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STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

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**2016 No. 216**

**The Universal Credit Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016**

**PART 2**

**ENTITLEMENT**

*Minimum age*

**Cases where the minimum age is 16**

**8.—**(1) For the basic condition in Article 9(1)(a) of the Order (at least 18 years old) the minimum age is 16 years old where a person—

- (a) has limited capability for work,
- (b) is awaiting an assessment under Part 5 to determine whether the person has limited capability for work and has a statement given by a registered medical practitioner in accordance with the Medical Evidence Regulations which provides that the person is not fit for work,
- (c) has regular and substantial caring responsibilities for a severely disabled person,
- (d) is responsible for a child,
- (e) is a member of a couple the other member of which is responsible for a child or a qualifying young person (but only where the other member meets the basic conditions in Article 9 of the Order),
- (f) is pregnant, and it is 11 weeks or less before her expected week of confinement, or was pregnant and it is 15 weeks or less since the date of her confinement, or
- (g) is without parental support (see paragraph (3)).

(2) Paragraphs (1)(c), (f) and (g) do not include any person who is a care leaver.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (1)(g) a young person is without parental support where that person is not being looked after by an authority and—

- (a) has no parent,
- (b) cannot live with their parents because—
  - (i) the person is estranged from them, or
  - (ii) there is a serious risk to the person's physical or mental health, or that the person would suffer significant harm if the person lived with them, or
- (c) is living away from their parents, and neither parent is able to support the person financially because that parent—
  - (i) has a physical or mental impairment,
  - (ii) is detained in custody pending trial or sentence upon conviction or under a sentence imposed by a court, or

(iii) is prohibited from entering or re-entering Northern Ireland.

(4) In this regulation—

“parent” includes any person acting in the place of a parent;

“care leaver” means an eligible child for the purposes of Article 34A of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995<sup>(1)</sup> or a relevant child for the purposes of Article 34B of that Order;

“confinement” means—

- (a) labour resulting in the birth of a living child, or
- (b) labour after 24 weeks of pregnancy resulting in the birth of a child whether alive or dead, and where a woman’s labour begun on one day results in the birth of a child on another day she is to be taken to be confined on the date of the birth.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Articles 34A and 34B were inserted by sections 1 and 2 of the Children (Leaving Care) Act (Northern Ireland) 2002 (c. 11 (N.I.)).