



Attachment of Earnings Act 1971

1971 CHAPTER 32

Consequences of attachment order

7 Compliance with order by employer.

- (1) Where an attachment of earnings order has been made, the employer shall, if he has been served with the order, comply with it; but he shall be under no liability for non-compliance before seven days have elapsed since the service.
- (2) Where a person is served with an attachment of earnings order directed to him and he has not the debtor in his employment, or the debtor subsequently ceases to be in his employment, he shall (in either case), within ten days from the date of service or, as the case may be, the cesser, give notice of that fact to the court.
- (3) Part II of Schedule 3 to this Act shall have effect with respect to the priority to be accorded as between two or more attachment of earnings orders directed to a person in respect of the same debtor.
- (4) On any occasion when the employer makes, in compliance with the order, a deduction from the debtor's earnings—
 - (a) he shall be entitled to deduct, in addition, five new pence, or such other sum as may be prescribed by order made by the Lord Chancellor, towards his clerical and administrative costs; and
 - (b) he shall give to the debtor a statement in writing of the total amount of the deduction.
- (5) An order of the Lord Chancellor under subsection (4)(a) above—
 - (a) may prescribe different sums in relation to different classes of cases;
 - (b) may be varied or revoked by a subsequent order made under that paragraph; and
 - (c) shall be made by statutory instrument subject to annulment by resolution of either House of Parliament.

Changes to legislation: Attachment of Earnings Act 1971, Section 7 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 24 April 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](#)

Subordinate Legislation Made

P1 [S. 7\(4\)\(a\)\(5\)](#): power exercised by [S.I.1991/356](#).

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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))