



# Family Law Act 1996

## 1996 CHAPTER 27

### PART IV

#### FAMILY HOMES AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

##### *General*

#### **62 Meaning of “cohabitants”, “relevant child” and “associated persons”.**

- (1) For the purposes of this Part—
- (a) “cohabitants” are [<sup>F1</sup>[<sup>F2</sup>two persons who are neither married to each other nor civil partners of each other but are living together as husband and wife or as if they were civil partners;] and]
  - (b) [<sup>F3</sup>“cohabit” and “former cohabitants” are to be read accordingly, but the latter expression] does not include cohabitants who have subsequently married each other [<sup>F4</sup>or become civil partners of each other].
- (2) In this Part, “relevant child”, in relation to any proceedings under this Part, means—
- (a) any child who is living with or might reasonably be expected to live with either party to the proceedings;
  - (b) any child in relation to whom an order under the <sup>M1</sup>Adoption Act 1976 [<sup>F5</sup>, the Adoption and Children Act 2002] or the <sup>M2</sup>Children Act 1989 is in question in the proceedings; and
  - (c) any other child whose interests the court considers relevant.
- (3) For the purposes of this Part, a person is associated with another person if—
- (a) they are or have been married to each other;
  - [<sup>F6</sup>(aa) they are or have been civil partners of each other;]
  - (b) they are cohabitants or former cohabitants;
  - (c) they live or have lived in the same household, otherwise than merely by reason of one of them being the other’s employee, tenant, lodger or boarder;
  - (d) they are relatives;

*Status: Point in time view as at 25/11/2008. This version of this provision has been superseded.*

*Changes to legislation: Family Law Act 1996, Section 62 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 01 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)*

- (e) they have agreed to marry one another (whether or not that agreement has been terminated);
  - [<sup>F7</sup>(ea) they have or have had an intimate personal relationship with each other which is or was of significant duration;]
  - [<sup>F8</sup>(eza) they have entered into a civil partnership agreement (as defined by section 73 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004) (whether or not that agreement has been terminated);]
  - (f) in relation to any child, they are both persons falling within subsection (4); or
  - (g) they are parties to the same family proceedings (other than proceedings under this Part).
- (4) A person falls within this subsection in relation to a child if—
- (a) he is a parent of the child; or
  - (b) he has or has had parental responsibility for the child.
- (5) If a child has been adopted or [<sup>F9</sup>falls within subsection (7)], two persons are also associated with each other for the purposes of this Part if—
- (a) one is a natural parent of the child or a parent of such a natural parent; and
  - (b) the other is the child or any person—
    - (i) who has become a parent of the child by virtue of an adoption order or has applied for an adoption order, or
    - (ii) with whom the child has at any time been placed for adoption.
- (6) A body corporate and another person are not, by virtue of subsection (3)(f) or (g), to be regarded for the purposes of this Part as associated with each other.
- [<sup>F10</sup>(7) A child falls within this subsection if—
- (a) an adoption agency, within the meaning of section 2 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002, has power to place him for adoption under section 19 of that Act (placing children with parental consent) or he has become the subject of an order under section 21 of that Act (placement orders), or
  - (b) he is freed for adoption by virtue of an order made—
    - (i) in England and Wales, under section 18 of the Adoption Act 1976,
    - (ii) in Scotland, under section 18 of the Adoption (Scotland) Act 1978, or
    - (iii) in Northern Ireland, under Article 17(1) or 18(1) of the Adoption (Northern Ireland) Order 1987.]

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 62(1)(a) substituted (5.12.2005) by [Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 \(c. 28\)](#), [ss. 3, 60](#); [S.I. 2005/3196](#), [art. 2\(b\)](#)
- F2** Words in s. 62(1)(a) substituted (5.12.2005) by [Civil Partnership Act 2004 \(c. 33\)](#), [ss. 82, 263](#), [Sch. 9 para. 13\(1\)\(2\)\(a\)](#); [S.I. 2005/3175](#), [art. 2\(8\)](#)
- F3** Words in s. 62(1)(b) substituted (5.12.2005) by [Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 \(c. 28\)](#), [ss. 58\(1\), 60](#), [Sch. 10 para. 40](#); [S.I. 2005/3196](#), [art. 2\(c\)](#)
- F4** Words in s. 62(1)(b) inserted (5.12.2005) by [Civil Partnership Act 2004 \(c. 33\)](#), [ss. 82, 263](#), [Sch. 9 para. 13\(1\)\(2\)\(b\)](#); [S.I. 2005/3175](#), [art. 2\(1\)](#), [Sch. 1](#)
- F5** Words in s. 62(2)(b) inserted (30.12.2005) by [2002 c. 38](#), [ss. 139\(1\), 148\(1\)](#), [Sch. 3 para. 86\(a\)](#) (with [Sch. 4 paras. 6-8](#)); [S.I. 2005/2213](#), [art. 2\(o\)](#)
- F6** S. 62(3)(aa) inserted (5.12.2005) by [Civil Partnership Act 2004 \(c. 33\)](#), [ss. 82, 263](#), [Sch. 9 para. 13\(1\)\(3\)](#); [S.I. 2005/3175](#), [art. 2\(1\)](#), [Sch. 1](#)

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- F7** S. 62(3)(ea) inserted (1.7.2007) by Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 (c. 28), **ss. 4, 60**; S.I. 2007/1845, **art. 2(b)**
- F8** S. 62(3)(eza) inserted (5.12.2005) by Civil Partnership Act 2004 (c. 33), ss. 82, 263, **Sch. 9 para. 13(1)(4)**; S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1
- F9** Words in s. 62(5) substituted (30.12.2005) by 2002 c. 38, ss. 139(1), 148(1), Sch. 3 para. 86(b) (with Sch. 4 paras. 6-8); S.I. 2005/2213, **art. 2(o)**
- F10** S. 62(7) inserted (30.12.2005) by 2002 c. 38, ss. 139(1), 148(1), Sch. 2 para. 87 (with Sch. 4 paras. 6-8); S.I. 2005/2213, **art. 2(o)**

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**Marginal Citations**

- M1** 1976 c. 36.  
**M2** 1989 c. 41.

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