



# Firearms Act 1968

## 1968 CHAPTER 27

### PART I

#### PROVISIONS AS TO POSSESSION, HANDLING AND DISTRIBUTION OF WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION; PREVENTION OF CRIME AND MEASURES TO PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY

##### *Prevention of crime and preservation of public safety*

#### **[<sup>F1</sup>24 Supplying firearms to minors.**

- (1) [<sup>F2</sup>It is an offence to sell or let on hire any firearm or ammunition to a person under the age of eighteen.]
- (2) It is an offence—
  - (a) to make a gift of or lend any firearm or ammunition to which section 1 of this Act applies to a person under the age of fourteen; or
  - (b) to part with the possession of any such firearm or ammunition to a person under that age, except in circumstances where that person is entitled under section 11(1), (3) or (4) of this Act [<sup>F3</sup>or section 15 of the Firearms (Amendment) Act 1988] to have possession thereof without holding a firearm certificate.
- (3) It is an offence to make a gift of a shot gun or ammunition for a shot gun to a person under the age of fifteen.
- (4) It is an offence—
  - (a) to make a gift of an air weapon or ammunition for an air weapon to a person under the age of [<sup>F4</sup>eighteen]; or
  - (b) to part with the possession of an air weapon or ammunition for an air weapon to a person under the age of [<sup>F4</sup>eighteen] except where [<sup>F5</sup>by virtue of section 23 of this Act the person is not prohibited from having it with him.] [<sup>F5</sup>the person holds an air weapon certificate granted under section 5 of the Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2015 or the possession is otherwise in accordance with Part 1 of that Act.]

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**Changes to legislation:** *Firearms Act 1968, Section 24 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 23 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

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- (5) In proceedings for an offence under any provision of this section it is a defence to prove that the person charged with the offence believed the other person to be of or over the age mentioned in that provision and had reasonable ground for the belief.]

#### **Textual Amendments**

- F1** S. 24(1) substituted (1.10.2007) by [Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 \(c. 38\)](#), **ss. 33(4)**, 66(2); S.I. 2007/2180, **art. 3(c)**
- F2** S. 24(1) substituted (28.7.2010) by [Firearms \(Amendment\) Regulations 2010 \(S.I. 2010/1759\)](#), regs. 1(2), **2(4)**
- F3** Words inserted by [Firearms \(Amendment\) Act 1988 \(c. 45, SIF 51:1\)](#), **s. 23(4)**
- F4** Words in s. 24(4)(a)(b) substituted (1.10.2007) by [Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 \(c. 38\)](#), **ss. 33(5)**, 66(2); S.I. 2007/2180, **art. 3(c)**
- F5** Words in s. 24(4)(b) substituted (S.) (31.12.2016) by [Air Weapons and Licensing \(Scotland\) Act 2015 \(asp 10\)](#), s. 88(2), **sch. 2 para. 1(6)**; S.S.I. 2016/130, art. 3(c)

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**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:**

- Act amended by [1997 c. 5 s. 12\(2\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 12 was repealed (17.12.1997) by 1997 c. 64, s. 2(7), Sch.; S.I. 1997/3114, art. 3, Sch. Pt. I)
- Blanket amendment words substituted by [S.I. 2011/1043 art. 34](#)

**Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):**

- s. 3A inserted by [2023 c. 49 s. 2](#)
- s. 11(3A)-(4A) substituted for s. 11(4) by [2023 c. 49 s. 1\(2\)](#)
- s. 51(2A) added by [1997 c. 48 s. 62\(1\)Sch. 1 para. 3](#)