

Courts Act 2003

2003 CHAPTER 39

PART 4

COURT SECURITY

55 Powers to retain articles surrendered or seized

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), a court security officer may retain an article which was—
 - (a) surrendered in response to a request under section 54(1), or
 - (b) seized under section 54(2),

until the time when the person who surrendered it, or from whom it was seized, is leaving the court building.

- [F1(1A) Subject to subsection (2), a court security officer may retain an article which was—
 - (a) surrendered in response to a request under section 54A(4)(a), or
 - (b) seized under section 54A(4)(b),

until the end of the period specified in the relevant order under section 15A of the Juries Act 1974.]

- (2) If a court security officer reasonably believes that the article may be evidence of, or in relation to, an offence, he may retain it until—
 - [F2(a) the time specified in subsection (1) or (1A) (as appropriate), or]
 - (b) the end of the permitted period,

whichever is later.

- (3) "The permitted period" means such period, not exceeding 24 hours from the time the article was surrendered or seized, as will enable the court security officer to draw the article to the attention of a constable.
- [F3(4) This section is subject to section 55A.]

Changes to legislation: Courts Act 2003, Section 55 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 23 May 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

Textual Amendments

- F1 S. 55(1A) inserted (13.4.2015) by Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015 (c. 2), ss. 70(3)(a), 95(1); S.I. 2015/778, art. 3, Sch. 1 para. 55
- F2 S. 55(2)(a) substituted (13.4.2015) by Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015 (c. 2), ss. 70(3)(b), 95(1); S.I. 2015/778, art. 3, Sch. 1 para. 55
- **F3** S. 55(4) added (6.4.2010) by Coroners and Justice Act 2009 (c. 25), **ss. 146(2)**, 182(4)(c) (with s. 180, Sch. 22 para. 44); S.I. 2010/816, art. 2, Sch. para. 9

Changes to legislation:

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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. 75(6) inserted by 2022 c. 35 Sch. 4 para. 3(2)
- s. 76(2B) inserted by 2010 c. 26 Sch. 3 para. 14 (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 3 Pt. 2 repealed (4.9.2013) without ever being in force by 2013 c. 22, s. 17(4); S.I. 2013/2200 art. 2(a))
- s. 81(6) inserted by 2022 c. 35 Sch. 4 para. 3(3)
- s. 85EA(5) words substituted by 2022 c. 32 Sch. 11 para. 29
- Sch. 5 para. 13(1)(ca) inserted by 2013 c. 22 s. 26(3)

Commencement Orders yet to be applied to the Courts Act 2003

Commencement Orders bringing provisions within this Act into force:

S.I. 2005/547 art. 2 commences (2003 c. 39)