



Charities Act 2011

2011 CHAPTER 25

PART 1

MEANING OF “CHARITY” AND “CHARITABLE PURPOSE”

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL

Charitable purpose

2 Meaning of “charitable purpose”

- (1) For the purposes of the law of England and Wales, a charitable purpose is a purpose which—
 - (a) falls within section 3(1), and
 - (b) is for the public benefit (see section 4).
- (2) Any reference in any enactment or document (in whatever terms)—
 - (a) to charitable purposes, or
 - (b) to institutions having purposes that are charitable under the law relating to charities in England and Wales,is to be read in accordance with subsection (1).
- (3) Subsection (2) does not apply where the context otherwise requires.
- (4) This section is subject to section 11 (which makes special provision for Chapter 2 of this Part onwards).

Changes to legislation:

Charities Act 2011, Section 2 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 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.

[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. 106(1)-(1B) substituted for s. 106(1) by [2022 c. 6 s. 16\(a\)](#)
- s. 322(2)(ea) inserted by [2022 c. 6 Sch. 2 para. 26](#)
- s. 331A331B and cross-heading inserted by [2022 c. 6 s. 15](#)