

**2016 No. 981**

**CIVIL PARTNERSHIP, ENGLAND AND WALES**

**The Civil Partnerships Records Regulations 2016**

*Made* - - - - *13th October 2016*

*Coming into force* - - *7th November 2016*

The Registrar General makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 36(2)(g) and 258(2) of the Civil Partnership Act 2004(a).

In accordance with section 36(3) of the Civil Partnership Act 2004, these regulations are made with the approval of the Secretary of State.

**Citation, commencement and interpretation**

**1.**—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Civil Partnerships Records Regulations 2016 and come into force on 7th November 2016.

(2) In these Regulations—

“expedited service” means a service provided to a person who makes an application to the Registrar General before 13:00 on a working day and which is normally provided within 3 relevant hours of the request for a record being received;

“portable document format” means a document which meets the specifications set out in the International Standards Organisation document ISO 32000-1:2008(b);

“relevant hours” means the hours between 08:00 and 16:00 on a working day;

“standard service” means a service provided to a person who makes an application to the Registrar General and which is normally provided within 5 working days of the request for a record being received;

“working day” means a day which is not a Saturday or Sunday, Christmas Day, Good Friday or a bank holiday under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971(c) in England and Wales.

**Provision of the information contained in a civil partnership record in portable document format**

**2.**—(1) The Registrar General may, on request, search the Registrar General’s civil partnership register and provide the information contained in an entry in that register, in portable document format.

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(a) 2004 c. 33. Section 36(2)(g) was inserted by section 99(2) of the Deregulation Act 2015 (c. 20). There are other amendments to section 36 which are not relevant. The effect of section 36(3) of the Civil Partnership Act is that “regulations” in section 36(2) means regulations made by the Registrar General with the approval of the Secretary of State.

(b) <https://standards.data.gov.uk/standard/pdf-17-isoiec-32000-12008-document-management-portable-document-format-part-1-pdf-17>.

(c) 1971 c. 80.

(2) A request for the Registrar General to undertake a search and provide information under paragraph (1) must—

- (a) be made via the public website known as [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk), and
- (b) indicate whether the information is required by way of standard service or expedited service.

(3) Subject to paragraph (4), a record of the information provided under paragraph (1) shall not include the full addresses of the civil partners unless the applicant has provided the Registrar General with the full addresses of both civil partners as listed in that record, at the time of the application.

(4) Paragraph (3) shall not apply on and after the first of January in the year following the 50th anniversary of the formation of the civil partnership.

Home Office  
13th October 2016

*Mark Thomson*  
Registrar General

### EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Regulations)*

These Regulations provide that information contained in an entry in the Registrar General's register of civil partnerships may be provided, upon request, to a person applying via the website [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk), in personal document format. Regulation 2(3) and (4) state that an applicant must provide full addresses of both civil partners before receiving a record of that civil partnership which includes those addresses until the 50th year after the formation of the civil partnership, after which time this restriction no longer applies. This restriction mirrors that found in the Civil Partnership (Registration Provisions) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/3178).

A full impact assessment has not been produced for this instrument. The impact will be tested by way of pilot to inform an impact assessment produced after the pilot period.

The fee for provision of this information is listed in the Births, Deaths, Marriages and Civil Partnerships Records Regulations 2016 (S.I. 2016/980).

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