
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1995 No. 755

The Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995

PART IV

SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

Children looked after by an authority

General duty of authority

26.—(1) Every authority looking after a child shall—

- (a) safeguard and promote his welfare; and
- (b) make such use of services available for children cared for by their own parents as appears to the authority reasonable in his case.

(2) Before making any decision with respect to a child whom it is looking after, or proposing to look after, an authority shall, so far as is reasonably practicable, ascertain the wishes and feelings of—

- (a) the child;
- (b) his parents;
- (c) any person who is not a parent of his but who has parental responsibility for him; and
- (d) any other persons whose wishes and feelings the authority considers to be relevant,

regarding the matter to be decided.

(3) In making any such decision an authority shall give due consideration—

- (a) having regard to his age and understanding, to such wishes and feelings of the child as the authority has been able to ascertain;
- (b) to such wishes and feelings of any person mentioned in paragraph (2)(b) to (d) as the authority has been able to ascertain; and
- (c) to the child's religious persuasion, racial origin and cultural and linguistic background.

(4) If it appears to an authority that it is necessary, for the purpose of protecting members of the public from serious injury, to exercise its powers with respect to a child whom it is looking after in a manner which may not be consistent with its duties under this Article, the authority may do so.

(5) If the Department considers it necessary, for the purpose of protecting members of the public from serious injury, to give directions to an authority with respect to the exercise of the authority's powers with respect to a child whom it is looking after, the Department may give such directions to the authority.

(6) Where any such directions are given to an authority, it shall comply with them even though doing so is inconsistent with its duties under this Article.

Changes to legislation:

There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- art. 26 power to apply in part (with modifications) or exclude in part conferred by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) s. 52\(1\)\(2\)](#)

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

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

- art. 45(2)(e) words repealed by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 5](#)
- art. 7(2A)(ba) substituted for word by [2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 26\(2\)](#)
- art. 7(2B)(ba) substituted for word by [2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 26\(3\)](#)
- art. 8(4)(ha) applied by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) s. 116](#)
- art. 10(5A) inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 26\(b\)](#)
- art. 10(7A) inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 26\(c\)](#)
- art. 14A?-14F and cross-heading inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) s. 119\(1\)](#)
- art. 14A(7) applied (with modifications) for specified purposes by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) s. 26\(6\)](#)
- art. 14C(1)(b) applied (with modifications) for specified purposes by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) s. 26\(7\)\(a\)](#)
- art. 14C(3)(4) excluded by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) s. 26\(7\)\(b\)](#)
- art. 18(4A) inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) s. 120\(1\)](#)
- art. 18(6)-(6C) substituted for art. 18(6) by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) s. 121\(1\)](#)
- art. 22(3)(aa) inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 29](#)
- art. 26(1A) inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) s. 122\(1\)](#)
- art. 26A inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) s. 123](#)
- art. 27(7A) inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) s. 125\(3\)](#)
- art. 27(8)(c) and word added by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) s. 122\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- art. 27(9A)-(9D) inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) s. 124](#)
- art. 28(4) inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) s. 125\(4\)](#)
- art. 28A inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) s. 126](#)
- art. 28B inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) s. 127](#)
- art. 33(9) added by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 31\(c\)](#)
- art. 34E(1)(d) and word inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 32\(a\)\(iii\)](#)
- art. 34E(3)(4) inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 32\(b\)](#)
- art. 34F(1)(aa) inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 33\(a\)\(i\)](#)
- art. 34F(1A)-(1D) inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 33\(b\)](#)
- art. 34G inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) s. 129](#)
- art. 34AA inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) s. 128\(1\)](#)
- art. 34DA inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) s. 128\(2\)](#)
- art. 34DB34DC inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) s. 128\(3\)](#)
- art. 35(1)-(1B) substituted for art. 35(1) by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 34\(a\)](#)
- art. 35(5)(za) inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 34\(c\)](#)
- art. 35D(1)(aa)(ab) inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) s. 128\(4\)](#)
- art. 35D(1A) inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) s. 130\(1\)](#)
- art. 45(2)(e)(i)(ii) inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) s. 131\(a\)](#)
- art. 45(2)(f)(i)-(iii) inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) s. 131\(b\)](#)
- art. 45(3A)-(3C) inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) s. 130\(4\)](#)
- art. 45(4A) inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) s. 130\(6\)](#)
- art. 45(5A) inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) s. 130\(7\)](#)

- art. 45A?? inserted by 2022 c. 18 (N.I.) s. 132
- art. 50A?? inserted by 2022 c. 18 (N.I.) s. 134(1)
- art. 53(1)(ba) inserted by 2022 c. 18 (N.I.) Sch. 3 para. 38(b)
- art. 53(6A) inserted by 2022 c. 18 (N.I.) s. 135(3)
- art. 53(8)(za) inserted by 2022 c. 18 (N.I.) s. 135(4)
- art. 57(3A) inserted by 2022 c. 18 (N.I.) s. 119(3)
- art. 60(6)(ha) inserted by 2022 c. 18 (N.I.) s. 138
- art. 66(5A) inserted by 2022 c. 18 (N.I.) s. 120(3)
- art. 107(7)(c) added by 2022 c. 18 (N.I.) s. 139(4)
- art. 108(2A) inserted by 2022 c. 18 (N.I.) s. 140(3)
- art. 108(3)(c) and word added by 2022 c. 18 (N.I.) s. 140(4)(c)
- art. 112A inserted by 2022 c. 18 (N.I.) s. 141
- art. 159(1)(c) and word added by 2022 c. 18 (N.I.) s. 119(4)(b)
- art. 165(2)(k) inserted by 2011 c. 24 (N.I.) s. 95(3)
- art. 170(2)-(9A) modified by 2022 c. 18 (N.I.) s. 105(3)
- art. 170(9A) inserted by 2022 c. 18 (N.I.) s. 142
- art. 179(5A) inserted by 2022 c. 18 (N.I.) Sch. 3 para. 42
- art. 181(1) art. 181 renumbered as art. 181 (1) by 2022 c. 18 (N.I.) s, 143(3)
- art. 181(1) words substituted by 2022 c. 18 (N.I.) s. 143(4)
- art. 181(2) added by 2022 c. 18 (N.I.) s. 143(5)
- art. 183(2A) inserted by 2022 c. 18 (N.I.) s. 130(8)