

**Changes to legislation:** The Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 2008 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 02 June 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

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## EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

This Order makes provision about sexual offences.

Part 2 makes provision for the offences of rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault and causing a person to engage in sexual activity without consent.

Part 3 makes provision about sexual offences against children. Part 4 makes provision about sexual offences against a person with a mental disorder. Part 5 makes provision about prostitution.

Part 6 makes provision about other sexual offences.

The Order abolishes the common law offence of rape, and repeals various provisions, including provisions of Part 1 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, which are superseded by the offences created by the Order.

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**Changes and effects yet to be applied to :**

- art. 34(1)(b) words inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 71](#)
- art. 36(1)(b) words inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 72](#)
- art. 68(3)(b) words substituted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 73](#)
- art. 69(3)(b) words substituted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 74](#)