Changes to legislation: Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 28 February 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)



Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018

SOCIAL SECURITY (SCOTLAND) ACT 2018

PART 1

TENETS AND OVERSIGHT

Principles

- 1 The Scottish social security principles
- 2 Effect of the principles

Promotion of take-up

- 3 Scottish Ministers' duty to promote take-up
- 4 Recognition of importance of inclusive communication
- 5 Recognition of importance of accessible information
- 6 Recognition of importance of independent information, advice and advocacy
- 7 Recognition of importance of available data
- 8 Strategy to promote take-up
- 9 Further provision about preparing strategies to promote take-up

Advocacy

- 10 Right to advocacy
- 11 Advocacy service standards

Assessments

- 12 Restriction on private-sector involvement in assessments
- 13 Assessors to be suitably qualified
- 14 Assessments only to be required where necessary

Charter

- 15 The Scottish social security charter
- 16 Preparing the first charter

Changes to legislation: Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 28 February 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- 17 Publication of the charter
- 18 Reviewing the charter
- 19 Effect of the charter

Accountability

- 20 Annual report
- 21 Scottish Commission on Social Security
- 22 Commission functions

Interpretation

23 Meaning of "Scottish social security system"

PART 2

GIVING OF ASSISTANCE BY SCOTTISH MINISTERS

CHAPTER 1

ASSISTANCE TO BE GIVEN ACCORDING TO DETERMINATION OF ENTITLEMENT

- 24 Duty to give assistance
- 25 Meaning of "determination of entitlement"
- 26 Individual's right to stop receiving assistance
- 27 Later determination supersedes earlier

CHAPTER 2

TYPES OF ASSISTANCE TO BE GIVEN

- 28 Carer's assistance
- 29 Cold-spell heating assistance
- 30 Winter heating assistance
- 31 Disability assistance
- 32 Early years assistance
- 33 Employment-injury assistance
- 34 Funeral expense assistance
- 35 Housing assistance
- 36 Short-term assistance

CHAPTER 3

DETERMINING ENTITLEMENT

Determination by the Scottish Ministers

- 37 Duty to make determination
- 38 Application for assistance
- 39 Withdrawal of application
- 40 Notice of determination

Re-determination by the Scottish Ministers

- 41 Right to request re-determination
- 42 Late request for re-determination

Changes to legislation: Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 28 February 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- 43 Duty to re-determine
- 44 Notice of re-determination
- 45 Notice where re-determination not made timeously

Appeal against the Scottish Ministers' determination

- 46 Right to appeal to First-tier Tribunal against determination
- 47 Initiating an appeal
- 48 Deadline for appealing
- 49 First-tier Tribunal's power to determine entitlement

The determination of entitlement

- 50 Decisions comprising determination
- 51 Determination on basis of ongoing entitlement
- 52 Determination without application

CHAPTER 4

FURTHER PROVISION ABOUT DETERMINING ENTITLEMENT

Identifying possible eligibility

53 Duty to inform about possible eligibility

Obtaining information to make determination

- 54 Obligation to provide information on request
- 55 Requirement to justify assessment requests
- 56 Duty to notify change of circumstances
- 57 Lifting of duty to notify change of circumstances

Appointees

58 Appointment of person to act on behalf of individual

Support during discussions and assessments

59 Right to support

Access to reports

60 Right to reports used in determining entitlement

Right to appeal Scottish Ministers' process decisions

61 Appeal to First-tier Tribunal against process decisions

Presumption about when information is received

62 Presumption for purposes of sections 41, 48 and 61

CHAPTER 5

RECOVERY OF VALUE OF ASSISTANCE

Changes to legislation: Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 28 February 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Assistance given in error

- 63 Liability for assistance given in error
- 64 Exclusion from liability
- 65 Consideration for debtor's circumstances
- 66 Prescription of liability
- 67 Exclusion of other rights of recovery
- 68 First-tier Tribunal's jurisdiction
- 69 Liability where assistance given for period after death

Funeral expense assistance

70 Liability of deceased's estate

CHAPTER 6

OFFENCES AND INVESTIGATIONS

Offences

- 71 Offence of trying to obtain assistance by deceit
- 72 Offence of failing to notify
- 73 Offence of causing a failure to notify
- 74 Individual culpability for offending by an organisation

Investigations

- 75 Power to make provision about investigations
- 76 Code of practice on investigations

CHAPTER 7

UPRATING FOR INFLATION

- 77 Duty to consider effects of inflation
- Duty to uprate carer's, disability, employment-injury and funeral expense assistance

PART 3

SUPPLEMENTING ASSISTANCE UNDER OTHER ENACTMENTS

Top up of reserved benefits

- 79 Power to provide for top up
- 80 Restrictions on power

Carer's allowance: temporary provision

- 81 Carer's allowance supplement
- 82 Power to repeal temporary provision

PART 4

FURTHER PROVISION IN CONNECTION WITH PARTS 2 AND 3

Changes to legislation: Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 28 February 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Inalienability of assistance

- 83 No assignation or charge
- 84 Retention of right to assistance on bankruptcy etc.

Information-sharing

85 Information-sharing

Agency arrangements

86 Agency arrangements for housing assistance

Monitoring of appeal process

87 Report to the Scottish Parliament on exercise of right to appeal

PART 5

DISCRETIONARY HOUSING PAYMENTS

- 88 Local authorities' power to make payments
- 89 Restrictions on power to make payments
- 90 Local authorities' duty to provide information about payments
- 91 Guidance
- 92 Local authorities need not make payments if not funded
- 93 Power to modify section 88

PART 6

UNIVERSAL CREDIT: PAYMENT TO JOINT CLAIMANTS

94 Universal credit: payment to joint claimants

PART 7

FINAL PROVISIONS

- 95 Ancillary provision
- 96 Regulation-making powers
- 97 Further procedure for regulations about assistance
- 98 Temporary disapplication of section 97
- 99 Commencement
- 100 Short title

SCHEDULE 1 — SCOTTISH COMMISSION ON SOCIAL SECURITY PART 1 — OPERATION AND COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION

CHAPTER 1

STATUS

Independence

1 (1) In performing its functions, the Scottish Commission on Social...

Changes to legislation: Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 28 February 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Exclusion of Crown status

2 The Commission—(a) is not a servant or agent of...

CHAPTER 2

POWERS

General powers

3 The Commission may do anything which appears to it—

Access to information

4 (1) The Commission—(a) has a right of access at...

CHAPTER 3

PROCEDURE

Committees

5 (1) The Commission may establish committees and sub-committees.

Regulation of procedure

6 The Commission may regulate its own procedure (including quorum) and...

Authority to perform functions

7 (1) The Commission may authorise—(a) any of its members,...

Validity of things done

8 The validity of anything done by the Commission, its committees...

CHAPTER 4

FINANCE

Remuneration and expenses of members

9 (1) The Commission's members are entitled to be paid by...

Expenses of non-members

10 (1) A person who attends a meeting of the Commission...

Resources

11 The Scottish Ministers are to provide the Commission with such...

Accounts and audit

12 (1) The Commission must—(a) keep proper accounts and accounting...

Changes to legislation: Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 28 February 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

CHAPTER 5

MEMBERSHIP

Number of members

13 (1) The Commission is to consist of—

Appointment of members

14 (1) The Scottish Ministers are to appoint the Commission's members....

Tenure and other terms and conditions

15 (1) A person's membership of the Commission continues until the...

Early termination

16 (1) A member of the Commission may resign by giving...

Disqualification grounds

17 (1) A person is disqualified from being a member of...
PART 2 — APPLICATION OF LEGISLATION RELATING TO PUBLIC BODIES

Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000

18 In schedule 3 of the Ethical Standards in Public Life...

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

19 In schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act...

Public Appointments and Public Bodies etc. (Scotland) Act 2003

In schedule 2 of the Public Appointments and Public Bodies...

Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

21 In schedule 5 of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act...

SCHEDULE 2 — CARER'S ASSISTANCE REGULATIONS PART 1 — ELIGIBILITY

CHAPTER 1

ELIGIBILITY IS TO DEPEND ON BEING OR HAVING BEEN A CARER

- 1 (1) The regulations must be framed so that (subject to...
- 2 (1) The regulations may be framed so that, despite the...

CHAPTER 2

FURTHER CRITERIA

Changes to legislation: Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 28 February 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Carer's other activities

3 The regulations may make an individual's eligibility depend on—

Multiple carers

4 The regulations may make an individual's eligibility depend on being...

Residence and presence

5 The regulations may make an individual's eligibility depend on either...

Age

6 The regulations may make an individual's eligibility depend on the...

Financial circumstances

7 The regulations may make an individual's eligibility depend on the...

Receipt of, or eligibility for, other types of State assistance

8 The regulations may make an individual's eligibility depend on the...

Application within specified period

9 The regulations may provide that an individual ceases to be... PART 2 — ASSISTANCE TO BE GIVEN

Meeting liabilities

10 The regulations may provide for the carer's assistance that is...

Restriction on giving assistance in a form other than money

11 (1) The regulations may allow carer's assistance to be given... PART 3 — FINAL PROVISIONS

Generality of enabling power unaffected

12 Nothing in this schedule, apart from the following provisions, is...

Interpretation

13 In this schedule— "cared-for person" means the individual by providing...

SCHEDULE 3 — COLD-SPELL HEATING ASSISTANCE REGULATIONS PART 1 — ELIGIBILITY

CHAPTER 1

ELIGIBILITY IS TO DEPEND ON LIVING IN AN AREA DURING A COLD SPELL

- 1 The regulations must be framed so that (subject to any...
- 2 (1) The regulations may be framed so that, despite the...
- 3 The regulations are to set out, for the purpose of...

Changes to legislation: Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 28 February 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

CHAPTER 2

FURTHER CRITERIA

Age

4 The regulations may make an individual's eligibility depend on the...

Financial circumstances

5 The regulations may make an individual's eligibility depend on the...

Receipt of, or eligibility for, other types of State assistance

6 The regulations may make an individual's eligibility depend on either...

Application within specified period

7 The regulations may provide that an individual ceases to be... PART 2 — ASSISTANCE TO BE GIVEN

Domestic circumstances and age

8 The regulations may make the value of the cold-spell heating...

Restriction on giving assistance in a form other than money

9 (1) The regulations may allow cold-spell heating assistance to be... PART 3 — FINAL PROVISIONS

Generality of enabling power unaffected

10 Nothing in this schedule, apart from the following provisions, is...

Interpretation

11 In this schedule— "eligibility" means eligibility for cold-spell heating assistance...

SCHEDULE 4 — WINTER HEATING ASSISTANCE REGULATIONS PART 1 — ELIGIBILITY

Residence and presence

1 The regulations may make an individual's eligibility depend on the...

Age

2 The regulations may make an individual's eligibility depend on the...

Financial circumstances

3 Subject to paragraph 4, the regulations may not make an...

Receipt of, or eligibility for, other types of State assistance

4 The regulations may make an individual's eligibility depend on either...

Changes to legislation: Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 28 February 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Application within specified period

5 The regulations may provide that an individual ceases to be... PART 2 — ASSISTANCE TO BE GIVEN

Domestic circumstances and age

6 The regulations may make the value of the winter heating...

Financial circumstances

7 Subject to paragraph 8, the regulations may not make the...

Receipt of, or eligibility for, other types of State assistance

8 The regulations may make the value of assistance depend on...

Restriction on giving assistance in a form other than money

9 (1) The regulations may allow winter heating assistance to be... PART 3 — FINAL PROVISIONS

Generality of enabling power unaffected

10 Nothing in this schedule, apart from the following provisions, is...

Interpretation

11 In this schedule— "eligibility" means eligibility for winter heating assistance...

SCHEDULE 5 — DISABILITY ASSISTANCE REGULATIONS PART 1 — ELIGIBILITY

CHAPTER 1

ELIGIBILITY IS TO DEPEND ON HAVING, OR HAVING HAD, A DISABILITY

- 1 (1) The regulations must be framed so that (subject to...
- 2 (1) The regulations may be framed so that, despite the...

CHAPTER 2

FURTHER CRITERIA

Nature and extent of disability and needs

3 The regulations may make an individual's eligibility depend on the...

Residence and presence

4 The regulations may make an individual's eligibility depend on the...

Age

5 The regulations may make an individual's eligibility depend on the...

Changes to legislation: Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 28 February 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Financial circumstances

6 Subject to paragraph 7, the regulations may not make an...

Receipt of, or eligibility for, other types of State assistance

7 The regulations may make an individual's eligibility depend on the...

Application within specified period

8 The regulations may provide that an individual ceases to be...

CHAPTER 3

SPECIAL RULES FOR TERMINAL ILLNESS CASES

No minimum period

9 The regulations may not make the eligibility of an individual...

No requirement for assessment

10 The regulations may not make the eligibility of an individual...

Eligibility from date of application

11 The regulations must be framed so that an individual who...

Entitlement to maximum amount

12 The regulations must be framed so that an individual who... PART 2 — ASSISTANCE TO BE GIVEN

CHAPTER 1

VALUE

Nature and extent of disability

13 The regulations may make the value of the disability assistance...

Age

14 The regulations may make the value of the disability assistance...

CHAPTER 2

FORM

Meeting liabilities

15 The regulations may provide for the disability assistance that is...

Payment to someone else

16 The regulations may provide that, if the Scottish Ministers consider...

Changes to legislation: Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 28 February 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Restriction on giving assistance in a form other than money

17 (1) The regulations may allow disability assistance to be given...

Restriction on lump sums

18 The regulations may not provide for the disability assistance that... PART 3 — FINAL PROVISIONS

Generality of enabling power unaffected

19 Nothing in this schedule, apart from the following provisions, is...

Interpretation

20 In this schedule— "eligibility" means eligibility for disability assistance

SCHEDULE 6 — EARLY YEARS ASSISTANCE REGULATIONS PART 1 — ELIGIBILITY

CHAPTER 1

ELIGIBILITY IS TO DEPEND ON HAVING, OR EXPECTING TO HAVE, RESPONSIBILITY FOR A CHILD

(1) The regulations must be framed so that an individual's...

CHAPTER 2

FURTHER CRITERIA

Limit to number of people entitled

2 The regulations may provide that an individual is not eligible,...

Residence and presence

3 The regulations may make an individual's eligibility depend on the...

Financial circumstances

4 The regulations may make an individual's eligibility depend on the...

Receipt of, or eligibility for, other types of State assistance

5 The regulations may make an individual's eligibility depend on the...

Application within specified period

6 The regulations may provide that an individual ceases to be... PART 2 — ASSISTANCE TO BE GIVEN

Restriction on giving assistance in a form other than money

7 (1) The regulations may allow early years assistance to be... PART 3 — FINAL PROVISIONS

Changes to legislation: Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 28 February 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Generality of enabling power unaffected

8 Nothing in this schedule, apart from the following provisions, is...

Interpretation

9 In this schedule— "eligibility" means eligibility for early years assistance...

SCHEDULE 7 — EMPLOYMENT-INJURY ASSISTANCE REGULATIONS PART 1 — ELIGIBILITY

CHAPTER 1

ELIGIBILITY IS TO DEPEND ON BEING INJURED OR CONTRACTING A DISEASE AT WORK

- 1 The regulations must be framed so that (subject to any...
- 2 (1) The regulations may be framed so that, despite the...
- 3 (1) The regulations are to define the following terms for...

CHAPTER 2

FURTHER CRITERIA

Place where injury suffered or disease contracted

4 The regulations may make an individual's eligibility depend on where,...

Residence and presence

5 The regulations may make an individual's eligibility depend on the...

Age

6 The regulations may make an individual's eligibility depend on the...

Financial circumstances

7 Subject to paragraph 8, the regulations may not make an...

Receipt of, or eligibility for, other types of State assistance

8 The regulations may make an individual's eligibility depend on the...

Application within specified period

9 The regulations may provide that an individual ceases to be... PART 2 — ASSISTANCE TO BE GIVEN

CHAPTER 1

VALUE

Changes to legislation: Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 28 February 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Nature of injury or disease

10 The regulations may make the value of the employment-injury assistance...

Age

11 The regulations may make the value of the employment-injury assistance...

CHAPTER 2

FORM

Meeting liabilities

12 The regulations may provide for the employment-injury assistance that is...

Restriction on giving assistance in a form other than money

13 (1) The regulations may allow employment-injury assistance to be given...

Restriction on lump sums

14 The regulations may not provide for the employment-injury assistance that...

PART 3 — FINAL PROVISIONS

Generality of enabling power unaffected

15 Nothing in this schedule, apart from the following provisions, is...

Interpretation

16 In this schedule— "eligibility" means eligibility for employment-injury assistance, and...

SCHEDULE 8 — FUNERAL EXPENSE ASSISTANCE REGULATIONS PART 1 — ELIGIBILITY

CHAPTER 1

ELIGIBILITY IS TO DEPEND ON BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR FUNERAL EXPENSES

1 (1) The regulations must be framed so that an individual's...

CHAPTER 2

FURTHER CRITERIA

Location of the funeral

2 The regulations may make an individual's eligibility depend on where...

Changes to legislation: Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 28 February 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Relationship with the deceased

3 The regulations may make an individual's eligibility depend on the...

Value of deceased's estate

4 The regulations may make an individual's eligibility depend on the...

Residence and presence

5 The regulations may make an individual's eligibility depend on either...

Financial circumstances

6 The regulations may make an individual's eligibility depend on the...

Receipt of, or eligibility for, other types of State assistance

7 The regulations may make an individual's eligibility depend on either...

Application within specified period

- 8 The regulations may provide that an individual ceases to be... PART 2 ASSISTANCE TO BE GIVEN
- 9 The regulations may specify items of expense in relation to...
- 10 The regulations may set a limit on the value of...
- 11 The regulations may set a limit on the total value...
- 12 The regulations may provide for the amount of funeral expense...

Restriction on giving assistance in a form other than money

13 (1) The regulations may allow funeral expense assistance to be... PART 3 — FINAL PROVISIONS

Generality of enabling power unaffected

14 Nothing in this schedule, apart from the following provisions, is...

Interpretation

15 In this schedule— "deceased person" means the person in respect...

SCHEDULE 9 — HOUSING ASSISTANCE REGULATIONS PART 1 — ELIGIBILITY

CHAPTER 1

ELIGIBILITY IS TO DEPEND ON BEING TREATED IN CERTAIN WAYS UNDER THE WELFARE REFORM ACT 2012 OR OTHERWISE NEEDING ASSISTANCE WITH HOUSING COSTS

- 1 (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2) and paragraph 2, the regulations...
- 2 (1) The regulations may be framed so that, despite the...

CHAPTER 2

FURTHER CRITERIA

Changes to legislation: Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 28 February 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Participation in education

3 The regulations may make an individual's eligibility depend on—

Residence and presence

4 The regulations may make an individual's eligibility depend on the...

Age

5 The regulations may make an individual's eligibility depend on the...

Financial circumstances

6 The regulations may make an individual's eligibility depend on the...

Receipt of, or eligibility for, other types of State assistance

7 The regulations may make an individual's eligibility depend on either...

Application within specified period

8 The regulations may provide that an individual ceases to be... PART 2 — ASSISTANCE TO BE GIVEN

CHAPTER 1

VALUE

Cases where paragraph 1(3) conditions met

9 (1) The regulations must provide for the value of housing...

Cases where paragraph 1(3) conditions not met

10 In a case to which paragraph 9 does not apply,...

CHAPTER 2

FORM

Meeting liabilities

11 The regulations may provide for housing assistance that is to...

Restriction on giving assistance in a form other than money

12 (1) The regulations may allow housing assistance to be given... PART 3 — FINAL PROVISIONS

Generality of enabling power unaffected

13 Nothing in this schedule, apart from the following provisions, is...

Interpretation

14 In this schedule (unless stated otherwise)— "eligibility" means eligibility for...

Changes to legislation: Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 28 February 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

SCHEDULE 10 — SHORT-TERM ASSISTANCE REGULATIONS PART 1 — ELIGIBILITY

Entitlement to other assistance being reviewed

1 (1) The regulations must be framed so that an individual...
PART 2 — ASSISTANCE TO BE GIVEN

Value and form of assistance where entitlement to other assistance under review

2 (1) This paragraph applies to any case in which an... PART 3 — FINAL PROVISIONS

Generality of enabling power unaffected

Nothing in this schedule is to be taken to preclude...

Interpretation

4 In this schedule, "the regulations" means regulations under section 36(2)....

Status:

Point in time view as at 14/10/2019.

Changes to legislation:

Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 28 February 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.