



Attachment of Earnings Act 1971

1971 CHAPTER 32

Cases in which attachment is available

1 Courts with power to attach earnings.

(1) The High Court may make an attachment of earnings order to secure payments under a High Court maintenance order.

[^{F1}(1A) The family court may make an attachment of earnings order to secure payments under a High Court or family court maintenance order.]

(2) [^{F2}The county court may] make an attachment of earnings order to secure—

- ^{F3}(a)
- (b) the payment of a judgment debt, other than a debt of less than £5 or such other sum as may be prescribed by [^{F4}rules of court]; or
- (c) payments under an administration order.

(3) A magistrates' court may make an attachment of earnings order to secure—

- ^{F5}(a)
- (b) ^{F6}
- (c) the payment of any sum required to be [^{F7}paid under regulations under section 23 or 24 of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012].

(4) ^{F8}

(5) Any power conferred by this Act to make an attachment of earnings order includes a power to make such an order to secure the discharge of liabilities arising before the coming into force of this Act.

Textual Amendments

F1 S. 1(1A) inserted (22.4.2014) by [Crime and Courts Act 2013 \(c. 22\)](#), s. 61(3), [Sch. 10 para. 21\(2\)](#); [S.I. 2014/954](#), art. 2(d) (with [art. 3](#)) (with transitional provisions and savings in [S.I. 2014/956](#), arts. 3-11)

Changes to legislation: Attachment of Earnings Act 1971, Section 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 24 May 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

- F2** Words in s. 1(2) substituted (22.4.2014) by [Crime and Courts Act 2013 \(c. 22\), s. 61\(3\), Sch. 9 para. 25\(2\)\(a\)](#); S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(c) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)
- F3** S. 1(2)(a) omitted (22.4.2014) by virtue of [Crime and Courts Act 2013 \(c. 22\), s. 61\(3\), Sch. 10 para. 21\(3\)](#); S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(d) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)
- F4** Words in s. 1(2)(b) substituted (22.4.2014) by [Crime and Courts Act 2013 \(c. 22\), s. 61\(3\), Sch. 9 para. 25\(2\)\(b\)](#); S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(c) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)
- F5** S. 1(3)(a) omitted (22.4.2014) by virtue of [Crime and Courts Act 2013 \(c. 22\), s. 61\(3\), Sch. 10 para. 21\(4\)](#); S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(d) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)
- F6** S. 1(3)(b) omitted (3.7.2006) by virtue of [The Collection of Fines \(Final Scheme\) Order 2006 \(S.I. 2006/1737\), art. 35\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- F7** Words in s. 1(3)(c) substituted (1.4.2013) by [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 \(c. 10\), s. 151\(1\), Sch. 5 para. 6](#); S.I. 2013/453, art. 3(h) (with S.I. 2013/534, art. 6)
- F8** S. 1(4) omitted (3.7.2006) by virtue of [The Collection of Fines \(Final Scheme\) Order 2006 \(S.I. 2006/1737\), art. 35\(b\)](#)

Changes to legislation:

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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))