

**1992 No. 390****FAMILY LAW****CHILD SUPPORT****The Child Support (Collection and Enforcement)  
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992***Made . . . . . 2nd September 1992**Coming into operation . . . . . 5th April 1993***ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS****PART I****GENERAL**

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The Department of Health and Social Services, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Articles 29(2) and (3), 31(8), 32(1) to (5) and (7) to (9), 34(1), 36, 37(4)(a)(ii), (8) and (11) and 47 of the Child Support (Northern Ireland) Order 1991(a) and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following regulations:

#### PART I

#### GENERAL

#### *Citation, commencement and interpretation*

1.—(1) These regulations may be cited as the Child Support (Collection and Enforcement) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992 and shall come into operation on 5th April 1993.

(2) In these regulations—

“the Order” means the Child Support (Northern Ireland) Order 1991;

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(a) S.I. 1991/2628 (N.I. 23)

“liable person” means a person liable to make payments of child support maintenance.

- (3) Where under any provision of the Order or of these regulations—
- (a) any document or notice is given or sent to the Department, it shall be treated as having been given or sent on the day it is received by the Department; and
  - (b) any document or notice is given or sent to any other person, it shall, if sent by post to that person’s last known or notified address, be treated as having been given or sent on the second day after the day of posting, excluding any Sunday or any day which is a bank holiday under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971(a).

## PART II

### COLLECTION OF CHILD SUPPORT MAINTENANCE

#### *Payment of child support maintenance*

2. Where a maintenance assessment has been made under the Order and the case is one to which Article 29 of the Order applies, the Department may specify that payments of child support maintenance shall be made by the liable person—

- (a) to the person caring for the child or children in question;
- (b) to, or through, the Department; or
- (c) to, or through, such other person as the Department may specify.

#### *Method of payment*

3.—(1) Payments of child support maintenance shall be made by the liable person by whichever of the following methods the Department specifies as being appropriate in the circumstances—

- (a) by standing order;
- (b) by any other method which requires one person to give his authority for payments to be made from an account of his to an account of another’s on specific dates during the period for which the authority is in force and without the need for any further authority from him;.
- (c) by an arrangement whereby one person gives his authority for payments to be made from an account of his, or on his behalf, to another person or to an account of that other person;
- (d) by cheque or postal order;
- (e) in cash.

(2) The Department may direct a liable person to take all reasonable steps to open an account from which payments under the maintenance assessment may be made in accordance with the method of payment specified under paragraph (1).

*Interval of payment*

4.—(1) The Department shall specify the day and interval by reference to which payments of child support maintenance are to be made by the liable person and may vary such day or interval.

(2) In specifying the day and interval of payment the Department shall have regard to all the circumstances and in particular to—

- (a) the needs of the person entitled to receive payment and the day and interval by reference to which any other income is normally received by that person;
- (b) the day and interval by reference to which the liable person's income is normally received; and
- (c) any period necessary to enable the clearance of cheques or otherwise necessary to enable the transmission of payments to the person entitled to receive them.

*Transmission of payments*

5.—(1) Payments of child support maintenance made through the Department or other specified person shall be transmitted to the person entitled to receive them in whichever of the following ways the Department specifies as being appropriate in the circumstances—

- (a) by a transfer of credit to an account nominated by the person entitled to receive the payments;
- (b) by cheque, girocheque or other payable order;
- (c) in cash.

(2) The Department shall specify the interval by reference to which the payments referred to in paragraph (1) are to be transmitted to the person entitled to receive them.

(3) The interval referred to in paragraph (2) may differ from the interval referred to in regulation 4 and may be varied by the Department.

(4) In specifying the interval for transmission of payments the Department shall have regard to all the circumstances and in particular to—

- (a) the needs of the person entitled to receive payment and the interval by reference to which any other income is normally received by that person;
- (b) any period necessary to enable the clearance of cheques or otherwise necessary to enable the transmission of payments to the person entitled to receive them.

*Representations about payment arrangements*

6. The Department shall, insofar as is reasonably practicable, provide the liable person and the person entitled to receive the payments of child support maintenance with an opportunity to make representations with regard to the matters referred to in regulations 2 to 5 and the Department shall have regard to those representations in exercising its powers under those regulations.

*Notice to liable person as to requirements about payment*

7.—(1) The Department shall send the liable person a notice stating—

- (a) the amount of child support maintenance payable;
- (b) to whom it is to be paid;
- (c) the method of payment; and
- (d) the day and interval by reference to which payments are to be made.

(2) A notice under paragraph (1) shall be sent to the liable person as soon as is reasonably practicable after—

- (a) the making of a maintenance assessment; and
- (b) any change in the requirements referred to in any previous such notice.

## PART III

## DEDUCTION FROM EARNINGS ORDERS

*Interpretation of this Part*

8.—(1) For the purposes of this Part—

- “disposable income” means the amount determined under regulation 12(1) of the Maintenance Assessments and Special Cases Regulations;
- “earnings” shall be construed in accordance with paragraphs (3) and (4);
- “exempt income” means the amount determined under regulation 9 of the Maintenance Assessments and Special Cases Regulations;
- “net earnings” shall be construed in accordance with paragraph (5);
- “normal deduction rate” means the rate specified in a deduction from earnings order (expressed as a sum of money per week, month or other period) at which deductions are to be made from the liable person’s net earnings;
- “pay-day” in relation to a liable person means an occasion on which earnings are paid to him or the day on which such earnings would normally fall to be paid;
- “prescribed minimum amount” means the minimum amount prescribed in regulation 13 of the Maintenance Assessments and Special Cases Regulations;
- “protected earnings rate” means the level of earnings specified in a deduction from earnings order (expressed as a sum of money per week, month or other period) below which deductions of child support maintenance shall not be made for the purposes of this Part;
- “protected income level” means the level of protected income determined in accordance with regulation 11 of the Maintenance Assessments and Special Cases Regulations.

(2) For the purposes of this Part, the relationship of employer and employee shall be treated as subsisting between two persons if one of them, as a principal and not as a servant or agent, pays to the other any sum defined as

earnings under paragraph (1) and “employment”, “employer” and “employee” shall be construed accordingly.

(3) Subject to paragraph (4), “earnings” are any sums payable to a person—

(a) by way of wages or salary (including any fees, bonus, commission, overtime pay or other emoluments payable in addition to wages or salary or payable under a contract of service);

(b) by way of pension (including an annuity in respect of past services, whether or not rendered to the person paying the annuity, and including periodical payments by way of compensation for the loss, abolition or relinquishment, or diminution in the emoluments, of any office or employment);

(c) by way of statutory sick pay.

(4) “Earnings” shall not include—

(a) sums payable by any public department of a territory outside the United Kingdom;

(b) pay or allowances payable to the liable person as a member of Her Majesty’s forces;

(c) pension, allowances or benefit payable under any statutory provision relating to social security;

(d) guaranteed minimum pension within the meaning of the Social Security Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1975(a) provided by an occupational scheme;

(e) pension or allowances payable in respect of disablement or disability.

(5) “Net earnings” means the residue of earnings after deduction of—

(a) income tax;

(b) primary Class 1 contributions under Part I of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992(b); and

(c) amounts deductible by way of contributions to a superannuation scheme which provides for the payment of annuities or lump sums—

(i) to the employee on his retirement at a specified age or on becoming incapacitated at some earlier age, or

(ii) on his death or otherwise, to his personal representative, widow, relatives or dependants.

(6) In this regulation “Maintenance Assessments and Special Cases Regulations” means the Child Support (Maintenance Assessments and Special Cases) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992(c).

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(a) S.I. 1975/1503 (N.I. 15)

(b) 1992 c. 7

(c) S.R. 1992 No. 341

*Deduction from earnings orders*

**9.** A deduction from earnings order shall specify—

- (a) the name and address of the liable person;
- (b) the name of the employer at whom it is directed;
- (c) where known, the liable person's place of work, the nature of his work and any works or pay number;
- (d) the normal deduction rate;
- (e) the protected earnings rate;
- (f) the address to which amounts deducted from earnings are to be sent.

*Normal deduction rate*

**10.**—(1) The period by reference to which the normal deduction rate is set shall be the period by reference to which the liable person's earnings are normally paid or, if none, such other period as the Department may specify.

(2) The Department, in specifying the normal deduction rate, shall not include any amount in respect of arrears or interest if, at the date of making of the current assessment—

- (a) the liable person's disposable income was below the level specified in paragraph (3); or
- (b) the deduction of such an amount from the liable person's disposable income would have reduced his disposable income below the level specified in paragraph (3).

(3) The level referred to in paragraph (2) is the liable person's protected income level less the prescribed minimum amount.

*Protected earnings rate*

**11.**—(1) The period by reference to which the protected earnings rate is set shall be the same as the period by reference to which the normal deduction rate is set under regulation 10(1).

(2) The amount to be specified as the protected earnings rate in respect of any period shall be an amount equal to the liable person's exempt income in respect of that period as calculated at the date of the current assessment.

*Amount to be deducted by employer*

**12.**—(1) Subject to the provisions of this regulation, an employer who has been served with a copy of a deduction from earnings order in respect of a liable person in his employment shall, each pay-day, make a deduction from the net earnings of that liable person of an amount equal to the normal deduction rate.

(2) Where the deduction of the normal deduction rate would reduce the liable person's net earnings below the protected earnings rate the employer shall deduct only such amount as will leave the liable person with net earnings equal to the protected earnings rate.

(3) Where the liable person receives a payment of earnings at an interval greater or lesser than the intervals specified in relation to the normal deduction

rate and the protected earnings rate (“the specified interval”) the employer shall, for the purpose of such payments take as the normal deduction rate and the protected earnings rate such amounts (to the nearest whole penny) as are in the same proportion to the interval since the last pay-day as the normal deduction rate and the protected earnings rate bear to the specified interval.

(4) Where, on any pay-day, the employer fails to deduct an amount due under the deduction from earnings order or deducts an amount less than the amount of the normal deduction rate the shortfall shall, subject to paragraph (2), be deducted in addition to the normal deduction rate at the next available pay-day or days.

(5) Where, on any pay-day, the liable person’s net earnings are less than his protected earnings rate the amount of the difference shall be carried forward to his next pay-day and treated as part of his protected earnings in respect of that pay-day.

(6) Where, on any pay-day, an employer makes a deduction from the earnings of a liable person in accordance with the deduction from earnings order he may also deduct an amount not exceeding £1 in respect of his administrative costs and such deduction for administrative costs may be made notwithstanding that it may reduce the liable person’s net earnings below the protected earnings rate.

#### *Employer to notify liable person of deduction*

**13.**—(1) An employer making a deduction from earnings for the purposes of this Part shall notify the liable person in writing of the amount of the deduction, including any amount deducted for administrative costs under regulation 12(6).

(2) Such notification shall be given not later than the pay-day on which the deduction is made or, where that is impracticable, not later than the following pay-day.

#### *Payment by employer to the Department*

**14.**—(1) Amounts deducted by an employer under a deduction from earnings order (other than any administrative costs deducted under regulation 12(6)) shall be paid to the Department by the 19th day of the month following the month in which the deduction is made.

(2) Such payment may be made—

(a) by cheque;

(b) by automated credit transfer; or

(c) by such other method as the Department may specify.

#### *Information to be provided by liable person*

**15.**—(1) The Department may, in relation to the making or operation of a deduction from earnings order, require the liable person to provide the following details—

(a) the name and address of his employer;

(b) the amount of his earnings and anticipated earnings;



- (c) his place of work, the nature of his work and any works or pay number,

and it shall be the duty of the liable person to comply with any such requirement within 7 days of being given written notice to that effect.

(2) A liable person in respect of whom a deduction from earnings order is in force, shall notify the Department in writing within 7 days of every occasion on which he leaves employment or becomes employed or re-employed.

*Duty of employers and others to notify the Department*

**16.**—(1) Where a deduction from earnings order is served on a person on the assumption that he is the employer of a liable person but the liable person to whom that order relates is not in his employment, the person on whom the order was served shall notify the Department of that fact in writing, at the address specified in the order, within 10 days of the date of service on him of the order.

(2) Where an employer is required to operate a deduction from earnings order and the liable person to whom the order relates ceases to be in his employment the employer shall notify the Department of that fact in writing, at the address specified in the order, within 10 days of the liable person ceasing to be in his employment.

(3) Where an employer becomes aware that a deduction from earnings order is in force in relation to a person who is an employee of his he shall, within 7 days of the date on which he became aware, notify the Department of that fact in writing at the address specified in the order.

*Requirement to review deduction from earnings orders*

**17.** The Department shall review a deduction from earnings order in the following circumstances—

- (a) where there is a change in the amount of the maintenance assessment;
- (b) where any arrears and interest on arrears payable under the order are paid off.

*Power to vary deductions from earnings orders*

**18.**—(1) The Department may (whether on a review under regulation 17 or otherwise) vary a deduction from earnings order so as to—

- (a) include an amount which may be included in such an order or exclude or decrease any such amount;
- (b) substitute a subsequent employer for the employer at whom the order was previously directed.

(2) The Department shall serve a copy of any deduction from earnings order, as varied, on the liable person's employer and on the liable person.

*Compliance with deduction from earnings orders as varied*

**19.**—(1) Where a deduction from earnings order has been varied and a copy of the order as varied has been served on the liable person's employer it

shall, subject to paragraph (2), be the duty of the employer to comply with the order as varied.

(2) The employer shall not be under any liability for non-compliance with the order as varied, before the end of the period of 7 days beginning with the date on which a copy of the order, as varied was served on him.

#### *Discharge of deduction from earnings orders*

**20.**—(1) The Department may discharge a deduction from earnings order where—

- (a) no further payments under it are due; or
- (b) it appears to the Department that the order is ineffective or that some other way of securing that payments are made would be more effective.

(2) The Department shall give written notice of the discharge of the deduction from earnings order to the liable person and to the liable person's employer.

#### *Lapse of deduction from earnings orders*

**21.**—(1) A deduction from earnings order shall lapse (except in relation to any deductions made or to be made in respect of the employment not yet paid to the Department) when the employer at whom it is directed ceases to have the liable person in his employment.

(2) The order shall lapse from the pay-day coinciding with, or, if none, the pay-day following, the termination of the employment.

(3) A deduction from earnings order which has lapsed under this regulation shall nonetheless be treated as remaining in force for the purposes of regulations 15 and 24.

(4) Where a deduction from earnings order has lapsed under paragraph (1) and the liable person recommences employment (whether with the same or another employer), the order may be revived from such date as may be specified by the Department.

(5) Where a deduction from earnings order is revived under paragraph (4), the Department shall give written notice of that fact to, and serve a copy of the notice on, the liable person and the liable person's employer.

(6) Where an order is revived under paragraph (4), no amount shall be carried forward under regulation 12(4) or (5) from a time prior to the revival of the order.

#### *Appeals against deduction from earnings orders*

**22.**—(1) A liable person in respect of whom a deduction from earnings order has been made may appeal to a court of summary jurisdiction.

(2) Any appeal shall be made within 28 days of the date on which the matter appealed against arose.

(3) An appeal may be made only on one or both of the following grounds—

- (a) that the deduction from earnings order is defective;
  - (b) that the payments in question do not constitute earnings.
- (4) Upon the hearing of such an appeal the court may—
- (a) quash the deduction from earnings order; or
  - (b) specify which, if any, of the payments in question do not constitute earnings.

#### *Crown employment*

23. Where a liable person is in the employment of the Crown and a deduction from earnings order is made in respect of him then for the purposes of this Part—

- (a) the chief officer for the time being of the department, office or other body in which the liable person is employed shall be treated as having the liable person in his employment (any transfer of the liable person from one department, office or body to another being treated as a change of employment); and
- (b) any earnings paid by the Crown or a minister of the Crown, or out of the public revenue of the United Kingdom or Northern Ireland, shall be treated as paid by that chief officer.

#### *Priority as between orders*

24.—(1) Where an employer would, but for this paragraph, be obliged, on any pay-day, to make deductions under two or more deduction from earnings orders he shall—

- (a) deal with the orders according to the respective dates on which they were made, disregarding any later order until an earlier one has been dealt with;
- (b) deal with any later order as if the earnings to which it relates were the residue of the liable person's earnings after the making of any deduction to comply with any earlier order.

(2) Where an employer would, but for this paragraph, be obliged to comply with one or more deduction from earnings orders and one or more attachment of earnings orders he shall—

- (a) in the case of an attachment of earnings order which was made either wholly or in part in respect of the payment of a judgment debt or payments under an administration order, deal first with the deduction from earnings order or orders and thereafter with the attachment of earnings order as if the earnings to which it relates were the residue of the liable person's earnings after the making of deductions to comply with the deduction from earnings order or orders;
- (b) in the case of any other attachment of earnings order, deal with the orders according to the respective dates on which they were made in like manner as under paragraph (1).

(3) In this regulation "attachment of earnings order" means an order made under Articles 100 to 108 of the Magistrates' Courts (Northern Ireland)

Order 1981(a) and Articles 73 to 79 and 97 to 105 of the Judgments Enforcement (Northern Ireland) Order 1981(b).

### *Offences*

25. The following regulations are designated for the purposes of Article 32(8) of the Order (regulations about deduction from earnings orders)—

- (a) regulation 15(1) and (2);
- (b) regulation 16(1), (2) and (3);
- (c) regulation 19(1).

## PART IV

### LIABILITY ORDERS

#### *Notice of intention to apply for a liability order*

26.—(1) The Department shall give the liable person at least 7 days' notice of its intention to apply for a liability order under Article 33(2) of the Order.

(2) Such notice shall set out the amount of child support maintenance which it is claimed has become payable by the liable person and has not been paid and the amount of any interest in respect of arrears payable under Article 38(3) of the Order(c).

(3) Payment by the liable person of any part of the amounts referred to in paragraph (2) shall not require the giving of a further notice under paragraph (1) prior to the making of the application.

#### *Application for a liability order*

27.—(1) An application for a liability order shall be instituted by making complaint in accordance with Part VIII of the Magistrates' Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 (civil proceedings upon complaint).

(2) Notwithstanding Article 78 of that Order, an application under paragraph (1) may be instituted not more than 6 years after the day on which payment of the amount in question became due.

#### *Liability orders*

28.—(1) A liability order shall be made in the form prescribed in Schedule 1.

(2) Any liability order made by a court in England or Wales or any liability order made by the sheriff in Scotland may, subject to paragraph (3), be enforced in Northern Ireland as if it had been made by a court of summary jurisdiction in Northern Ireland.

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(a) S.I. 1981/1675 (N.I. 26)

(b) S.I. 1981/226 (N.I. 6)

(c) See The Child Support (Arrears, Interest and Adjustment of Maintenance Assessments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992. (S.R. 1992 No. 342)

(3) Any liability order made by a court in England or Wales or any liability order made by the sheriff in Scotland shall not be enforced in Northern Ireland unless registered in accordance with the provisions of Part II of the Maintenance Orders Act 1950(a) and for this purpose—

- (a) any liability order made by a court in England or Wales shall be treated as if it were an order to which section 16(2)(a) of that Act applies (order for alimony, maintenance or other payments);
- (b) any liability order made by the sheriff in Scotland shall be treated as if it were a decree to which section 16(2)(b) of that Act applies (decree for payment of aliment).

#### *Application for warrant of commitment*

**29.**—(1) For the purposes of enabling an inquiry to be made under Article 37 of the Order as to the liable person's conduct and means, a justice of the peace upon complaint may—

- (a) issue a summons for the appearance of the liable person before a court of summary jurisdiction and (if he does not obey the summons) issue a warrant for his arrest; or
- (b) issue a warrant for his arrest without issuing a summons.

(2) A warrant shall not be issued under paragraph (1) unless the complaint is in writing and substantiated on oath.

(3) In any proceedings under Article 37 of the Order, a statement in writing to the effect that wages of any amount have been paid to the liable person during any period, purporting to be signed by or on behalf of his employer, shall be evidence of the facts there stated.

(4) Where an application under Article 37 of the Order has been made but no warrant of commitment is issued or term of imprisonment fixed, the application may be renewed on the ground that the circumstances of the liable person have changed.

#### *Warrant of commitment*

**30.**—(1) A warrant of commitment shall be in the form specified in Schedule 2, or in a form to the like effect.

(2) The amount to be included in the warrant under Article 37(4)(a)(ii) of the Order in respect of costs shall be such amount as in the view of the court is equal to the costs reasonably incurred by the Department in respect of the costs of commitment.

(3) Where, after the issue of a warrant, part-payment of the amount stated in it is made, the period of imprisonment shall be reduced proportionately so that for the period of imprisonment specified in the warrant there shall be substituted a period of imprisonment of such number of days as bears the same proportion to the number of days specified in the warrant as the amount remaining unpaid under the warrant bears to the amount specified in the warrant.

(4) Where the part-payment is of such an amount as would, under paragraph (3), reduce the period of imprisonment to such number of days as have already been served (or would be so served in the course of the day of payment), the period of imprisonment shall be reduced to the period already served plus one day.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Health and Social Services on 2nd September 1992.

(L.S.)

*A. N. Burns*

Assistant Secretary

**Liability Order Prescribed Form**

Article 33 OF THE CHILD SUPPORT (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1991 AND  
REGULATION 28(1) OF THE CHILD SUPPORT (COLLECTION AND ENFORCEMENT)  
REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1992

Liability Order

of  
Complainant Petty Sessions District of

of  
Defendant County Court Division of

By the Magistrates' Court sitting at on 19 .

IT APPEARING that the sums specified below are due from the defendant under the Child Support (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 and Part IV of the Child Support (Collection and Enforcement) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992 and are outstanding.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the defendant is liable to pay the aggregate amount specified below.

Sum payable and outstanding —	Child support maintenance	...
	interest	...
	other periodical payments collected by virtue of Article 30 of the Child Support (Northern Ireland) Order 1991	...

Aggregate amount in respect of which the liability order is made ...

Issued on the day of 19 .

Clerk of Petty Sessions

**Form of Warrant of Commitment**

ARTICLE 37 OF THE CHILD SUPPORT (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1991 AND  
REGULATION 30 OF THE CHILD SUPPORT (COLLECTION AND ENFORCEMENT)  
REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1992

Warrant of Commitment

of

Petty Sessions District of

Complainant

of

County Court Division of

Defendant

WHEREAS upon the hearing of a complaint a liability order was duly made against the above-named defendant on \_\_\_\_\_ by a Magistrates' Court sitting at \_\_\_\_\_ in respect of an amount of £ \_\_\_\_\_ ;

AND WHEREAS the Department of Health and Social Services sought to enforce the liability order through the Enforcement of Judgments Office but that such amount, or any portion of it, remains unpaid;

AND WHEREAS having enquired in the defendant's presence as to his means and whether there has been wilful refusal or culpable neglect on his part, the court being satisfied that there has been wilful refusal or culpable neglect on his part the court ordered that the defendant be imprisoned for the period of \_\_\_\_\_

THIS IS THEREFORE TO COMMAND YOU, to whom this warrant is addressed to convey the defendant to HM Prison [Young Offenders Centre] at \_\_\_\_\_ and this is also to command you, the Governor of the said Prison [Young Offenders Centre] to receive the defendant into the said Prison [Young Offenders Centre] and to imprison [detain] him there for the period of \_\_\_\_\_ unless the above sum and costs [and warrant fee] be sooner paid and satisfied\*.

And for this the present warrant shall be a sufficient authority to all whom it may concern.

This warrant is made in respect of—  
Amount outstanding (including any interest, costs and charges):  
Costs of commitment of the Department:  
Aggregate amount:

This            day of            19

Resident Magistrate  
[Clerk of Petty Sessions]

To the Superintendent of the Royal Ulster Constabulary at

\*Note The period of imprisonment will be reduced as provided by regulation 30(3) and (4) of the Child Support (Collection and Enforcement) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992 if part-payment is made of the aggregate amount.



## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Regulations.)*

These Regulations make provision in relation to the collection and enforcement of child support maintenance under the Child Support (Northern Ireland) Order 1991.

Part I contains interpretation provisions and provisions relating to the service and receipt of notices and other documents.

Part II (regulations 2 to 7) deals with the collection of child support maintenance and, in particular, makes provision in relation to the method and interval of payment and the notification of such matters to the liable person.

Part III (regulations 8 to 25) makes provision in relation to deduction from earnings orders under which payments in respect of child support maintenance are to be deducted by employers from the earnings of liable persons. Regulation 25 creates offences where certain of the requirements are contravened.

Part IV (regulations 26 to 30) and Schedules 1 and 2 make provision in relation to the obtaining of liability orders in courts of summary jurisdiction and in relation to the enforcement of those orders by commitment to prison.

Articles 29(2) and (3), 31(8), 32(1) to (5) and (7) to (9), 34(1), 36, 37(4)(a)(ii), (8) and (11) and 47 of the Child Support (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 are the enabling provisions under which these regulations are made. They are brought into operation on 18th June 1992 by the Child Support (1991 Order) (Commencement No. 1) Order (Northern Ireland) 1992 (S.R. 1992 No. 278 (C. 13)).