



Administration of Justice Act 1985

1985 CHAPTER 61

An Act to make further provision with respect to the administration of justice and matters connected therewith; to amend the Solicitors Act 1974; to regulate the provision of solicitors' services in the case of incorporated practices; to regulate the provision of conveyancing services by persons practising as licensed conveyancers; to make further provision with respect to complaints relating to the provision of legal aid services; to amend the law relating to time limits for actions for libel and slander; and to make further provision with respect to arbitrations and proceedings in connection with European patents. [30th October 1985]

^{X1}Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

Editorial Information

X1 The text of ss. 1–10, 60–62, 65, 67–69, Schs. 1, 2, 7 paras. 4–6, Sch. 8 Pt. III, Sch. 9 paras. 1–7, 17 was taken from S.I.F. Group 76:1 (Lawyers and Notaries), ss. 11–39, 66, 68, 69, Schs. 3–6 from S.I.F. Group 98:1 (Property, England and Wales), ss. 40–46, 67–69, Sch. 7 paras. 1–3, Sch. 8 Pt. III, Sch. 9 paras. 8, 9 from S.I.F. Group 77:1 (Legal Aid), ss. 47–50, 51(2), 52, 53, 56–59, 67(2), 68, 69, Sch. 8, Sch. 9 paras. 10, 11, 14, 15 from S.I.F. Group 37 (Courts: Supreme Court, England and Wales), ss. 51(1), 52–56, 67–69, Sch. 7 paras. 7, 8, Sch. 8 Pts. II, III, Sch. 9 paras. 11–13 from S.I.F. Group 34 (County Courts: England and Wales), ss. 63, 68, 69, Sch. 9 para. 16 from S.I.F. Group 122:3 (Tort and Delict) and ss. 64, 68, 69 from S.I.F. Group 47 (Evidence); provisions omitted from S.I.F. have been dealt with as referred to in other commentary.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C1 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.

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the [legislation.gov.uk](https://www.legislation.gov.uk) editorial team to Administration of Justice Act 1985. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)

C2 Act: functions transferred (19.8.2003) by [The Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs Order 2003 \(S.I. 2003/1887\)](#), [arts. 1\(2\), 4](#) {Sch 1}

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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):

- s. 9A(6)(c)(ca) substituted for s. 9A(6)(c) by [S.I. 2019/375 Sch. para. 8\(4\)\(a\)\(i\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S.I. 2019/375 revoked (24.11.2020) before it comes into force by S.I. 2020/1342, regs. 1(2), 3(c))