An Act to reform the law relating to children; to provide for local authority services for children in need and others; to amend the law with respect to children’s homes, community homes, voluntary homes and voluntary organisations; to make provision with respect to fostering, child minding and day care for young children and adoption; and for connected purposes.

16th November 1989

Annotations:

Extent Information
E1 For the extent of the provisions of this Act please see section 108(10)-(12).

Modifications etc. (not altering text)
C1 Act amended by Army Act 1955 (c. 18), Sch. 5A para. 7(3)–(4) (as substituted by Children Act 1989 (c. 41 SIF 20), s. 108(4)(6), Sch. 12 para. 8(2), Sch. 14 para. 27(4))
C2 Act amended (1.11.1994) by Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 (c. 37, SIF 83:1), ss. 30(8)(a), 39(3), 43(2); S.I. 1994/1776, art. 2(2)
C3 Act modified (1.6.1996) by Armed Forces Act 1991 (c. 62, SIF 7:1), s. 21(4)(b); S.I. 1996/1173, art. 2
Act (except for s. 41(8)) amended (01.01.1992) by S.I. 1991/2684, arts. 2(1), 4, Sch. 1
Act extended (E.W.)(30.9.1998) by 1998 c. 37, s. 11(6); S.I. 1998/2327, art. 2(1)(c) (subject to arts. 5-8).
Act: transfer of functions (1.7.1999) by S.I. 1999/672, art. 2, Sch. 1 as amended (7.11.2003) by 2002 c. 38, ss. 145(1), 148 (with Sch. 4 paras. 6-8)
C5 By Criminal Justice Act 1991 (c. 53, SIF 39:1), s. 101(1), Sch. 12 para. 23; S.I. 1991/2208, art. 2(1), Sch. 1 it is provided (14.10.1991) that in relation to any time before the commencement of s. 70 of that 1991 Act (which came into force on 1.10.1992 by S.I. 1992/333, art. 2(2), Sch. 2) references in
any enactment amended by that 1991 Act, to youth courts shall be construed as references to juvenile courts.

C6  Power to modify Act conferred (12.12.1996 for certain purposes and 1.4.1997 otherwise) by 1995 c. 36, ss. 33(5)(b)(with ss. 90, 103(1)); S.I. 1996/3201, art. 3(1)

C7  Act definition of "parental responsibility" extended (E.W.S.) with modification (7.10.1996) by S.I. 1996/207, reg. 57(3)

C8  Act definition of "Voluntary organisation" extended (7.10.1996) by S.I. 1996/207, reg. 78(9)(c)


C10  Act modified (26.4.2010) by The Isles of Scilly (Children Act 1989) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/1116), art. 2

Changes to legislation:
There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to Children Act 1989. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

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):

- s. 4(1A)(aa) inserted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 21(3)
- s. 4(1C) inserted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 21(4)
- s. 4ZA(2)(aa) inserted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 22(3)
- s. 4ZA(3A) inserted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 22(4)
- s. 23E(1A)(ba) inserted by 2018 anaw 2 Sch. 1 para. 2(2)(b)
- s. 31A(4A) inserted by 2014 c. 6 s. 15(2)(b)
- s. 36(11) inserted by 2018 anaw 2 Sch. 1 para. 2(3)
- s. 80(11A) inserted by S.I. 2019/772 reg. 4(g)
- s. 80(14) inserted by S.I. 2019/772 reg. 4(h)
- Sch. para. 14 substituted by S.I. 2019/519, Sch. para. 17(3) (as substituted) by S.I. 2019/836 reg. 2(2)(b)