



# Child Abduction and Custody Act 1985

## 1985 CHAPTER 60

### PART II

#### RECOGNITION AND ENFORCEMENT OF CUSTODY DECISIONS

#### 14 Central Authorities.

- (1) Subject to subsection (2) below, the functions under the Convention of a Central Authority shall be discharged—
- (a) in England and Wales <sup>F1</sup>... by the Lord Chancellor; and
  - (b) in Scotland by the Secretary of State<sup>F2</sup>; and
  - (c) in Northern Ireland by the Department of Justice in Northern Ireland]
- (2) Any application made under the Convention by or on behalf of a person outside the United Kingdom may be addressed to the Lord Chancellor as the Central Authority in the United Kingdom.
- [<sup>F3</sup>(3) Where any such application relates to a function to be discharged under subsection (1) above by the Secretary of State it shall be transmitted by the Lord Chancellor to the Secretary of State and where such an application is addressed to the Secretary of State but relates to a function to be discharged under subsection (1) above by the Lord Chancellor the Secretary of State shall transmit it to the Lord Chancellor.]

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 14(1)(a) omitted (12.4.2010) by virtue of [The Northern Ireland Act 1998 \(Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions\) Order 2010 \(S.I. 2010/976\)](#), art. 1(2), [Sch. 18 para. 38\(a\)](#) (with arts. 28-31)
- F2** S. 14(1)(c) inserted (12.4.2010) by [The Northern Ireland Act 1998 \(Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions\) Order 2010 \(S.I. 2010/976\)](#), art. 1(2), [Sch. 18 para. 38\(b\)](#) (with arts. 28-31)
- F3** S. 14(3) substituted (12.4.2010) by [The Northern Ireland Act 1998 \(Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions\) Order 2010 \(S.I. 2010/976\)](#), art. 1(2), [Sch. 18 para. 38\(c\)](#) (with arts. 28-31)

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**Changes to legislation:** Child Abduction and Custody Act 1985, Section 14 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 19 March 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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**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

- C1** S. 14 applied (with modifications) (1.3.1997) by [S.I. 1996/3156](#), art. 2, [Sch.](#)  
S. 14 applied (with modifications) (2.12.1997) by [S.I. 1997/2574](#) art. 2, Sch.

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

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

- Sch. 3 para. 8(ba) inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 3\(a\)](#)