



Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008

2008 CHAPTER 22

PART 1

AMENDMENTS OF THE HUMAN FERTILISATION AND EMBRYOLOGY ACT 1990

Activities governed by the 1990 Act

4 Prohibitions in connection with genetic material not of human origin

- (1) In section 4 of the 1990 Act (prohibitions in connection with gametes)—
- (a) in subsection (1), omit—
 - (i) paragraph (c), and
 - (ii) the word “or” immediately before it, and
 - (b) in subsection (5), after “section 3” insert “ or 4A ”.
- (2) After section 4 of the 1990 Act insert—

“4A Prohibitions in connection with genetic material not of human origin

- (1) No person shall place in a woman—
- (a) a human admixed embryo,
 - (b) any other embryo that is not a human embryo, or
 - (c) any gametes other than human gametes.
- (2) No person shall—
- (a) mix human gametes with animal gametes,
 - (b) bring about the creation of a human admixed embryo, or
 - (c) keep or use a human admixed embryo,
- except in pursuance of a licence.

Changes to legislation: *Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008, Section 4 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 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*

- (3) A licence cannot authorise keeping or using a human admixed embryo after the earliest of the following—
- (a) the appearance of the primitive streak, or
 - (b) the end of the period of 14 days beginning with the day on which the process of creating the human admixed embryo began, but not counting any time during which the human admixed embryo is stored.
- (4) A licence cannot authorise placing a human admixed embryo in an animal.
- (5) A licence cannot authorise keeping or using a human admixed embryo in any circumstances in which regulations prohibit its keeping or use.
- (6) For the purposes of this Act a human admixed embryo is—
- (a) an embryo created by replacing the nucleus of an animal egg or of an animal cell, or two animal pronuclei, with—
 - (i) two human pronuclei,
 - (ii) one nucleus of a human gamete or of any other human cell, or
 - (iii) one human gamete or other human cell,
 - (b) any other embryo created by using—
 - (i) human gametes and animal gametes, or
 - (ii) one human pronucleus and one animal pronucleus,
 - (c) a human embryo that has been altered by the introduction of any sequence of nuclear or mitochondrial DNA of an animal into one or more cells of the embryo,
 - (d) a human embryo that has been altered by the introduction of one or more animal cells, or
 - (e) any embryo not falling within paragraphs (a) to (d) which contains both nuclear or mitochondrial DNA of a human and nuclear or mitochondrial DNA of an animal (“animal DNA”) but in which the animal DNA is not predominant.
- (7) In subsection (6)—
- (a) references to animal cells are to cells of an animal or of an animal embryo, and
 - (b) references to human cells are to cells of a human or of a human embryo.
- (8) For the purposes of this section an “animal” is an animal other than man.
- (9) In this section “embryo” means a live embryo, including an egg that is in the process of fertilisation or is undergoing any other process capable of resulting in an embryo.
- (10) In this section—
- (a) references to eggs are to live eggs, including cells of the female germ line at any stage of maturity, but (except in subsection (9)) not including eggs that are in the process of fertilisation or are undergoing any other process capable of resulting in an embryo, and
 - (b) references to gametes are to eggs (as so defined) or to live sperm, including cells of the male germ line at any stage of maturity.

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- (11) If it appears to the Secretary of State necessary or desirable to do so in the light of developments in science or medicine, regulations may—
- (a) amend (but not repeal) paragraphs (a) to (e) of subsection (6);
 - (b) provide that in this section “embryo”, “eggs” or “gametes” includes things specified in the regulations which would not otherwise fall within the definition.
- (12) Regulations made by virtue of subsection (11)(a) may make any amendment of subsection (7) that appears to the Secretary of State to be appropriate in consequence of any amendment of subsection (6).”

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. 55(3)(e) and word inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 75\(b\)](#)