at the address for service or the last known address of that judgment debtor; or

(c) be served in such other manner as the court directs.

(7) If the judgment debtor fails to appear at the hearing of the application on the date fixed under subsection (4), then—

(a) if the court is satisfied that the summons, affidavit and notice have been duly served on the judgment debtor, it may proceed to hear the application and may make an order requiring the judgment debtor to pay a surcharge to the judgment creditor;

(b) if the court is not satisfied that the summons, affidavit and notice have been duly served on the judgment debtor, it may adjourn the hearing to a date, time and place as it thinks fit.

(8) The judgment creditor shall serve a notice of the adjourned hearing on the judgment debtor.

(9) If the judgment debtor fails to appear at the adjourned hearing on the date fixed under subsection (7)(b), the court may proceed to hear the application and may make an order requiring the judgment debtor to pay a surcharge to the judgment creditor.

(10) If the judgment debtor, within a reasonable time after having knowledge of the order made under subsection (7)(a) or (9), applies by summons to vary or set aside the order, the court may, if it is satisfied that there is reasonable excuse for the judgment debtor's failure to—

(a) appear at the hearing; and

(b) make full and punctual payment in compliance with the maintenance order,

vary or set aside the order on such terms as it thinks fit.

(11) The amount of surcharge payable by the judgment debtor under subsection (1) shall not exceed 100% of the total arrears of maintenance calculated from the date on which the arrears first accrued to the date of payment of the surcharge.

(12) If the court makes an order requiring the judgment debtor to pay a surcharge, it shall specify in the order the amount of surcharge payable by the judgment debtor and the date of payment.

(13) A surcharge payable under this section is recoverable as a civil debt due to the judgment creditor by the judgment debtor. An action under this subsection may be brought in the District Court even though the amount to be recovered otherwise exceeds the limit of jurisdiction of the District Court.

(14) A judgment debtor who is aggrieved by an order to pay a surcharge may appeal to the Court of Appeal against the order under section 63 of the District Court Ordinance (Cap. 336).

(Added 18 of 2003 s. 7)

10. Notice of change of address

(1) Any person for the time being under an obligation to make payments, including costs, under an order under this Ordinance shall within 14 days of any change of his address give notice of his new address to any person whose name is specified in the order by sending it by registered post to the last known address of that person or to such address as may be notified to him by that person for the purposes of this section.

(2) A person who, without reasonable excuse, contravenes subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable to a fine at level 2.

(Replaced 69 of 1997 s. 15)

11. Procedure

Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Ordinance, all applications under this Ordinance shall be made and be dealt with and all orders be enforced in accordance with Part 4 of the District Court Ordinance (Cap. 336).

(Amended 35 of 1969 Schedule; 69 of 1997 s. 16; E.R. 1 of 2013)

12. Provisions as to powers of court to make orders in favour of children and duration of such orders

(1) Subject to subsection (2), the term for which by virtue of an order under section 5(1)(d) or 9 any payments are to be made for the benefit of a child may begin with the date of the

making of an application for the order in question or any later date but shall not extend beyond the date when the child will attain the age of 18.

(2) The court may include in an order referred to in subsection (1) in relation to a child who has not attained the age of 18 a provision extending beyond the date when the child will attain that age the term for which by virtue of the order any payments are to be made for the benefit of that child, if it appears to the court that—

(a) that child is, or will be, or if such an order or provision were made would be, receiving instruction at an educational establishment or undergoing training for a trade, profession or vocation, whether or not he is also, or will also be, in gainful employment; or

(b) there are special circumstances which justify the making of the order or provisions.

(3) Any order for periodical payments made by virtue of section 5(1)(d) or 7(4)(b)(ii) shall, regardless of anything in the order, cease to have effect on the death of the person liable to make payments under the order, except in relation to any arrears due under the order on the date of such death.

(Replaced 69 of 1997 s. 17)

13. Transitional

(1) The amendments to sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9 and 10 of this Ordinance made by sections 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 15 of the Marriage and Children (Miscellaneous Amendments) Ordinance 1997 (69 of 1997) (***the amending Ordinance***) do not apply in relation to orders made before the commencement of the amending Ordinance, and the provisions of this Ordinance in force immediately before the commencement of the amending Ordinance continue to apply

in relation to those orders as if the amending Ordinance had not been enacted.

(2) The amendment adding section 9A, and the amendments to section 12, of this Ordinance made by sections 14 and 17 of the amending Ordinance apply in relation to orders made before the commencement of the amending Ordinance as they apply in relation to orders made after that commencement, but where an order made before that commencement provides for payments to be made in respect of a child beyond the date when the child will attain the age of 18, nothing in this subsection shall be construed as affecting the term of such order.

(3) Section 12(2) of this Ordinance (as substituted by section 17 of the amending Ordinance) applies in relation to a child who at the commencement of the amending Ordinance has attained the age of 18 as if reference in that subsection to the age of 18 was a reference to the age of 21.

(Added 69 of 1997 s. 18)

Marriage Ordinance

(Cap. 181)

Contents

Section		Page
	Part 1 **Preliminary**	
1.	Short title	1-2
2.	Interpretation	1-2
2A.	Certain notices are not subsidiary legislation	1-4
	Part 2 **Authorities for Celebration of Marriage**	
3.	Registrar of Marriages and deputy registrars	2-2
4.	Licensing of places of worship	2-2
5.	Notification of licence	2-4
	Part 3 **Civil Celebrants of Marriages**	
5A.	Appointment of civil celebrant and renewal of appointment	3-2
5B.	Application for appointment as civil celebrant or renewal of appointment	3-2
5C.	Code of practice for civil celebrants	3-6
5D.	Cancellation of appointment of civil celebrant	3-6

Section		Page
5E.	Suspension of appointment	3-12
5F.	Marriage not affected by defect in civil celebrant's appointment	3-16
5G.	Return documents to Registrar in case of cancellation or suspension	3-16
5H.	Civil celebrant shall provide information	3-18
5I.	Manner of giving notice	3-20
	Part 4 **Appeals relating to Appointment of Civil Celebrants**	
5J.	Civil Celebrant of Marriages Appointment Appeal Board	4-2
5K.	Registrar's decisions subject to appeal	4-2
5L.	Decisions of Appeal Board	4-4
5M.	Decision of Appeal Board is final	4-6
	Part 5 **Requirements relating to Pre-celebration Procedures**	
6.	Giving of notice of intended marriage	5-2
6A.	Provisions applicable where notice of intended marriage is given through civil celebrant	5-2
7.	Filing, exhibition and inspection of notice of intended marriage	5-4
8.	Supply of forms	5-6

Section		Page
9.	Issue of certificate of the Registrar	5-6
10.	Notice of intended marriage void unless marriage within 3 months	5-8
11.	Grant of special licence	5-10
12.	Affidavit prior to issue of certificate of the Registrar or grant of special licence	5-10
13.	No licence or certificate if either party under 16	5-12
14.	Production of written consent	5-12
15.	*(Repealed)*	5-14
16.	Right to forbid issue of certificate of the Registrar	5-14
17.	Registrar may inquire into right to forbid	5-14
18.	Appeal against decision of Registrar	5-16
18A.	District Judge may give consent	5-16
	Part 6 **Celebration of Marriage, Certificate of Marriage and Validity of Marriage**	
19.	Celebration of marriage in licensed place of worship	6-2
20.	Certificates of marriage for marriage celebrated in licensed place of worship	6-2
20A.	Certificates of marriage to be supplied to civil celebrant	6-4

Section		Page
21.	Marriage before Registrar or civil celebrant	6-4
22.	Marriage by special licence at other place	6-16
23.	Registration of certificates of marriage	6-16
24.	Effect of certificate of marriage or certified copy thereof	6-18
25.	Correction of error in certificate of marriage	6-18
26.	Searches may be made, and certified copies granted	6-18
27.	Invalid marriages	6-20
28.	Validity of marriages	6-22
	Part 7 **Offences and Penalty**	
29.	Marrying, etc., person under 21 without required consent	7-2
30.	Offences by minister or civil celebrant	7-2
31.	Offences for failure to transmit certificate, etc.	7-4
31A.	Offences by civil celebrant	7-4
32.	Offence of tampering with records	7-6
33.	Penalty on unauthorized person celebrating marriage	7-6
33A.	Offence for providing false information in relation to appointment of civil celebrants	7-6

Section		Page
33B.	Offence of falsely holding out as civil celebrant	7-8
34.	Fines	7-8
34A.	Time limit for prosecution	7-8
	Part 8 **Miscellaneous**	
35.	Use of forms	8-2
36.	Fees	8-2
37.	Reduction or remission of fees	8-2
38.	Marriage under this Ordinance of persons customarily married	8-2
39.	Cases in which marriage of a dying person may be celebrated, and conditions of its celebration	8-4
40.	Marriages under this Ordinance are Christian or equivalent thereto	8-8
41.	*(Repealed)*	8-8
42.	Regulations	8-8
42A.	Amendment of Schedules	8-10
43.	Disposal of documents and microfilms when recorded in form of digital image	8-10
44.	Registrar may provide information relating to civil celebrant, etc. to professional bodies	8-10
45.	Saving	8-12

Section		Page
Schedule 1	Forms	S1-2
Schedule 2	Fees	S2-2
Schedule 3	Consent Required to the Marriage of a Party of or over 16 and under 21 Years of Age	S3-2
Schedule 4	Eligibility Criteria for Civil Celebrants	S4-2
Schedule 5	Kindred and Affinity	S5-2

To provide for the celebration of Christian marriages or the civil equivalent thereof, and for matters connected therewith.

(Replaced 1 of 1960 s. 2)

[1 March 1876] *Proc. No. 3 of 1876*

(Format changes—E.R. 4 of 2019)

Part 1

Preliminary

(Added 23 of 2005 s. 29)

1. Short title

This Ordinance may be cited as the Marriage Ordinance.

(Amended 5 of 1924 s. 6)

2. Interpretation

In this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise requires—

Appeal Board (上訴委員會) means the Civil Celebrant of Marriages Appointment Appeal Board established under section 5J; *(Added 23 of 2005 s. 3)*

certificate of marriage (結婚證書) means a certificate of marriage in Form 4, Form 6 or Form 7, as may be applicable, in Schedule 1; *(Added 23 of 2005 s. 30)*

certificate of the Registrar (登記官證明書) means a Certificate of Registrar of Marriages issued under section 9(1); *(Added 23 of 2005 s. 30)*

civil celebrant (婚姻監禮人) means a civil celebrant of marriages appointed under section 5A whose appointment is for the time being valid; *(Added 23 of 2005 s. 3)*

code of practice (實務守則) means a code of practice issued under section 5C(1); *(Added 23 of 2005 s. 3)*

digital image (數碼影像), in relation to a document, means an image of the document kept on a computer system or on an electronic medium; *(Added 8 of 2006 s. 41)*

licensed place of worship (特許禮拜場所) means a place licensed under section 4; *(Added 23 of 2005 s. 30)*

notice of intended marriage (擬結婚通知書) means a notice given under section 6(1); *(Added 23 of 2005 s. 30)*

prescribed fee (訂明費用) means, in relation to any matter provided for in this Ordinance, the fee specified in Schedule 2 in respect of the matter; *(Added 23 of 2005 s. 3)*

proposed date of marriage (預定結婚日期) means the date on which an intended marriage is proposed to be contracted; *(Added 23 of 2005 s. 3)*

Registrar (登記官) means the Registrar of Marriages appointed under section 3 and includes any deputy registrar of marriages so appointed; *(Amended 23 of 2005 s. 30)*

Secretary (局長) means the Secretary for Security; *(Added 23 of 2005 s. 3)*

special licence (特別許可證) means a special licence granted under section 11(1). *(Added 23 of 2005 s. 30)*

(Added 20 of 1948 s. 4)

2A. Certain notices are not subsidiary legislation

A notice under section 5, 5A(4)(c), 5C(3), 5D(8)(a), 5E(9) or 5J(5) is not subsidiary legislation.

(Added 23 of 2005 s. 4)

Part 2

Authorities for Celebration of Marriage

(Added 23 of 2005 s. 31)

3. Registrar of Marriages and deputy registrars

(1) It shall be lawful for the Chief Executive from time to time to appoint such person as he may please to be Registrar of Marriages, and to appoint deputy registrars of marriages. *(Amended 71 of 1999 s. 3)*

(2) It shall not be necessary in any such appointment to name any particular individual and the appointment may be of the holder of an office in the name of the office, in which case the person for the time being performing the duties of such office shall be deemed to have been appointed to be Registrar or a deputy registrar, as the case may be, and all the powers and duties expressed by this or any other Ordinance to be conferred or imposed on the Registrar or on a deputy registrar, as the case may be, shall from time to time be deemed to have been conferred or imposed on the person for the time being performing the duties of such office.

(Replaced 14 of 1926 s. 2. Amended 20 of 1948 s. 4)

4. Licensing of places of worship

The Chief Executive may— *(Amended 23 of 2005 s. 32)*

(a) by granting a licence in respect of any place of public worship, license such place to be a place for celebration of marriages; and

(b) cancel any such licence at any time.

(Amended 71 of 1999 s. 3; 23 of 2005 s. 32)

5. Notification of licence

Whenever the Chief Executive grants or cancels any licence under section 4, the Registrar shall give public notice thereof in the Gazette.

(Amended 14 of 1926 s. 5; 20 of 1948 s. 4; 71 of 1999 s. 3; 23 of 2005 s. 33)

Part 3

Civil Celebrants of Marriages

(Part 3 added 23 of 2005 s. 5)

5A. Appointment of civil celebrant and renewal of appointment

(1) The Registrar may, upon application, appoint any person who meets all criteria prescribed for the time being in Schedule 4 as a civil celebrant of marriages.

(2) The Registrar may, upon application of a civil celebrant, renew his appointment as a civil celebrant if he meets all criteria prescribed for the time being in Schedule 4.

(3) An appointment—

(a) made under subsection (1); or

(b) renewed under subsection (2),

is valid for 5 years. This period of 5 years shall not be affected by any suspension under section 5E.

(4) The Registrar shall—

(a) effect an appointment by giving the applicant concerned a written notice;

(b) effect a renewal of appointment by giving the civil celebrant concerned a written notice; and

(c) publish an appointment or a renewal of appointment by notice in the Gazette.

5B. Application for appointment as civil celebrant or renewal of appointment

(1) An application for appointment or renewal of appointment under section 5A shall be—

(a) in such form as the Registrar may specify;

(b) submitted in such manner as the Registrar may specify;

(c) accompanied by such information or documents as the Registrar may specify or as he may reasonably require;

(d) accompanied by the prescribed fee for application processing; and

(e) accompanied by the prescribed fee for—

(i) appointment as civil celebrant; or

(ii) renewal of appointment as civil celebrant,

as may be appropriate.

(2) The Registrar may refuse to process an application if subsection (1) is not complied with in relation to it.

(3) The Registrar shall refuse an application if—

(a) the applicant does not meet any criterion prescribed in Schedule 4; or

(b) a notice given under section 5D(9) is in force in relation to the applicant.

(4) If an application is refused by the Registrar—

(a) he shall give the applicant a written notice of—

(i) the refusal; and

(ii) the reason for the refusal; and

(b) the prescribed fee for—

(i) appointment as civil celebrant; or

(ii) renewal of appointment as civil celebrant,

as may be appropriate, shall be refunded to the applicant.

(5) Where—

(a) a person applies for appointment or renewal of appointment by virtue of a professional qualification prescribed in Schedule 4; and

(b) he is a member of a professional body which has statutory authority to regulate the relevant profession,

the Registrar may consult the body on whether the applicant meets any criterion prescribed in Schedule 4.

5C. Code of practice for civil celebrants

(1) The Registrar may issue such code of practice as he considers appropriate for the purpose of providing practical guidance in respect of the professional conduct of civil celebrants.

(2) The Registrar may from time to time revise a code of practice.

(3) The Registrar shall publish by notice in the Gazette—

(a) a code of practice and its commencement date; and

(b) the particulars of any revision under subsection (2) and its commencement date.

5D. Cancellation of appointment of civil celebrant

(1) The Registrar may cancel the appointment of a civil celebrant—

(a) if the civil celebrant ceases to meet any criterion prescribed in Schedule 4 as in force—

(i) at the time of the appointment; or

(ii) at the time of the latest renewal of the appointment,

as may be appropriate;

(b) if he is satisfied that at the time of the appointment or renewal of appointment, as may be appropriate, the civil celebrant did not meet any criterion so prescribed;

(c) if the civil celebrant contravenes a code of practice;

(d) if the civil celebrant is convicted of an offence under this Ordinance;

(e) upon a written request of the civil celebrant; or

(f) if the civil celebrant dies.

(2) The Registrar may cancel the appointment of a civil celebrant under subsection (1) notwithstanding that the appointment has already been suspended under section 5E.

(3) Where a civil celebrant is a member of a professional body, the Registrar may consult the body on whether—

(a) the civil celebrant ceases to meet any criterion prescribed in Schedule 4 as in force—

(i) at the time of his appointment; or

(ii) at the time of the latest renewal of his appointment,

as may be appropriate; or

(b) the civil celebrant met any criterion so prescribed when—

(i) he was appointed a civil celebrant; or

(ii) his appointment was renewed,

as may be appropriate.

(4) Except where subsection (7) applies, if the Registrar intends to cancel the appointment of a person under subsection (1)(a), (b), (c) or (d), the Registrar shall give the person a written notice of the intention and the reason for the proposed cancellation.

(5) If the Registrar gives a notice to a person under subsection (4), the person may, within 14 days after the date of the notice or such longer period as the Registrar may allow, make

representation to the Registrar in the manner specified in the notice.

(6) The Registrar shall not cancel the appointment of a person until—

(a) the 14-day period or longer period (if any) referred to in subsection (5) has expired and the person has not made any representation; or

(b) the person has made representation and the Registrar has considered the representation.

(7) If—

(a) a civil celebrant—

(i) was appointed by virtue of meeting the criterion prescribed in paragraph 1(a) of Schedule 4; and

(ii) has his name struck off from the roll of the solicitors of the High Court; or

(b) a civil celebrant—

(i) was appointed by virtue of meeting the criterion prescribed in paragraph 1(b) of Schedule 4; and

(ii) has his name struck off from the register of notaries public,

his appointment as a civil celebrant is deemed to be cancelled under subsection (1).

(8) If the Registrar cancels the appointment of a person, he shall—

(a) publish the cancellation by notice in the Gazette; and

(b) give the person a written notice of the cancellation.

(9) If the Registrar cancels the appointment of a person under subsection (1)(c) or (d), he may, by giving the person a written notice, prohibit the person from applying for

appointment under section 5B in such period as he may specify in the notice.

(10) A period specified under subsection (9) shall not be longer than 3 years.

(11) If an appointment is cancelled, no fee paid in accordance with section 5B(1)(e) in respect of the appointment or the renewal of it shall be refunded.

5E. Suspension of appointment

(1) If a civil celebrant contravenes a code of practice, the Registrar may, by giving the person a written notice, suspend the appointment of the civil celebrant for such period as the Registrar may specify in the notice.

(2) Subsection (1) is without prejudice to section 5D(1)(c).

(3) If the Registrar intends to suspend the appointment of a person under subsection (1), the Registrar shall give the person a written notice of—

(a) the intention;

(b) the reason for the proposed suspension; and

(c) the length of the proposed suspension period.

(4) If the Registrar gives a notice to a person under subsection (3), the person may, within 14 days after the date of the notice or such longer period as the Registrar may allow, make representation to the Registrar in the manner specified in the notice.

(5) The Registrar shall not suspend the appointment of a person until—

(a) the 14-day period or longer period (if any) referred to in subsection (4) has expired and the person has not made any representation; or

(b) the person has made representation and the Registrar has considered the representation.

(6) A period specified under subsection (1)—

(a) may be longer or shorter than the proposed suspension period referred to in subsection (3)(c); and

(b) shall not be longer than 18 months.

(7) If—

(a) a person—

(i) is appointed as a civil celebrant by virtue of meeting the criterion prescribed in paragraph 1(a) of Schedule 4; and

(ii) is subsequently suspended from practice as a solicitor for any period by a Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal under section 10 of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Cap. 159); or

(b) a person—

(i) is appointed as a civil celebrant by virtue of meeting the criterion prescribed in paragraph 1(b) of Schedule 4; and

(ii) is subsequently suspended from practice as a notary public for any period by a Notaries Public Disciplinary Tribunal under section 40J of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Cap. 159),

his appointment as a civil celebrant shall be suspended during that period.

(8) An appointment suspended under this section shall not, during the suspension period, be regarded as valid for the purposes of the definition of ***civil celebrant*** in section 2.

(9) If the appointment of a civil celebrant is suspended, the Registrar shall publish the suspension by notice in the Gazette.

(10) If an appointment is suspended, no fee paid in accordance with section 5B(1)(e) in respect of the appointment or the renewal of it shall be refunded.

5F. Marriage not affected by defect in civil celebrant's appointment

Without prejudice to the generality of section 27(3), the validity of a marriage celebrated by a civil celebrant shall not be affected by—

(a) any irregularity in the appointment of the civil celebrant by the Registrar;

(b) the fact that the civil celebrant was not—

(i) eligible for appointment at the time of his appointment; or

(ii) eligible for having his appointment renewed at the time of renewal of his appointment,

as may be appropriate; or

(c) the fact that the appointment of the civil celebrant was, at the time of the celebration, liable to be cancelled or suspended.

5G. Return documents to Registrar in case of cancellation or suspension

(1) A civil celebrant whose appointment is cancelled under section 5D(1) or suspended under section 5E shall deliver—

(a) the notice of appointment or renewal of appointment given to him by the Registrar;

(b) all notices of intended marriage supplied to him under section 8 (including those which have been cancelled); and

(c) all marriage certificates supplied to him under section 20A that have not been issued (including those which have been cancelled),

to the Registrar within 14 days after such cancellation or suspension.

(2) Where—

(a) the appointment of a civil celebrant is suspended for a period; and

(b) the civil celebrant delivers any notice of appointment or renewal of appointment to the Registrar in accordance with subsection (1)(a),

the Registrar shall return such notice to the civil celebrant as soon as practicable after the expiry of that period.

5H. Civil celebrant shall provide information

(1) For the purpose of investigating and obtaining evidence of any suspected offence under this Ordinance or of any suspected contravention of a code of practice, the Registrar may request a civil celebrant to provide information in relation to the practice of the civil celebrant. The civil celebrant shall provide such information as soon as practicable upon receiving the request of the Registrar.

(2) If a civil celebrant ceases to meet any criterion prescribed in Schedule 4 as in force—

(a) at the time of his appointment; or

(b) at the time of the latest renewal of his appointment,

as may be appropriate, he shall, within 14 days of such cessation, notify the Registrar in writing of such cessation.

5I. Manner of giving notice

A written notice that may be given or is required to be given under this Part to a person shall be sent by post to the person's last address known to the Registrar.

Part 4

Appeals relating to Appointment of Civil Celebrants

(Part 4 added 23 of 2005 s. 5)

5J. Civil Celebrant of Marriages Appointment Appeal Board

(1) There shall be a Civil Celebrant of Marriages Appointment Appeal Board.

(2) The Appeal Board comprises—

(a) a Chairperson;

(b) such number of Deputy Chairpersons as the Secretary considers necessary; and

(c) such number of members as the Secretary considers necessary.

(3) The Chairperson, Deputy Chairpersons and members of the Appeal Board shall be appointed by the Secretary for a term specified in the instrument of appointment.

(4) A public officer shall not be appointed under subsection (3).

(5) The Secretary shall give notice of all appointments made under subsection (3) in the Gazette.

(6) The function of the Appeal Board is to hear and determine appeals lodged under section 5K.

(7) The Chairperson, Deputy Chairpersons and members of the Appeal Board shall be paid such remuneration as the Secretary may determine.

5K. Registrar's decisions subject to appeal

(1) An applicant who is aggrieved by the refusal of his application under section 5B(3) may appeal to the Appeal

Board against the decision of the Registrar.

(2) A civil celebrant who is aggrieved by the cancellation of his appointment under section 5D(1) (except by virtue of section 5D(7)) may appeal to the Appeal Board against the decision of the Registrar.

(3) A person who is aggrieved by a notice given to him under section 5D(9) may appeal to the Appeal Board against the decision of the Registrar.

(4) A civil celebrant who is aggrieved by a suspension of his appointment under section 5E(1) may appeal to the Appeal Board against the decision of the Registrar.

(5) An appeal under subsection (2), (3) or (4) does not suspend the decision of the Registrar appealed against.

5L. Decisions of Appeal Board

(1) The Appeal Board may, on an appeal lodged under section 5K against a decision of the Registrar—

(a) confirm the decision appealed against and dismiss the appeal accordingly;

(b) revoke the decision appealed against and substitute any decision that the Registrar could have made for the decision appealed against; or

(c) revoke the decision appealed against.

(2) An appointment cancelled under subsection (1)(b) shall, for the purposes of other provisions of this Ordinance (except section 5K), be regarded as being cancelled under section 5D(1).

(3) If the Appeal Board gives under subsection (1)(b) a notice that the Registrar could have given under section 5D(9), the notice shall, for the purposes of other provisions of this

Ordinance (except section 5K), be regarded as a notice given under section 5D(9).

(4) An appointment suspended under subsection (1)(b) shall, for the purposes of other provisions of this Ordinance (except section 5K), be regarded as being suspended under section 5E(1).

5M. Decision of Appeal Board is final

The decision of the Appeal Board on an appeal shall be final.

Part 5

Requirements relating to Pre-celebration Procedures

(Added 23 of 2005 s. 34)

6. Giving of notice of intended marriage

(1) Whenever any persons desire to marry, one of the proposed parties to the intended marriage shall give a notice of intended marriage to the Registrar in Form 1 in Schedule 1 either directly or through a civil celebrant. *(Amended 14 of 1926 s. 5; 20 of 1948 s. 4; 1 of 1960 s. 3; 23 of 2005 ss. 6 & 35)*

(2) Every notice of intended marriage shall be signed by the party giving the notice. *(Amended 23 of 2005 s. 35)*

(3) A notice of intended marriage given through a civil celebrant shall—

(a) be accompanied by the prescribed fee for filing and exhibition of the notice; and

(b) subject to section 6A(c), be given within the period of 3 months preceding the proposed date of marriage. *(Added 23 of 2005 s. 6)*

(4) A notice of intended marriage shall not be invalidated by any change in any information contained in it, but the Registrar may require the parties to make an appropriate amendment to it. *(Added 23 of 2005 s. 35)*

6A. Provisions applicable where notice of intended marriage is given through civil celebrant

Where a civil celebrant agrees to be a civil celebrant through whom a notice of intended marriage is given to the Registrar, the

civil celebrant shall, as soon as practicable—

(a) accept the notice if it is duly completed and accompanied by the prescribed fee for filing and exhibition of the notice;

(b) collect the prescribed fee on behalf of the Registrar; and

(c) transmit—

(i) the notice;

(ii) the prescribed fee;

(iii) the affidavit taken under section 12 in respect of the intended marriage; and

(iv) (where applicable) the written consent produced to him under section 14(1A),

to the Registrar.

(Added 23 of 2005 s. 7)

7. Filing, exhibition and inspection of notice of intended marriage

(1) The Registrar shall file every notice of intended marriage given to him in his office. *(Amended 14 of 1926 s. 5; 20 of 1948 s. 4)*

(2) He shall exhibit one copy of Part I of a notice of intended marriage at the office of the Registrar and may, if he thinks fit, exhibit copies in other conspicuous places open to the public, and shall keep every such copy so exhibited until he issues a certificate as hereinafter mentioned or until the 3 months referred to in section 10 expire. *(Amended 50 of 1911; 51 of 1911; 62 of 1911 Schedule; 63 of 1911 Schedule; 14 of 1926 s. 5; 20 of 1948 s. 4)*

(3) The Registrar may cause all notices of intended marriage filed in his office under this section and copies of Part I of such notices produced for inspection under subsection (4) to be

recorded in the form of digital image. *(Replaced 80 of 1997 s. 73. Amended 8 of 2006 s. 42)*

(4) The Registrar shall, upon request by any person to inspect any notice of intended marriage filed under this section, produce to such person for inspection a copy of Part I of such notice (including any copy in the form of a hard copy of the digital image of such notice) and such copy shall be the same copy to be produced for inspection by any person who makes a request under this subsection. *(Replaced 80 of 1997 s. 73. Amended 8 of 2006 s. 42)*

(Amended 23 of 2005 s. 36)

8. Supply of forms

The Registrar shall supply forms of notice of intended marriage gratuitously to persons applying for the same.

(Amended 14 of 1926 s. 5; 20 of 1948 s. 4; 23 of 2005 s. 37)

9. Issue of certificate of the Registrar

(1) At any time not more than 3 months or less than 15 days after the giving of a notice of intended marriage, the Registrar shall, on the request of either of the parties, issue a Certificate of Registrar of Marriages in Form 2 in Schedule 1: *(Amended 14 of 1926 s. 5; 20 of 1948 s. 4; 1 of 1960 s. 4; 23 of 2005 s. 38)*

Provided that, where he is satisfied that there are special circumstances justifying his doing so, the Registrar may issue such certificate at any time within the period of 15 days after the giving of such notice. *(Added 1 of 1960 s. 4)*

(1A) The Registrar may refuse to issue a certificate of the Registrar in relation to an intended marriage if—

(a) any prescribed fee that is due is not paid; or

(b) the affidavit taken under section 12 in respect of the intended marriage or (where applicable) the written consent produced to him under section 14(1A) is not in order. *(Added 23 of 2005 s. 8)*

(1B) If the issue of a certificate of the Registrar is forbidden under section 16(1), it shall not be issued. *(Added 23 of 2005 s. 8)*

(1C) If the intended marriage is to be contracted before a minister, the certificate of the Registrar shall be issued to either of the proposed parties. *(Added 23 of 2005 s. 8)*

(1D) If the intended marriage is to be contracted before a civil celebrant, the certificate of the Registrar shall be issued to either of the proposed parties through a civil celebrant nominated by either of the proposed parties. *(Added 23 of 2005 s. 8)*

(1E) A civil celebrant through whom a certificate of the Registrar is issued under subsection (1D) shall forward it as soon as practicable to either of the proposed parties. *(Added 23 of 2005 s. 8)*

(2) Where the Registrar is satisfied that the parties intend to contract the marriage before him, he may, in lieu of issuing a certificate of the Registrar, endorse on the notice of intended marriage a statement to the effect that the issue of the certificate has not been forbidden by any person authorized by law to do so; and such endorsement shall, in relation to the celebration of the marriage by the Registrar, take effect as if a certificate of the Registrar had been issued. *(Added 3 of 1975 s. 2. Amended 23 of 2005 s. 38)*

10. Notice of intended marriage void unless marriage within 3 months

If the marriage does not take place within 3 months after the giving of the notice of intended marriage, the notice and all proceedings

thereupon shall be void, and another notice of intended marriage will be required before the parties can contract a marriage.

(Amended 23 of 2005 s. 39)

11. Grant of special licence

(1) The Chief Executive may, by granting a special licence in Form 3 in Schedule 1—

(a) dispense with—

(i) the notice of intended marriage;

(ii) the certificate of the Registrar; or

(iii) both such notice and such certificate,

in relation to any intended marriage; and

(b) authorize the celebration of a marriage between the parties named in the licence at the place and time specified in the licence. *(Replaced 23 of 2005 s. 40)*

(2) The Chief Executive may grant a special licence without payment of the prescribed fee, or on payment of such reduced fee as, in the special circumstances of the case, he may think sufficient. *(Amended 50 of 1911; 62 of 1911 Schedule; 23 of 2005 s. 40)*

(Amended 1 of 1960 s. 6; 71 of 1999 s. 3)

12. Affidavit prior to issue of certificate of the Registrar or grant of special licence

(1) After a notice of intended marriage is given but before a certificate of the Registrar is issued or a special licence is granted in respect of an intended marriage, one of the proposed parties to the intended marriage shall—

(a) appear personally before the Registrar or a civil celebrant; and

(b) make before the Registrar or the civil celebrant, as the case may be, an affidavit—

(i) that the party believes that there is no impediment of kindred or affinity as provided in section 27(1) or any other lawful hindrance to the marriage; and

(ii) that—

(A) the consent to the marriage required by section 14 has been obtained; or

(B) the marriage does not require any consent under section 14.

(2) The Registrar and any civil celebrant shall have power to take an affidavit referred to in subsection (1)(b).

(Replaced 23 of 2005 s. 9)

13. No licence or certificate if either party under 16

No certificate of the Registrar may be issued or special licence may be granted if any proposed party to the intended marriage is under the age of 16 years.

(Added 13 of 1934 s. 2. Amended 20 of 1948 s. 4; 71 of 1999 s. 3; 23 of 2005 s. 41)

14. Production of written consent

(1) This section applies in relation to an intended marriage if any proposed party to the intended marriage—

(a) is of or over 16 and under 21 years of age as at the date of marriage; and

(b) is not a widower or widow. *(Replaced 23 of 2005 s. 10)*

(1A) The written consent of the relevant person specified in Schedule 3 to the intended marriage—

(a) shall be produced to the Registrar or a civil celebrant before a certificate of the Registrar may be issued; or

(b) shall be produced to the Registrar before a special licence may be granted. *(Added 23 of 2005 s. 10)*

(2) Nothing in this section shall be read as dispensing with the necessity of obtaining the consent of the Court of First Instance to the marriage of a ward of court. *(Added 80 of 1997 s. 28. Amended 25 of 1998 s. 2)*

15. *(Repealed 80 of 1997 s. 29)*

16. Right to forbid issue of certificate of the Registrar

(1) Any person whose consent to an intended marriage is required under section 14 may, before the issue of a certificate of the Registrar in respect of the intended marriage, forbid the issue of the certificate by— *(Amended 23 of 2005 s. 42)*

(a) writing the characters "不准" or the word "Forbidden";

(b) signing his name; and

(c) stating the capacity in which he forbids the issue,

on the copy of the notice of intended marriage produced for inspection under section 7(4). *(Amended 14 of 1926 s. 5; 20 of 1948 s. 4; 80 of 1997 s. 74)*

(2) If the issue of a certificate of the Registrar is so forbidden, the notice of intended marriage and all proceedings thereupon shall be void.

(Amended 23 of 2005 s. 42)

17. Registrar may inquire into right to forbid

(1) If either of the proposed parties to an intended marriage alleges that a person forbidding the issue of a certificate of the Registrar in respect of the intended marriage has no right

under section 16 to do so, the Registrar shall inquire into the matter, and if he is satisfied that the person has no such right, he may proceed to issue the certificate in due course, without reckoning the time that has elapsed since the issue was forbidden. *(Amended 23 of 2005 s. 43)*

(2) For the purposes of such inquiry the Registrar may administer an oath to any person. *(Amended 80 of 1997 s. 30)*

(Amended 14 of 1926 s. 5; 20 of 1948 s. 4)

18. Appeal against decision of Registrar

(1) If the Registrar is satisfied that a person forbidding the issue of a certificate of the Registrar in respect of an intended marriage has a right under section 16 to do so, either of the proposed parties to the intended marriage may appeal by petition to the Court of First Instance, and the Court or judge may hear and determine the matter of the petition in a summary way. *(Amended 50 of 1911; 62 of 1911 Schedule; 14 of 1926 s. 5; 20 of 1948 s. 4; 92 of 1975 s. 59; 25 of 1998 s. 2; 23 of 2005 s. 44)*

(2) Such determination shall be final; and the Registrar shall proceed in accordance therewith, without reckoning the time that has elapsed since the issue was forbidden. *(Amended 14 of 1926 s. 5; 20 of 1948 s. 4)*

18A. District Judge may give consent

(1) If consent is required under section 14 from the relevant person or persons specified in Schedule 3 with respect to a party to an intended marriage, and— *(Amended 23 of 2005 s. 45)*

(a) in the case of such person or any of such persons being a guardian, there is no guardian or such guardian is dead;

(b) after diligent enquiry, the party is unable to trace such person or any of such persons;

(c) such person or any of such persons refuses to give consent;

(d) such person or any of such persons is of unsound mind; or

(e) such person or any of such persons has forbidden the issue of the certificate of the Registrar,

a District Judge may, on application being made, consent to the marriage and the consent so given shall have the same effect as if it had been given by such person or any of such persons or as if the forbidding of the issue of the certificate of the Registrar had been withdrawn. *(Replaced 80 of 1997 s. 31. Amended 23 of 2005 s. 45)*

(1A) For the avoidance of doubt, it is hereby declared that where consent is required under section 14 from either parent of the party, subsection (1) shall apply only if the party is unable to obtain such consent from both of his parents. *(Added 80 of 1997 s. 31)*

(2) The power to make civil procedure rules under section 72 of the District Court Ordinance (Cap. 336) shall extend to—

(a) prescribing the method of application for consent;

(b) prescribing the service of copies of the application and any ancillary documents, if any;

(c) prescribing the procedure to be followed at the hearing of the application including provision for the application to be heard in chambers; and

(d) authorizing the District Judge to call for and receive a report from an officer of the Social Welfare Department or other suitably qualified person before giving consent to a marriage under subsection (1).

(3) In this section—

guardian (監護人) includes—

(a) any person to whose custody the party is committed by order of the court, other than a parent; and

(b) all of the guardians, if more than one guardian is appointed to act jointly. *(Added 80 of 1997 s. 31)*

(Added 32 of 1990 s. 17)

Part 6

Celebration of Marriage, Certificate of Marriage and Validity of Marriage

(Added 23 of 2005 s. 46)

19. Celebration of marriage in licensed place of worship

(1) Marriages may be celebrated in any licensed place of worship by any competent minister of the church, denomination, or body to which such place of worship belongs, and according to the rites or usages of marriage observed in such church, denomination, or body, provided that the marriage is celebrated with open doors, and (except in case of a special licence) between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., and in the presence of 2 or more witnesses, besides the officiating minister. *(Amended 50 of 1911 s. 4; 51 of 1911 s. 4; 1 of 1960 s. 9)*

(2) No minister shall celebrate any marriage until the parties deliver to him the certificate of the Registrar or a special licence. *(Amended 14 of 1926 s. 5; 20 of 1948 s. 4; 71 of 1999 s. 3; 23 of 2005 s. 47)*

20. Certificates of marriage for marriage celebrated in licensed place of worship

(1) The Registrar shall cause to be prepared and supplied to all licensed places of worship books of marriage certificates in Form 4 in Schedule 1 in duplicate and with butts in such form as may be specified by the Registrar. *(Amended 14 of 1926 s. 5; 20 of 1948 s. 4)*

(2) The certificate of marriage shall be signed in duplicate by the officiating minister, by the parties, and by 2 or more witnesses to the marriage.

(3) The minister shall deliver one certificate of marriage to the parties immediately after the marriage, and shall within 7 days thereafter transmit the other to the Registrar who shall file the same in his office. *(Amended 51 of 1911; 63 of 1911 Schedule; 14 of 1926 s. 5; 20 of 1948 s. 4; 1 of 1960 s. 10)*

(4) The officiating minister shall enter in the butt the names of the parties and the date of the marriage.

(Amended 23 of 2005 s. 48)

20A. Certificates of marriage to be supplied to civil celebrant

The Registrar shall cause to be prepared and supplied upon request to any civil celebrant books of marriage certificates in Form 7 in Schedule 1 in duplicate and with butts in such form as may be specified by the Registrar.

(Added 23 of 2005 s. 11)

21. Marriage before Registrar or civil celebrant

(1) After the issue of a certificate of the Registrar or the grant of a special licence, the parties may, subject to subsection (1A), contract a marriage before the Registrar or a civil celebrant. *(Replaced 34 of 1932 s. 2. Amended 20 of 1948 s. 4; 71 of 1999 s. 3; 23 of 2005 s. 12)*

(1A) Before a marriage is—

(a) celebrated by the Registrar, each of the parties shall sign a written declaration in the presence of the Registrar;

(b) celebrated by a civil celebrant, each of the parties shall sign a written declaration in the presence of the civil celebrant. *(Added 23 of 2005 s. 12)*

(1B) If a declaration is signed before the Registrar or a civil celebrant, he shall witness the signature. *(Added 23 of 2005 s. 12)*

(1C) A declaration referred to in subsection (1A) shall be in Form 5 in Schedule 1. *(Added 23 of 2005 s. 12)*

(2) A declaration referred to in subsection (1A) shall, if necessary, be interpreted to both or either of the parties in their or his or her own language in the presence of the Registrar or a civil celebrant, as the case may be, and the person interpreting such declaration shall subscribe his name to it as interpreter. *(Amended 14 of 1926 s. 5; 20 of 1948 s. 4; 23 of 2005 s. 12)*

(3) A marriage celebrated by the Registrar shall take place in his office, with open doors, between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.: *(Amended 23 of 2005 s. 12)*

Provided—

(a) in the case of a marriage by special licence, the Registrar may celebrate the marriage in his office or elsewhere as, and at any time, specified in the licence; and

(b) the Registrar may, where, having regard to the number of persons desiring to be married at a particular place on a particular date, he thinks fit and he has given not less than 7 days' notice of his intention to marry such persons at that place on that date by exhibiting a notice to that effect in his office, celebrate the marriages of such persons at that place on that date between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. *(Added 1 of 1960 s. 11)*

(3A) A marriage celebrated by a civil celebrant—

(a) may take place at any hour; and

(b) shall take place at any place which is a place in Hong Kong other than the office of the Registrar and a licensed place of worship. *(Added 23 of 2005 s. 12)*

(4) (a) A marriage celebrated by the Registrar or a civil celebrant shall take place in the presence of 2 or more

witnesses, and in the following manner— *(Amended 23 of 2005 s. 12)*

(i) the Registrar or the civil celebrant, as the case may be, shall first address the parties to the following effect— *(Amended 23 of 2005 s. 12)*

"Before you are joined in matrimony, it is my duty to remind you of the solemn and binding character of a marriage contracted under the Marriage Ordinance, which is in law the voluntary union for life of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others. Know ye, therefore, [*name of the male party*], and [*name of the female party*], that, by the public taking of each other as man and wife in my presence and in the presence of the persons now here, and by the subsequent attestation thereof by signing your names to that effect, you become legally married to each other, although no other rite of a civil or religious nature shall take place."; and

(ii) the male party shall then say to the female party either—

(A) in Chinese—

"我請在場各人見證：我[*男方姓名*]願以妳[*女方姓名*]為我合法妻子。"; or

(B) in English—

"I call upon all persons here present to witness that I, [*name of the male party*], do take thee, [*name of the female party*], to be my lawful wedded wife."; and *(Replaced 23 of 2005 s. 12)*

(iii) the female party shall then say to the male party either—

(A) in Chinese—

"我請在場各人見證：我[*女方姓名*]願以你[*男方姓名*]為我合法丈夫。"; or

(B) in English—

"I call upon all persons here present to witness that I, [*name of the female party*], do take thee, [*name of the male party*], to be my lawful wedded husband.". *(Added 23 of 2005 s. 12)*

(b) Where the Registrar or the civil celebrant, as the case may be— *(Amended 23 of 2005 s. 12)*

(i) is satisfied that the parties and witnesses all understand the Chinese language, the marriage may be celebrated in the Chinese language; or

(ii) is satisfied that the parties and witnesses all understand the English language, the marriage may be celebrated in the English language. *(Replaced 1 of 1960 s. 11. Amended 23 of 2005 s. 12)*

(4A) Where a male party is unable to make the statement required by subsection (4)(a)(ii) because of any physical disability (whether permanent or temporary) or because he is neither Chinese-speaking nor English-speaking, if—

(a) a person other than the male party, the female party, the Registrar or the civil celebrant says to the female party either—

(i) in Chinese—

"現代表[*男方姓名*]聲明如下：我請在場各人見證：我[*男方姓名*]願以妳[*女方姓名*]為我合法妻子。"; or

(ii) in English—

"It is declared on behalf of [*name of the male party*] as follows: I call upon all persons here present to witness that I, [*name of the male party*], do take thee, [*name of the female party*], to be my lawful wedded wife."; and

(b) upon inquiry by the Registrar or the civil celebrant, the male party signifies, in whatever manner and by whatever means, to the satisfaction of the Registrar or the civil celebrant, as the case may be, that what was said reflects his will to marry the female party,

the male party shall be regarded as having complied with subsection (4)(a)(ii). *(Added 23 of 2005 s. 12)*

(4B) Where a female party is unable to make the statement required by subsection (4)(a)(iii) because of any physical disability (whether permanent or temporary) or because she is neither Chinese-speaking nor English-speaking, if—

(a) a person other than the female party, the male party, the Registrar or the civil celebrant says to the male party either—

(i) in Chinese—

"現代表[*女方姓名*]聲明如下：我請在場各人見證：我[*女方姓名*]願以你[*男方姓名*]為我合法丈夫。"; or

(ii) in English—

"It is declared on behalf of [*name of the female party*] as follows: I call upon all persons here present to witness that I, [*name of the female party*], do take thee, [*name of the male party*], to be my lawful wedded husband."; and

(b) upon inquiry by the Registrar or the civil celebrant, the female party signifies, in whatever manner and by

whatever means, to the satisfaction of the Registrar or the civil celebrant, as the case may be, that what was said reflects her will to marry the male party,

the female party shall be regarded as having complied with subsection (4)(a)(iii). *(Added 23 of 2005 s. 12)*

(5) Upon subsection (4) being complied with—

(a) the Registrar or the civil celebrant, as may be appropriate;

(b) the parties; and

(c) the witnesses referred to in subsection (4)(a),

shall sign a certificate of marriage in Form 7 in Schedule 1 in duplicate. *(Replaced 23 of 2005 s. 12)*

(6) If a marriage is celebrated by the Registrar, he shall—

(a) deliver one certificate of marriage signed in accordance with subsection (5) to the parties immediately after it has been signed; and

(b) file the other certificate of marriage in his office. *(Replaced 23 of 2005 s. 12)*

(7) If a marriage is celebrated by a civil celebrant—

(a) the civil celebrant shall—

(i) deliver one certificate of marriage signed in accordance with subsection (5) to the parties immediately after it has been signed;

(ii) enter in the butt the names of the parties and the date of marriage; and

(iii) transmit—

(A) the other certificate of marriage; and

(B) the declaration signed by the parties in accordance with subsection (1A)(b),

to the Registrar within 7 days after the marriage; and

(b) the Registrar shall file the certificate transmitted to him in accordance with paragraph (a)(iii) in his office. *(Added 23 of 2005 s. 12)*

(8) For the avoidance of doubt, if a marriage is celebrated by a civil celebrant, the civil celebrant shall not act as a witness to that marriage. *(Added 23 of 2005 s. 12)*

22. Marriage by special licence at other place

Whenever a special licence authorizes the celebration of a marriage at a place other than a licensed place of worship or the office of the Registrar and such marriage is not to be celebrated by the Registrar, the Registrar, on taking the affidavit of one of the parties to the marriage, shall deliver to him or her a blank certificate of marriage in duplicate, and the minister celebrating the marriage, the parties, and 2 or more witnesses shall sign the same, in manner hereinbefore prescribed, and the minister shall deliver one certificate to the parties, immediately after the marriage, and shall transmit the other to the Registrar within 7 days thereafter, and the Registrar shall file the same in his office.

(Amended 14 of 1926 s. 5; 27 of 1937 Schedule; 20 of 1948 s. 4; 1 of 1960 s. 12; 71 of 1999 s. 3; 23 of 2005 s. 49)

23. Registration of certificates of marriage

(1) The Registrar shall register all certificates of marriage filed in his office in such order and manner as he thinks best suited for easy reference thereto. *(Amended 14 of 1926 s. 5; 20 of 1948 s. 4; 80 of 1997 s. 75)*

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), the Registrar may cause the certificates of marriage to be

recorded in the form of digital image. *(Added 80 of 1997 s. 75. Amended 8 of 2006 s. 43)*

24. Effect of certificate of marriage or certified copy thereof

Any certificate of marriage filed in the office of the Registrar, or a copy of it (including any copy in the form of a reader-printer hard copy of the microfilm, or a hard copy of the digital image, of a certificate of marriage), provided it purports to be signed and certified as a true copy by the Registrar and to be sealed or stamped with his official seal, shall be admissible as evidence of the marriage to which the same relates in any court or before any person having by law or by consent of parties authority to hear, receive, and examine evidence.

(Amended 50 of 1911; 62 of 1911 Schedule; 14 of 1926 s. 5; 20 of 1948 s. 4; 80 of 1997 s. 76; 8 of 2006 s. 44)

25. Correction of error in certificate of marriage

The Registrar may correct any clerical error in any certificate of marriage on production to him of the certificate delivered to the parties, and shall authenticate every such correction by his signature, or by marking the same with his initials, and the date of making the correction.

(Amended 14 of 1926 s. 5; 20 of 1948 s. 4; 1 of 1960 s. 13)

26. Searches may be made, and certified copies granted

(1) The Registrar may allow searches to be made amongst all certificates, licences, registers, and indexes in his possession and give a certified copy of any entry therein, and issue a certificate to the effect that there is no record of any marriage of the person named having taken place. *(Amended 5 of 1999 s. 3)*

(2) A certificate issued or purporting to be issued under this section before the commencement* of the Marriage (Certificate of Absence of Marriage Record) Ordinance 1999 (5 of 1999) shall be deemed to have been issued as if that Ordinance had been in force at the time of its issue. *(Added 5 of 1999 s. 3)*

(15 of 1902 s. 4 incorporated. Amended 50 of 1911 s. 4; 8 of 1912 s. 22; 14 of 1926 s. 5; 20 of 1948 s. 4; 1 of 1960 s. 14)

Editorial Note:

* Commencement date: 5 February 1999.

27. Invalid marriages

(1) A marriage shall be null and void on the ground of kindred or affinity as provided in Schedule 5. *(Replaced 23 of 2005 s. 13)*

(2) A marriage shall be null and void—

(a) if—

(i) it is not celebrated—

(A) by the Registrar in the office of the Registrar;

(B) by a competent minister in a licensed place of worship; or

(C) by a civil celebrant in accordance with section 21(3A),

and it is not—

(D) authorized by a special licence;

(E) celebrated under paragraph (b) of the proviso to section 21(3); or

(F) celebrated under section 39;

(ii) it is celebrated under a false name; or

(iii) no certificate of the Registrar has been issued or no special licence has been granted in respect of the marriage,

and both parties knowingly and wilfully acquiesce in its celebration in such circumstances; or

(b) if at the time of its celebration any party is under 16 years of age. *(Replaced 23 of 2005 s. 13)*

(3) But no marriage shall, after celebration, be deemed invalid by reason that any provision of this Ordinance, other than the foregoing, has not been complied with.

28. Validity of marriages

All marriages celebrated under this Ordinance shall be good and valid in law to all intents and purposes.

Part 7

Offences and Penalty

(Added 23 of 2005 s. 50)

29. Marrying, etc., person under 21 without required consent

Any person who, knowing that—

(a) a written consent under section 14 is required in respect of the marriage of a party under 21 years of age; and

(b) no such consent has been obtained,

marries or assists or procures any other person to marry the person referred to in paragraph (a) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to a fine at level 5 and imprisonment for 2 years.

(Replaced 23 of 2005 s. 51)

30. Offences by minister or civil celebrant

Any minister or civil celebrant who— *(Amended 23 of 2005 s. 14)*

(a) knowing that—

(i) a consent under section 14 is required in respect of the marriage of a party under 21 years of age; and

(ii) no such consent has been produced in accordance with section 14(1A) in respect of the party,

wilfully celebrates the marriage of the party; or *(Replaced 23 of 2005 s. 52)*

(b) wilfully celebrates a marriage contrary to any other provision of this Ordinance, or knowing that any provision of this Ordinance has not been complied with,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to a fine at level 5 and imprisonment for 2 years.

(Amended 30 of 1911 s. 5; 50 of 1911; 62 of 1911 Schedule; 24 of 1936 s. 2; 22 of 1950 s. 3 & Schedule; 50 of 1991 s. 4; L.N. 25 of 1996; 23 of 2005 s. 52)

31. Offences for failure to transmit certificate, etc.

(1) Any minister who fails to transmit a certificate of marriage to the Registrar in accordance with section 20(3) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to a fine at level 1.

(2) Any civil celebrant who—

(a) fails to transmit the documents referred to in section 6A(c) in accordance with that section; or

(b) fails to transmit a certificate or declaration in accordance with section 21(7)(a)(iii),

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to a fine at level 1.

(Replaced 23 of 2005 s. 15)

31A. Offences by civil celebrant

(1) Any civil celebrant who without reasonable excuse contravenes section 5G(1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to a fine at level 3.

(2) Any civil celebrant who without reasonable excuse contravenes section 5H(1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to a fine at level 1.

(3) Any civil celebrant who without reasonable excuse contravenes section 5H(2) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to a fine at level 3.

(4) Any civil celebrant who without reasonable excuse contravenes section 9(1E) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to a fine at level 4.

(Added 23 of 2005 s. 16)

32. Offence of tampering with records

Any person who wilfully removes or alters any notice, certificate, licence or other document kept or filed (whether in the form of paper or microfilm or digital image) by the Registrar pursuant to, or for the purposes of, the provisions of this Ordinance shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to a fine at level 5 and imprisonment for 2 years.

(Replaced 1 of 1960 s. 16. Amended 48 of 1972 s. 4; L.N. 25 of 1996; 23 of 2005 s. 53; 8 of 2006 s. 45)

33. Penalty on unauthorized person celebrating marriage

Any person who knowingly and wilfully celebrates or pretends to celebrate a marriage, not being legally competent to do so, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to a fine at level 5 and imprisonment for 2 years.

(Amended 30 of 1911 ss. 2 & 5; 50 of 1911; 62 of 1911 Schedule; 22 of 1950 s. 3; 50 of 1991 s. 4; 23 of 2005 s. 54)

33A. Offence for providing false information in relation to appointment of civil celebrants

(1) Any person who provides any false information which—

(a) he knows to be false; or

(b) he has no reasonable ground to believe to be true,

to the Registrar for specified purposes shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to a fine at level 5 and to imprisonment for 2 years.

(2) In subsection (1), ***specified purposes*** (指明目的) means—

(a) procuring the appointment of any person as a civil celebrant or renewal of such appointment;

(b) avoiding the cancellation or suspension of the appointment of any civil celebrant; or

(c) avoiding the giving of a notice under section 5D(9) in respect of any person.

(Added 23 of 2005 s. 17)

33B. Offence of falsely holding out as civil celebrant

Any person who, not being a civil celebrant—

(a) advertises or represents himself as a civil celebrant; or

(b) knowingly permits himself to be advertised or represented as a civil celebrant,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to a fine at level 5 and imprisonment for 2 years.

(Added 23 of 2005 s. 17)

34. Fines

All fines for offences against this Ordinance may be recovered in a summary way before a magistrate.

(Amended 30 of 1911; 50 of 1911)

34A. Time limit for prosecution

Notwithstanding section 26 of the Magistrates Ordinance (Cap. 227), proceedings for an offence against section 29, 30(a), 30(b), 32, 33, 33A(1), 33B, 39(3)(a) or 39(3)(b) may be brought within 6 months after the act or omission alleged to be constituting the offence is discovered by or comes to the notice of the prosecutor.

(Added 23 of 2005 s. 18)

Part 8

Miscellaneous

(Added 23 of 2005 s. 55)

35. Use of forms

The forms in Schedule 1 may be used in the cases to which they are applicable with such alterations as circumstances may render necessary.

(Amended 50 of 1911 s. 4; 23 of 2005 s. 56)

36. Fees

(1) The fees specified in Schedule 2 shall be paid to the Registrar for the respective matters specified opposite to the fees in that Schedule. *(Amended 50 of 1911 s. 4; 62 of 1911 Schedule; 8 of 1912 s. 22; 14 of 1926 s. 5; 15 of 1947 s. 2; 20 of 1948 s. 4; 1 of 1960 s. 17; 71 of 1999 s. 3; 23 of 2005 s. 57)*

(2) The Chief Executive in Council may by order published in the Gazette amend Schedule 2. *(Added 23 of 2005 s. 57)*

37. Reduction or remission of fees

The Registrar may, in any case where he is satisfied of the poverty of the parties, reduce the amount of the said fees or remit them altogether.

(Amended 14 of 1926; 20 of 1948 s. 4)

38. Marriage under this Ordinance of persons customarily married

The parties to any non-Christian customary marriage duly celebrated according to the personal law and religion of the parties

before 7 October 1971 may, unless the husband has any other wife, contract with each other a marriage under this Ordinance; and such a marriage shall not invalidate the previous customary marriage.

(Replaced 68 of 1970 s. 26. Amended 23 of 2005 s. 58)

39. Cases in which marriage of a dying person may be celebrated, and conditions of its celebration

(1) Where 2 persons who have lived together in unlawful concubinage desire to marry and one of them is dying, the Registrar or any competent minister may celebrate the marriage at any place and at any time notwithstanding that no certificate of the Registrar has been issued and that no special licence has been granted: *(Amended 80 of 1997 s. 32; 71 of 1999 s. 3)*

Provided that no such marriage shall be valid unless the following conditions are observed—

(a) no such marriage shall be celebrated unless both the parties are able to signify their consent thereto and do so in the presence of 2 witnesses;

(b) no such marriage shall be celebrated where either of the parties is under 21 years of age, not being a widower or widow, unless either the written consent of the relevant person or persons whose consent is required under section 14 is produced to the Registrar or minister, or such person or persons gives or give consent verbally in the presence of the Registrar or minister; *(Amended 80 of 1997 s. 32)*

(c) no such marriage shall be valid which would be null and void, on the ground of kindred or affinity as provided in section 27(1);

(d) a certificate in Form 6 in Schedule 1 shall be signed by the Registrar or minister, and by the witnesses to

the marriage, and, where practicable, by the persons so married, and, if either of the parties is unable to sign, the Registrar or minister shall certify accordingly;

(e) where the marriage is celebrated by a minister, the minister shall, within 7 days from the celebration thereof, forward such certificate to the Registrar, to be filed in his office. *(Replaced 1 of 1960 s. 18)*

(2) If a marriage under subsection (1) takes place such marriage shall not revoke any will or codicil previously made by either of the parties to such marriage, but such will or codicil shall have the same validity as if such marriage had not taken place. *(3 of 1893 s. 3 incorporated. Amended 80 of 1997 s. 32)*

(3) Any person who—

(a) knowingly celebrates any marriage in purported pursuance of this section contrary to or not in accordance with any provision thereof; or

(b) not being legally competent, celebrates any marriage under this section,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to a fine at level 5 and imprisonment for 2 years. *(3 of 1893 s. 4(1) incorporated. Amended 30 of 1911 s. 2; 50 of 1911; 51 of 1911; 1 of 1912 Schedule; 2 of 1912 Schedule; 27 of 1937 Schedule; 20 of 1948 s. 4; 22 of 1950 s. 3 & Schedule; 1 of 1960 s. 18; 50 of 1991 s. 4; L.N. 25 of 1996)*

(4) Any minister who, after celebrating a marriage under this section, fails to transmit the certificate thereof in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (e) of the proviso to subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to a fine at level 1. *(3 of 1893 s. 4(2) incorporated. Amended 50 of 1911; 21 of 1912 s. 2; 5 of 1924 Schedule; 20 of 1948 s. 4; 22 of 1950 Schedule; 1 of 1960 s. 18; L.N. 25 of 1996)*

(Amended 23 of 2005 s. 59)

40. Marriages under this Ordinance are Christian or equivalent thereto

(1) Every marriage under this Ordinance shall be a Christian marriage or the civil equivalent of a Christian marriage.

(2) The expression ***Christian marriage or the civil equivalent of a Christian marriage*** (基督教婚禮或相等的世俗婚禮) implies a formal ceremony recognized by the law as involving the voluntary union for life of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others. *(Amended E.R. 4 of 2019)*

(Replaced 34 of 1932 s. 3)

41. *(Repealed 28 of 1998 s. 2)*

42. Regulations

The Secretary may make regulations—

(a) to provide for the composition of the Appeal Board for hearing appeals;

(b) to provide for the operation of the Appeal Board;

(c) to provide for the practice and procedure for handling of appeals by the Appeal Board;

(d) to provide for legal representation of parties to an appeal;

(e) to provide for the appointment and function of the Secretary of the Appeal Board;

(f) to provide for the delegation of functions of the Appeal Board to the Secretary of the Appeal Board;

(g) to provide for the powers that the Appeal Board may exercise in relation to appeals;

(h) to provide for matters ancillary or incidental to the matters specified in paragraph (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) or (g); and

(i) generally for the better carrying out of this Ordinance.

(Replaced 23 of 2005 s. 19)

42A. Amendment of Schedules

The Secretary may, by notice published in the Gazette, amend Schedule 1, Schedule 3 or Schedule 4.

(Added 23 of 2005 s. 20)

43. Disposal of documents and microfilms when recorded in form of digital image

(Amended 8 of 2006 s. 46)

The Registrar may, where any document has been recorded in the form of digital image under this Ordinance, destroy or otherwise dispose of such document, and any microfilm on which such document is recorded, in such manner as he thinks fit.

(Added 80 of 1997 s. 77. Amended 8 of 2006 s. 46)

44. Registrar may provide information relating to civil celebrant, etc. to professional bodies

The Registrar may provide—

(a) any information relating to the performance of any function as a civil celebrant by any person who—

(i) is a civil celebrant; or

(ii) has been a civil celebrant; or

(b) any information relating to any improper conduct of any person in his application for appointment or renewal of appointment as civil celebrant,

to any professional body for its use in connection with any disciplinary proceedings or prospective disciplinary proceedings against the person on such terms as the Registrar may specify.

(Added 23 of 2005 s. 21)

45. Saving

The amendments made to section 27 and paragraph (c) of the proviso to section 39(1) by the Marriage (Introduction of Civil Celebrants of Marriages and General Amendments) Ordinance (23 of 2005) shall not—

(a) validate a marriage which would have been invalid; or

(b) invalidate a marriage which would have been valid,

but for the enactment of that Ordinance.

(Added 23 of 2005 s. 60)

Schedule 1

[ss. 2, 6, 9, 11, 20, 20A, 21, 35, 39 & 42A]

Forms

(Amended 23 of 2005 s. 22)

Form 1

[s. 6]

NOTICE OF INTENDED MARRAIGE
擬結婚通知書

(Marrige Ordinance (Cap. 181))
(《婚姻條例》(第181章))

To: The Registrar of Marriages, Hong Kong.
致： 香 港 婚 姻 登 記 官

Take notice that the parties named in this notice intend to contract a marriage within 3 months from the date of this notice.
現謹通告名列本通知書的雙方擬在自本通知書日期起計的3個月內結婚。

Part I 第I部分		
	Bridegroom 新郎	Bride 新娘

Surname and name 姓名		
Marital condition 婚姻狀況	Bachelor/Widower/ Divorced person 未婚/鰥夫/離婚	Spinster/Widow/ Divorced person 未婚/寡婦/離婚
Occupation 職業		
Date of birth 出生日期		
Residential address (Street name & district) 住址(街道名稱及地區)		
Consent of the third party (if any) 第三者的同意(如有)		
Part II 第II部分		

HK identity card no. / Travel document type and no. 香港身分證號碼 / 旅行證件類別及號碼		
Residential address in full 詳細住址		
Daytime telephone no. 日間電話號碼		
Surname and name of father 父親姓名		
Surname and name of mother 母親姓名		

[Where applicable] This notice is given through (*name of civil celebrant*), Civil Celebrant of Marriages.

[如適用]本通知書透過婚姻監禮人(*婚姻監禮人的姓名*)發出。

I and the other party named above intend to contract a marriage at (*place of celebration of marriage*) on the day of , 20
本人與名列上表的另一方擬於 年 月 日在 (*舉行婚禮地點*)

before ☐ the Registrar.
在 登記官
☐ a civil celebrant. 主持下締結婚姻。
婚姻監禮人
☐ a competent minister.
合資格的神職人員

Dated this day of , 20 .
年 月 日

(*Signature of the party giving the notice*)
(*發出通知書的一方簽署*)

(*Name of the party*)
(*該方姓名*)

(Replaced 23 of 2005 s. 22)

Form 2

[s. 9]

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRAR OF MARRIAGES
婚姻登記官證明書

(Marriage Ordinance (Cap. 181))

(《婚姻條例》(第181章))

I hereby certify that on the day of , 20 , a notice of intended marriage was entered in the Marriage Notice Book of Hong Kong in respect of the marriage intended to be contracted between the parties named below.

現證明一份擬結婚通知書已於 年 月 日就下述人士擬締結的婚姻載入香港結婚通知冊。

	Bridegroom 新郎	Bride 新娘
Surname and name 姓名		
Age 年齡		
Marital condition 婚姻狀況	Bachelor/Widower/ Divorced person 未婚／鰥夫／離婚	Spinster/Widow/ Divorced person 未婚／寡婦／離婚
Occupation 職業		
Residential address 住址		
Surname and name of father 父親姓名		

Surname and name of mother 母親姓名		

The issue of this certificate has not been forbidden by any person who is entitled under law to forbid the issue of it.
根據法律有權不准發給本證明書的人，並無不准發給本證明書。

Dated this day of , 20 .
年 月 日

(*Signature*)
(*簽署*)

(*Name and title*)
(*姓名及稱銜*)

This certificate will be of no effect unless the marriage is solemnized on or before the day of , 20 .
婚禮須於 年 月 日或之前舉行，否則本證明書即告無效。

This certificate was issued under the proviso to section 9(1) of the Marriage Ordinance (Cap. 181).
本證明書根據《婚姻條例》(第181章)第9(1)條但書發給。

(Replaced 23 of 2005 s. 61)

Form 3

[s. 11]

Special Licence

(Marriage Ordinance (Cap. 181))

I hereby—

* dispense, in relation to the intended marriage between [*name of a party to the intended marriage*] and [*name of the other party*], with—
  * the requirement to give a notice of intended marriage under section 6 of the Marriage Ordinance (Cap. 181);
  * the requirement to issue a Certificate of Registrar of Marriages under section 9 of the Marriage Ordinance (Cap. 181).
* authorize the celebration of a marriage between [*name of a party to the intended marriage*] and [*name of the other party*] at [*place of celebration of marriage*] between [*period of time*] on the day of , 20 .

Dated this day of , 20 .

(*Signature of the issuer*)

(*Name and title of the issuer*)

* Delete where inapplicable.

(Replaced 23 of 2005 s. 61)

Form 4

[ss. 2 & 20]

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE
結婚證書

(Marriage Ordinance (Cap. 181))
(《婚姻條例》(第181章))

Registration No. 登記編號		
Date of Marriage 結婚日期		
	Bridegroom 新郎	Bride 新娘
Surname and name 姓名		
Age 年齡		
Marital condition before marriage 結婚前婚姻狀況	Bachelor/Widower/ Divorced person 未婚／鰥夫／離婚	Spinster/Widow/ Divorced person 未婚／寡婦／離婚
Occupation 職業		
Residential address 住址		

Surname and name of father 父親姓名		
Surname and name of mother 母親姓名		

Married at (*place of celebration of marriage*), Hong Kong according to rites and ceremonies before me.

婚禮在本人主持下於香港 (*舉行婚禮地點*) 以 儀式舉行。

(*Signature of minister*)
(*神職人員的簽署*)

(*Name and title of minister*)
(*神職人員的姓名及稱銜*)

The marriage was solemnized between us 結婚雙方 (*Signature of bridegroom*) (*新郎簽署*) and 與 (*Signature of bride*) (*新娘簽署*)

in the presence of us 證婚人	(*Signature of the first witness*) (*第一見證人簽署*) (*Name of the first witness*) (*第一見證人姓名*)	and 及	(*Signature of the second witness*) (*第二見證人簽署*) (*Name of the second witness*) (*第二見證人姓名*)

(Replaced 23 of 2005 s. 61)

Form 5

[s. 21]

DECLARATION

(Section 21 of the Marriage Ordinance (Cap. 181))

I, [*name of the person making the declaration*] of [*address*] hereby declare that I fully understand that—

(a) by taking [*name of spouse*] as my *wife/*husband in the presence of *the Registrar of Marriages/*a Deputy Registrar of Marriages/*a Civil Celebrant of Marriages in accordance with the Marriage Ordinance (Cap. 181), I shall become legally married and bound to [*name of spouse*], although there will be no other rite of a civil or religious nature;

(b) the effect of my taking [*name of spouse*] as my *wife/*husband is to create between us a marriage which cannot be dissolved during our joint lives except by a valid judicial decree; and

(c) if I contract, during the lifetime of my *wife/*husband, another marriage while this marriage subsists, I commit the

offence of bigamy and will be liable for the penalty for that offence.

Dated this day of , 20 .

(*Signature of the person making this declaration*)

(*Name of the person making this declaration*)

Witness,

(*Signature of the person taking this declaration*)

(*Name of the person taking this declaration*)

*Registrar of Marriages/
*Deputy Registrar of Marriages/
*Civil Celebrant of Marriages

Interpreted to the person making this declaration in the language in the presence of the person taking this declaration.

(*Signature of the interpreter*)

(*Name of the interpreter*)

* Delete where inappropriate.

(Replaced 23 of 2005 s. 22)

Form 6

[ss. 2 & 39]

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE
結婚證書

(Marriage Ordinance (Cap. 181))
(《婚姻條例》(第181章))

Registration No. 登記編號		
Date of Marriage 結婚日期		
	Bridegroom 新郎	Bride 新娘
Surname and name 姓名		
Age 年齡		
Marital condition before marriage 結婚前婚姻狀況	Bachelor/Widower/ Divorced person 未婚／鰥夫／離婚	Spinster/Widow/ Divorced person 未婚／寡婦／離婚
Occupation 職業		

Residential address 住址		
Surname and name of father 父親姓名		
Surname and name of mother 母親姓名		

Married at (*place of celebration of marriage*), Hong Kong in accordance with the provisions of the Marriage Ordinance (Cap. 181) according to rites and ceremonies before me.

婚禮在本人主持下於香港 (*舉行婚禮地點*) 按照《婚姻條例》(第181章)以 儀式舉行。

(*Signature of the person celebrating the marriage*)
(*主持婚禮的人的簽署*)

(*Name and title of the person celebrating the marriage*)
(*主持婚禮的人的姓名及稱銜*)

*The marriage was solemnized between us 結婚雙方 (*Signature of bridegroom*) (*新郎簽署*) and 與 (*Signature of bride*) (*新娘簽署*)

*The marriage was solemnized between us 結婚雙方	(*Signature and name of one party*) (*一方的簽署及姓名*)	and 與	(*Name of the other party*) (*另一方的姓名*)
in the presence of us 證婚人	(*Signature of the first witness*) (*第一見證人簽署*) (*Name of the first witness*) (*第一見證人姓名*)	and 及	(*Signature of the second witness*) (*第二見證人簽署*) (*Name of the second witness*) (*第二見證人姓名*)

* I hereby certify that the said (*name of the party who was unable to sign*) was unable to sign this certificate owing to *the state of health/*[*other ground as may be applicable*].

本人現核證上述(*不能簽署的一方的姓名*)由於*健康狀況／*[*適用的其他理由*]而不能在本證書上簽署。

(*Signature of the person celebrating the marriage*)
(*主持婚禮的人的簽署*)

(*Name of the person celebrating the marriage*)
(*主持婚禮的人的姓名*)

* Complete where applicable.

只在適用時填寫。

(Replaced 23 of 2005 s. 61)

Form 7

[ss. 2, 20A & 21]

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE
結婚證書

(Marrige Ordinance (Cap. 181))
(《婚姻條例》(第181章))

Registration No. 登記編號		
Date of Marriage 結婚日期		
	Bridegroom 新郎	Bride 新娘
Surname and name 姓名		
Age 年齡		
Marital condition before marriage 結婚前婚姻狀況	Bachelor/Widower/ Divorced person 未婚 / 鰥夫 / 離婚	Spinster/Widow/ Divorced person 未婚 / 寡婦 / 離婚

Occupation 職業		
Residential address 住址		
Surname and name of father 父親姓名		
Surname and name of mother 母親姓名		

Married at (*place of celebration of marriage*), Hong Kong in accordance with the provisions of the Marriage Ordinance (Cap. 181) before me.

婚禮在本人主持下於香港(*舉行婚禮地點*)按照《婚姻條例》(第181章)舉行。

(*Signature of the person celebrating the marriage*)
(*主持婚禮的人的簽署*)

(*Name and title of the person celebrating the marriage*)
(*主持婚禮的人的姓名及稱銜*)

The marriage was solemnized between us 結婚雙方	(*Signature of bridegroom*) (*新郎簽署*)	and 與	(*Signature of bride*) (*新娘簽署*)

in the presence of us 證婚人	(*Signature of the first witness*) (*第一見證人簽署*) (*Name of the first witness*) (*第一見證人姓名*)	and 及	(*Signature of the second witness*) (*第二見證人簽署*) (*Name of the second witness*) (*第二見證人姓名*)

(Added 23 of 2005 s. 22)

Schedule 2

[ss. 2 & 36]
(Amended 23 of 2005 s. 23)

Fees

Item	Particular	Fee $
1.	Filing and exhibition of notice of intended marriage	305
2.	Certificate of the Registrar when issued under the proviso to section 9(1).....	3,010
3.	Search under section 26—	
	(a) made during any number of successive hours not exceeding 6, without the object of the search being specified	680
	(b) for a specified entry whether the search is made by the applicant or by the Registrar on his behalf	140
4.	Certified copy of any entry given under section 26.....	280
	and	
	in addition where the application is by post from outside Hong Kong	70 together with, where the applicant requests the copy to be sent by airmail, a sum equivalent to the airmail postage at the normal rate.

Item	Particular	Fee $
	Note: A search fee is also payable unless the copy is being given at the same time as the original is issued or made. Where 2 or more copies of the same entry are applied for at the same time only one search fee is payable.	
5.	Certificate under section 26 of absence of any record	680
	and	
	in addition where the application is by post from outside Hong Kong	70 together with, where the applicant requests the copy to be sent by airmail, a sum equivalent to the airmail postage at the normal rate.
	Note: A search fee is also payable.	
6.	Special licence under section 11	10,785
7.	Marriage at the office of the Registrar—	
	(a) during normal office hours	715
	(b) outside normal office hours	1,935
8.	Celebration by the Registrar, elsewhere than in his office, of marriage by special licence or of a dying person	5,015
9.	Celebration by the Registrar under paragraph (b) of the proviso to section 21(3), per marriage	2,380
	and	

Item	Particular	Fee $
	in addition (to be paid proportionately by the parties being married)	3,610 or 475 per marriage, whichever is the greater.
10.	Processing application for appointment as civil celebrant or for renewal of such appointment *(Added 23 of 2005 s. 23)*	715
11.	Appointment as civil celebrant *(Added 23 of 2005 s. 23)*	405
12.	Renewal of appointment as civil celebrant *(Added 23 of 2005 s. 23)*	405

(Replaced L.N. 72 of 1991. Amended L.N. 210 of 1993; L.N. 343 of 1994; L.N. 207 of 1995; L.N. 230 of 1996; 80 of 1997 s. 35; L.N. 437 of 1997; 23 of 2005 s. 62; L.N. 146 of 2014)

Schedule 3

[ss. 14, 18A & 42A]
(Amended 23 of 2005 s. 24)

Consent Required to the Marriage of a Party of or over 16 and under 21 Years of Age

In this Schedule—

guardian (監護人) has the same meaning as in section 18A(3);

illegitimate person (非婚生人士) means a person who was born illegitimate and has not been legitimated under the Legitimacy Ordinance (Cap. 184) nor recognized as legitimated by or under any law.

Part I

Where the Party is a Legitimate Person

	Circumstances	Person or persons whose consent is required
1.	Where both parents are alive—	
	(a) if the marriage of the parents is subsisting	Subject to paragraphs (b), (c) and (d), either parent.

Circumstances	Person or persons whose consent is required
(b) if the parents are divorced or separated by order of any court or by agreement	Subject to paragraph (c)— (1) the parent to whose custody the party is committed by order of the court or by agreement; or (2) both parents, if they jointly have custody of the party by order of the court or by agreement; or (3) in any other cases and subject to paragraph (d), either parent.
(c) if both parents have been deprived of custody of the party by order of any court	The guardian.
(d) if neither of the parents can be traced	The guardian.
2. Where both parents of the party are dead	The guardian.
3. Where a parent of the party is dead	(1) The other parent and any guardian having custody of the party jointly with such other parent; or (2) the other parent or the guardian, whoever is the sole guardian of the party; or (3) the other parent, if the appointment of such guardian ceases.

Part II

Where the Party is an Illegitimate Person

	Circumstances	Person or persons whose consent is required
1.	If the mother of the party is alive	(1) The mother; or (2) if she has by order of any court been deprived of the custody of the party, the guardian.
2.	If the mother of the party is dead	The guardian.

(Schedule 3 added 80 of 1997 s. 36)

Schedule 4

[ss. 5A, 5B, 5D, 5E, 5H & 42A]

Eligibility Criteria for Civil Celebrants

1. Being—

(a) a solicitor—

(i) holding a current practising certificate issued under section 6 of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Cap. 159) which is unconditional save as to the condition of compliance with the Continuing Professional Development Rules (Cap. 159 sub. leg. W) and the Legal Practitioners (Risk Management Education) Rules (Cap. 159 sub. leg. Z); and

(ii) holding a certificate issued by The Law Society of Hong Kong—

(A) certifying that he has practised as a solicitor; or

(B) upon a statutory declaration by him in such form as the Council of The Law Society of Hong Kong may determine certifying that he has been employed while his name is on the roll of solicitors within the meaning of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Cap. 159) to provide legal service to the employer,

for a period or periods in aggregate of not less than 7 years; or

(b) a notary public—

(i) who holds a current practising certificate issued under section 40E of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Cap. 159) which is unconditional; or

(ii) who is qualified to practise as a notary public under subsection (1) of section 40D of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Cap. 159) by virtue of subsection (2) of that section.

2. Has not been—

(a) the subject of a valid order made under section 10(2) of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Cap. 159) by a Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal constituted under section 9B of that Ordinance;

(b) removed from or struck off the register of notaries public before 30 June 2005 under section 42 of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Cap. 159) as then in force;

(c) suspended from practice as a notary public before 30 June 2005 under section 42 of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Cap. 159) as then in force; or

(d) the subject of a valid order made under section 40J(2) of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Cap. 159) by a Notaries Public Disciplinary Tribunal constituted under section 40I of that Ordinance,

during the 3 years immediately preceding the date of the application for appointment as civil celebrant or renewal of appointment as civil celebrant, as may be appropriate.

3. Having completed such training organized for the purposes of this Ordinance as the Registrar may specify.

(Schedule 4 added 23 of 2005 s. 25)

Schedule 5

[s. 27]

Kindred and Affinity

Part 1

1. In this Schedule—

brother (兄弟) includes a brother of the half blood;

child (兒童) means a person under the age of 18;

child of the family (家庭子女), in relation to any person, means a child who has lived in the same household as that person and been treated by that person as a child of his family;

sister (姊妹) includes a sister of the half blood.

2. A marriage—

(a) solemnized between a man and any person specified in the first column of Part 2; or

(b) solemnized between a woman and any person specified in the second column of Part 2,

shall be null and void.

3. Subject to paragraph 4, a marriage—

(a) solemnized between a man and any person specified in the first column of Part 3; or

(b) solemnized between a woman and any person specified in the second column of Part 3,

shall be null and void.

4. A marriage referred to in paragraph 3 shall not be null and void by reason only of affinity if—

(a) both the parties to the marriage have attained the age of 21 at the time of the marriage; and

(b) the younger party has not at any time before attaining the age of 18 been a child of the family in relation to the other party.

5. Subject to paragraph 6, a marriage—

(a) solemnized between a man and any person specified in the first column of Part 4; or

(b) solemnized between a woman and any person specified in the second column of Part 4,

shall be null and void.

6. A marriage referred to in paragraph 5 shall not be null and void by reason only of affinity if—

(a) both the parties to the marriage have attained the age of 21 at the time of the marriage; and

(b) the marriage is solemnized—

(i) in the case of a marriage between a man and the mother of a former wife of his, after the death of both the former wife and the father of the former wife;

(ii) in the case of a marriage between a man and the former wife of his son, after the death of both his son and the mother of his son;

(iii) in the case of a marriage between a woman and the father of a former husband of hers, after the death of both the former husband and the mother of the former husband; or

(iv) in the case of a marriage between a woman and a former husband of her daughter, after the death of both her daughter and the father of her daughter.

Part 2

Prohibited Degrees of Relationship Referred to in Paragraph 2 of Part 1

For men	For women
Mother	Father
Adoptive mother or former adoptive mother	Adoptive father or former adoptive father
Daughter	Son
Adoptive daughter or former adoptive daughter	Adoptive son or former adoptive son
Father's mother	Father's father
Mother's mother	Mother's father
Son's daughter	Son's son
Daughter's daughter	Daughter's son
Sister	Brother
Father's sister	Father's brother
Mother's sister	Mother's brother
Brother's daughter	Brother's son
Sister's daughter	Sister's son

Part 3

Degrees of Affinity Referred to in Paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part 1

For men	For women
Daughter of former wife	Son of former husband
Former wife of father	Former husband of mother
Former wife of father's father	Former husband of father's mother
Former wife of mother's father	Former husband of mother's mother
Daughter of son of former wife	Son of son of former husband
Daughter of daughter of former wife	Son of daughter of former husband

Part 4

Degrees of Affinity Referred to in Paragraphs 5 and 6 of Part 1

For men	For women
Mother of former wife	Father of former husband
Former wife of son	Former husband of daughter

(Schedule 5 added 23 of 2005 s. 63)

Matrimonial Proceedings and Property Ordinance

(Cap. 192)

Contents

Section		Page
	Part I **Preliminary**	
1.	Short title	1-2
2.	Interpretation	1-2
	Part IA **Commencement of Proceedings**	
2A.	Commencement and transfer of proceedings	1A-2
	Part II **Ancillary and Other Relief in Matrimonial Causes and Other Matrimonial Proceedings**	
3.	Maintenance pending suit in case of divorce, etc.	2-2
4.	Financial provision for party to a marriage in cases of divorce, etc.	2-2
5.	Financial provision for child of the family in cases of divorce, etc.	2-4
6.	Orders for transfer and settlement of property and for variation of settlements in cases of divorce, etc.	2-8

Section		Page
6A.	Orders for sale of property	2-10
7.	Matters to which court is to have regard in deciding what orders to make under sections 4, 5 and 6	2-12
8.	Neglect by party to marriage to maintain other party or child of the family	2-16
9.	Duration of certain orders made in favour of party to marriage and effect of remarriage	2-22
10.	Provisions as to powers of court to make orders in favour of children and duration of such orders	2-24
11.	Variation, discharge, etc. of orders for financial provision	2-26
12.	Payment of certain arrears unenforceable without the leave of the court	2-32
13.	Power of court to order sums paid under certain orders to be repaid in certain cases	2-32
14.	Validity of maintenance agreements	2-34
15.	Alteration of agreements by court during lives of parties	2-36
16.	Alteration of agreements by court after death of one party	2-42
17.	Avoidance of transactions intended to defeat certain claims	2-44
18.	Restrictions on decrees for dissolution, annulment or separation affecting children	2-48

Section		Page
19.	Orders for custody and education of children affected by matrimonial suits	2-52
20.	Orders for custody of children in cases of neglect to maintain	2-56
21.	Abolition of right to claim restitution of conjugal rights	2-56
22.	Order for maintenance of party to marriage under Matrimonial Causes Ordinance to cease to have effect on remarriage of that party	2-56
23.	Orders for repayment in certain cases of sums paid after cessation of order by reason of remarriage	2-58
24.	Settlement, etc., made in compliance with order under section 6 may be avoided on bankruptcy of settler	2-62
25.	Commencement of proceedings for financial provision orders, etc.	2-62
26.	Direction for instrument to be settled by the Registrar	2-64
27.	Payments etc., under order made in favour of person suffering from mental disorder	2-64
28.	Attachment of income to satisfy order	2-66
28AA.	Interest on arrears of maintenance	2-76
28AB.	Surcharge on arrears of maintenance	2-82
28A.	Notice of change of address	2-88

Section		Page
29.	Validation of certain void or voidable decrees	2-90
	Part IIA **Financial Relief in Hong Kong after Divorce, etc. Outside Hong Kong**	
29AA.	Interpretation of Part IIA	2A-2
29AB.	Applications for financial relief after divorce, etc. outside Hong Kong	2A-2
29AC.	Leave of court required for applications for financial relief	2A-4
29AD.	Interim orders for maintenance	2A-4
29AE.	Jurisdiction of court	2A-6
29AF.	Duty of court to consider whether Hong Kong is appropriate venue for application	2A-8
29AG.	Orders for financial provision and property adjustment	2A-10
29AH.	Matters to which court is to have regard in exercising its powers under section 29AG	2A-10
29AI.	Application of certain provisions of Part II to orders made under sections 29AD and 29AG	2A-12
29AJ.	Avoidance of transactions intended to defeat applications for financial relief under section 29AD or 29AG	2A-14
29AK.	Prevention of transactions intended to defeat prospective applications for financial relief	2A-18
29AL.	Power to grant injunctions not affected	2A-20

Section		Page
	Part III **Miscellaneous Provisions**	
29A.	Power of court hearing petition to terminate subsisting maintenance order made by another court	3-2
30.	Jurisdiction of, and appeal on question of fact from, District Court	3-2
31.	Devolution of property on intestacy of separated spouse	3-4
32.	Rules of court	3-4
33.	Transitional	3-4
First Schedule	*(Omitted as spent)*	S1-2
Second Schedule	*(Omitted as spent)*	S2-2

To consolidate and amend the law relating to ancillary and other relief in matrimonial causes and other matrimonial proceedings; to abolish the right to claim restitution of conjugal rights; and for purposes connected with or relating to the matters aforesaid.

[1 July 1972]
(Format changes—E.R. 3 of 2018)

Part I

Preliminary

1. Short title

This Ordinance may be cited as the Matrimonial Proceedings and Property Ordinance.

2. Interpretation

(1) In this Ordinance unless the context otherwise requires—

adopted (領養) means adopted in pursuance of an adoption order made under any enactment in force in Hong Kong at any time relating to the adoption of children; *(Amended 66 of 1999 s. 3)*

child (子女), in relation to one or both parties to a marriage, includes an illegitimate or adopted child of that party or, as the case may be, of both parties;

child of the family (家庭子女), in relation to the parties to a marriage, means—

(a) a child of both those parties; and

(b) any other child who has been treated by both those parties as a child of their family;

court (法庭、法院) means the High Court or the District Court; *(Replaced 79 of 1981 s. 7. Amended 25 of 1998 s. 2)*

custody (管養、管養權), in relation to a child, includes access to the child;

education (教育) includes training;

maintenance order (贍養令) means an order made—

(a) under section 4(1)(a), 5(2)(a), 8(5) or (6)(a) or (d) or 15(4) or (5) for periodical payments; or

(b) under section 4(1)(b), 5(2)(b), 8(6)(b) or (e) or 15(4) or (5) for secured periodical payments; or

(c) under section 4(1)(c), 5(2)(c) or 8(6)(c) or (f) for payment of a lump sum; *(Added 18 of 2003 s. 9)*

property (財產) means any real or personal property, any estate or interest in real or personal property, any money, any negotiable instrument, any prescribed instrument within the meaning of section 137B of the Banking Ordinance (Cap. 155), debt or other chose in action, and any other right or interest whether in possession or not. *(Added 69 of 1997 s. 22)*

(2) For the avoidance of doubt it is hereby declared that references in this Ordinance to remarriage include references to a marriage which is by law void or voidable.

[cf. 1970 c. 45 s. 27 U.K.]

Part IA

Commencement of Proceedings

2A. Commencement and transfer of proceedings

(1) Subject to subsection (2), proceedings under this Ordinance shall be commenced in the District Court:

Provided that rules of court may make provision—

(a) for the transfer to the High Court of any proceedings upon the application of any party or at the instance of the District Court; and

(b) for the transfer and retransfer from the High Court of any proceedings to the District Court. *(Amended 25 of 1998 s. 2)*

(2) Applications under sections 11, 12, 13 and 23 shall be made to the court that made the order to which the application relates:

Provided that rules of court may make provision for the transfer of applications from one court to the other.

(Added 79 of 1981 s. 7)

———————

Part II

Ancillary and Other Relief in Matrimonial Causes and Other Matrimonial Proceedings

3. Maintenance pending suit in case of divorce, etc.

On a—

(a) petition or joint application for divorce; or

(b) petition for nullity of marriage or judicial separation,

the court may order either party to the marriage to make to the other such periodical payments for his or her maintenance and for such term, being a term beginning not earlier than the date of the presentation of the petition or making of the application and ending on the date of the determination of the suit, as the court thinks reasonable.

(Replaced 29 of 1995 s. 19)

4. Financial provision for party to a marriage in cases of divorce, etc.

(1) On granting a decree of divorce, a decree of nullity of marriage or a decree of judicial separation or at any time thereafter (whether, in the case of a decree of divorce or of nullity of marriage, before or after the decree is made absolute), the court may, subject to the provisions of section 25(1), make any one or more of the following orders, that is to say—

(a) an order that either party to the marriage shall make to the other such periodical payments and for such term as may be specified in the order;

(b) an order that either party to the marriage shall secure to the other to the satisfaction of the court, such periodical payments and for such term as may be so specified;

(c) an order that either party to the marriage shall pay to the other such lump sum or sums as may be so specified.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1)(c), an order under this section that a party to a marriage shall pay a lump sum to the other party—

(a) may be made for the purpose of enabling that other party to meet any liabilities or expenses reasonably incurred by him or her in maintaining himself or herself or any child of the family before making an application for an order under this section;

(b) may provide for the payment of that sum by instalments of such amount as may be specified in the order and may require the payment of the instalments to be secured to the satisfaction of the court.

[cf. 1970 c. 45 s. 2 U.K.]

5. Financial provision for child of the family in cases of divorce, etc.

(1) Subject to the provisions of section 10, in proceedings for divorce, nullity of marriage or judicial separation, the court may make any one or more of the orders mentioned in subsection (2)—

(a) before or on granting the decree of divorce, of nullity of marriage or of judicial separation, as the case may be, or at any time thereafter;

(b) where any such proceedings are dismissed after the beginning of the trial, either forthwith or within a reasonable period after the dismissal.

(2) The orders referred to in subsection (1) are—

(a) an order that a party to the marriage shall make to such person as may be specified in the order for the benefit of a child of the family, or to such a child, such periodical payments and for such term as may be so specified;

(b) an order that a party to the marriage shall secure to such person as may be so specified for the benefit of such a child, or to such a child, to the satisfaction of the court, such periodical payments and for such term as may be so specified;

(c) an order that a party to the marriage shall pay to such person as may be so specified for the benefit of such a child, or to such a child, such lump sum as may be so specified.

(3) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (2)(c), an order under this section for the payment of a lump sum to any person for the benefit of a child of the family, or to such a child, may be made for the purpose of enabling any liabilities or expenses reasonably incurred by or for the benefit of that child before the making of an application for an order under this section to be met.

(4) An order under this section for the payment of a lump sum may provide for the payment of that sum by instalments of such amount as may be specified in the order and may require the payment of the instalments to be secured to the satisfaction of the court.

(5) While the court has power to make an order in any proceedings by virtue of subsection (1)(a), it may exercise that power from time to time; and where the court makes an order by virtue of subsection (1)(b) in relation to a child it may from time to time make a further order under this section in relation to him.

[cf. 1970 c. 45 s. 3 U.K.]

6. Orders for transfer and settlement of property and for variation of settlements in cases of divorce, etc.

(1) On granting a decree of divorce, a decree of nullity of marriage or a decree of judicial separation, or at any time thereafter (whether, in the case of a decree of divorce or of nullity of marriage, before or after the decree is made absolute), the court may, subject to the provisions of sections 10 and 25(1), make any one or more of the following orders, that is to say— *(Amended 69 of 1997 s. 23)*

(a) an order that a party to the marriage shall transfer to the other party, to any child of the family or to such person as may be specified in the order for the benefit of such a child such property as may be so specified, being property to which the first-mentioned party is entitled, either in possession or reversion;

(b) an order that a settlement of such property as may be so specified, being property to which a party to the marriage is so entitled, be made to the satisfaction of the court for the benefit of the other party to the marriage and of the children of the family or either or any of them;

(c) an order varying for the benefit of the parties to the marriage and of the children of the family or either or any of them any ante-nuptial or post-nuptial settlement (including such a settlement made by will or codicil) made on the parties to the marriage;

(d) an order extinguishing or reducing the interests of either of the parties to the marriage under any such settlement;

(e) an order for the sale of such property as may be specified in the order, being property in which or in the

proceeds of sale of which either or both of the parties to the marriage has or have a beneficial interest, either in possession or reversion, and for the use of the proceeds of such sale, *(Added 69 of 1997 s. 23)*

and the court may make an order under paragraph (c) notwithstanding that there are no children of the family.

(2) Subsections (2) to (6) of section 6A apply in relation to orders under subsection (1)(e) as they apply in relation to orders under subsection (1) of that section. *(Added 69 of 1997 s. 23)*

[cf. 1970 c. 45 s. 4 U.K.]

6A. Orders for sale of property

(1) Where the court makes an order under section 4, 5 or 6 then, on making that order or at any time after the making of that order, the court may make a further order for the sale of such property as may be specified in the order, being property in which or in the proceeds of sale of which either or both of the parties to the marriage has or have a beneficial interest, either in possession or reversion.

(2) Any order made under subsection (1) may contain such consequential or supplementary provisions as the court thinks fit and, without affecting the generality of the preceding words of this provision, may include—

(a) provision requiring the making of a payment out of the proceeds of sale of the property to which the order relates; and

(b) provision requiring any such property to be offered for sale to a person, or class of persons, specified in the order.

(3) Where an order is made under subsection (1), the court may direct that the order, or such provision of the order as the court may specify, shall not take effect until the occurrence of

an event specified by the court or the expiration of a period so specified.

(4) Where an order under subsection (1) contains a provision requiring the proceeds of sale of the property to which the order relates to be used to secure periodical payments to a party to the marriage, the order shall cease to have effect on the death or re-marriage of that person.

(5) Where a party to a marriage has a beneficial interest in any property, or in the proceeds of sale of any property, and some other person who is not a party to the marriage also has a beneficial interest in that property or in those proceeds of sale, then, before deciding whether to make an order under this section in relation to that property, it shall be the duty of the court to give that other person an opportunity to make representations with respect to the order; and any representations made by that other person shall be included among the circumstances to which the court is required to have regard under section 7(1).

(6) An order shall not be made under subsection (1) in relation to any property where the purported assignment or other alienation of the property together with any agreement so to assign or otherwise alienate the property pursuant to the order would be void by virtue of section 17B of the Housing Ordinance (Cap. 283).

(Added 69 of 1997 s. 24)

7. Matters to which court is to have regard in deciding what orders to make under sections 4, 5 and 6

(1) It shall be the duty of the court in deciding whether to exercise its powers under section 4, 6 or 6A in relation to a party to the marriage and, if so, in what manner, to have regard to the conduct of the parties and all the circumstances of the case including the following matters, that is to say—

(a) the income, earning capacity, property and other financial resources which each of the parties to the marriage has or is likely to have in the foreseeable future;

(b) the financial needs, obligations and responsibilities which each of the parties to the marriage has or is likely to have in the foreseeable future;

(c) the standard of living enjoyed by the family before the breakdown of the marriage;

(d) the age of each party to the marriage and the duration of the marriage;

(e) any physical or mental disability of either of the parties to the marriage;

(f) the contributions made by each of the parties to the welfare of the family, including any contribution made by looking after the home or caring for the family;

(g) in the case of proceedings for divorce or nullity of marriage, the value to either of the parties to the marriage of any benefit (for example, a pension) which, by reason of the dissolution or annulment of the marriage, that party will lose the chance of acquiring.

(2) Without prejudice to subsection (3), it shall be the duty of the court in deciding whether to exercise its powers under section 5, 6 or 6A in relation to a child of the family and, if so, in what manner, to have regard to all the circumstances of the case including the following matters, that is to say—

(a) the financial needs of the child;

(b) the income, earning capacity (if any), property and other financial resources of the child;

(c) any physical or mental disability of the child;

(d) the standard of living enjoyed by the family before the breakdown of the marriage;

(e) the manner in which he was being and in which the parties to the marriage expected him to be educated;

and so to exercise those powers as to place the child, so far as it is practicable and, having regard to the considerations mentioned in relation to the parties to the marriage in paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1), just to do so, in the financial position in which the child would have been if the marriage had not broken down and each of those parties had properly discharged his or her financial obligations and responsibilities towards him.

(3) It shall be the duty of the court in deciding whether to exercise its powers under section 5, 6 or 6A against a party to a marriage in favour of a child of the family who is not the child of that party and, if so, in what manner, to have regard (among the circumstances of the case)—

(a) to whether that party had assumed any responsibility for the child's maintenance and, if so, to the extent to which, and the basis upon which, that party assumed such responsibility and to the length of time for which that party discharged such responsibility;

(b) to whether in assuming and discharging such responsibility that party did so knowing that the child was not his or her own;

(c) to the liability of any other person to maintain the child.

(Amended 69 of 1997 s. 33)

[cf. 1970 c. 45 s. 5 U.K.]

8. Neglect by party to marriage to maintain other party or child of the family

(1) Either party to a marriage may apply to the court for an order under this section on the ground that the other party to the marriage (in this section referred to as the respondent) has failed—

(a) to provide reasonable maintenance for the applicant; or

(b) to provide, or to make proper contribution towards, reasonable maintenance for any child of the family to whom this section applies. *(Amended 69 of 1997 s. 25)*

(2) The court shall not entertain an application under this section unless it would have jurisdiction to entertain proceedings by the applicant for judicial separation.

(3) This section applies to any child of the family for whose maintenance it is reasonable in all the circumstances to expect the respondent to provide or towards whose maintenance it is reasonable in all the circumstances to expect the respondent to make a proper contribution.

(4) Where the child of the family to whom the application under this section relates is not the child of the respondent, then, in deciding—

(a) whether the respondent has been guilty of wilful neglect to provide, or to make a proper contribution towards, reasonable maintenance for the child, and

(b) what order, if any, to make under this section in favour or for the benefit of the child,

the court shall have regard to the matters mentioned in section 7(3).

(5) Where on an application under this section it appears to the court that the applicant or any child of the family to whom the application relates is in immediate need of financial assistance, but it is not yet possible to determine what order, if any, should be made on the application, the court

may order the respondent to make to the applicant until the determination of the application such periodical payments as the court thinks reasonable.

(6) Where on an application under this section the applicant satisfies the court of any ground mentioned in subsection (1), then, subject to the provisions of section 10, the court may make such one or more of the following orders as it thinks just, that is to say—

(a) an order that the respondent shall make to the applicant such periodical payments and for such term as may be specified in the order;

(b) an order that the respondent shall secure to the applicant, to the satisfaction of the court, such periodical payments and for such term as may be so specified;

(c) an order that the respondent shall pay to the applicant such lump sum as may be so specified;

(d) an order that the respondent shall make to such person as may be specified in the order for the benefit of the child to whom the application relates, or to that child, such periodical payments and for such term as may be so specified;

(e) an order that the respondent shall secure to such person as may be so specified for the benefit of that child, or to that child, to the satisfaction of the court, such periodical payments and for such term as may be so specified;

(f) an order that the respondent shall pay to such person as may be so specified for the benefit of that child, or to that child, such lump sum as may be so specified.

(7) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (6)(c) and (f), an order under this section that the respondent shall pay a lump sum—

(a) may be made for the purpose of enabling any liabilities or expenses reasonably incurred in maintaining the applicant or any child of the family to whom the application relates before the making of the application to be met;

(b) may provide for the payment of that sum by instalments of such amount as may be specified in the order and may require the payment of the instalments to be secured to the satisfaction of the court.

[cf. 1970 c. 45 s. 6 U.K.]

9. Duration of certain orders made in favour of party to marriage and effect of remarriage

(1) The term to be specified in any order made by virtue of section 4(1)(a) or (b) or section 8(6)(a) or (b) shall be such term, being a term beginning not earlier than the date of the making of an application for the order in question and lasting not longer than the maximum term, as the court thinks fit.

(2) In subsection (1) ***the maximum term*** (最長付款期) means—

(a) in the case of an order made by virtue of section 4(1)(a) in proceedings for divorce or nullity of marriage, the joint lives of the parties to the marriage or a term ending with the date of the remarriage of the party in whose favour the order is made, whichever is the shorter;

(b) in the case of an order made by virtue of section 4(1)(b) in any such proceedings, the life of that party or a term ending with the date of the remarriage of that party, whichever is the shorter;

(c) in the case of an order made by virtue of section 4(1)(a) in proceedings for judicial separation or made by virtue of section 8(6)(a), the joint lives of the parties to the marriage;

(d) in the case of an order made by virtue of section 4(1)(b) in proceedings for judicial separation or made by virtue of section 8(6)(b), the life of the party in whose favour the order is made.

(3) Where an order is made by virtue of section 4(1)(a) or (b) in proceedings for judicial separation or by virtue of section 8(6)(a) or (b) and the marriage of the parties affected by the order is subsequently dissolved or annulled but the order continues in force, the order shall, notwithstanding anything in it, cease to have effect on the remarriage of the party in whose favour it was made, except in relation to any arrears due under it on the date of such remarriage.

(4) If after the grant of a decree dissolving or annulling a marriage either party to that marriage remarries, that party shall not be entitled to apply for an order under section 4, 6 or 6A against the person to whom he or she was married immediately before the grant of that decree unless the remarriage is with that person and that marriage is also dissolved or annulled or a decree of judicial separation is made on a petition presented by either party to that marriage. *(Amended 69 of 1997 s. 33)*

[cf. 1970 c. 45 s. 7 U.K.]

10. Provisions as to powers of court to make orders in favour of children and duration of such orders

(1) Subject to subsection (3)—

(a) no order under section 5, 6(a) or 8 shall be made in favour of a child who has attained the age of 18; and

(b) the term for which by virtue of an order under section 5 or 8 any payments are to be made or secured to or for the benefit of a child may begin with the date of the making of an application for the order in question or

any later date but shall not extend beyond the date when the child will attain the age of 18. *(Amended 69 of 1997 s. 26)*

(2) *(Repealed 69 of 1997 s. 26)*

(3) The court may make such an order as is mentioned in subsection (1)(a) in favour of a child who has attained the age of 18 and may include in an order made under section 5 or 8 in relation to a child who has not attained that age a provision extending beyond the date when the child will attain that age the term for which by virtue of the order any payments are to be made or secured to or for the benefit of that child, if it appears to the court that— *(Amended 69 of 1997 s. 26)*

(a) that child is, or will be, or if such an order or provision were made would be, receiving instruction at an educational establishment or undergoing training for a trade, profession or vocation, whether or not he is also, or will also be, in gainful employment; or

(b) there are special circumstances which justify the making of the order or provisions.

(4) Any order made by virtue of section 5(2)(a) or section 8(6)(d) shall, notwithstanding anything in the order, cease to have effect on the death of the person liable to make payments under the order, except in relation to any arrears due under the order on the date of such death.

[cf. 1970 c. 45 s. 8 U.K.]

11. Variation, discharge, etc. of orders for financial provision

(1) Where the court has made an order to which this section applies, then, subject to the provisions of this section, the court shall have power to vary or discharge the order or to suspend any provision thereof temporarily and to revive the operation of any provision so suspended.

(2) This section applies to the following orders, that is to say—

(a) any order under section 3;

(b) any order made by virtue of section 4(1)(a) or (b) or 4(2)(b) ;

(c) any order made by virtue of section 5(2)(a) or (b) or 5(4);

(d) any order made by virtue of section 6(1)(b), (c), (d) or (e) on or after granting a decree of judicial separation; *(Amended 69 of 1997 s. 33)*

(da) any order made by virtue of section 6A; and *(Added 69 of 1997 s. 33)*

(e) any order made by virtue of section 8(5), 8(6)(a), (b), (d) or (e) or 8(7)(b).

(3) The powers exercisable by the court under this section in relation to an order shall be exercisable also in relation to any instrument executed in pursuance of the order.

(4) The court shall not exercise the powers conferred by this section in relation to any order made by virtue of section 6(1)(b), (c), (d) or (e) on or after granting a decree of judicial separation except on an application made in proceedings— *(Amended 69 of 1997 s. 33)*

(a) for the rescission of that decree, or

(b) for the dissolution of the marriage of the parties to the proceedings in which that decree was made.

(5) No such order as is mentioned in section 6 shall be made on an application for the variation of an order made by virtue of section 4(1)(a) or (b) or section 5(2)(a) or (b), and no order for the payment of a lump sum shall be made on an application for the variation of an order made by virtue of section 4(1)(a) or (b) or of section 8(6)(a) or (b).

(6) Where the person liable to make payments under a secured periodical payments order made by virtue of section 4(1)(b), section 5(2)(b) or section 8(6)(b) or (e) has died, an application under this section relating to that order (and to any order made under section 6A(1) which requires the proceeds of sale of property to be used for securing those payments) may be made by the person entitled to payments under the periodical payments order or by the personal representatives of the deceased person, but no such application shall, except with the permission of the court, be made after the end of the period of 6 months from the date on which representation in regard to the estate of that person is first taken out. *(Amended 69 of 1997 s. 33; E.R. 3 of 2018)*

(7) In exercising the powers conferred by this section the court shall have regard to all the circumstances of the case, including any change in any of the matters to which the court was required to have regard when making the order to which the application relates and, where the party against whom that order was made has died, the changed circumstances resulting from his or her death.

(8) The personal representatives of a deceased person against whom any such order as is referred to in subsection (6) was made shall not be liable for having distributed any part of the estate of the deceased after the expiration of the period of 6 months referred to in that subsection on the ground that they ought to have taken into account the possibility that the court might permit an application under this section to be made after that period by the person entitled to payments under the order; but this subsection shall not prejudice any power to recover any part of the estate so distributed arising by virtue of the making of an order in pursuance of this section. *(Amended E.R. 3 of 2018)*

(9) In considering for the purposes of subsection (6) the question when representation was first taken out, a grant limited to trust property shall be left out of account and a grant limited to real estate or to personal estate shall be left out of account unless a grant limited to the remainder of the estate has previously been made or is made at the same time.

[cf. 1970 c. 45 s. 9 U.K.]

12. Payment of certain arrears unenforceable without the leave of the court

(1) A person shall not be entitled to enforce through the court the payment of any arrears due under an order made by virtue of section 3, 4(1), 5(2), 8(5) or 8(6) without the leave of the court if those arrears became due more than 12 months before proceedings to enforce the payment of them are begun. *(Amended E.R. 3 of 2018)*

(2) The court hearing an application for the grant of leave under this section may refuse leave, or may grant leave subject to such restrictions and conditions (including conditions as to the allowing of time for payment of the making of payment by instalments) as that court think proper, or may remit the payment of such arrears or of any part thereof.

(3) An application for the grant of leave under this section shall be made in such manner as may be prescribed by rules of court.

[cf. 1970 c. 45 s. 10 U.K.]

13. Power of court to order sums paid under certain orders to be repaid in certain cases

(1) Where on an application made under this section in relation to an order to which this section applies it appears to the court that by reason of—

(a) a change in the circumstances of the person entitled to, or liable to make, payments under the order since the order was made, or

(b) the changed circumstances resulting from the death of the person so liable,

the amount received by the person entitled to payments under the order in respect of a period after those circumstances changed or after the death of the person liable to make payments under the order, as the case may be, exceeds the amount which the person so liable or his or her personal representatives should have been required to pay, the court may order the respondent to the application to pay to the applicant such sum, not exceeding the amount of the excess, as the court thinks just.

(2) An application under this section may be made by the person liable to make payments under an order to which this section applies or his or her personal representatives and may be made against the person entitled to payments under the order or her or his personal representatives.

(3) *(Repealed 79 of 1981 s. 7)*

(4) An order under this section for the payment of any sum may provide for the payment of that sum by instalments of such amount as may be specified in the order.

(5) This section applies to an order made by virtue of section 3, 4(1)(a) or (b), 5(2)(a) or (b), 8(5) or 8(6)(a) or (b), (d) or (e).

[cf. 1970 c. 45 s. 11 U.K.]

14. Validity of maintenance agreements

(1) If a maintenance agreement includes a provision purporting to restrict any right to apply to a court for an order containing financial arrangements then—

(a) that provision shall be void; but

(b) any other financial arrangements contained in the agreement shall not thereby be rendered void or unenforceable and shall, unless they are void or unenforceable for any other reason (and subject to sections 15 and 16), be binding on the parties to the agreement.

(2) In this section and in section 15—

financial arrangements (財務安排) means provisions governing the rights and liabilities towards one another when living separately of the parties to a marriage (including a marriage which has been dissolved or annulled) in respect of the making or securing of payments or the disposition or use of any property, including such rights and liabilities with respect to the maintenance or education of any child, whether or not a child of the family;

maintenance agreement (贍養協議) means any agreement in writing made, whether before or after the commencement of this Ordinance, between the parties to a marriage, being—

(a) an agreement containing financial arrangements, whether made during the continuance or after the dissolution or annulment of the marriage; or

(b) a separation agreement which contains no financial arrangements in a case where no other agreement in writing between the same parties contains such arrangements.

(Amended E.R. 3 of 2018)

[cf. 1970 c. 45 s. 13 U.K.]

15. Alteration of agreements by court during lives of parties

(1) Where a maintenance agreement is for the time being

subsisting and each of the parties to the agreement is for the time being either domiciled or resident in Hong Kong, either party may apply to the court for an order under this section. *(Amended 17 of 2018 s. 65)*

(2) If the court to which the application is made is satisfied either—

(a) that by reason of a change in the circumstances in the light of which any financial arrangements contained in the agreement were made or, as the case may be, financial arrangements were omitted from it (including a change foreseen by the parties when making the agreement), the agreement should be altered so as to make different, or, as the case may be, so as to contain, financial arrangements, or

(b) that the agreement does not contain proper financial arrangements with respect to any child of the family,

then, subject to subsections (4) and (5), that court may by order make such alterations in the agreement— *(Amended 17 of 2018 s. 65)*

(i) by varying or revoking any financial arrangements contained in it, or

(ii) by inserting in it financial arrangements for the benefit of one of the parties to the agreement or of a child of the family,

as may appear to that court to be just having regard to all the circumstances, including, if relevant, the matters mentioned in section 7(3); and the agreement shall have effect thereafter as if any alteration made by the order had been made by agreement between the parties and for valuable consideration.

(3) *(Repealed 79 of 1981 s. 7)*

(4) Where a court decides to alter, by order under this section, an agreement by inserting provision for the making or securing by one of the parties to the agreement of periodical payments for the maintenance of the other party or by increasing the rate of the periodical payments which the agreement provides shall be made by one of the parties for the maintenance of the other, the term for which the payments or, as the case may be, so much of the payments as is attributable to the increase are or is to be made under the agreement as altered by the order shall be such term as the court may specify, but that term shall not exceed—

(a) where the payments will not be secured, the joint lives of the parties to the agreement or a term ending with the remarriage of the party to whom the payments are to be made, whichever is the shorter;

(b) where the payments will be secured, the life of that party or a term ending with the remarriage of that party, whichever is the shorter.

(5) Where a court decides to alter, by order under this section, an agreement by inserting provision for the making or securing by one of the parties to the agreement of periodical payments for the maintenance of a child of the family or by increasing the rate of the periodical payments which the agreement provides shall be made or secured by one of the parties for the maintenance of such a child, then, in deciding the term for which under the agreement as altered by the order the payments or, as the case may be, so much of the payments as is attributable to the increase are or is to be made or secured for the benefit of the child, the court shall apply the provisions of section 10(1) and (3) as if the order to which this subsection relates were an order under section 5. *(Amended 69 of 1997 s. 27)*

(6) For the avoidance of doubt it is hereby declared that nothing in this section or section 14 affects any power of a court before which any proceedings between the parties to a maintenance agreement are brought under any other enactment (including a provision of this Ordinance) to make an order containing financial arrangements or any right of either party to apply for such an order in such proceedings.

[cf. 1970 c. 45 s. 14 U.K.]

16. Alteration of agreements by court after death of one party

(1) Where a maintenance agreement within the meaning of section 14 provides for the continuation of payments under the agreement after the death of one of the parties and that party dies domiciled in Hong Kong, the surviving party or the personal representatives of the deceased party may, subject to subsection (2), apply to the court for an order under section 15. *(Amended 17 of 2018 s. 66)*

(2) An application under this section shall not, except with the permission of the court, be made after the end of the period of 6 months from the date on which representation in regard to the estate of the deceased is first taken out. *(Amended E.R. 3 of 2018)*

(3) *(Repealed 79 of 1981 s. 7)*

(4) If a maintenance agreement is altered by a court on an application made in pursuance of subsection (1), the like consequences shall ensue as if the alteration had been made immediately before the death by agreement between the parties and for valuable consideration.

(5) The provisions of this section shall not render the personal representatives of the deceased liable for having distributed any part of the estate of the deceased after the expiration of the said period of 6 months on the ground that they ought

to have taken into account the possibility that a court might permit an application by virtue of this section to be made by the surviving party after that period; but this subsection shall not prejudice any power to recover any part of the estate so distributed arising by virtue of the making of an order in pursuance of this section. *(Amended E.R. 3 of 2018)*

(6) Section 11(9) shall apply for the purposes of subsection (2) of this section as it applies for the purposes of subsection (6) of section 11.

[cf. 1970 c. 45 s. 15 U.K.]

17. Avoidance of transactions intended to defeat certain claims

(1) Where proceedings for relief under any of the relevant provisions of this Ordinance (hereafter in this section referred to as ***financial provision***) are brought by a person (hereafter in this section referred to as ***the applicant***) against any other person (hereafter in this section referred to as ***the other party***), the court may, on an application by the applicant—

(a) if it is satisfied that the other party is, with the intention of defeating the claim for financial provision, about to make any disposition or to transfer out of the jurisdiction or otherwise deal with any property, make such order as it thinks fit for restraining the other party from so doing or otherwise for protecting the claim;

(b) if it is satisfied that the other party has, with the intention aforesaid, made a disposition to which this paragraph applies and that if the disposition were set aside financial provision or different financial provision would be granted to the applicant, make an order setting aside the disposition and give such consequential directions as it thinks fit for giving effect to the order (including directions requiring the making of any payment or the disposal of any property);

(c) if it is satisfied, in a case where an order under the relevant provisions of this Ordinance has been obtained by the applicant against the other party, that the other party has, with the intention aforesaid, made a disposition to which this paragraph applies, make such an order and give such directions as are mentioned in paragraph (b);

and an application for the purposes of paragraph (b) shall be made in the proceedings for the financial provision in question.

(2) Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (1) apply respectively to any disposition made by the other party (whether before or after the commencement of the proceedings for financial provision), not being a disposition made for valuable consideration (other than marriage) to a person who, at the time of the disposition, acted in relation to it in good faith and without notice of any such intention as aforesaid on the part of the other party.

(3) Where an application is made under this section with respect to a disposition which took place less than 3 years before the date of the application or to a disposition or other dealing with property which is about to take place and the court is satisfied— *(Amended E.R. 3 of 2018)*

(a) in a case falling within subsection (1)(a) or (b), that the disposition or other dealing would (apart from this section) have the consequence, or

(b) in a case falling within subsection (1)(c), that the disposition has had the consequence,

of defeating the applicant's claim for financial provision, it shall be presumed, unless the contrary is shown, that the other party disposed of the property with the intention aforesaid or,

as the case may be, is, with that intention, about to dispose of or deal with the property.

(4) In this section—

disposition (財產處置) does not include any provision contained in a will or codicil but, with that exception, includes any conveyance, assurance or gift of property of any description, whether made by an instrument or otherwise;

the relevant provisions of this Ordinance (本條例的有關條文) means any of the provisions of sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 6A, 8, 11 (except subsection (6)) and 15; *(Amended 69 of 1997 s. 33)*

and any reference to defeating an applicant's claim for financial provision is a reference to preventing financial provision from being granted to the applicant, or to the applicant for the benefit of a child of the family, or reducing the amount of any financial provision which might be so granted, or frustrating or impeding the enforcement of any order which might be or has been made at the instance of the applicant under the relevant provisions of this Ordinance.

(5) The provisions of this section shall not apply to a disposition made more than 3 years before the commencement of this Ordinance. *(Amended E.R. 3 of 2018)*

[cf. 1970 c. 45 s. 16 U.K.]

18. Restrictions on decrees for dissolution, annulment or separation affecting children

(1) The court shall not make absolute a decree of divorce or of nullity of marriage, or make a decree of judicial separation, unless the court, by order, has declared that it is satisfied—

(a) that for the purposes of this section there are no children of the family to whom this section applies; or

(b) that the only children who are or may be children of the family to whom this section applies are the children named in the order and that—

(i) arrangements for the welfare of every child so named have been made and are satisfactory or are the best that can be devised in the circumstances; or

(ii) it is impracticable for the party or parties appearing before the court to make any such arrangements; or

(c) that there are circumstances making it desirable that the decree should be made absolute or should be made, as the case may be, without delay notwithstanding that there are or may be children of the family to whom this section applies and that the court is unable to make a declaration in accordance with paragraph (b).

(2) The court shall not make an order declaring that it is satisfied as mentioned in subsection (1)(c) unless it has obtained a satisfactory undertaking from either or both of the parties to bring the question of the arrangements for the children named in the order before the court within a specified time.

(3) If the court makes absolute a decree nisi of divorce or of nullity of marriage, or makes a decree of judicial separation, without having made an order under subsection (1) the decree shall be void but, if such an order was made, no person shall be entitled to challenge the validity of the decree on the ground that the conditions prescribed by subsections (1) and (2) were not fulfilled.

(4) If the court refuses to make an order under subsection (1) in any proceedings for divorce, nullity of marriage or judicial separation, it shall, on application by either party to the

proceedings, make an order declaring that it is not satisfied as mentioned in that subsection.

(5) This section applies to the following children of the family, that is to say—

(a) any minor child of the family who at the date of the order under subsection (1) is—

(i) under the age of 16, or *(Amended E.R. 3 of 2018)*

(ii) receiving instruction at an educational establishment or undergoing training for a trade, profession or vocation, whether or not he is also in gainful employment; and

(b) any other child of the family to whom the court by an order under that subsection directs that this section shall apply;

and the court may give such a direction if it is of opinion that there are special circumstances which make it desirable in the interests of the child that this section should apply to it.

(6) In this section ***welfare*** (福利), in relation to a child, includes the custody and education of the child and financial provision for him.

[cf. 1970 c. 45 s. 17 U.K.]

19. Orders for custody and education of children affected by matrimonial suits

(1) The court may make such order as it thinks fit for the custody and education of any child of the family who is under the age of 18— *(Amended 69 of 1997 s. 28)*

(a) in any proceedings for divorce, nullity of marriage or judicial separation, before, by or after the final decree;

(b) where such proceedings are dismissed after the beginning of the trial, either forthwith or within a reasonable period after the dismissal;

and in any case in which the court has power by virtue of this subsection to make an order in respect of a child it may instead, if it thinks fit, direct that proper proceedings be taken for making the child a ward of court.

(2) Where an order in respect of a child is made under this section, the order shall not affect the rights over or with respect to the child of any person, other than a party to the marriage in question, unless the child is the child of one or both of the parties to that marriage and that person was a party to the proceedings on the application for an order under this section.

(3) Where the court makes or makes absolute a decree of divorce or makes a decree of judicial separation, it may include in the decree a declaration that either party to the marriage in question is unfit to have the custody of the children of the family.

(4) Where a decree of divorce or of judicial separation contains such a declaration as is mentioned in subsection (3), then, if the party to whom the declaration relates is a parent of any child of the family, that party shall not, on the death of the other parent, be entitled as of right to the custody or the guardianship of that child.

(5) While the court has power to make an order in any proceedings by virtue of paragraph (a) of subsection (1), it may exercise that power from time to time; and where the court makes an order by virtue of paragraph (b) of that subsection with respect to a child it may from time to time until that child attains the age of 18 make a further order with respect to his custody and education. *(Amended 69 of 1997 s. 28)*

(6) The court shall have power to discharge or vary an order made under this section or to suspend any provision thereof temporarily and to revive the operation of any provision so suspended.

(7) An order made by virtue of this section shall cease to have effect as respects any child when he attains the age of 18. *(Added 69 of 1997 s. 28)*

[cf. 1970 c. 45 s. 18 U.K.]

20. Orders for custody of children in cases of neglect to maintain

(1) Where the court makes an order under section 8, the court shall also have power from time to time to make such orders as it thinks fit with respect to the custody of any child of the family who is for the time being under the age of 18; but the power conferred by this section and any order made in exercise of that power shall have effect only as respects any period when an order is in force under that section and the child is under that age. *(Amended 69 of 1997 s. 29)*

(2) Section 19(2) and (6) shall apply in relation to an order made under this section as they apply in relation to an order made under that section.

[cf. 1970 c. 45 s. 19 U.K.]

21. Abolition of right to claim restitution of conjugal rights

No person shall after the commencement of this Ordinance be entitled to petition the court for restitution of conjugal rights.

[cf. 1970 c. 45 s. 20 U.K.]

22. Order for maintenance of party to marriage under Matrimonial Causes Ordinance to cease to have effect on remarriage of that party

(1) An order made, or deemed to have been made, under

section 28(1)(a) or (b) of the Matrimonial Causes Ordinance (Cap. 179) shall, notwithstanding anything in the order, cease to have effect on the remarriage after the commencement of this Ordinance of the person in whose favour the order was made, except in relation to any arrears due under it on the date of such remarriage.

(2) An order for the payment of alimony made, or deemed to have been made, under section 32 of the Matrimonial Causes Ordinance (Cap. 179), and an order made, or deemed to have been made, under section 33 or 34 of that Ordinance, shall, if the marriage of the parties to the proceedings in which the order was made was or is subsequently dissolved or annulled but the order continues in force, cease to have effect on the remarriage after the commencement of this Ordinance of the party in whose favour the order was made, except in relation to any arrears due under it on the date of such remarriage.

[cf. 1970 c. 45 s. 21 U.K.]

23. Orders for repayment in certain cases of sums paid after cessation of order by reason of remarriage

(1) Where—

(a) an order to which this section applies has ceased to have effect by reason of the remarriage of the person entitled to payments under the order, and

(b) the person liable to make payments under the order or his or her personal representatives made payments in accordance with it in respect of a period after the date of such remarriage in the mistaken belief that the order was still subsisting,

no proceedings in respect of a cause of action arising out of the circumstances mentioned in paragraphs (a) and (b) shall be maintainable by the person so liable or his or her personal

representatives against the person so entitled or her or his personal representatives; but on an application made under this section the court may exercise the powers conferred on it by subsection (2). *(Amended L.N. 145 of 1992)*

(2) The court may order the respondent to an application made under this section to pay to the applicant a sum equal to the amount of the payments made in respect of the period mentioned in subsection (1)(b) or, if it appears to the court that it would be unjust to make that order, it may either order the respondent to pay to the applicant such lesser sum as it thinks fit or dismiss the application.

(3) Subsections (2) and (4) of section 13 shall apply to an application made under this section and to an order made on such application as they apply to an application made under that section and to an order made on the last mentioned application. *(Amended 79 of 1981 s. 7)*

(4) No officer of a court to which any payments under an order to which this section applies are required to be made shall be liable for any act done by him in pursuance of the order after the date on which that order ceased to have effect by reason of the remarriage of the person entitled to payments under it, if, but only if, the act was one which he would have been under a duty to do had the order not ceased to have effect as aforesaid and the act was done before notice in writing of the fact that the person so entitled had remarried was given to him by or on behalf of that person, the person liable to make payments under the order or the personal representatives of either of those persons.

(5) This section applies to an order made by virtue of section 4(1)(a) or (b) or 8(6)(a) or (b) and to any such order as is referred to in subsection (1) or (2) of section 22.

[cf. 1970 c. 45 s. 22 U.K.]

24. Settlement, etc., made in compliance with order under section 6 may be avoided on bankruptcy of settler

The fact that a settlement or transfer of property had to be made in order to comply with an order of the court under section 6 shall not prevent that settlement or transfer from being a settlement of property to which section 49 of the Bankruptcy Ordinance (Cap. 6) applies.

(Amended 76 of 1996 s. 79)

[cf. 1970 c. 45 s. 23 U.K.]

25. Commencement of proceedings for financial provision orders, etc.

(1) Where a petition or joint application for divorce or a petition for nullity of marriage or judicial separation has been presented or made, then, subject to subsection (2), proceedings under section 3, 4, 5, 6 or 6A may be begun, subject to and in accordance with rules of court, at any time after the presentation of the petition or the making of the application; but—

(a) no order under section 4, 6 or 6A shall be made unless a decree nisi of divorce or of nullity of marriage or a decree of judicial separation, as the case may be, has been granted;

(b) without prejudice to the power to give a direction under section 26, no such order made on or after granting a decree nisi of divorce or of nullity of marriage, and no settlement made in pursuance of such an order, shall take effect unless the decree has been made absolute.

(2) Rules of court may provide, in such cases as may be prescribed by the rules—

(a) that applications for ancillary relief shall be made in the petition, joint application or answer; and

(b) that applications for ancillary relief which are not so made, or are not made until after the expiration of such period following the presentation of the petition, making of the joint application or filing of the answer as may be so prescribed, shall be made only with the leave of the court.

(3) In subsection (2) ***ancillary relief*** (附屬濟助) means relief under any of the provisions of sections 3, 4, 5, 6 and 6A.

(Amended 29 of 1995 s. 20; 69 of 1997 s. 33)

[cf. 1970 c. 45 s. 24 U.K.]

26. Direction for instrument to be settled by the Registrar

Where the court decides to make an order under this Ordinance requiring any payments to be secured or an order under section 6 or 6A—

(a) it may direct that the matter be referred to the Registrar of the High Court for him to settle a proper instrument to be executed by all necessary parties; and *(Amended 25 of 1998 s. 2)*

(b) in the case of an order under section 4, 5, 6 or 6A, it may, if it thinks fit, defer the grant of the decree in question until the instrument has been duly executed.

(Amended 69 of 1997 s. 33)

[cf. 1970 c. 45 s. 25 U.K.]

27. Payments etc., under order made in favour of person suffering from mental disorder

Where the court makes an order under this Ordinance requiring payments (including a lump sum payment) to be made, property

to be transferred, or the proceeds of sale of property by virtue of an order under section 6(1)(e) or 6A to be paid, to a party to a marriage and the court is satisfied that the person in whose favour the order is made is incapable, by reason of mental disorder within the meaning of the Mental Health Ordinance (Cap. 136), of managing and administering his or her property and affairs, then, subject to any order, direction or authority made or given in relation to that person under the said Ordinance, the court may order the payments to be made, the property to be transferred, or, as the case may be, the proceeds of sale of property to be paid, to such persons having charge of that person as the court may direct.

(Amended 69 of 1997 s. 33)

[cf. 1970 c. 45 s. 26 U.K.]

28. Attachment of income to satisfy order

(1AA) In this section—

Amendment Ordinance (《修訂條例》) means the Attachment of Income Order (Application to Government and Miscellaneous Amendments) Ordinance 2007 (20 of 2007); *(Added 20 of 2007 s. 7)*

attachment order (扣押令) means an order made under subsection (1);

designated payee (指定受款人) means, in relation to a maintenance order, the person named in that order as the person to whom the maintenance payments are to be made;

income source (入息來源) means a person by whom the income of the maintenance payer is payable and includes the Government; *(Added 20 of 2007 s. 7)*

maintenance payer (贍養費支付人) means, in relation to a maintenance order, the person against whom that order is made;

specified payee (指明受款人) means, in relation to an attachment order, the person named in that order as the person to whom an amount attached by that order is to be paid.

(Added 20 of 2001 s. 4. Amended 18 of 2003 s. 10)

(1) Where a maintenance order has been made against a maintenance payer and—

(a) (i) a court is satisfied that the payer has without reasonable excuse failed to make any payment which he is required to make by the maintenance order; or

(ii) a court is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the payer will not make full and punctual payment in compliance with the maintenance order; or

(iii) the payer and designated payee agree to the making of an order under this section; and

(b) there is any income capable of being attached payable to the payer,

the court may, in accordance with rules made for the purpose of subsection (6), order the income to be attached as to the whole or part of the amount payable under the maintenance order and the amount attached to be paid to the specified payee. *(Replaced 20 of 2001 s. 4)*

(1A) For the purpose of subsection (1)(a)(ii), in deciding whether there are reasonable grounds to believe that the maintenance payer will not make full and punctual payment in compliance with the maintenance order, the court shall take into account all the circumstances of the case, including (but not limited to)—

(a) the payer's past record and conduct in discharging his reasonable financial obligation towards the designated payee before any maintenance order is made;

(b) the payer's past record and conduct in connection with the making of maintenance payments to the payee pursuant to the maintenance order or an undertaking in any proceedings; and

(c) the risk of the payer dissipating his property. *(Added 20 of 2001 s. 4)*

(2) *(Repealed 20 of 2001 s. 4)*

(2A) The court may, at any time after a maintenance order has been made, including in the same hearing in which the maintenance order is made or varied, make an attachment order. *(Added 20 of 2001 s. 4)*

(2B) An attachment order may be made by the court on its own motion or on the application by the maintenance payer or the designated payee or both. *(Added 20 of 2001 s. 4)*

(3) An attachment order is an authority to an income source to make the payment in accordance with the order, and the receipt of the specified payee is a good discharge to that income source. *(Replaced 20 of 2007 s. 7)*

(3A) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), that subsection applies to income that is wages or salary payable to a maintenance payer by the Government, and accordingly paragraph (a) of the proviso to section 23(1) of the Crown Proceedings Ordinance (Cap. 300) is not to be construed as precluding the court from making an attachment order in respect of such wages or salary. *(Added 20 of 2007 s. 7)*

(4) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), that subsection applies to income that is wages payable to a maintenance payer by a person other than the Government, and accordingly section 66 of the Employment Ordinance

(Cap. 57) is not to be construed as precluding the court from making an attachment order in respect of such wages. *(Replaced 20 of 2007 s. 7)*

(5) Where—

(a) pursuant to an attachment order, an employer is required to make a deduction from the wages of his employee in any wage period; and

(b) that deduction, together with any deduction authorized to be made under section 32 of the Employment Ordinance (Cap. 57) by the employer from the employee's wages in the same wage period would in total exceed the whole of the wages payable to the employee in respect of that wage period,

then the amount liable to be deducted by the employer pursuant to the attachment order shall be treated as being reduced by such an amount that the total of all deductions made by the employer does not exceed the whole of the wages payable to the employee in respect of the wage period.

(6) Rules made under section 32 may, in relation to proceedings under subsection (1), make provision for—

(a) the matters to be contained in any application for an attachment order, and the manner of filing and service of such an application;

(b) compliance with an attachment order;

(c) the obligations on the part of the income source; *(Replaced 20 of 2007 s. 7)*

(d) the obligations of the maintenance payer when an attachment order is in force or in the event of an attachment order ceasing to have effect for any reason;

(e) the recovery from the maintenance payer of the clerical and administrative costs incurred in complying with an attachment order;

(f) the variation or discharge of an attachment order;

(g) the enforcement of an attachment order.

(6A) Rules made for the purpose of subsection (6) may empower the court to dispense with or relax any procedure or abridge any time limit specified in the rules if the court is satisfied that it is fair and reasonable to do so in the circumstances of the case. *(Added 20 of 2001 s. 4)*

(7) Rules made for the purpose of subsection (6) may provide that the contravention of any rule shall constitute an offence punishable by a fine at level 2 and by imprisonment for 1 month.

(8) The Chief Justice may specify the form of any document which is to be or may be filed in proceedings under subsection (1).

(9) Any attachment order—

(a) made by the court before the commencement date* of the Amendment Ordinance in respect of the wages or salary payable to a maintenance payer by the Government; and

(b) which has not been discharged or declared invalid by the court as at that commencement date,

has effect from that commencement date as if it were made under subsection (1) as read with subsection (3A). *(Added 20 of 2007 s. 7)*

(10) An application—

(a) for an attachment order in respect of the wages or salary payable to a maintenance payer by the Government;

(b) that is pending immediately before the commencement date* of the Amendment Ordinance; and

(c) in which an attachment order has not been made as at that commencement date,

is to be determined in accordance with this section as amended by the Amendment Ordinance. *(Added 20 of 2007 s. 7)*

(Added 69 of 1997 s. 30)

Editorial Note:

* Commencement date: 23 November 2007.

28AA. Interest on arrears of maintenance

(1) In this section and section 28AB—

commencement date (生效日期) means the date on which the Interest and Surcharge on Arrears of Maintenance Ordinance 2003 (18 of 2003) comes into operation;

judgment creditor (判定債權人) means a person entitled to enforce a maintenance order;

judgment debtor (判定債務人) means a person liable under a maintenance order.

(2) Where a maintenance order has been made against a judgment debtor, and the judgment debtor fails to make full and punctual payment in compliance with the maintenance order, the judgment creditor is entitled to interest in respect of arrears of maintenance which accrue on or after the commencement date.

(3) Subject to subsection (5) and for the purposes of subsection (2)—

(a) the arrears in respect of each periodical payment, secured periodical payment or payment of a lump sum,

as the case may be, under a maintenance order shall be treated as a judgment debt for the purposes of section 50 of the District Court Ordinance (Cap. 336);

(b) the interest under subsection (2) shall be calculated in accordance with that section 50; and

(c) for the purposes of that section 50, the date on which payment is due as specified by the maintenance order shall be treated as the date of the judgment.

(4) The judgment debtor is liable to pay the interest under subsection (2).

(5) If the court grants leave, on the application of a judgment creditor for leave under section 12, to enforce arrears of maintenance which became due for more than 12 months, the interest under subsection (2) shall be calculated from the date specified by the court as being the date on which the judgment creditor is entitled to enforce the payment of the arrears.

(6) If any payment under a maintenance order is not paid and interest in respect of the arrears has accrued under subsection (2), and subsequently the judgment debtor makes payment, the payment is deemed to be made in the following order in or towards the discharge of—

(a) interest accrued under subsection (2);

(b) surcharge payable under section 28AB;

(c) if there are any proceedings instituted for enforcing the maintenance order, the costs ordered by the court to be paid under those proceedings;

(d) any sums from time to time falling due under the maintenance order, with the sums discharged in the reversed chronological sequence of the dates on which

payment is due (that is, the most recent arrears will be discharged first);

(e) if the court makes an order in any proceedings instituted for enforcing the maintenance order, the amount of the maintenance in arrears, whether in one amount or by instalments, payable by the judgment debtor under the order.

(7) A judgment debtor who considers that he has reasonable grounds not to pay the interest under subsection (2) may, within a reasonable time after having knowledge of the requirement to pay, apply by summons to the court not to pay the interest, and shall set out the grounds in the application.

(8) If an application is made under subsection (7), in deciding whether to require the judgment debtor to pay interest and, if so, the amount of interest, the court shall take into account all the circumstances of the case, including (but not limited to) the following—

(a) whether the judgment debtor has a reasonable excuse for his failure to comply with the maintenance order;

(b) whether the judgment debtor has evaded service of court documents;

(c) the judgment debtor's past record and conduct in connection with the making of maintenance payments to the judgment creditor pursuant to the maintenance order or an undertaking in any proceedings;

(d) whether the judgment debtor has given the judgment creditor a reasonable explanation for his failure to comply with the maintenance order; and

(e) the judgment debtor's ability to pay.

(9) A judgment debtor who is aggrieved by a requirement under subsection (8) to pay interest may appeal to the Court of

Appeal against the decision under section 63 of the District Court Ordinance (Cap. 336).

(Added 18 of 2003 s. 11)

Editorial Note:

* Commencement date : 1 May 2005.

28AB. Surcharge on arrears of maintenance

(1) Where a maintenance order has been made against a judgment debtor, and the judgment debtor, without reasonable excuse, repeatedly fails to make full and punctual payment in compliance with the maintenance order, the court may, on application made by the judgment creditor, make an order requiring the judgment debtor to pay to the judgment creditor a surcharge in respect of the total arrears of maintenance which accrue on or after the commencement date.

(2) The application for a surcharge under subsection (1) may be made—

(a) in proceedings instituted for enforcing the maintenance order; or

(b) in a manner described in subsections (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8) and (9).

(3) For the purposes of subsection (2)(b), the application for a surcharge shall be made by a summons supported by an affidavit of the judgment creditor stating—

(a) the name of the judgment creditor and the address for service of the documents relating to the application;

(b) the name and the address for service or last known address of the judgment debtor;

(c) the particulars of the maintenance order;

(d) the total arrears of maintenance due and unpaid and the date on which the arrears first accrued;

(e) a request for an order requiring the judgment debtor to pay surcharge at a rate to be decided by the court under subsection (11);

(f) a request for fixing a date, time and place for the hearing of the application;

(g) a request for an order requiring the judgment debtor to pay to the judgment creditor the surcharge claimed if the judgment debtor does not appear at the hearing.

(4) On receipt of the summons and affidavit, the court shall fix a date, time and place for the hearing of the application.

(5) The judgment creditor shall serve a sealed copy of the summons and a copy of the affidavit, together with a notice of the hearing, on the judgment debtor.

(6) Without prejudice to any enactment relating to the service of documents and save as is otherwise expressly provided, the summons, affidavit and notice may—

(a) be personally served on the judgment debtor; or

(b) be sent—

(i) if the judgment debtor is represented, by post to the solicitor acting for that judgment debtor, or by leaving the same with the solicitor; or

(ii) if the judgment debtor is unrepresented, by post to the address for service given by him or his last known address, or by leaving the same at the address for service or the last known address of that judgment debtor; or

(c) be served in such other manner as the court directs.

(7) If the judgment debtor fails to appear at the hearing of the application on the date fixed under subsection (4), then—

(a) if the court is satisfied that the summons, affidavit and notice have been duly served on the judgment debtor, it may proceed to hear the application and may make an order requiring the judgment debtor to pay a surcharge to the judgment creditor;

(b) if the court is not satisfied that the summons, affidavit and notice have been duly served on the judgment debtor, it may adjourn the hearing to a date, time and place as it thinks fit.

(8) The judgment creditor shall serve a notice of the adjourned hearing on the judgment debtor.

(9) If the judgment debtor fails to appear at the adjourned hearing on the date fixed under subsection (7)(b), the court may proceed to hear the application and may make an order requiring the judgment debtor to pay a surcharge to the judgment creditor.

(10) If the judgment debtor, within a reasonable time after having knowledge of the order made under subsection (7)(a) or (9), applies by summons to vary or set aside the order, the court may, if it is satisfied that there is reasonable excuse for the judgment debtor's failure to—

(a) appear at the hearing; and

(b) make full and punctual payment in compliance with the maintenance order,

vary or set aside the order on such terms as it thinks fit.

(11) Subject to subsection (13), the amount of surcharge payable by the judgment debtor under subsection (1) shall not exceed 100% of the total arrears of maintenance calculated from the

date on which the arrears first accrued to the date of payment of the surcharge.

(12) If the court makes an order requiring the judgment debtor to pay a surcharge, it shall specify in the order the amount of surcharge payable by the judgment debtor and the date of payment.

(13) If the court grants leave, on the application of a judgment creditor for leave under section 12 to enforce arrears of maintenance which became due for more than 12 months, the surcharge under subsection (1) shall be calculated from the date specified by the court as being the date on which the judgment creditor is entitled to enforce the payment of the arrears.

(14) A surcharge payable under this section is recoverable as a civil debt due to the judgment creditor by the judgment debtor. An action under this subsection may be brought in the District Court even though the amount to be recovered otherwise exceeds the limit of jurisdiction of the District Court.

(15) A judgment debtor who is aggrieved by an order to pay a surcharge may appeal to the Court of Appeal against the order under section 63 of the District Court Ordinance (Cap. 336).

(Added 18 of 2003 s. 11)

28A. Notice of change of address

(1) Any person for the time being under an obligation to make payments, including costs, under an order under this Ordinance shall within 14 days of any change of his address give notice of his new address to any person whose name is specified in the order by sending it by registered post to the last known address of that person or to such address as may

be notified to him by that person for the purposes of this section.

(2) A person who, without reasonable excuse, contravenes subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable to a fine at level 2.

(Added 69 of 1997 s. 31)

29. Validation of certain void or voidable decrees

Any decree of divorce, nullity of marriage or judicial separation which, apart from this section, would be void or voidable on the ground only that the provisions of section 45 of the Matrimonial Causes Ordinance (Cap. 179) (which restricts the making of decrees of dissolution or separation where children are affected) had not been complied with when the decree was made absolute or granted, as the case may be, shall be deemed always to have been valid unless—

(a) before the commencement of this Ordinance the court declared the decree to be void; or

(b) in proceedings for the annulment of the decree pending at the said commencement the court declares the decree to be void.

[cf. 1970 c. 45 s. 29 U.K.]

Part IIA

Financial Relief in Hong Kong after Divorce, etc. Outside Hong Kong

(Part IIA added 20 of 2010 s. 3)

29AA. Interpretation of Part IIA

In this Part—

competent authority outside Hong Kong (境外主管當局) means any court or public body outside Hong Kong;

disposition (財產處置) does not include any provision contained in a will or codicil but, with that exception, includes any conveyance, assurance or gift of property of any description, whether made by an instrument or otherwise;

order for financial relief (經濟濟助命令), except in section 29AJ, means an order that the court may make under section 29AG.

29AB. Applications for financial relief after divorce, etc. outside Hong Kong

(1) If—

(a) a marriage has been dissolved or annulled, or the parties to a marriage have been legally separated, by means of judicial or other proceedings in a place outside Hong Kong; and

(b) the divorce, annulment or legal separation is recognized as valid by the law of Hong Kong,

either of the parties to the marriage may apply to the court in accordance with rules of court for an order for financial relief.

(2) If after a marriage has been dissolved or annulled in a place outside Hong Kong, one of the parties to the marriage

remarries, that party is not entitled to make an application in relation to that marriage.

29AC. Leave of court required for applications for financial relief

(1) No application for an order for financial relief may be made unless the leave of the court has been obtained in accordance with rules of court.

(2) The court must not grant leave unless it considers that there is substantial ground for the making of an application for an order for financial relief.

(3) The court may grant leave under this section despite the fact that an order has been made by a competent authority outside Hong Kong requiring the other party to the marriage to make any payment or transfer any property to, or for the benefit of, the applicant or a child of the family.

(4) Leave under this section may be granted subject to any conditions the court thinks fit.

29AD. Interim orders for maintenance

(1) If leave is granted under section 29AC for the making of an application for an order for financial relief and it appears to the court that the applicant or any child of the family is in immediate need of financial assistance, the court may make an order requiring the other party to the marriage to make to the applicant or the child any periodical payments the court thinks reasonable.

(2) The periodical payments may be for a term that the court thinks reasonable, but the term must not begin earlier than the date of the grant of leave and must end on the date of the determination of the application for an order for financial relief.

(3) An order under this section may be made subject to any conditions the court thinks fit.

29AE. Jurisdiction of court

The court has jurisdiction to entertain an application for an order for financial relief if any of the following jurisdictional requirements is satisfied—

(a) either of the parties to the marriage was domiciled in Hong Kong—

(i) on the date of the application for leave under section 29AC; or

(ii) on the date on which the divorce, annulment or legal separation obtained in the place outside Hong Kong took effect in that place;

(b) either of the parties to the marriage was habitually resident in Hong Kong—

(i) throughout the period of 3 years immediately before the date of the application for leave under section 29AC; or

(ii) throughout the period of 3 years immediately before the date on which the divorce, annulment or legal separation obtained in the place outside Hong Kong took effect in that place; or

(c) either of the parties to the marriage had a substantial connection with Hong Kong—

(i) on the date of the application for leave under section 29AC; or

(ii) on the date on which the divorce, annulment or legal separation obtained in the place outside Hong Kong took effect in that place.

29AF. Duty of court to consider whether Hong Kong is appropriate venue for application

(1) Before making an order for financial relief, the court must consider whether in all the circumstances of the case it would be appropriate for the order to be made by a court in Hong Kong, and if the court is not satisfied that it would be appropriate, the court must dismiss the application.

(2) The court must in particular have regard to the following matters—

(a) the connection that the parties to the marriage have with Hong Kong;

(b) the connection that those parties have with the place where the marriage was dissolved or annulled or where they were legally separated;

(c) the connection that those parties have with any other place outside Hong Kong;

(d) any financial benefit that the applicant or a child of the family has received, or is likely to receive, in consequence of the divorce, annulment or legal separation, by virtue of any agreement or the operation of the law of a place outside Hong Kong;

(e) if an order has been made by a competent authority outside Hong Kong requiring the other party to the marriage to make any payment or transfer any property to, or for the benefit of, the applicant or a child of the family—

(i) the financial relief given by the order; and

(ii) the extent to which the order has been complied with or is likely to be complied with;

(f) any right that the applicant has, or has had, to apply for financial relief from the other party to the marriage under the law of any place outside Hong Kong and, if the applicant has not exercised that right, the reason for that;

(g) the availability of any property in Hong Kong in respect of which an order for financial relief in favour of the applicant may be made;

(h) the extent to which any order for financial relief is likely to be enforceable;

(i) the length of time that has elapsed since the date of the divorce, annulment or legal separation.

29AG. Orders for financial provision and property adjustment

(1) On an application by a party to a marriage for an order for financial relief, the court may make any one or more of the orders that it could make under section 4, 5 or 6 if a decree of divorce, a decree of nullity of marriage or a decree of judicial separation in respect of the marriage had been granted in Hong Kong.

(2) If under subsection (1) the court makes an order mentioned in section 4, 5 or 6, then, on making that order or at any time after the making of that order, the court may make an order mentioned in section 6A(1).

29AH. Matters to which court is to have regard in exercising its powers under section 29AG

(1) In deciding whether to exercise its powers under section 29AG and, if so, in what manner, the court must make its decision in accordance with this section.

(2) As regards the exercise of those powers in relation to a party to the marriage, the court must have regard to the conduct of

the parties and all the circumstances of the case including the matters mentioned in section 7(1)(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g).

(3) As regards the exercise of those powers in relation to a child of the family, the court must—

(a) have regard to all the circumstances of the case including the matters mentioned in section 7(2)(a), (b), (c), (d) and (e); and

(b) if it decides to exercise those powers, exercise them in the manner specified in section 7(2).

(4) As regards the exercise of those powers against a party to the marriage in favour of a child of the family who is not the child of that party, the court must have regard to all the circumstances of the case including the matters mentioned in section 7(3)(a), (b) and (c).

(5) If an order has been made by a competent authority outside Hong Kong for the making of payments or the transfer of property by a party to the marriage, the court in considering in accordance with this section the financial resources of the other party to the marriage or a child of the family must have regard to the extent to which that order has been complied with or is likely to be complied with.

29AI. Application of certain provisions of Part II to orders made under sections 29AD and 29AG

The following provisions of Part II apply in relation to an order made under section 29AD or 29AG as they apply in relation to a like order under those provisions—

(a) section 4(2);

(b) section 5(3) and (4);

(c) section 6A(2), (3), (4), (5) and (6);

(d) section 9(1), (2) and (3);

(e) section 10;

(f) section 11, except subsections (2)(d) and (4);

(g) section 12;

(h) section 13;

(i) section 23;

(j) section 24;

(k) section 26(a);

(l) section 27;

(m) section 28;

(n) section 28AA;

(o) section 28AB.

29AJ. Avoidance of transactions intended to defeat applications for financial relief under section 29AD or 29AG

(1) If leave is granted under section 29AC for the making by a party to a marriage of an application for an order for financial relief under section 29AG, the court may, on an application by that party, make an order mentioned in subsection (2) or (3).

(2) If the court is satisfied that the other party to the marriage is, with the intention of defeating the claim for financial relief, about to make any disposition or to transfer out of the jurisdiction or otherwise deal with any property, the court may make any order it thinks fit for restraining the other party from so doing or otherwise for protecting the claim.

(3) If the court is satisfied that the other party to the marriage has, with the intention of defeating the claim for financial relief, made a disposition to which this subsection applies, and that if the disposition were set aside, financial relief or

different financial relief would be granted to the applicant, the court may make an order setting aside the disposition.

(4) If an order for financial relief under section 29AD or 29AG has been made by the court at the instance of a party to a marriage, then, on an application by that party, the court may, if it is satisfied that the other party to the marriage has, with the intention of defeating the claim for financial relief, made a disposition to which this subsection applies, make an order setting aside the disposition.

(5) Subsections (3) and (4) apply respectively to a disposition made by the other party to the marriage (whether before or after the commencement of the application), not being a disposition made for valuable consideration (other than marriage) to a person who, at the time of the disposition, acted in relation to it in good faith and without notice of any intention on the part of the other party to defeat the applicant's claim for financial relief.

(6) If the court makes an order under subsection (3) or (4) setting aside a disposition, it may give any consequential directions it thinks fit for giving effect to the order; including directions requiring the making of any payment or the disposal of any property.

(7) Subsection (8) applies if an application is made under subsection (1) or (4), with respect to a disposition that took place less than 3 years before the date of the application or with respect to a disposition or other dealing with property that is about to take place.

(8) If the court is satisfied—

(a) in a case falling within subsection (2), that the disposition or other dealing would (apart from this section) have the consequence of defeating the applicant's claim for financial relief; or

(b) in a case falling within subsection (3) or (4), that the disposition has had the consequence of defeating the applicant's claim for financial relief,

it is to be presumed, unless the contrary is shown, that the person who disposed of or is about to dispose of or deal with the property did so or, as the case may be, is about to do so, with the intention of defeating the applicant's claim for financial relief.

(9) In this section, any reference to defeating a claim by a party to a marriage for financial relief is a reference to—

(a) preventing financial relief from being granted or reducing the amount of relief that might be granted; or

(b) frustrating or impeding the enforcement of any order that might be or has been made under section 29AD or 29AG.

29AK. Prevention of transactions intended to defeat prospective applications for financial relief

(1) The court may make an order under subsection (2) if, on an application by a party to a marriage for the order, it appears to the court—

(a) that the marriage has been dissolved or annulled, or that the parties to the marriage have been legally separated, by means of judicial or other proceedings in a place outside Hong Kong;

(b) that the divorce, annulment or legal separation is recognized as valid by the law of Hong Kong;

(c) that the applicant intends to apply for leave to make an application for an order for financial relief as soon as he or she has been habitually resident in Hong Kong throughout a period of 3 years immediately before the date of the application; and

(d) that the other party to the marriage is, with the intention of defeating the claim for financial relief, about to make any disposition or to transfer out of the jurisdiction or otherwise deal with any property.

(2) The court may make any order it thinks fit for restraining the other party to the marriage from making any disposition or transferring out of the jurisdiction or otherwise dealing with any property.

(3) If an application is made under subsection (1) with respect to a disposition or other dealing with property that is about to take place and the court is satisfied that the disposition or other dealing would (apart from this section) have the consequence of defeating the applicant's claim for financial relief, it is to be presumed, unless the contrary is shown, that the person who is about to dispose of or deal with the property is about to do so, with the intention of defeating the applicant's claim for financial relief.

(4) In this section, any reference to defeating a claim by a party to a marriage for financial relief is a reference to—

(a) preventing financial relief from being granted or reducing the amount of relief that might be granted; or

(b) frustrating or impeding the enforcement of any order that might be made under section 29AG.

29AL. Power to grant injunctions not affected

Sections 29AJ and 29AK do not affect any power of the High Court to grant an interlocutory injunction under section 21L(1) or 21M(1) of the High Court Ordinance (Cap. 4).

Part III

Miscellaneous Provisions

29A. Power of court hearing petition to terminate subsisting maintenance order made by another court

(1) If, at the time of the presentation or making of a petition or joint application for divorce, nullity of marriage or judicial separation, there is subsisting an order, made by a court in previous proceedings between the same persons as are parties to the petition or application, requiring financial provision to be made for the maintenance by one of the parties of the other, or for the maintenance by either or both of the parties of a child of the family, the court hearing the petition or application may, if it thinks fit, direct that the said order shall cease to have effect on such date as may be specified in the direction. *(Amended 29 of 1995 s. 21)*

(2) For the purpose of this section ***parties to the petition*** (呈請雙方) means the petitioner and the respondent.

(Added 64 of 1979 s. 2)

[cf. 1960 c. 48 s. 7(3) U.K.]

30. Jurisdiction of, and appeal on question of fact from, District Court

The jurisdiction conferred on the District Court by this Ordinance shall be exercisable by the District Court notwithstanding that by reason of the amount claimed in an application made under this Ordinance the jurisdiction would not but for this section be exercisable by the District Court.

(Amended 79 of 1981 s. 7; L.N. 145 of 1992)

[cf. 1970 c. 45 s. 34 U.K.]

31. Devolution of property on intestacy of separated spouse

Section 32(3) of the Matrimonial Causes Ordinance (Cap. 179) (which provides that in a case of judicial separation certain property of the wife shall, if she dies intestate, devolve as if her husband had then been dead) shall cease to have effect except in relation to a case where the death occurred before the commencement of this Ordinance.

[cf. 1970 c. 45 s. 40(3) U.K.]

32. Rules of court

(1) The Chief Judge may make rules of court for the better carrying out of the purposes and provisions of this Ordinance. *(Amended 20 of 2010 s. 4)*

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), the Chief Judge may make rules of court—

(a) as to all matters of procedure under this Ordinance;

(b) prescribing the forms to be used under this Ordinance;

(c) with regard to any matter as to which rules may be made under this Ordinance; and

(d) providing for the enforcement in the High Court of orders made under this Ordinance in the District Court. *(Added 20 of 2010 s. 4)*

33. Transitional

(1) The amendments to sections 2(1), 19 and 20(1), and the amendment adding section 28A, of this Ordinance made by sections 22, 28, 29 and 31 of the Marriage and Children (Miscellaneous Amendments) Ordinance 1997 (69 of 1997) (***the amending Ordinance***) do not apply in relation to orders made before the commencement of the amending

Ordinance, and the provisions of this Ordinance in force immediately before the commencement of the amending Ordinance continue to apply in relation to those orders as if the amending Ordinance had not been enacted.

(2) The amendments to section 10 of this Ordinance made by section 26 of the amending Ordinance—

(a) do not apply in relation to orders made before that commencement under section 5, 6(1)(a) or 8 of this Ordinance in favour of a child if the term of the order extends beyond the date when the child will attain the age of 21;

(b) except as provided in paragraph (a), apply in relation to orders made before that commencement, but where such an order provides for payments to be made or secured to or for the benefit of a child for a term extending beyond the date when the child will attain the age of 18 but not beyond the date when the child will attain the age of 21, nothing in this subsection shall be construed as affecting the term of such order.

(Added 69 of 1997 s. 32)

First Schedule

(Omitted as spent—E.R. 3 of 2018)

Second Schedule

(Omitted as spent—E.R. 3 of 2018)