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STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

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**2015 No. 92**

**The Statutory Paternity Pay and Statutory Adoption Pay (Parental Orders and Prospective Adopters) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

**PART 1**

**GENERAL**

**Citation and commencement**

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Statutory Paternity Pay and Statutory Adoption Pay (Parental Orders and Prospective Adopters) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and come into operation on 15th March 2015.

**Interpretation**

2. In these Regulations—

“Administration Regulations” means the Statutory Paternity Pay and Statutory Adoption Pay (Administration) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2002(1);

“parental order parent” means a person on whose application the court has made a parental order(2) in relation to a child;

“Pay Regulations” means the Statutory Paternity Pay and Statutory Adoption Pay (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2002(3).

3.—(1) The amendments made in Part 2 and 4 of these Regulations have effect only in relation to children matched with a person who is notified of having been matched on or after 5th April 2015.

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1)—

(a) a person is matched with a child for adoption when an adoption agency decides that that person would be a suitable adoptive parent for the child;

(b) in a case where sub-paragraph (a) applies, a person is notified as having been matched with a child on the date that person receives notification of the agency’s decision, under regulation 11(2)(d) of the Adoption Agencies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1989(4), regulation 33(3)(a) of the Adoption Agencies Regulations 2005(5), regulation 28(3) of the Adoption Agencies (Wales) Regulations 2005(6) or regulation 8(5) of the Adoption Agencies (Scotland) Regulations 2009(7);

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(1) S.R. 2002 No. 379.

(2) “Parental order” is defined by sections 167ZB(7) and 167ZL(8A) of 1992 c. 7, as modified by S.R. 2015 No. 90.

(3) S.R. 2002 No. 378; amended by S.R. 2004 No. 132, S.R. 2005 No. 167 and S.R. 2015 No. 89.

(4) S.R. 1989 No. 253.

(5) S.I. 2005/389.

(6) S.I. 2005/1313.

- (c) a person is matched with a child where each of the following conditions is met—
- (i) that person is an approved foster parent and an approved prospective adopter, and the child is, or is expected to be, placed by the authority<sup>(8)</sup> with that person under Article 27(2)(a) of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995<sup>(9)</sup>;
  - (ii) the authority—
    - (aa) is considering adoption for the child, or
    - (bb) is satisfied that adoption is in the best interests of the child, and
  - (iii) the authority is considering whether that person would be a suitable adoptive parent for that child;
- (d) in a case where sub-paragraph (c) applies, a person is notified as having been matched with a child on the date that that person receives notification from the authority that the conditions in that paragraph have been met;
- (e) a person is also matched with a child for adoption when a decision has been made in accordance with regulation 22A of the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010<sup>(10)</sup> and an adoption agency has identified that person with whom the child is to be placed in accordance with regulation 12B of the Adoption Agencies Regulations 2005<sup>(11)</sup>;
- (f) in a case where sub-paragraph (e) applies, a person is notified as having been matched with a child on the date on which that person receives notification in accordance with regulation 12B(2)(a) of the Adoption Agencies Regulations 2005.
- (3) In paragraph (2) “adoption agency” has the meaning given—
- (a) in relation to Northern Ireland, by Article 3(3) of the Adoption (Northern Ireland) Order 1987<sup>(12)</sup>;
  - (b) in relation to England and Wales, by section 2 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002<sup>(13)</sup>; and
  - (c) in relation to Scotland, by section 119(1) of the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007<sup>(14)</sup>.

## PART 2

### AMENDMENT OF THE PAY REGULATIONS

4.—(1) Regulation 2 (interpretation) of the Pay Regulations is amended as follows.

(2) For paragraph (2) substitute—

“(2) For the purposes of these Regulations—

- (a) a person is matched with a child for adoption when an adoption agency decides that that person would be a suitable adoptive parent for the child;

(7) S.S.I. 2009/154.

(8) “Approved foster parent”, “approved prospective adopter” and “authority” are defined, in relation to statutory paternity pay: adoption and statutory adoption pay, respectively, in sections 167ZBA(5) and 167ZLA(5) of 1992 c. 7, as inserted by 2015 c. 1 (N.I.), section 9(2) and (4).

(9) S.I. 1995/755 (N.I. 2).

(10) S.I. 2010/959; amended for relevant purposes by S.I. 2014/1556.

(11) Regulation 12B was inserted by S.I. 2014/1556.

(12) S.I. 1987/2203 (N.I. 22); Article 3(3) was amended by S.I. 1994/429 (N.I. 2).

(13) 2002 c. 38.

(14) 2007 asp 4.

- (b) in a case where sub-paragraph (a) applies, a person is notified as having been matched with a child on the date that person receives notification of the agency's decision, under regulation 11(2)(d) of the Adoption Agencies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1989, 33(3)(a) of the Adoption Agencies Regulations 2005<sup>(15)</sup>, regulation 28(3) of the Adoption Agencies (Wales) Regulations 2005 or regulation 8(5) of the Adoption Agencies (Scotland) Regulations 2009;
  - (c) a person is also matched with a child where each of the following conditions is met—
    - (i) that person is an approved foster parent and an approved prospective adopter, and the child is, or is expected to be, placed by the authority with that person under Article 27(2)(a) of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995;
    - (ii) the authority—
      - (aa) is considering adoption for the child; or
      - (bb) is satisfied that adoption is in the best interests of the child, and
    - (iii) the authority is considering whether that person would be a suitable adoptive parent for that child;
  - (d) in a case where sub-paragraph (c) applies, a person is notified of being matched with a child on the date on which that person receives notification from the authority that the conditions in that sub-paragraph have been met;
  - (e) a person is also matched with a child for adoption when a decision has been made in accordance with regulation 22A of the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 and an adoption agency has identified that person with whom the child is to be placed in accordance with regulation 12B of the Adoption Agencies Regulations 2005;
  - (f) in a case where sub-paragraph (e) applies, a person is notified as having been matched with a child on the date on which that person receives notification in accordance with regulation 12B(2)(a) of the Adoption Agencies Regulations 2005.”.
- (3) After paragraph (2), as substituted by this regulation, insert—
- “(3) A reference (however expressed) in these Regulations to “placed for adoption” means—
- (a) placed for adoption by virtue of regulation 12 of the Adoption Agencies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1989;
  - (b) placed by an authority with a person who is an approved foster parent who is also an approved prospective adopter where the authority—
    - (i) is considering adoption for the child, or
    - (ii) is satisfied that adoption is in the best interests of the child,and is considering whether that person would be a suitable adoptive parent for that child;
  - (c) placed for adoption under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 or the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007; or
  - (d) placed in accordance with section 22C of the Children Act 1989<sup>(16)</sup> with a local authority foster parent who is also a prospective adopter.

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<sup>(15)</sup> S.I. 2005/389.

<sup>(16)</sup> 1989 c. 41; section 22C was inserted by section 8(1) of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 (c. 23).

(4) In paragraph (3)(d)—

“the local authority foster parent” means a person approved as a local authority foster parent in accordance with regulations made by virtue of paragraph 12F of Schedule 2 to the Children Act 1989;

“the prospective adopter” means a person who has been approved as suitable to adopt a child and has been notified of that decision in accordance with regulation 30B(4) of the Adoption Agencies Regulations 2005.”

5.—(1) Regulation 22 (adoption pay period in cases where adoption is disrupted) of the Pay Regulations is amended as follows.

(2) Paragraph (1)(a)(ii) is substituted by—

“(ii) the child is returned after being placed, or”.

(3) After paragraph (4) insert—

“(5) In paragraph (1) “returned after being placed” means—

- (a) returned to the authority under Article 31(3) of the Adoption (Northern Ireland) Order 1987;
- (b) where the child is placed for adoption in the circumstances described in paragraph (b) of the definition of “placed for adoption” in regulation 2(3), returned to the authority following termination of the placement;
- (c) returned to the adoption agency under sections 31 to 35 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002;
- (d) in Scotland, returned to the adoption agency, adoption society or nominated person in accordance with section 25(6) of the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007; or
- (e) where the child is placed in accordance with section 22C of the Children Act 1989, returned to the adoption agency following termination of the placement.”

## PART 3

### APPLICATION AND MODIFICATION OF THE PAY REGULATIONS IN PARENTAL ORDER CASES

#### **Application of the Pay Regulations to intended parents and parental order parents**

6.—(1) The provisions of the Pay Regulations in so far as they apply to statutory paternity pay (adoption) and statutory adoption pay shall apply to an intended parent<sup>(17)</sup> or a parental order parent with the modifications set out in this Part of these Regulations.

(2) In this regulation—

“statutory adoption pay” means statutory adoption pay payable in accordance with the provisions of Part 12ZB of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992;

“statutory paternity pay (adoption)” means statutory paternity pay payable in accordance with the provisions of Part 12ZA of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 where the conditions specified in section 167ZB(2) of that Act are satisfied.

(17) “Intended parent” is defined in sections 167ZB and 167ZL of 1992 c. 7, as modified by S.R. 2015 No. 90.

7. In regulation 2 (interpretation) of the Pay Regulations as they apply to an intended parent or a parental order parent—

(a) paragraph (1) shall read as if—

(i) the definition of “adopter” were omitted;

(ii) there were the following definitions—

““Parent A” in relation to a child means the intended parent or parental order parent who has elected to be Parent A;

“parental order parent” means a person on whose application the court has made an order in respect of the child under section 54(1) of the Human Fertilization and Embryology Act 2008<sup>(18)</sup>;

“statutory shared parental pay” means statutory shared parental pay payable in accordance with Part 12ZC of the Act<sup>(19)</sup>.”;

(b) paragraph (2) shall apply as if that paragraph read—

“(2) An intended parent or a parental order parent elects to be Parent A in relation to a child if that person (A) agrees with the other intended parent or parental order parent of the child (B) that A and not B will be parent A.”.

8. In regulation 3 (application) of the Pay Regulations as they apply an intended parent or a parental order parent—

(a) paragraph (1)(b) shall read as if sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii) were omitted and replaced by—

“whose expected week of birth begins on or after 5th April 2015”.

(b) paragraph (2) shall read as if sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) were omitted and replaced by—

“whose expected week of birth begins on or after 5th April 2015”.

9. In regulation 11 (conditions of entitlement) of the Pay Regulations as they apply to an intended parent or a parental order parent—

(a) paragraph (1) shall apply as if sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) were omitted and replaced by—

“(a) is an intended parent or parental order parent in relation to the child;

(b) is married to, the civil partner or the partner of Parent A; and

(c) has or expects to have the main responsibility for the upbringing of the child (apart from the responsibility of Parent A).”

(b) paragraph (2) shall read as if the words “the adopter” in both places where those words occur were “Parent A”;

(c) paragraph (2A)<sup>(20)</sup> shall read as if the words “the adopter” and “the adopter’s” were respectively “Parent A” and “Parent A’s”.

10. Regulation 11A<sup>(21)</sup> (notice of entitlement to statutory paternity pay (adoption)) of the Pay Regulations as they apply to an intended parent or a parental order parent shall apply as if paragraphs (a) and (b) read—

“(a) in or before the 15th week before the expected week of the child’s birth; or

(b) in a case where it was not reasonably practicable for the employee to give the notice in accordance with paragraph (a), as soon as reasonably practicable.”.

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<sup>(18)</sup> 2008 c. 22.

<sup>(19)</sup> Part 12ZC was inserted by 2015 c. 1, section 5(2).

<sup>(20)</sup> Inserted by S.R. 2004 No. 132, regulation 2(2)(b).

<sup>(21)</sup> Inserted by S.R. 2015 No. 89, regulation 7.

**11.** In regulation 12 (period of payment of statutory paternity pay (adoption)) of the Pay Regulations as they apply to an intended parent or a parental order parent—

(a) paragraph (1) shall apply as if that paragraph read—

“(1) Subject to regulation 14, a person entitled to statutory paternity pay (adoption) may choose the statutory pay period to begin—

- (a) on the date on which the child is born or, where the person is at work on that day, the following day;
- (b) the date falling such number of days after the date on which the child is born as the person may specify; or
- (c) a predetermined date, specified by the person which is later than the expected week of the child’s birth.”;

(b) paragraph (2) shall not apply;

(c) paragraph (4)(22) shall apply as if sub-paragraphs (a) to (c) read—

“(a) where the variation is to provide for the employee’s statutory paternity pay period to begin on the date on which the child is born, or where the employee is at work on that day, the following day, at least 28 days before the first day of the expected week of the child’s birth,

(b) where the variation is to provide for the employee’s statutory paternity pay period to begin on a date that is a specified number of days (or a different specified number of days) after the date on which the child is born, at least 28 days before the date falling that number of days after the first day of the expected week of the child’s birth,

(c) where the variation is to provide for the employee’s statutory paternity pay period to begin on a predetermined date (or a different predetermined date), at least 28 days before that date, ”.

**12.** In regulation 13 (additional notice requirements for statutory paternity pay (adoption)) of the Pay Regulations as they apply to an intended parent or a parental order parent—

(a) paragraph (1) shall read as if the words “the date on which the placement occurred” were “the date on which the child was born”;

(b) paragraph (2) shall read as if the words “is placed for adoption” were “is born”.

**13.** In regulation 14 (qualifying period for statutory paternity pay (adoption)) of the Pay Regulations as they apply to an intended parent or a parental order parent shall read as if the words “of 56 days” to the end were omitted and replaced by—

“which begins on the date of the child’s birth and ends—

- (a) except in the case referred to in paragraph (b), 56 days after that date;
- (b) in a case where the child is born before the first day of the expected week of its birth, 56 days after that day.”.

**14.** In regulation 15 (evidence of entitlement for statutory paternity pay (adoption)) of the Pay Regulations as they apply to an intended parent or a parental order parent—

(a) paragraph (2)(b) shall apply as if that paragraph read—

“(b) the expected week of the child’s birth;”;

(b) paragraph (2)(e) shall apply as if that paragraph read—

“(e) the date on which the child was born”;

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(22) Substituted by [S.R. 2015 89](#), regulation 8.

(c) paragraph (3) shall apply as if sub-paragraphs (a) and (b)(23) read—

“(a) in or before the 15th week before the expected week of the child’s birth;

(b) in a case where it was not reasonably practicable for the employee to provide it in accordance with sub-paragraph (a), as soon as reasonably practicable.”;

(d) paragraph (4) shall read as if the words “child’s placement” were “child’s birth”.

**15.** In regulation 16 (entitlement to statutory paternity pay (adoption) where there is more than one employer) of the Pay Regulations as they apply to an intended parent or a parental order parent, paragraph (b) shall read as if the words “in which the adopter is notified of being matched with the child” were “immediately preceding the 14th week before the expected week of the child’s birth”.

**16.** In regulation 20 (avoidance of liability for statutory paternity pay) of the Pay Regulations as they apply to an intended parent or a parental order parent, paragraph (2)(a) shall read as if the words “or, as the case may be, the placement of the child for adoption” were omitted.

**17.—(1)** In regulation 21 (adoption pay period) of the Pay Regulations as they apply to an intended parent or a parental order parent, paragraph (1) shall read as if that paragraph read—

“(1) The adoption pay period in respect of a person entitled to statutory adoption pay shall begin on the day on which the child is born or, where the person is at work on that day, the following day.”.

(2) Paragraph (2), (3), (4) and (6) shall not apply.

**18.** In regulation 22 (adoption pay period in cases where adoption is disrupted) of the Pay Regulations as they apply to an intended parent or a parental order parent—

(a) paragraph (1) shall apply as if that paragraph read—

“(1) The adoption pay period shall terminate in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (2) where—

(a) the child dies;

(b) the person entitled to statutory adoption pay does not apply for a parental order in respect of the child within the time limit set in section 54(3) of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008; or

(c) the person’s application for a parental order in respect of the child is refused, withdrawn or otherwise terminated and any time limit for an appeal or a new application has expired.”;

(b) in paragraph (3)—

(i) sub-paragraph (a) shall apply as if the reference to paragraph (1)(a)(i) were a reference to paragraph (1)(a);

(ii) sub-paragraph (b) shall apply as if that sub-paragraph read—

“(b) in a case falling within paragraph (1)(b) the week during which the time limit in section 54(3) of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 for an application for a parental order for the child expires.”;

(iii) sub-paragraph (c) shall apply as if that sub-paragraph read—

“(c) in a case falling within paragraph (1)(c) the week during which the person’s application for a parental order is refused, withdrawn or otherwise terminated without the order being granted.”.

**19.** In regulation 23 (additional notice requirements for statutory adoption pay) of the Pay Regulations as they apply to an intended parent or a parental order parent—

- (a) paragraph (1) shall read as if the words “the date on which the child is expected to be placed for adoption” were “the expected week of the child’s birth”;
- (b) paragraph (2) shall read as if—
  - (i) the words from “Where the choice” to “sub-paragraph (a) of that paragraph,” were omitted;
  - (ii) the words “the date the child is placed for adoption” were “the date on which the child is born”.

**20.** In regulation 24 (evidence of entitlement to statutory adoption pay) of the Pay Regulations as they apply to an intended parent or a parental order parent—

- (a) in paragraph (1), sub-paragraph (a) shall apply as if that sub-paragraph read—
  - “(a) a statutory declaration specified in paragraph (2) where the person who will be liable to pay the statutory adoption pay requests it in accordance with paragraph (3); and”;
- (b) paragraph (2) shall apply as if that paragraph read—
  - “(2) The statutory declaration referred to in paragraph (1)(a) is a statutory declaration stating that the person making the declaration—
    - (a) has applied, or intends to apply, under section 54 of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 with another person for a parental order in respect of the child within the time limit for making such an application; and
    - (b) expects the court to make a parental order on that application in respect of the child.”;
- (c) paragraph (3) shall apply as if that paragraph read—
  - “(3) The declaration referred to—
    - (a) in paragraph (1)(a) shall be provided to the person liable to pay statutory adoption pay within 14 days of that person requesting that declaration where the person requests it within 14 days of receiving the notice under section 167ZL(6) of the Act;
    - (b) in paragraph (1)(b) shall be provided to the person liable to pay statutory adoption pay at least 28 days before the beginning of the adoption pay period, or if that is not reasonably practicable, as soon as reasonably practicable after that date.”.

**21.** In regulation 25 (entitlement to statutory adoption pay where there is more than one employer) of the Pay Regulations as they apply to an intended parent or a parental order parent, paragraph (b) shall read as if the words “in which he is notified of being matched with the child” were “immediately preceding the 14th week before the expected week of the child’s birth”.

**22.** In regulation 29 (termination of employment before start of adoption pay period) of the Pay Regulations as they apply to an intended parent or a parental order parent, paragraph (1) shall apply as if—

- (a) the words “chosen in accordance with regulation 21” were omitted;
- (b) the words “14 days before the expected date of placement” to the end were “on the day on which the child is born.”.

**23.** In regulation 30 (avoidance of liability for statutory adoption pay) of the Pay Regulations as they apply to an intended parent or a parental order parent, in paragraph (2), sub-paragraph (a) shall read as if the words “in which he was notified of having been matched with the child for adoption” read “immediately preceding the 14th week before the expected week of the child’s birth”.



24. In regulation 40 (normal weekly earnings) of the Pay Regulations as they apply to an intended parent or a parental order parent, in paragraph (2), the definition of “the appropriate date” shall read—

““the appropriate date” means in relation to statutory paternity pay (adoption) and statutory adoption pay, the first day of the 14th week before the expected week of the child’s birth or the first day in the week in which the child is born, whichever is earlier;”.

## PART 4

### AMENDMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATION REGULATIONS

25. In regulation 11 (provision of information relating to entitlement to statutory paternity pay or statutory adoption pay) of the Administration Regulations—

(a) for paragraph (4), substitute—

“(4) For the purposes of paragraph (3)(b)(ii), an adopter is notified as having been matched with a child—

(a) on the date that person receives notification of the adoption agency’s decision, under regulation 11(2)(d) of the Adoption Agencies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1989(24), regulation 33(3)(a) of the Adoption Agencies Regulations 2005(25), regulation 28(3) of the Adoption Agencies (Wales) Regulations 2005(26) or regulation 8(5) of the Adoption Agencies (Scotland) Regulations 2009(27);

(b) on the date on which that person receives notification from the authority that the following conditions have been met—

(i) that the person is an approved foster parent and an approved prospective adopter, and the child is, or is expected to be, placed by the authority(28) with that person under Article 27(2)(a) of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995(29);

(ii) the authority—

(aa) is considering adoption for the child; or

(bb) is satisfied that adoption is in the best interests of the child, and

(iii) the authority is considering whether that person would be a suitable adoptive parent for that child; or

(c) on the date on which that person receives notification in accordance with regulation 12B(2)(a) of the Adoption Agencies Regulations 2005.”;

(b) after paragraph (4) insert—

“(5) In this regulation “adoption agency” has the meaning given—

(a) in relation to Northern Ireland, by Article 3(3) of the Adoption (Northern Ireland) Order 1987(30),

(24) S.R. 1989 No. 253.

(25) S.I. 2005/389, amended by S.I. 2014/1556; there are other amending instruments but none is relevant.

(26) S.I. 2005/1313.

(27) S.S.I. 2009/154.

(28) “Approved foster parent”, “approved prospective adopter” and “authority” are defined, in relation to statutory paternity pay: adoption and statutory adoption pay, respectively, in section 167ZBA(5) and 167ZLA(5) of 1992 c. 7, as inserted by 2015 c. 1 (N.I.), section 9(2) and (4)

(29) S.I. 1995 775 (N.I. 2).

(30) 1987 No. 2203 (N.I. 22): Article 3(3) was amended by S.I. 1994/429 (N.I.2).

- (b) in relation to England and Wales, by section 2 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002<sup>(31)</sup>; and
- (c) in relation to Scotland, by section 119(1) of the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007<sup>(32)</sup>.”

## PART 5

### MODIFICATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION REGULATIONS IN PARENTAL ORDER CASES

**26.** In the case of entitlement to statutory paternity pay or statutory adoption pay under section 167ZB or 167ZL of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 as those sections apply to an intended parent or to a parental order parent<sup>(33)</sup>—

- (a) paragraph (3)(b)(ii) of regulation 11 (provision of information) of the Administration Regulations shall read as if the words from “the end of the seven day period that starts on the date on which the adopter is notified of having been matched with the child” were—  
“the day the employee gave notice of the employee’s intended absence or the end of the fifteenth week before the expected week of birth, whichever is later;”;
- (b) paragraph (4) and (5) of that regulation shall not apply.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department for Employment and Learning on 2nd March 2015.



*Dr Stephen Farry*  
Minister for Employment and Learning

The Commissioners for Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs concur

*Jim Harra*  
*Edward Troup*  
Two of the Commissioners for Her Majesty’s  
Revenue and Customs

10th March 2015

<sup>(31)</sup> 2002 c.38.

<sup>(32)</sup> 2007 asp 4.

<sup>(33)</sup> Section 167ZB and 167ZL of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 are modified in so far as they apply to parental order cases by [S.R. 2015 No. 90](#).