
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1991 No. 2628

The Child Support (Northern Ireland) Order 1991

Collection and enforcement

Deduction from earnings orders

31.—(1) This Article applies where any person (“the liable person”) is liable to make payments of child support maintenance.

(2) The Department may make an order (“a deduction from earnings order”) against a liable person to secure the payment of any amount due under the [^{F1}maintenance assessment] [^{F2}maintenance calculation] in question.

(3) A deduction from earnings order may be made so as to secure the payment of—

- (a) arrears of child support maintenance payable under the [^{F3}assessment] [^{F4}calculation];
- (b) amounts of child support maintenance which will become due under the [^{F5}assessment] [^{F6}calculation]; or
- (c) both such arrears and such future amounts.

(4) A deduction from earnings order—

- (a) shall be expressed to be directed at a person (“the employer”) who has the liable person in his employment; and
- (b) shall have effect from such date as may be specified in the order.

(5) A deduction from earnings order shall operate as an instruction to the employer to—

- (a) make deductions from the liable person's earnings; and
- (b) pay the amounts deducted to the Department.

(6) The Department shall serve a copy of any deduction from earnings order which it makes under this Article on—

- (a) the person who appears to the Department to have the liable person in question in his employment; and
- (b) the liable person.

(7) Where—

- (a) a deduction from earnings order has been made; and
- (b) a copy of the order has been served on the liable person's employer,

it shall be the duty of that employer to comply with the order; but he shall not be under any liability for non-compliance before the end of the period of 7 days beginning with the date on which the copy was served on him.

(8) In this Article and in Article 32 “earnings” has such meaning as may be prescribed.

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Child Support (Northern Ireland) Order 1991. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)

- F1** Words in art. 31(2) substituted (3.3.2003 for certain purposes otherwise prosp.) by [Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2000 \(c. 4\), ss. 1\(2\)\(a\)](#), 68(2); S.R. 2003/53, art. 3(1), **Sch.**
- F2** Words in art. 31(2) substituted (3.3.2003 for certain purposes otherwise prosp.) by [Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2000 \(c. 4\), ss. 1\(2\)\(a\)](#), 68(2); S.R. 2003/53, art. 3(1), **Sch.**
- F3** Word in art. 31(3)(a) substituted (3.3.2003 for certain purposes otherwise prosp.) by [Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2000 \(c. 4\), ss. 1\(2\)\(b\)](#), 68(2); S.R. 2003/53, art. 3(1), **Sch.**
- F4** Word in art. 31(3)(a) substituted (3.3.2003 for certain purposes otherwise prosp.) by [Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2000 \(c. 4\), ss. 1\(2\)\(b\)](#), 68(2); S.R. 2003/53, art. 3(1), **Sch.**
- F5** Word in art. 31(3)(b) substituted (3.3.2003 for certain purposes otherwise prosp.) by [Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2000 \(c. 4\), ss. 1\(2\)\(b\)](#), 68(2); S.R. 2003/53, art. 3(1), **Sch.**
- F6** Word in art. 31(3)(b) substituted (3.3.2003 for certain purposes otherwise prosp.) by [Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2000 \(c. 4\), ss. 1\(2\)\(b\)](#), 68(2); S.R. 2003/53, art. 3(1), **Sch.**

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Order associated Parts and Chapters:

- Order applied by [S.R. 2014/191 reg. 7\(1\)](#)
- Order applied in part (with modifications) by [S.R. 2010/312 reg. 16Sch. 2](#)
- Order power to apply (with modifications) conferred by [2008 c. 10 \(N.I.\) s. 3\(4\)](#)
- Order transfer of functions by [S.I. 2010/976 Sch. 17 para. 42](#)
- Order words substituted by [2009 c. 1 \(N.I.\) Sch. 6 para. 1\(1\)\(a\)](#)
- Order words substituted by [2009 c. 1 \(N.I.\) Sch. 6 para. 1\(1\)\(b\)](#)

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Order (including any effects on those provisions):

- Sch. 1 para. 9(1) Sch. 1 para. 9 renumbered as Sch. 1 para. 9(1) by [2008 c. 10 \(N.I.\) Sch. 1 para. 8\(1\)](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 9(2) added by [2008 c. 10 \(N.I.\) Sch. 1 para. 8\(4\)](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 5A and cross-heading inserted by [2008 c. 10 \(N.I.\) Sch. 1 para. 5\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 9(1)(ba) inserted by [2008 c. 10 \(N.I.\) Sch. 1 para. 8\(3\)](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 9(1)(za) inserted by [2008 c. 10 \(N.I.\) Sch. 1 para. 8\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 5A(2) modified by [S.R. 2012/428 reg. 3](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 5A(2) modified by [S.R. 2013/190 reg. 2](#)
- Sch. 1 Pt. 1 words substituted by [2008 c. 10 \(N.I.\) Sch. 1 para. 2](#)
- Sch. 1 Pt. 1 para. 10C(5A) omitted by [S.I. 2019/1514 reg. 64\(5\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 1 Pt. 1 para. 10C(5) substituted for Sch. 1 Pt. 1 para. 10C(5)(6) by [S.I. 2019/1514 reg. 64\(4\)](#)
- Sch. 1 Pt. 1 para. 6(5)(b)(i)(ii) substituted for Sch. 1 Pt. 1 para. 6(5)(b)(i)-(iii) by [S.I. 2019/1514 reg. 64\(5\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 1 Pt. 1 para. 5(4) words inserted by [2007 c. 2 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 2\(8\)](#)
- art. 2(3) added by [2008 c. 10 \(N.I.\) Sch. 4 para. 1\(3\)](#)
- art. 4(4)(ba) inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 16](#)
- art. 7(2A) inserted by [S.I. 2015/2006 \(N.I.\) art. 127\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- art. 7(3A)-(3C) inserted by [2023 c. 24 s. 4\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- art. 7(4)(d) and word inserted by [2023 c. 24 s. 4\(2\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#)
- art. 11(2A) inserted by [S.I. 2015/2006 \(N.I.\) art. 126\(1\)](#)
- art. 11(6)(a)(b) and word repealed by [2008 c. 10 \(N.I.\) Sch. 5](#)
- art. 11A inserted by [S.I. 2015/2006 \(N.I.\) art. 128](#)
- art. 16A(3A) inserted by [2008 c. 10 \(N.I.\) s. 27\(1\)](#)
- art. 16A(3A) substituted by [2010 c. 13 \(N.I.\) s. 32\(2\)](#)
- art. 16A(6) added by [2010 c. 13 \(N.I.\) s. 32\(3\)](#)
- art. 19(1)(c) repealed by [2008 c. 10 \(N.I.\) Sch. 5](#)
- art. 22(1)(ba) inserted by [2008 c. 10 \(N.I.\) Sch. 4 para. 1\(5\)](#)
- art. 22(2)(aa) inserted by [2008 c. 10 \(N.I.\) Sch. 4 para. 1\(6\)](#)
- art. 22(2A)-(2C) inserted by [S.I. 2015/2006 \(N.I.\) Sch. 11 para. 2](#)
- art. 22(3A)-(3C) inserted by [S.I. 2015/2006 \(N.I.\) Sch. 11 para. 3](#)
- art. 22(5A) inserted by [2008 c. 10 \(N.I.\) Sch. 4 para. 1\(7\)](#)
- art. 22(7A) inserted by [2008 c. 10 \(N.I.\) Sch. 4 para. 1\(8\)](#)
- art. 27(2)(b) words substituted by [S.I. 2019/1514 reg. 64\(2\)](#)
- art. 27(2)(b) words substituted by [S.I. 2019/1514 reg. 64\(2\)](#)
- art. 28D(2A)(2B) inserted by [2008 c. 10 \(N.I.\) s. 10\(2\)](#)
- art. 28F(4)(a) words repealed by [2008 c. 10 \(N.I.\) Sch. 5](#)
- art. 29(3)(c)(ca) substituted for art. 29(3)(c) by [2010 c. 13 \(N.I.\) s. 31\(2\)](#)
- art. 29(3A) inserted by [2010 c. 13 \(N.I.\) s. 31\(3\)](#)
- art. 29(4)-(7) added by [2008 c. 10 \(N.I.\) s. 12](#)

- art. 29(4)-(7) excluded by S.R. 2016/390 reg. 6(1)
- art. 31(8)(9) substituted for art. 31(8) by 2008 c. 10 (N.I.) s. 13
- art. 32A-32D inserted by 2008 c. 10 (N.I.) s. 14
- art. 32E-32K inserted by 2008 c. 10 (N.I.) s. 15
- art. 32G(1) restricted by SR 1992/390 reg. 25N (as inserted) by S.R. 2009/286 reg. 2
- art. 32H(2)(b) restricted by SR 1992/390 reg. 25N (as inserted) by S.R. 2009/286 reg. 2
- art. 32L inserted by 2008 c. 10 (N.I.) s. 16
- art. 32L(5) words inserted by S.I. 2019/1514 reg. 64(3)
- art. 32M32N inserted by 2008 c. 10 (N.I.) s. 17
- art. 36B-36F inserted by 2008 c. 10 (N.I.) s. 18
- art. 36G-36O inserted by 2008 c. 10 (N.I.) s. 19
- art. 37(2A)-(2C) inserted by 2008 c. 10 (N.I.) s. 20(1)
- art. 37(10)-(10C) substituted for art. 37(10) by 2008 c. 10 (N.I.) s. 20(2)
- art. 37(12) added by 2008 c. 10 (N.I.) Sch. 4 para. 1(14)
- art. 37A(A1)-(A4)(1) substituted for art. 37A(1) by 2008 c. 10 (N.I.) s. 21(1)
- art. 37A(10)-(10C) substituted for art. 37A(10) by 2008 c. 10 (N.I.) s. 21(2)
- art. 37A(12) added by 2008 c. 10 (N.I.) Sch. 4 para. 1(17)
- art. 38A(5)(c)(d) repealed by 2008 c. 10 (N.I.) Sch. 4 para. 1(29)(a)
- art. 38C inserted by 2008 c. 10 (N.I.) s. 22
- art. 38D inserted by 2008 c. 10 (N.I.) s. 23
- art. 38E inserted by 2008 c. 10 (N.I.) s. 24
- art. 39(2)(g) added by 2008 c. 10 (N.I.) s. 28
- art. 40A inserted by 2008 c. 10 (N.I.) s. 29
- art. 41(4)(5) inserted by S.I. 2011/1484 Sch. 7 para. 22
- art. 41(4) omitted by S.I. 2019/519 Sch. para. 20(a)
- art. 41(5) omitted by S.I. 2019/519 Sch. para. 20(b)
- art. 45A inserted by 2008 c. 10 (N.I.) s. 25
- art. 45B45C inserted by 2008 c. 10 (N.I.) s. 30
- art. 45D inserted by 2008 c. 10 (N.I.) s. 31
- art. 46(1A)-(1C) inserted by 2008 c. 10 (N.I.) Sch. 4 para. 1(19)
- art. 47A inserted by 2008 c. 10 (N.I.) s. 32
- art. 47A(6) inserted by S.I. 2015/2006 (N.I.) Sch. 11 para. 4
- art. 48(2B) inserted by 2008 c. 10 (N.I.) Sch. 4 para. 1(22)