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Changes to legislation: *Child Maintenance Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, Section 19 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 19 September 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*



2008 CHAPTER 10

PART 2

CHILD SUPPORT ETC.

Collection and enforcement

PROSPECTIVE

Curfew orders

19 After Article 36F of the Child Support Order (inserted by section 18) insert—

“Applications for curfew order

36G.—(1) The Department may apply to the court for an order requiring a person to remain, for periods specified in the order, at a place so specified (a “curfew order”) where—

- (a) it has sought to recover an amount from the person by virtue of Article 35;
- (b) the whole or any part of the amount remains unpaid; and
- (c) the Department is of the opinion that there has been wilful refusal or culpable neglect on the part of the person.

(2) On an application for a curfew order the court shall (in the presence of the person from whom the Department has sought to recover the amount) inquire as to—

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- (a) the person's means; and
 - (b) whether there has been wilful refusal or culpable neglect on the part of the person.
- (3) On an application for a curfew order the court shall not question—
- (a) the liability order by reference to which the Department acted as mentioned in paragraph (1)(a); or
 - (b) the maintenance calculation by reference to which that liability order was made.
- (4) If, but only if, the court is of the opinion that there has been wilful refusal or culpable neglect on the part of the person from whom the Department has sought to recover the amount, it may make a curfew order against the person.
- (5) The court may not make a curfew order against a person who is under the age of 18.
- (6) In this Article and Articles 36H to 36O “the court” means a court of summary jurisdiction.

Curfew orders: duration etc.

- 36H.—**(1) The periods and places specified as mentioned in Article 36G(1) may include different periods and different places for different days, but shall not include periods which amount to less than 2 hours or more than 12 hours in any one day.
- (2) A curfew order shall specify the period for which the requirements imposed by the order shall have effect.
- (3) The period so specified—
- (a) shall not exceed 6 months; and
 - (b) shall begin to run with the day on which the order is made unless the order provides (subject to such conditions, if any, as may be specified in the order) for it to begin to run with a later day.
- (4) The court shall (so far as practicable) ensure that any requirement imposed by a curfew order is such as to avoid—
- (a) any conflict with the religious beliefs of the person against whom the order is made; an
 - (b) any interference with the times (if any) at which that person normally works or attends any educational establishment.
- (5) On making a curfew order the court may not specify in the order any place outside Northern Ireland.

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Recovery of costs relating to curfew orders

36I.—(1) On making a curfew order the court shall also make an order requiring the person against whom the curfew order is made to pay an amount (determined in accordance with regulations made by the Department) specified in the order in respect of—

- (a) the costs of the application for the curfew order; and
- (b) the costs of monitoring compliance with the requirements imposed by the curfew order.

(2) The provisions of this Order with respect to—

- (a) the collection of child support maintenance; and
- (b) the enforcement of an obligation to pay child support maintenance,

apply equally (with any necessary modifications) to amounts which a person is required to pay by an order under this Article.

Curfew orders: the amount due

36J.—(1) A curfew order shall specify the amount in respect of which it is made, which shall be the aggregate of—

- (a) the amount sought to be recovered as mentioned in Article 36G(1)(a), or so much of it as remains unpaid; and
- (b) the amount which the person against whom the curfew order is made is required to pay by the order under Article 36I.

(2) If part of the amount in respect of which a curfew order was made is paid to any person authorised to receive it, the court may, on an application by the Department or the person against whom the curfew order was made, by order—

- (a) reduce the period for which the requirements imposed by the curfew order have effect;
- (b) provide for that period to begin to run with a day later than that with which it would otherwise have begun to run;
- (c) suspend the running of that period, or provide for any existing such suspension to be extended, until a day specified in the order; or
- (d) revoke the curfew order.

(3) An order under paragraph (2)(b) or (c) may include provision for its effect to be subject to specified conditions.

(4) On the hearing of an application made under paragraph (2) the Department may make representations to the court as to which of the powers conferred by that paragraph it would be appropriate for the court

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to exercise, and the person against whom the curfew order was made may reply to those representations

(5) If the whole of the amount in respect of which a curfew order was made is paid to any person authorised to receive it, the court shall, on an application by the Department or the person against whom the order was made, by order revoke the curfew order.

(6) The Department may make a further application under Article 36G if the amount in respect of which a curfew order was made has not been paid in full when the requirements imposed by the order cease to have effect.

Power to order search

36K.—(1) On making a curfew order, the court may order the person against whom the order is made to be searched.

(2) Any money found on such a search shall, unless the court otherwise directs, be applied towards payment of the amount in respect of which the curfew order is made; and the balance (if any) shall be returned to the person searched.

(3) The court shall not allow the application under paragraph (2) of money found on a search under this Article if it is satisfied that the money does not belong to the person searched.

(4) The court may exercise the powers conferred on it by Article 36J(2) and (5) without the need for an application where money found on a search under this Article is applied towards payment of the amount in respect of which a curfew order is made.

Monitoring of curfew orders

36L.—(1) A curfew order shall—

- (a) provide for a person's compliance with the requirements imposed by the order to be monitored; and
- (b) make a person specified in the order responsible for that monitoring.

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

- (a) it has been notified by the Department that arrangements for monitoring compliance with the requirements imposed by such orders are available in the area in which the place proposed to be specified in the order is situated and the notice has not been withdrawn;
- (b) it is satisfied that the necessary provision can be made under those arrangements; and

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(c) it has the consent of any person (other than the person against whom the order is to be made) whose co-operation is necessary to secure the monitoring of compliance with the requirements imposed by the order.

(3) If a curfew order cannot be made because of the absence of any consent required by paragraph (2)(c), the court may treat the application for the order as an application under Article 37

(4) The Department may by regulations make provision as to—

(a) the cases or circumstances in which the person responsible for monitoring a person's compliance with the requirements imposed by a curfew order may allow that person to be absent from the place specified in the curfew order during a period so specified; and

(b) the requirements which may be imposed in connection with such an absence.

Breaches of curfew orders

36M.—(1) The person responsible for monitoring a person's compliance with the requirements imposed by a curfew order, or the Department, may apply to the court where it appears that the person subject to the requirements in question has failed to comply with—

(a) any of those requirements; or

(b) any requirements imposed by virtue of Article 36L(4).

(2) On any such application the court shall (in the presence of the person subject to the requirements in question) inquire as to whether the person has failed without reasonable excuse to comply with any of those requirements.

(3) If the court is of the opinion that the person has failed without reasonable excuse to comply with any of those requirements, it may—

(a) issue a warrant of commitment against that person; or

(b) by order provide for the requirements imposed by the curfew order to have effect for a specified further period.

(4) A warrant issued under paragraph (3)(a) shall order the person against whom it is issued—

(a) to be imprisoned for a period specified in the warrant; but

(b) to be released (unless in custody for some other reason) on payment of the amount in respect of which the curfew order in question was made.

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(5) A warrant issued under paragraph (3)(a) may be directed to such person or persons as the court issuing it thinks fit.

(6) The power conferred by paragraph (3)(b) may not be exercised so as to provide for the requirements imposed by the curfew order to have effect for a period exceeding 6 months after the making of the order under that paragraph.

(7) Where, following the issue of a warrant under paragraph (3)(a), part of the amount specified in the curfew order is paid to any person authorised to receive it, the court may, on an application by the Department or the person against whom the warrant was issued—

- (a) reduce the period specified in the warrant; o
- (b) order the release of the person against whom the warrant was issued.

(8) On the hearing of an application made under paragraph (7) the Department may make representations to the court as to which of the powers conferred by that paragraph it would be appropriate for the court to exercise, and the person against whom the warrant was issued may reply to those representations.

Effect of custody on curfew orders and power to make curfew orders

36N.—(1) The court may not make a curfew order against a person at any time when the person is in custody for any reason.

(2) The running of the period during which the requirements imposed by a curfew order have effect shall be suspended for the whole of any day during any part of which the person against whom the order is made is in custody for any reason.

(3) If the period during which the requirements imposed by a curfew order have effect would have begun to run but for its being suspended by virtue of this Article, that period shall instead begin to run with the first day when its running is no longer suspended.

Power to make supplementary provision about curfew orders

36O.—(1) The Department may by regulations make provision with respect to curfew orders.

- (2) The regulations may, in particular, make provision—
 - (a) as to the form and content of a curfew order;
 - (b) allowing an application for a curfew order to be renewed where no curfew order is made;

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- (c) that a statement in writing to the effect that wages of any amount have been paid during any period to a person, purporting to be signed by or on behalf of that person's employer, shall be evidence of the facts stated;
- (d) that a lay magistrate may issue a summons to a person to appear before the court and (if that person does not appear) may issue a warrant for that person's arrest;
- (e) that, for the purpose of securing a person's presence before the court, a lay magistrate may issue a warrant for that person's arrest without issuing a summons;
- (f) as to the execution of a warrant for arrest;
- (g) for the amendment or revocation of requirements imposed by a curfew order, on an application made to the court by the Department or the person against whom the order was made;
- (h) similar to that made by Articles 36I, 36K and 36L(2) and (3), in relation to any amendment of a curfew order
- (i) as to the exercise by the court of the powers conferred by Articles 36J(2) and (3) and 36M(7).”.

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing SR 2012/440 art. 3 by [S.R. 2014/194 art. 4](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing SR 2013/201 art. 3 by [S.R. 2014/194 art. 5](#)

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):

- Sch. 2 para. 3(3) inserted by [S.I. 2015/2006 \(N.I.\) art. 126\(2\)](#)