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STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

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**2003 No. 405**

**The Social Security (Work-focused Interviews for Partners) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003**

**Citation, commencement and interpretation**

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Social Security (Work-focused Interviews for Partners) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 and shall come into operation on 12th April 2004.

(2) In these Regulations –

“the 1998 Order” means the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Order 1998(1);

“benefit week” means any period of 7 days corresponding to the week in respect of which the relevant specified benefit is due to be paid;

“claimant” means a claimant of a specified benefit who has a partner to whom these Regulations apply;

“interview” means a work-focused interview with a partner which is conducted for any or all of the following purposes –

- (a) assessing the partner’s prospects for existing or future employment (whether paid or voluntary);
- (b) assisting or encouraging the partner to enhance his prospects of such employment;
- (c) identifying activities which the partner may undertake to strengthen his existing or future prospects of employment;
- (d) identifying current or future employment or training opportunities suitable to the partner’s needs, and
- (e) identifying educational opportunities connected with the existing or future employment prospects or needs of the partner;

“officer” means an officer of the Department or of the Department for Employment and Learning;

“partner” means a person who is member of the same couple as the claimant, or, in a case where the claimant has more than one partner, a person who is a partner of the claimant by reason of a polygamous marriage, but only where –

- (a) the claimant has been awarded a specified benefit at a higher rate referable to that partner, and
- (b) both the partner and the claimant have attained the age of 18 but have not attained the age of 60;

“polygamous marriage” means any marriage during the subsistence of which a party to it is married to more than one person and the ceremony of marriage took place under the law of a country which permits polygamy;

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*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally made). This item of legislation is currently only available in its original format.*

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“specified benefit” means a benefit to which section 2AA of the Social Security Administration (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 applies.

(3) Regulations 2 to 12 apply to a partner in circumstances where on or after 12th April 2004 the claimant’s award of a specified benefit is being administered from an office of the Department which is designated by the Department as a Jobs and Benefits Office<sup>(2)</sup> and the claimant has been continuously entitled to the benefit for 26 weeks or longer.

(4) The Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954<sup>(3)</sup> shall apply to these Regulations as it applies to an Act of the Assembly.

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(2) A list of offices designated as Jobs and Benefits Offices is available from the following address: Department for Social Development, Social Security Agency, Operations Support Directorate, 2nd Floor, Churchill House, Victoria Square, Belfast BT1 4SS

(3) [1954 c. 33 \(N.I.\)](#)