



# Child Abduction and Custody Act 1985

## 1985 CHAPTER 60

### PART I

#### INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION

#### 3 Central Authorities.

(1) Subject to subsection (2) below, the functions under the Convention of a Central Authority shall be discharged—

(a) in England and Wales <sup>F1</sup>... by the Lord Chancellor; and

(b) in Scotland by the Secretary of State<sup>F2</sup>; and

(c) in Northern Ireland by the Department of Justice in Northern Ireland]

(2) Any application made under the Convention by or on behalf of a person outside the United Kingdom may be addressed to the Lord Chancellor as the Central Authority in the United Kingdom.

[<sup>F3</sup>(3) Where any such application relates to a function to be discharged under subsection (1) above by an authority (“the responsible authority”) other than the authority to which the application is addressed, the authority to which the application is addressed shall transmit it to the responsible authority.]

#### Textual Amendments

**F1** Words in s. 3(1)(a) omitted (12.4.2010) by virtue of [The Northern Ireland Act 1998 \(Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions\) Order 2010 \(S.I. 2010/976\)](#), art. 1(2), [Sch. 18 para. 36\(a\)](#) (with arts. 28-31)

**F2** S. 3(1)(c) and word inserted (12.4.2010) by [The Northern Ireland Act 1998 \(Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions\) Order 2010 \(S.I. 2010/976\)](#), art. 1(2), [Sch. 18 para. 36\(b\)](#) (with arts. 28-31)

**F3** S. 3(3) substituted (12.4.2010) by [The Northern Ireland Act 1998 \(Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions\) Order 2010 \(S.I. 2010/976\)](#), art. 1(2), [Sch. 18 para. 36\(c\)](#) (with arts. 28-31)

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

**C1** S. 3 applied (with modifications) (1.3.1997) by [S.I. 1996/3156](#), art. 2, [Sch.](#)

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**Changes to legislation:** Child Abduction and Custody Act 1985, Section 3 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 18 March 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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S. 3 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\(a\)](#)