
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1998 No. 2839

The Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 1998

Treatment of offenders

Art. 6 rep. by 2003 c. 42

Art. 6A rep. by 2003 c. 42

Art. 6B rep. by 2003 c. 42

Art. 7 rep. by 2003 c. 42

Drug treatment and testing orders

8.—(1) This Article applies where a person aged 17 or over is convicted of an offence other than one for which the sentence is fixed by law.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Article, the court by or before which the offender is convicted may make an order (a “drug treatment and testing order”) which—

- (a) has effect for a period specified in the order of not less than 6 months nor more than 3 years (“the treatment and testing period”); and
- (b) includes the requirements and provisions mentioned in Article 9.

(3) A drug treatment and testing order shall be a community order for the purposes of Part II of the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 1996; and the provisions of that Part, which include provisions with respect to restrictions on imposing, and procedural requirements for, community sentences (Articles 8 and 9), shall apply accordingly.

(4) The court shall not make a drug treatment and testing order in respect of the offender unless it is satisfied—

- (a) that he is dependent on or has a propensity to misuse drugs; and
- (b) that his dependency or propensity is such as requires and may be susceptible to treatment.

(5) For the purpose of ascertaining for the purposes of paragraph (4) whether the offender has any drug in his body, the court may by order require him to provide samples of such description as it may specify; but the court shall not make such an order unless the offender expresses his willingness to comply with its requirements.

(6) The Secretary of State may by order amend paragraph (2) by substituting a different period for the minimum or maximum period for the time being specified in that paragraph.

(7) An order under paragraph (6) shall be subject to^{F1} negative resolution].

Annotations:

F1 Words in art. 8(7) substituted (12.4.2010) by Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/976), arts. 1(2), 4(3), **Sch. 2 para. 20** (with arts. 28-31); S.I. 2010/977, **art. 1(2)**

Requirements and provisions to be included in orders

9.—(1) A drug treatment and testing order shall include a requirement (“the treatment requirement”) that the offender shall submit, during the whole of the treatment and testing period, to treatment by or under the direction of a specified person having the necessary qualifications or experience (“the treatment provider”) with a view to the reduction or elimination of the offender's dependency on or propensity to misuse drugs.

(2) The required treatment for any particular period shall be—

- (a) treatment (whether as an in-patient or an out-patient) at such hospital as may be specified in the order, being a hospital within the meaning of the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972 approved by the Department of Health and Social Services for the purposes of this paragraph; or
- (b) treatment at such intervals, as may be so specified;

but the nature of the treatment shall not be specified in the order except as mentioned in subparagraph (a) or (b).

(3) A court shall not make a drug treatment and testing order unless it is satisfied that arrangements have been or can be made for the treatment intended to be specified in the order (including arrangements for the reception of the offender where he is to be required to submit to treatment as an in-patient).

(4) A drug treatment and testing order shall include a requirement (“the testing requirement”) that, for the purpose of ascertaining whether he has any drug in his body during the treatment and testing period, the offender shall provide during that period, at such times or in such circumstances as may (subject to the provisions of the order) be determined by the treatment provider, samples of such description as may be so determined.

(5) The testing requirement shall specify for each month the minimum number of occasions on which samples are to be provided.

^{F2}(6)

(7) A drug treatment and testing order shall—

- (a) provide that, for the treatment and testing period, the offender shall be under the supervision of a responsible officer, that is to say, a probation officer;
- (b) require the offender to keep in touch with the responsible officer in accordance with such instructions as he may from time to time be given by that officer, and to notify him of any change of address; and
- (c) provide that the results of the tests carried out on the samples provided by the offender in pursuance of the testing requirement shall be communicated to the responsible officer.

(8) Supervision by the responsible officer shall be carried out to such extent only as may be necessary for the purpose of enabling him—

- (a) to report on the offender's progress to the court responsible for the order;
- (b) to report to that court any failure by the offender to comply with the requirements of the order; and
- (c) to determine whether the circumstances are such that he should apply to that court for the revocation or amendment of the order.

(9) In this Article and Articles 10 and 11, references to the court responsible for a drug treatment and testing order are references to—

- (a) the court by which the order is made; ^{F3}...
- (b)

F⁴(10)

Annotations:

- F2** Art. 9(6) repealed (31.10.2016) by [Justice Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 9\)](#), s. 106(2), Sch. 1 para. 116(1)(a), **Sch. 9 Pt. 1** (with Sch. 8 para. 1); S.R. 2016/387, art. 2(k)(m) (with art. 3)
- F3** Art. 9(9)(b) and preceding word repealed (31.10.2016) by [Justice Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 9\)](#), s. 106(2), Sch. 1 para. 116(1)(b), **Sch. 9 Pt. 1** (with Sch. 8 para. 1); S.R. 2016/387, art. 2(k)(m) (with art. 3)
- F4** Art. 9(10) repealed (31.10.2016) by [Justice Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 9\)](#), s. 106(2), Sch. 1 para. 116(1)(c), **Sch. 9 Pt. 1** (with Sch. 8 para. 1); S.R. 2016/387, art. 2(k)(m) (with art. 3)

Periodic reviews

- 10.—**(1) A drug treatment and testing order shall—
- (a) provide for the order to be reviewed periodically at intervals of not less than one month;
 - (b) provide for each review of the order to be made, subject to paragraph (6), at a hearing held for the purpose by the court responsible for the order (a “review hearing”);
 - (c) require the offender to attend each review hearing;
 - (d) provide for the responsible officer to make to the court, before each review, a report in writing on the offender's progress under the order; and
 - (e) provide for each such report to include the test results communicated to the responsible officer under Article 9(7)(c) and the views of the treatment provider as to the treatment and testing of the offender.
- (2) At a review hearing the court, after considering the responsible officer's report, may amend any requirement or provision of the order.
- (3) The court—
- (a) shall not amend the treatment or testing requirement unless the offender expresses his willingness to comply with the requirement as amended;
 - (b) shall not amend any provision of the order so as to reduce the treatment and testing period below the minimum specified in Article 8(2), or to increase it above the maximum so specified; and
 - (c) except with the consent of the offender, shall not amend any requirement or provision of the order while an appeal against the order is pending.
- (4) If the offender fails to express his willingness to comply with the treatment or testing requirement as proposed to be amended by the court, the court may—
- (a) revoke the order; and
 - (b) deal with him, for the offence in respect of which the order was made, in any manner in which it could deal with him if he had just been convicted by the court of the offence.
- (5) In dealing with the offender under paragraph (4)(b), the court—
- (a) shall take into account the extent to which the offender has complied with the requirements of the order; and
 - (b) may impose a custodial sentence notwithstanding anything in Article 19(2) of the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 1996.
- (6) If at a review hearing the court, after considering the responsible officer's report, is of the opinion that the offender's progress under the order is satisfactory, the court may so amend the order as to provide for each subsequent review to be made by the court without a hearing.

(7) If at a review without a hearing the court, after considering the responsible officer's report, is of the opinion that the offender's progress under the order is no longer satisfactory, the court may require the offender to attend a hearing of the court at a specified time and place.

(8) At that hearing the court, after considering that report, may—

- (a) exercise the powers conferred by this Article as if the hearing were a review hearing; and
- (b) so amend the order as to provide for each subsequent review to be made at a review hearing.

(9) In this Article any reference to the court, in relation to a review without a hearing, shall be construed—

- (a) in the case of the Crown Court, as a reference to a judge of the court;
- (b) in the case of a court of summary jurisdiction, as a reference to a [^{F5}district judge (magistrates' courts)] .

Annotations:

- F5** Words in art. 10(9)(b) substituted (31.10.2016) by [Justice Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 9\), s. 106\(2\), Sch. 1 para. 116\(2\)](#) (with [Sch. 8 para. 1](#)); [S.R. 2016/387, art. 2\(k\)](#) (with [art. 3](#))

Supplementary provisions as to orders

11.—(1) Before making a drug treatment and testing order, a court shall explain to the offender in ordinary language—

- (a) the effect of the order and of the requirements proposed to be included in it;
- (b) the consequences which may follow (under Schedule 2 to the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 1996) if he fails to comply with any of those requirements;
- (c) that the order may be reviewed (under that Schedule) on the application either of the offender or of the responsible officer; and
- (d) that the order will be periodically reviewed at intervals as provided for in the order (by virtue of Article 10);

and the court shall not make the order unless the offender expresses his willingness to comply with its requirements.

(2) Where, in the case of a drug treatment and testing order made by a court of summary jurisdiction, another court is responsible for the order, the court making the order shall forthwith send copies of the order to the other court.

(3) Where a drug treatment and testing order is made or amended under Article 10(2), the court responsible for the order shall forthwith or, in a case falling within paragraph (2), as soon as reasonably practicable give copies of the order, or the order as amended, to a probation officer and he shall give a copy—

- (a) to the offender;
- (b) to the treatment provider; and
- (c) to the responsible officer.

(4) Where a drug treatment and testing order has been made on an appeal brought from a court of summary jurisdiction, or from the Crown Court, or from the Court of Appeal, for the purposes of Articles 9 and 10 it shall be deemed to have been made by a court of summary jurisdiction or, as the case may require, the Crown Court.

(5) Schedule 2 to the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 (enforcement etc. of community orders) shall have effect subject to the amendments specified in Part I of the Schedule being amendments for applying that Schedule to drug treatment and testing orders.

(6) The amendments and repeals of the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 specified in Part II of the Schedule shall have effect, being amendments and repeals consequential upon the provisions of Articles 8 to 11.

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 1998, Cross Heading: Treatment of offenders.