



Child Support Act 1991

1991 CHAPTER 48

Information

15 Powers of inspectors

- (1) Where, in a particular case, the Secretary of State considers it appropriate to do so for the purpose of acquiring information which he or any child support officer requires for purposes of this Act, he may appoint a person to act as an inspector under this section.
- (2) Every inspector shall be furnished with a certificate of his appointment.
- (3) Without prejudice to his being appointed to act in relation to any other case, or being appointed to act for a further period in relation to the case in question, an inspector's appointment shall cease at the end of such period as may be specified.
- (4) An inspector shall have power—
 - (a) to enter at all reasonable times—
 - (i) any specified premises, other than premises used solely as a dwelling-house; and
 - (ii) any premises which are not specified but which are used by any specified person for the purpose of carrying on any trade, profession, vocation or business; and
 - (b) to make such examination and enquiry there as he considers appropriate.
- (5) An inspector exercising his powers may question any person aged 18 or over whom he finds on the premises.
- (6) If required to do so by an inspector exercising his powers, any person who is or has been—
 - (a) an occupier of the premises in question;
 - (b) an employer or an employee working at or from those premises;
 - (c) carrying on at or from those premises any trade, profession, vocation or business;
 - (d) an employee or agent of any person mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (c),

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shall furnish to the inspector all such information and documents as the inspector may reasonably require.

- (7) No person shall be required under this section to answer any question or to give any evidence tending to incriminate himself or, in the case of a person who is married, his or her spouse.
- (8) On applying for admission to any premises in the exercise of his powers, an inspector shall, if so required, produce his certificate.
- (9) If any person—
- (a) intentionally delays or obstructs any inspector exercising his powers; or
 - (b) without reasonable excuse, refuses or neglects to answer any question or furnish any information or to produce any document when required to do so under this section,

he shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

- (10) In this section—

“certificate” means a certificate of appointment issued under this section;
“inspector” means an inspector appointed under this section;
“powers” means powers conferred by this section; and
“specified” means specified in the certificate in question.