



Child Abduction and Custody Act 1985

1985 CHAPTER 60

PART III

SUPPLEMENTARY

27 Interpretation.

- (1) In this Act “custody order” means [^{F1}(unless the contrary intention appears)] any such order or authorisation as is mentioned in Schedule 3 to this Act and “custody proceedings” means proceedings in which an order within paragraphs 1, 2, 5, 6, 8 or 9 of that Schedule may be [^{F2}made, varied or revoked].
- (2) For the purposes of this Act “part of the United Kingdom” means England and Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland and “the appropriate court”, in relation to England and Wales or Northern Ireland means the High Court and, in relation to Scotland, the Court of Session.
- (3) In this Act “local authority” means—
 - (a) in relation to England and Wales, the council of a non-metropolitan county, a metropolitan district, a London borough or the Common Council of the City of London; and
 - (b) in relation to Scotland, a [^{F3}council constituted under section 2 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994].
- ^{F4}[(4) In this Act a decision relating to rights of access in England and Wales [^{F5}or Northern Ireland][^{F6}or Scotland] means a decision as to the contact which a child may, or may not, have with any person.]
- [^{F7}(5) In this Act “ officer of the Service ” has the same meaning as in the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000.]
- [^{F8}(5A) In this Act “Welsh family proceedings officer” has the meaning given by section 35 of the Children Act 2004]

Changes to legislation: *Child Abduction and Custody Act 1985, Section 27 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 09 May 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*

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words inserted by [Family Law Act 1986 \(c. 55, SIF 49:3\)](#), s. 68(1), **Sch. 1 para. 30**
- F2** Words substituted by [Family Law Act 1986 \(c. 55, SIF 49:9, 10\)](#), **s. 67(5)**
- F3** Words in s. 27(3)(b) substituted (S.) (1.4.1996) by [1994 c. 39](#), s. 180(1), **Sch. 13 para. 139**; S.I. 1996/323, **art. 4(1)(c)**
- F4** S. 27(4) added (14.10.1991) by [Children Act 1989 \(c. 41, SIF 20\)](#), s. 108, Sch. 13 para. 57(2), **Sch. 14 para. 1(1)**; S.I. 1991/828, **art. 3(2)**
- F5** Words in s. 27(4) inserted (4.11.1996) by [S.I. 1995/756](#), **art. 11(4)**; S.R. 1996/297, **art. 3**
- F6** Words in s. 27(4) inserted (1.11.1996 subject to arts. 4-7 of the commencing Act) by [1995 c. 36](#), s. 105(4), **Sch. 4 para. 37(5)** (with s. 103(1)); S.I. 1996/2203, art. 3(3), **Sch.**
- F7** S. 27(5) inserted (1.4.2001) by [2000 c. 43](#), s. 80(1), **Sch. 7 Pt. II para. 81**; S.I. 2001/919, **art. 2(f)(ii)**
- F8** [S. 27\(5A\)](#) inserted (E.W.) (1.4.2005) by [Children Act 2004 \(c. 31\)](#), s. 67(6), **Sch. 3 para. 4**; S.I. 2005/700, art. 2(2)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 27 applied (with modifications) (1.3.1997) by [S.I. 1996/3156](#), art. 2, **Sch.**
- S. 27 applied (with modifications) (2.12.1997) by [S.I. 1997/2574](#) art. 2, **Sch.**

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- Sch. 3 para. 8(ba) inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 3\(a\)](#)