



Insolvency Act 1986

1986 CHAPTER 45

PART IX

BANKRUPTCY

[^{F1}CHAPTER IA

COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION OF BANKRUPTCY]

[^{F1}279 Duration

- (1) A bankrupt is discharged from bankruptcy at the end of the period of one year beginning with the date on which the bankruptcy commences.
- ^{F2}(2)
- (3) On the application of the official receiver or the trustee of a bankrupt's estate, the court may order that the period specified in subsection (1) shall cease to run until—
 - (a) the end of a specified period, or
 - (b) the fulfilment of a specified condition.
- (4) The court may make an order under subsection (3) only if satisfied that the bankrupt has failed or is failing to comply with an obligation under this Part.
- (5) In subsection (3)(b) "condition" includes a condition requiring that the court be satisfied of something.
- (6) In the case of an individual who is [^{F3}made] bankrupt on a petition under section 264(1) (d)—
 - (a) subsections (1) to (5) shall not apply, and
 - (b) the bankrupt is discharged from bankruptcy by an order of the court under section 280.

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to Insolvency Act 1986. 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](#)

(7) This section is without prejudice to any power of the court to annul a bankruptcy order.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 279 substituted (1.4.2004) by 2002 c. 40, ss. 256, 279 (with s. 249(6), Sch. 19); S.I. 2003/2093, **art. 2(2)**, Sch. 2 (subject to arts. 3-8 (as amended by S.I. 2003/2332, art. 2))
- F2** S. 279(2) omitted (1.10.2013) by virtue of Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013 (c. 24), s. 103(3), **Sch. 21 para. 5**; S.I. 2013/2227, art. 2(n) (with art. 6)
- F3** Word in 279(6) substituted (6.4.2016) by Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013 (c. 24), s. 103(3), **Sch. 19 para. 12**; S.I. 2016/191, **art. 2** (with art. 3)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 279 excluded (1.4.2004) by 2002 c. 40, ss. 256(2), 279, Sch. 19 para. 3 (with s. 249(6)); S.I. 2003/2093, **art. 2(2)**, Sch. 2 (subject to arts. 3-8 (as amended by S.I. 2003/2332, art. 2))
- C2** S. 279(3)-(5) applied (1.4.2004) by 2002 c. 40, ss. 256(2), 279, Sch. 19 paras. 4(3), 5(5) (with s. 249(6)); S.I. 2003/2093, **art. 2(2)**, Sch. 2 (subject to arts. 3-8 (as amended by S.I. 2003/2332, art. 2))

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

- Act amendment to earlier affecting provision S.I. 1986/1999, art. 3, Sch. 1 Pt. 2 by [S.I. 2017/1119 Sch. 3 para. 1](#)
- Act extended (N.I.) for specified purposes (except for ss. 13-15) by [2024 c. 3 Sch. 13 para. 4\(3\)](#)
- Act savings and transitional provisions for amendments by S.I. 2022/1166 by [S.I. 2022/1172 Regulations](#)

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

- s. 21(5) inserted by [2024 c. 3 Sch. 13 para. 2\(12\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 22(2B) inserted by [2024 c. 3 Sch. 13 para. 2\(13\)](#)
- s. 22H(1)(a) words inserted by [2024 c. 3 Sch. 13 para. 2\(14\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 22H(1)(aa) inserted by [2024 c. 3 Sch. 13 para. 2\(14\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 22H(4)(j) words inserted by [2024 c. 3 Sch. 13 para. 2\(14\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 22H(4)(k) inserted by [2024 c. 3 Sch. 13 para. 2\(14\)\(d\)](#)
- s. 41HB(2) words substituted by [2018 c. 14 s. 1\(3\)\(b\)](#)