

EXPLANATORY NOTES

CHILDREN'S HEARINGS (SCOTLAND) ACT 2011

INTRODUCTION

COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS

PART 1 – THE NATIONAL CONVENER AND CHILDREN'S HEARINGS SCOTLAND (CHS)

The National Convener and CHS

Section 1 – The National Convener

Section 2 – Children's Hearings Scotland

Section 3 – Further provision about National Convener and CHS

The Children's Panel

Section 4 – The Children's Panel

Children's hearings

Section 5 – Children's hearing

Section 6 – Selection of members of children's hearing

Section 7 – Holding of children's hearing

Section 8 – Provision of advice to children's hearing

Section 9 – Independence of children's hearing

Power to change National Convener's functions

Section 10 – Power to change National Convener's functions

Functions of CHS

Section 11 – Provision of assistance to National Convener

Section 12 – Independence of National Convener

Section 13 – Directions

PART 2 – THE PRINCIPAL REPORTER AND THE SCOTTISH CHILDREN'S REPORTER ADMINISTRATION (SCRA)

The Principal Reporter and SCRA

Section 14 – The Principal Reporter

Section 15 – The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration

Section 16 – Further provision about Principal Reporter and SCRA

The Principal Reporter

Section 17 – Duty as respects location of children's hearing

Section 18 – Power to change Principal Reporter's functions

Section 19 – Rights of audience

Functions of SCRA

Section 20 – Assisting Principal Reporter

Section 21 – Provision of accommodation for children's hearings

Section 22 – Independence of Principal Reporter

Section 23 – Directions

Transfer of staff, property etc.

Section 24 – Transfer of staff, property etc.

PART 3 – GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

General considerations

Section 25 – Welfare of the child

Section 26 – Decisions inconsistent with section 25

Section 27 – Views of the child

Section 28 – Children's hearing: pre-condition for making certain orders and warrants

Section 29 – Sheriff: pre-condition for making certain orders and warrants

Section 30 – Children's hearing: duty to consider appointing safeguarder

Section 31 – Sheriff: duty to consider appointing safeguarder

PART 4 – SAFEGUARDERS

Section 32 – The Safeguarders Panel

Section 33 – Functions of safeguarder

Section 34 – Safeguarders: regulations

PART 5 – CHILD ASSESSMENT AND CHILD PROTECTION ORDERS

Child assessment orders

Section 35 – Child assessment orders

Section 36 – Consideration by sheriff

Child protection orders

Section 37 – Child protection orders

Consideration of application by sheriff

Section 38 – Consideration by sheriff: application by local authority only

Section 39 – Consideration by sheriff: application by a local authority or other person

Ancillary measures

Section 40 – Information non-disclosure directions

Section 41 – Contact directions

Section 42 – Parental responsibilities and rights directions

Notice of order

Section 43 – Notice of child protection order

Obligations of local authority

Section 44 – Obligations of local authority

Review by children's hearing of certain orders

Section 45 – Review by children's hearing where child in place of safety

Section 46 – Review by children's hearing where order prevents removal of child

Decision of children's hearing

Section 47 – Decision of children's hearing

Variation or termination of order by sheriff

Section 48 – Application for variation or termination

Section 49 – Notice of application for variation or termination

Section 50 – Children's hearing to provide advice to sheriff in relation to application

Section 51 – Determination by sheriff

Termination of order

Section 52 – Automatic termination of order

These notes relate to the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 (asp 1)

Section 53 – Power of Principal Reporter to terminate order

Section 54 – Termination of order after maximum of 8 working days

Other emergency measures

Section 55 – Application to justice of the peace

Section 56 – Constable's power to remove child to place of safety

Section 57 – Sections 55 and 56: regulations

Implementation of orders: welfare of child

Section 58 – Implementation of orders: welfare of child

Offences

Section 59 – Offences

PART 6 – INVESTIGATION AND REFERRAL TO CHILDREN'S HEARING

Provision of information to Principal Reporter

Section 60 – Local authority's duty to provide information to Principal Reporter

Section 61 – Constable's duty to provide information to Principal Reporter

Section 62 – Provision of information by court

Section 63 – Provision of evidence from certain criminal cases

Section 64 – Provision of information by other persons

Section 65 – Provision of information by constable: child in place of safety

Investigation and determination by Principal Reporter

Section 66 – Investigation and determination by Principal Reporter

Section 67 – Meaning of "section 67 ground"

Section 68 – Determination under section 66: no referral to children's hearing

Section 69 – Determination under section 66: referral to children's hearing

Section 70 – Requirement under Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004

Section 71 – Case remitted under section 49 of Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995

Section 72 – Child in place of safety: Principal Reporter's powers

PART 7 – ATTENDANCE AT CHILDREN'S HEARING

Section 73 – Child's duty to attend children's hearing

Section 74 – Relevant person's duty to attend children's hearing

Section 75 – Power to proceed in absence of relevant person

Section 76 – Power to exclude relevant person from children's hearing

Section 77 – Power to exclude relevant person's representative from children's hearing

Section 78 – Rights of certain persons to attend children's hearing

PART 8 – PRE-HEARING PANEL

Section 79 – Referral of certain matters for pre-hearing determination

Section 80 – Determination of matter referred under section 79

Section 81 – Determination of claim that person be deemed a relevant person

Section 82 – Appointment of safeguarder

PART 9 – CHILDREN'S HEARING

Key definitions

Section 83 – Meaning of "compulsory supervision order"

Section 84 – Meaning of "movement restriction condition"

Section 85 – Meaning of "secure accommodation authorisation"

Section 86 – Meaning of "interim compulsory supervision order"

Section 87 – Meaning of "medical examination order"

Section 88 – Meaning of "warrant to secure attendance"

Statement of grounds

Section 89 – Principal Reporter's duty to prepare statement of grounds

Grounds hearing

Section 90 – Grounds to be put to child and relevant person

Section 91 – Grounds accepted: powers of grounds hearing

Section 92 – Powers of grounds hearing on deferral

Section 93 – Grounds not accepted: application to sheriff or discharge

Section 94 – Child or relevant person unable to understand grounds

Section 95 – Child fails to attend grounds hearing

Children's hearing to consider need for further interim order

Section 96 – Children's hearing to consider need for further interim compulsory supervision order

Application of Part where compulsory supervision order in force

Section 97 – Application of Part where compulsory supervision order in force

PART 10 – PROCEEDINGS BEFORE SHERIFF

Application for extension or variation of interim compulsory supervision order

Section 98 – Application for extension or variation of interim compulsory supervision order

Section 99 – Further extension or variation of interim compulsory supervision order

Power to make interim compulsory supervision order

Section 100 - Sheriff's power to make interim compulsory supervision order

Application to establish grounds

Section 101 – Hearing of application

Section 102 – Jurisdiction and standard of proof: offence ground

Section 103 – Child's duty to attend hearing unless excused

Section 104 – Child and relevant person: representation at hearing

Ground accepted before application determined

Section 105 – Application by virtue of section 93: ground accepted before determination

Section 106 – Application by virtue of section 94: ground accepted by relevant person before determination

Withdrawal of application: termination of orders etc.

Section 107 – Withdrawal of application: termination of orders etc. by Principal Reporter

Section 108 – Determination: ground established

Section 109 – Determination: power to make interim compulsory supervision order etc.

Review of sheriff's determination

Section 110 – Application for review of grounds determination

Section 111 – Sheriff: review or dismissal of application

These notes relate to the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 (asp 1)

Section 112 – Child's duty to attend review hearing unless excused

Section 113 – Child and relevant person: representation at review hearing

Section 114 – Sheriff's powers on review of grounds determination

Section 115 – Recall: power to refer other grounds

Section 116 – Recall: powers where no grounds accepted or established

Section 117 – New section 67 ground established: sheriff to refer to children's hearing

Application of Part where compulsory supervision order in force

Section 118 - Application of Part where compulsory supervision order in force

PART 11 – SUBSEQUENT CHILDREN'S HEARINGS

Section 119 – Children's hearing following deferral or proceedings under Part 10

Section 120 – Powers of children's hearing on deferral under section 119

PART 12 – CHILDREN'S HEARINGS: GENERAL

Views of child

Section 121 - Confirmation that child given opportunity to express views before hearing

Children's advocacy services

Section 122 - Children's advocacy services

Warrants to secure attendance

Section 123 – General power to grant warrant to secure attendance

Child's age

Section 124 – Requirement to establish child's age

Compulsory supervision orders: review

Section 125 – Compulsory supervision order: requirement to review

Contact orders and permanence orders

Section 126 – Review of contact direction

Referral where failure to provide education for excluded pupil

Section 127 – Referral where failure to provide education for excluded pupil

Parenting order

Section 128 – Duty to consider applying for parenting order

PART 13 – REVIEW OF COMPULSORY SUPERVISION ORDER

Requirement for review

Section 129 – Requirement under Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004

Section 130 – Case remitted under section 49 of Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995

Section 131 – Duty of implementation authority to require review

Section 132 – Right of child or relevant person to require review

Section 133 – Principal Reporter's duty to initiate review

Section 134 – Duty to initiate a review if child to be taken out of Scotland

Section 135 – Duty to initiate review: secure accommodation authorisation

Section 136 – Duty to initiate review where child transferred

Functions of Principal Reporter and children's hearing

Section 137 – Duty to arrange children's hearing

Section 138 – Powers of children's hearing on review

Section 139 – Powers of children's hearing on deferral under section 138

Section 140 – Interim variation of compulsory supervision order

Section 141 – Preparation of report in circumstances relating to permanence order or adoption

Review of relevant person determination

Section 142 – Review of determination that person be deemed a relevant person

PART 14 – IMPLEMENTATION OF ORDERS

Power to transfer child in cases of urgent necessity

Section 143 – Transfers in cases of urgent necessity

Implementation of compulsory supervision order

Section 144 – Implementation of compulsory supervision order: general duties of implementation authority

Section 145 – Duty where order requires child to reside in certain place

Section 146 – Breach of duties imposed by sections 144 and 145

Section 147 – Application for order

Section 148 – Order for enforcement

Compulsory supervision orders etc.: further provision

Section 149 – Compulsory supervision orders etc.: further provision

Movement restriction conditions: regulations etc.

Section 150 – Movement restriction conditions: regulations etc.

Secure accommodation

Section 151 – Implementation of secure accommodation authorisation

Section 152 – Secure accommodation: placement in other circumstances

Section 153 – Secure accommodation: regulations

PART 15 – APPEALS

Appeal against decision of children's hearing

Section 154 – Appeal to sheriff against decision of children's hearing

Section 155 – Procedure

Section 156 – Determination of appeal

Section 157 – Time limit for disposal of appeal against certain decisions

Compulsory supervision order: suspension pending appeal

Section 158 # Compulsory supervision order: suspension pending appeal

Frivolous and vexatious appeals

Section 159 – Frivolous and vexatious appeals

Other appeals

Section 160 – Appeal to sheriff against relevant person determination

Section 161 – Appeal to sheriff against decision affecting contact or permanence order

Section 162 – Appeal to sheriff against decision to implement secure accommodation authorisation

Appeals to the sheriff principal and Court of Session

Section 163 – Appeals to the sheriff principal and Court of Session: children's hearings etc.

Section 164 – Appeals to the sheriff principal and Court of Session: relevant persons

Section 165 – Appeals to the sheriff principal and Court of Session: contact and permanence orders

Requirement imposed on local authority: review and appeal

Section 166 – Review of requirement imposed on local authority

Section 167 – Appeals to the sheriff principal: section 166

PART 16 – ENFORCEMENT OF ORDERS

Section 168 – Enforcement of orders

Section 169 – Child absconding from place

Section 170 – Child absconding from person

Section 171 – Offences related to absconding

PART 17 – PROCEEDINGS UNDER PART 10: EVIDENCE

Section 172 – Use of evidence obtained from prosecutor

Section 173 – Cases involving sexual behaviour: evidence

Section 174 – Cases involving sexual behaviour: taking of evidence by a commissioner

Section 175 – Sections 173 and 174: application to sheriff for order as to evidence

Section 176 – Amendments of Vulnerable Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2004

PART 18 – MISCELLANEOUS

Children's hearings: procedural rules

Section 177 – Children's hearings: procedural rules

Disclosure of information

Section 178 – Children's hearing: disclosure of information

Section 179 – Sharing of information: prosecution

Section 180 – Sharing of information: panel members

Implementation of compulsory supervision orders: annual report

Section 181 - Implementation of compulsory supervision orders: annual report

Publishing restrictions

Section 182 – Publishing restrictions

Mutual assistance

Section 183 – Mutual assistance

Section 184 – Enforcement of obligations on health board under section 183

These notes relate to the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 (asp 1)

Proceedings before sheriff under Act

Section 185 – Amendment of section 32 of Sheriff Courts (Scotland) Act 1971

Consent of child to medical examination or treatment

Section 186 – Consent of child to medical examination or treatment

Rehabilitation of offenders

Section 187 – Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974: treatment of certain disposals by children's hearings

Criminal record certificates

Section 188 – Criminal record certificates

Places of safety

Section 189 – Places of safety: restrictions on use of police stations

Orders made outwith Scotland

Section 190 – Effect of orders made outwith Scotland

PART 19 – LEGAL AID AND ADVICE

Section 191 – Legal aid and advice

New Part 5a – Children's Legal Aid

Section 28B – Children's legal aid

Section 28C – Circumstances where children's legal aid automatically available

Section 28D – Availability of children's legal aid: child

Section 28E – Availability of children's legal aid: relevant person

Section 28F – Availability of children's legal aid: appeals relating to deemed relevant person

Section 28G – Conditions

Section 28H – Board to establish review procedures

Section 28J – Board's power to require compliance with conditions

Section 28K – Contributions to the Fund

Section 28L – Power of Scottish Ministers to modify circumstances in which children's legal aid to be available

New Part 5b – Children's Legal Assistance

Section 28M – Register of solicitors and firms eligible to provide children's legal assistance

Section 28N – Code of practice

Section 28P – Duty to comply with code of practice

Section 28Q – Non-compliance with code of practice

Section 28R – Further provision as to removal of name from register

Section 28S – Publication of register etc.

Section 192 – Power to make regulations about contracts for provision of children's legal aid

PART 20 – GENERAL

Formal communications

Section 193 – Formal communications

Forms

Section 194 – Forms

Subordinate legislation

Section 195 – Subordinate legislation

These notes relate to the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 (asp 1)

Section 196 – Negative procedure

Section 197 – Affirmative procedure

Section 198 - Super-affirmative procedure

Interpretation

Section 199 – Meaning of “child”

Section 200 – Meaning of “relevant person”

Section 201 – Meaning of “relevant local authority”

Section 202 – Interpretation

General

Section 203 – Consequential amendments and repeals

Section 204 – Ancillary provision

Section 205 – Transitional provision etc.

Section 206 – Short title and commencement

Schedule 1 – Children's Hearings Scotland

These notes relate to the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 (asp 1)

Status

Membership

Persons disqualified from membership

Resignation of members

Removal of members

Remuneration, allowances etc.

Chairing meetings

The National Convener

Supplementary powers of National Convener

Delegation of National Convener's functions

Staff

Area support teams: establishment and membership

Transfer of members from CPACs

Area support teams: functions

Committees

CHS's supplementary powers

Procedure

Delegation of CHS's functions

Financial interests

Grants

Accounts

Provision of accounts and other information to Scottish Ministers

CHS's annual report

National Convener's annual report

Validity of proceedings and actions

Schedule 2 – The Children's Panel

These notes relate to the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 (asp 1)

Recruitment and tenure of panel members

List of panel members

Training

Allowances

Schedule 3 – The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration

Status

Membership

Persons disqualified from membership

Resignation of members

Removal of members

Remuneration, allowances etc.

Chairing meetings

The Principal Reporter

Supplementary powers of Principal Reporter

Delegation of Principal Reporter's functions

Staff

Appeals against dismissal

Committees

SCRA's supplementary powers

Procedure

Delegation of SCRA's functions

Financial interests

Grants

Accounts

Provision of accounts and other information to Scottish Ministers

SCRA's annual report

Principal Reporter's annual report

Validity of proceedings and actions

Schedule 4 – Transfer of staff and property to CHS

These notes relate to the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 (asp 1)

Interpretation

Staff transfer orders

Schemes for transfer of staff: consultation

Effect on existing contracts of employment

Transfer of property etc. to CHS

Schedule 5 – Minor and consequential amendments

Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 1986 (c.47)

Children (Scotland) Act 1995 (c.36)

Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004 (asp 8)

Schedule 6 – Repeals

PARLIAMENTARY HISTORY