



Sentencing Act 2020

2020 CHAPTER 17

THIRD GROUP OF PARTS Disposals

PART 10

CUSTODIAL SENTENCES

CHAPTER 7

MINIMUM SENTENCES FOR PARTICULAR OFFENCES

Minimum sentence for single offence

311 Minimum sentence for certain offences involving firearms that are prohibited weapons

- (1) This section applies where—
 - (a) a person is convicted of an offence listed in Schedule 20 (certain offences involving firearms that are prohibited weapons), and
 - (b) the offender was aged 16 or over when the offence was committed.
- (2) The court must impose an appropriate custodial sentence for a term of at least the required minimum term unless the court is of the opinion that there are exceptional circumstances which—
 - (a) relate to the offence or to the offender, and
 - (b) justify not doing so.
- (3) In this section “appropriate custodial sentence” means—
 - (a) in the case of a person who is aged under 18 when convicted, a sentence of detention under section 250 [^{F1}or, in a case to which section 252A applies, under that section];
 - (b) in the case of a person who is aged 18 or over but under 21 when convicted, a sentence of detention in a young offender institution (and includes, if the

Changes to legislation: Sentencing Act 2020, Section 311 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 19 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

offence is an offence for which a person aged 21 or over would be liable to imprisonment for life, a sentence of custody for life);

- (c) in the case of a person who is aged 21 or over when convicted, a sentence of imprisonment.

(4) In this section “the required minimum term” means—

- (a) in the case of an offender who was aged under 18 when the offence was committed, 3 years;
- (b) in the case of an offender who was aged 18 or over when the offence was committed, 5 years.

But this is subject to subsection (5).

(5) In the case of an offence within paragraph 5 of Schedule 20, “the required minimum term” means—

- (a) in the case of an offender who was aged under 18 when convicted, 3 years;
- (b) in the case of an offender who was aged 18 or over when convicted, 5 years.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 311(3) inserted (30.4.2021) by [Counter-Terrorism and Sentencing Act 2021 \(c. 11\)](#), s. 50(1)(i), [Sch. 13 para. 26\(20\)](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 311 power to apply (with modifications) conferred by [1988 c. 45, s. 1\(4B\)](#) (as inserted (1.12.2020) by [Sentencing Act 2020 \(c. 17\)](#), s. 416(1), [Sch. 24 para. 94\(3\)](#) (with [Sch. 27](#)); [S.I. 2020/1236, reg. 2](#))
- C2** S. 311 applied (with modifications) by [2006 c. 52, s. 227](#) (as amended (1.12.2020) by [Sentencing Act 2020 \(c. 17\)](#), s. 416(1), [Sch. 25 para. 48\(3\)](#) (with s. 416(7), [Sch. 27](#)); [S.I. 2020/1236, reg. 2](#))

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 311 in force at 1.12.2020 by [S.I. 2020/1236, reg. 2](#)

Changes to legislation:

Sentencing Act 2020, Section 311 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 19 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 :

- s. 311(3)(b) omitted by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 64(a)
- s. 311(3)(c) word substituted by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 64(b)

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. 34A and cross-heading inserted by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 1
- s. 80(3)(f) inserted by 2021 c. 17 s. 54(2)
- s. 179(4A) inserted by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 11(1)
- s. 179A inserted by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 12(2)
- s. 179A(1)(b)(i)(ii) substituted for words by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 16(2)
- s. 180(5) inserted by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 11(2)
- s. 186(8A) inserted by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 11(3)
- s. 202(1A)(1B) inserted by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 13(b)
- s. 202(1A)(b)(i)(ii) substituted for words by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 17(2)
- s. 204A inserted by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 14(2)
- s. 204A(3)(c)(i)(ii) substituted for words by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 18(2)
- s. 215(1A)(1B) inserted by 2022 c. 32 s. 149(2)(a)
- s. 215(2A) inserted by 2022 c. 32 s. 149(2)(c)
- s. 226(2)(ba) and word substituted for s. 226(2)(c)(d) by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 43
- s. 230(3A) and words inserted by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 2
- s. 234(1)(aa) inserted by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 27(1)(b)
- s. 234(1)(aa) omitted by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 28(1)
- s. 235(3A) inserted by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 27(2)
- s. 236(2A) inserted by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 29(3)
- s. 236(2A)(b) word substituted by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 47(b)
- s. 301(1A)(1B) inserted by 2022 c. 32 s. 149(3)(a)
- s. 301(2A) inserted by 2022 c. 32 s. 149(3)(c)
- s. 323(2A)-(2C) inserted by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 85(3)
- s. 343(4) inserted by 2022 c. 32 s. 178(2)
- s. 348A348B inserted by 2022 c. 32 s. 178(4)
- s. 350(6C)(6D) inserted by 2022 c. 32 s. 178(5)
- s. 387A inserted by 2021 c. 17 s. 54(3)
- s. 397A inserted by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 15
- s. 397A(4)(a)(ia) inserted by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 19(2)(b)
- s. 397A(4)(a)(i) words omitted by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 19(2)(a)
- s. 397A(5) words inserted by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 19(3)
- s. 397A(6)(7) inserted by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 19(4)
- s. 418(2A) inserted by 2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43(5)
- Sch. 1 para. 13A inserted by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 4(a)
- Sch. 10 para. 10(5)(d) inserted by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 21(2)(a)
- Sch. 10 para. 10(9A) inserted by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 21(2)(c)
- Sch. 10 para. 11(2)(d) inserted by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 21(3)(a)
- Sch. 10 para. 11(6A) inserted by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 21(3)(c)
- Sch. 10 para. 10(9A) omitted by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 74(1)(b)
- Sch. 10 para. 11(6A) omitted by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 75(1)(b)
- Sch. 10 para. 10(5)(d) words substituted by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 25(a)
- Sch. 10 para. 10(5)(d) words substituted by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 74(1)(a)

- Sch. 10 para. 11(2)(d) words substituted by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 26(a)
- Sch. 10 para. 11(2)(d) words substituted by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 75(1)(a)
- Sch. 17A para. 24A inserted by 2020 c. 17, Sch. 22 para. 79A (as inserted) by 2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 11(20)(m)
- Sch. 18 para. 26A and cross-heading inserted by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 80
- Sch. 19 para. 22A and cross-heading inserted by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 22 para. 84
- Sch. 26 para. 13A inserted by 2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43(7)(a)
- Sch. 26 para. 15(a)(iii) inserted by 2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43(7)(c)
- Sch. 26 para. 19(a)(ia) inserted by 2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43(7)(e)(i)
- Sch. 26 para. 20(c) inserted by 2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43(7)(f)
- Sch. 26 para. 20A inserted by 2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43(7)(g)
- Sch. 26 para. 24A inserted by 2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43(7)(i)
- Sch. 26 para. 20A(za) inserted by 2022 c. 32 s. 129(3)(d)
- Sch. 27 para. 16(2)(a)(b) substituted for words by 2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43(8)