



Children Act 1989

1989 CHAPTER 41

PART II

ORDERS WITH RESPECT TO CHILDREN IN FAMILY PROCEEDINGS

General

11 General principles and supplementary provisions.

- (1) In proceedings in which any question of making a section 8 order, or any other question with respect to such an order, arises, the court shall (in the light of any ^{F1}provision in rules of court that is of the kind mentioned in subsection (2)(a) or (b))—
 - (a) draw up a timetable with a view to determining the question without delay; and
 - (b) give such directions as it considers appropriate for the purpose of ensuring, so far as is reasonably practicable, that that timetable is adhered to.
- (2) Rules of court may—
 - (a) specify periods within which specified steps must be taken in relation to proceedings in which such questions arise; and
 - (b) make other provision with respect to such proceedings for the purpose of ensuring, so far as is reasonably practicable, that such questions are determined without delay.
- (3) Where a court has power to make a section 8 order, it may do so at any time during the course of the proceedings in question even though it is not in a position to dispose finally of those proceedings.
- ^{F2}(4)
- (5) Where—
 - (a) a ^{F3}child arrangements] order has been made with respect to a child; and
 - (b) ^{F4}the child has] two parents who each have parental responsibility for him,

Changes to legislation: Children Act 1989, Section 11 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 19 April 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

the^{F5}order, so far as it has the result that there are times when the child lives or is to live with one of the parents,] shall cease to have effect if the parents live together for a continuous period of more than six months.

- (6) [^{F6}A child arrangements order made with respect to a child, so far as it provides for the child to spend time or otherwise have contact with one of the child's parents at times when the child is living with the child's other parent,] shall cease to have effect if the parents live together for a continuous period of more than six months.
- (7) A section 8 order may—
- (a) contain directions about how it is to be carried into effect;
 - (b) impose conditions which must be complied with by any person—
 - [^{F7}(i) who is named in the order as a person with whom the child concerned is to live, spend time or otherwise have contact;]
 - (ii) who is a parent of the child ^{F8}...;
 - (iii) who is not a parent of his but who has parental responsibility for him; or
 - (iv) with whom the child is living,
 and to whom the conditions are expressed to apply;
 - (c) be made to have effect for a specified period, or contain provisions which are to have effect for a specified period;
 - (d) make such incidental, supplemental or consequential provision as the court thinks fit.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 11(1) substituted (22.4.2014) by [Children and Families Act 2014 \(c. 6\), ss. 14\(5\)](#), 139(6); [S.I. 2014/889, art. 4\(c\)](#) (with transitional provisions in [S.I. 2014/1042](#), arts. 3, 4, 6-10)
- F2** S. 11(4) omitted (22.4.2014) by virtue of [Children and Families Act 2014 \(c. 6\), s. 139\(6\)](#), [Sch. 2 para. 6\(2\)](#); [S.I. 2014/889, art. 4\(f\)](#) (with transitional provisions in [S.I. 2014/1042](#), arts. 3, 4, 6-10)
- F3** Words in s. 11(5)(a) substituted (22.4.2014) by [Children and Families Act 2014 \(c. 6\), s. 139\(6\)](#), [Sch. 2 para. 6\(3\)\(a\)](#); [S.I. 2014/889, art. 4\(f\)](#) (with transitional provisions in [S.I. 2014/1042](#), arts. 3, 4, 6-10)
- F4** Words in s. 11(5)(b) substituted (22.4.2014) by [Children and Families Act 2014 \(c. 6\), s. 139\(6\)](#), [Sch. 2 para. 6\(3\)\(b\)](#); [S.I. 2014/889, art. 4\(f\)](#) (with transitional provisions in [S.I. 2014/1042](#), arts. 3, 4, 6-10)
- F5** Words in s. 11(5)(b) substituted (22.4.2014) by [Children and Families Act 2014 \(c. 6\), s. 139\(6\)](#), [Sch. 2 para. 6\(3\)\(c\)](#); [S.I. 2014/889, art. 4\(f\)](#) (with transitional provisions in [S.I. 2014/1042](#), arts. 3, 4, 6-10)
- F6** Words in s. 11(6) substituted (22.4.2014) by [Children and Families Act 2014 \(c. 6\), s. 139\(6\)](#), [Sch. 2 para. 6\(4\)](#); [S.I. 2014/889, art. 4\(f\)](#) (with transitional provisions in [S.I. 2014/1042](#), arts. 3, 4, 6-10)
- F7** S. 11(7)(b)(i) substituted (22.4.2014) by [Children and Families Act 2014 \(c. 6\), s. 139\(6\)](#), [Sch. 2 para. 6\(5\)\(a\)](#); [S.I. 2014/889, art. 4\(f\)](#) (with transitional provisions in [S.I. 2014/1042](#), arts. 3, 4, 6-10)
- F8** Word in s. 11(7)(b)(ii) omitted (22.4.2014) by [Children and Families Act 2014 \(c. 6\), s. 139\(6\)](#), [Sch. 2 para. 6\(5\)\(b\)](#); [S.I. 2014/889, art. 4\(f\)](#) (with transitional provisions in [S.I. 2014/1042](#), arts. 3, 4, 6-10)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 11(3) restricted (14. 10. 1991) by [S.I. 1991/1395](#), r.28

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 11 wholly in force at 14.10.1991 see s. 108(2)(3) and [S.I. 1991/828, art. 3\(2\)](#)

Changes to legislation:

Children Act 1989, Section 11 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 19 April 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.

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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. 4(1A)(aa) inserted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 21(3)
- s. 4(1C) inserted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 21(4)
- s. 4ZA(2)(aa) inserted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 22(3)
- s. 4ZA(3A) inserted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 22(4)
- s. 8(4)(k) inserted by 2021 c. 17 s. 52(1)
- s. 31A(4A) inserted by 2014 c. 6 s. 15(2)(b)