



Matrimonial Causes Act 1973

1973 CHAPTER 18

PART II

FINANCIAL RELIEF FOR PARTIES TO MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN OF FAMILY

Variation, discharge and enforcement of certain orders, etc.

33 Orders for repayment in certain cases of sums paid under certain orders.

- (1) Where on an application made under this section in relation to an order to which this section applies it appears to the court that by reason of—
 - (a) a change in the circumstances of the person entitled to, or liable to make, payments under the order since the order was made, or
 - (b) the changed circumstances resulting from the death of the person so liable, the amount received by the person entitled to payments under the order in respect of a period after those circumstances changed or after the death of the person liable to make payments under the order, as the case may be, exceeds the amount which the person so liable or his or her personal representatives should have been required to pay, the court may order the respondent to the application to pay to the applicant such sum, not exceeding the amount of the excess, as the court thinks just.
- (2) This section applies to the following orders, that is to say—
 - (a) any order for maintenance pending suit and any interim order for maintenance;
 - (b) any periodical payments order; and
 - (c) any secured periodical payments order.
- (3) An application under this section may be made by the person liable to make payments under an order to which this section applies or his or her personal representatives and may be made against the person entitled to payments under the order or her or his personal representatives.
- (4) An application under this section may be made in proceedings in the High Court or [^{F1}the family court] for—

Changes to legislation: *There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973, Section 33. (See end of Document for details)*

- (a) the variation or discharge of the order to which this section applies, or
- (b) leave to enforce, or the enforcement of, the payment of arrears under that order;

but when not made in such proceedings shall be made to [^{F1}the family court], and accordingly references in this section to the court are references to the High Court or [^{F1}the family court], as the circumstances require.

^{F2}(5)

- (6) An order under this section for the payment of any sum may provide for the payment of that sum by instalments of such amount as may be specified in the order.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 33(4) substituted (22.4.2014) by [Crime and Courts Act 2013 \(c. 22\)](#), s. 61(3), [Sch. 11 para. 61\(2\)](#); [S.I. 2014/954](#), art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in [S.I. 2014/956](#), arts. 3-11)
- F2** S. 33(5) omitted (22.4.2014) by virtue of [Crime and Courts Act 2013 \(c. 22\)](#), s. 61(3), [Sch. 11 para. 61\(3\)](#); [S.I. 2014/954](#), art. 2(e) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in [S.I. 2014/956](#), arts. 3-11)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 33 extended by [Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act 1984 \(c. 42, SIF 49:3\)](#), [ss. 21\(h\)](#), 48(2)

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