Civil Partnership Act 2004

2004 CHAPTER 33

PART 1

INTRODUCTION

1 Civil partnership

(1) A civil partnership is a relationship between two people of the same sex (“civil partners”)—
   (a) which is formed when they register as civil partners of each other—
       (i) in England or Wales (under Part 2),
       (ii) in Scotland (under Part 3),
       (iii) in Northern Ireland (under Part 4), or
       (iv) outside the United Kingdom under an Order in Council made under
           Chapter 1 of Part 5 (registration at British consulates etc. or by armed
           forces personnel), or
   (b) which they are treated under Chapter 2 of Part 5 as having formed (at the time
       determined under that Chapter) by virtue of having registered an overseas
       relationship.

(2) Subsection (1) is subject to the provisions of this Act under or by virtue of which a
    civil partnership is void.

(3) A civil partnership ends only on death, dissolution or annulment, or
    (b) in the case of a civil partnership formed as mentioned in subsection (1)(a)(i) or
        (iv), on the conversion of the civil partnership into a marriage under section 9
        of the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013, or
    (c) on its coming to an end in accordance with section 11(2)(a) of the Marriage
        and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (ending of civil partnership
        formed as mentioned in subsection (1)(a)(ii) or (iv) on its being changed to a
        marriage under section 10 of that Act, and ending of certain civil partnerships
where the civil partners marry in accordance with the Marriage (Scotland) Act 1977).]

[F5(3A) Subsection (3) is subject to section 11(2)(a) of the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (ending of certain civil partnerships on marriage under Scots law).]

(4) The references in subsection (3) to dissolution and annulment are to dissolution and annulment having effect under or recognised in accordance with this Act.

(5) References in this Act to an overseas relationship are to be read in accordance with Chapter 2 of Part 5.

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**Textual Amendments**

**F1** Words in s. 1(1) omitted (E.W.) (2.12.2019) by virtue of The Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1458), regs. 1(2), 3 and (N.I.) (13.1.2020) by virtue of The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), 16(2) (with regs. 6-9)

**F2** Word in s. 1(3) inserted (10.12.2014) by Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 (c. 30), s. 21(3), Sch. 7 para. 34(a); S.I. 2014/3169, art. 2

**F3** S. 1(3)(b) and word inserted (10.12.2014) by Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 (c. 30), s. 21(3), Sch. 7 para. 34(b); S.I. 2014/3169, art. 2

**F4** S. 1(3)(c) and word inserted (E.W.N.I.) (13.1.2020) by The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), 10(3)(c) (with regs. 6-9, 10(4))

**F5** S. 1(3A) inserted (S.) (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), ss. 11(9), 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.
Changes to legislation:
Civil Partnership Act 2004, Section 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 April 2020. 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.
View outstanding changes

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. 213(1A) inserted by 2013 c. 30 Sch. 2 para. 5(2)
– Sch. 5 para. 39(2A) inserted by S.I. 2019/519, Sch. para. 25(3)(b) (as substituted) by S.I. 2019/1338 reg. 3(3)(j)(ii) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The affecting statutory instrument has no legal effect. It was made under a procedure which meant that it ceased to have effect 28 days after signing unless it was debated and approved in Parliament within that time. It was not debated and approved within 28 days, so it has expired with no effect.)
– Sch. 15 para. 34(2A) inserted by S.I. 2019/519, Sch. para. 25(8)(a)(ii) (as substituted) by S.I. 2019/1338 reg. 3(3)(j)(v) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The affecting statutory instrument has no legal effect. It was made under a procedure which meant that it ceased to have effect 28 days after signing unless it was debated and approved in Parliament within that time. It was not debated and approved within 28 days, so it has expired with no effect.)