



# Attachment of Earnings Act 1971

## 1971 CHAPTER 32

### *Cases in which attachment is available*

#### **1 Courts with power to attach earnings**

- (1) The High Court may make an attachment of earnings order to secure payments under a High Court maintenance order.
- (2) A county court may make an attachment of earnings order to secure—
  - (a) payments under a High Court or a county court maintenance order;
  - (b) the payment of a judgment debt, other than a debt of less than £5 or such other sum as may be prescribed by county court rules ; or
  - (c) payments under an administration order.
- (3) A magistrates' court may make an attachment of earnings order to secure—
  - (a) payments under a magistrates' court maintenance order ;
  - (b) the payment of any sum adjudged to be paid by a conviction or treated (by any enactment relating to the collection and enforcement of fines, costs, compensation or forfeited recognisances) as so adjudged to be paid; or
  - (c) the payment of any sum required to be paid by a legal aid contribution order.
- (4) The following provisions of this Act apply, except where otherwise stated, to attachment of earnings orders made, or to be made, by any court.
- (5) Any power conferred by this Act to make an attachment of earnings order includes a power to make such an order to secure the discharge of liabilities arising before the coming into force of this Act.