



Attachment of Earnings Act 1971

1971 CHAPTER 32

An Act to consolidate the enactments relating to the attachment of earnings as a means of enforcing the discharge of monetary obligations. [12th May 1971]

Extent Information

E1 Act except s. 20(2) does not extend to Scotland or Northern Ireland see s. 29(3)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** Act saved (1.4.1992) by [Maintenance Enforcement Act 1991](#) (c. 17, SIF 49:3), **s. 1(9)(a)**; S.I. 1992/455, **art.2**
- C2** Power to apply conferred (E.W.) by [Local Government Finance Act 1988](#) (c. 41, SIF 81:1), ss. 22, 142, **Sch. 4 para. 28**.
- C3** Act applied (1.4.1992) by [Magistrates' Courts Act 1980](#) (c. 43, SIF 82), **s. 59(3)(d)** (as substituted (1.4.1992) by [Maintenance Enforcement Act 1991](#) (c. 17, SIF 49:3), **s.2**; S.I. 1992/455, **art.2**)
- C4** Act: power to continue conferred (1.7.1992) by [Social Security \(Consequential Provisions\) Act 1992](#) (c. 6), ss. 5, 7(2), **Sch. 3 Pt. II para. 15**
- C5** Act: power to apply conferred (6.3.1992) by [Local Government Finance Act 1992](#) (c. 14), s. 14(3), **Sch. 4 para. 19(2)**
- C6** By [Criminal Justice Act 1991](#) (c. 53, SIF 39:1), s. 101(1), **Sch. 12 para. 23**; S.I. 1991/2208, art. 2(1), **Sch.1** it is provided (14.10.1991) that in relation to any time before the commencement of s.70 of that 1991 Act (which came into force on 1.10.1992 by S.I. 1992/333, art. 2(2), **Sch. 2**) references in any enactment amended by that 1991 Act, to youth courts shall be construed as references to juvenile courts.
- C7** Act applied (with modifications) (temp. from 23.2.2004 for specified purposes, 29.3.2004 for further specified purposes and 5.4.2004 for remaining purposes until 31.3.2006) by [The Fines Collection Regulations 2004](#) (S.I. 2004/176), **regs. 1-4** (as amended (30.3.2005 for specified purposes and 1.4.2005 for remaining purposes) by S.I. 2005/484, **regs. 1-5**)
- C8** Act modified (temp. from 27.3.2006 to 2.7.2006) by [The Collection of Fines \(Pilot Scheme\) and Discharge of Fines by Unpaid Work \(Pilot Schemes\) \(Amendment\) Order 2006](#) (S.I. 2005/502), **arts. 1(1)(b)(2)**, 6 (with art. 3)
- C9** Act applied (with modifications) (31.12.2020) by [The International Recovery of Maintenance \(Hague Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance 2007\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2018](#) (S.I. 2018/1125), **regs. 1, 8**; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

Changes to legislation: Attachment of Earnings Act 1971, Introductory Text is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 July 2023. 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](#)

Commencement Information

II Act not in force at Royal Assent see [s. 29\(4\)](#); Act wholly in force 2.8.1971.

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[View outstanding changes](#)

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

- Act applied (with modifications) by [S.I. 2018/1125 reg. 8](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S.I. 2018/1125, reg. 8 omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of Private International Law (Implementation of Agreements) Act 2020 (c. 24), s. 4(3), Sch. 5 para. 4(4))

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

- s. 6(1A)(1B) inserted by [2007 c. 15 Sch. 15 para. 2\(2\)](#) (This affecting provision is amended (22.4.2014) by 2013 c. 22, Sch. 9 para. 52; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(c) (with art. 3))
- s. 6A inserted by [2007 c. 15 Sch. 15 para. 3](#)
- s. 9(1A) inserted by [2007 c. 15 Sch. 15 para. 4](#)
- s. 9A inserted by [2007 c. 15 Sch. 15 para. 5](#) (This affecting provision is amended (22.4.2014) by 2013 c. 22, Sch. 9 para. 52; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(c) (with art. 3))
- s. 14(1A) inserted by [2007 c. 15 Sch. 15 para. 10](#) (This affecting provision is amended (22.4.2014) by 2013 c. 22, Sch. 9 para. 52; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(c) (with art. 3))
- s. 14(2A) inserted by [2007 c. 15 Sch. 15 para. 12](#)
- s. 14(4A)(4B) inserted by [2007 c. 15 Sch. 15 para. 14](#)
- s. 15A-15D inserted by [2007 c. 15 s. 92](#) (This affecting provision is amended (22.4.2014) by 2013 c. 22, Sch. 9 para. 52; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(c) (with art. 3))
- s. 17(4) inserted by [2007 c. 15 Sch. 15 para. 18](#) (This affecting provision is amended (22.4.2014) by 2013 c. 22, Sch. 9 para. 52; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(c) (with art. 3))
- s. 23(1ZA) inserted by [2007 c. 15 Sch. 15 para. 21](#) (This affecting provision is amended (22.4.2014) by 2013 c. 22, Sch. 9 para. 52; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(c) (with art. 3))
- s. 25(2)(c) words inserted by [2007 c. 15 Sch. 15 para. 22](#)
- s. 25(2)(f) words inserted by [2007 c. 15 Sch. 15 para. 22](#)
- Sch. 3A inserted by [2007 c. 15 Sch. 15 para. 7](#) (This affecting provision is amended (22.4.2014) by 2013 c. 22, Sch. 9 para. 52; S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(c) (with art. 3))