



Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

1999 CHAPTER 33

PART VII U.K.

POWER TO ARREST, SEARCH AND FINGERPRINT

Fingerprinting

141 Fingerprinting. U.K.

- (1) Fingerprints may be taken by an authorised person from a person to whom this section applies.
- (2) Fingerprints may be taken under this section only during the relevant period.
- (3) Fingerprints may not be taken under this section from a person under the age of sixteen (“the child”) except in the presence of a person of full age who is—
 - (a) the child’s parent or guardian; or
 - (b) a person who for the time being takes responsibility for the child.
- (4) The person mentioned in subsection (3)(b) may not be—
 - (a) an officer of the Secretary of State who is not an authorised person;
 - (b) an authorised person.
- (5) “Authorised person” means—
 - (a) a constable;
 - (b) an immigration officer;
 - (c) a prison officer;
 - (d) an officer of the Secretary of State authorised for the purpose; or
 - (e) a person who is employed by a contractor in connection with the discharge of the contractor’s duties under a [F¹removal centre] contract.
- (6) In subsection (5)(e) “contractor” and “[F²removal centre] contract” have the same meaning as in Part VIII.

Changes to legislation: Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, Section 141 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 02 June 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

(7) This section applies to—

- (a) any person (“A”) who, on being required to do so by an immigration officer on his arrival in the United Kingdom, fails to produce a valid passport with photograph or some other document satisfactorily establishing his identity and nationality or citizenship;
- (b) any person (“B”) who has been refused leave to enter the United Kingdom but has been [^{F3}granted immigration bail under Schedule 10 to the Immigration Act 2016] if an immigration officer reasonably suspects that B might break any condition imposed on him relating to residence or as to reporting to the police or an immigration officer;
- [^{F4}(c) any person (“C”) in respect of whom the Secretary of State has decided—
 - (i) to make a deportation order, or
 - (ii) that section 32(5) of the UK Borders Act 2007 (automatic deportation of foreign criminals) applies;
- (ca) any person (“CA”) who requires leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom but does not have it;]
- (d) any person (“D”) who has been [^{F5}detained under paragraph 16 of Schedule 2 to the 1971 Act or arrested under paragraph 17 of that Schedule;]
- (e) any person (“E”) who has made a claim for asylum;
- [^{F6}(f) any person (“F”) who is—
 - (i) a member of the family of a person within any of paragraphs (a), (b) or (ca) to (e), or
 - (ii) a dependant of a person within paragraph (c)(i).]

(8) “The relevant period” begins—

- (a) for A, on his failure to produce the passport or other document;
- (b) for B, on the decision to [^{F7}grant him bail] ;
- [^{F8}(c) for C, when he is notified of the decision mentioned in subsection (7)(c);
- (ca) for CA, when he becomes a person to whom this section applies;]
- (d) for D, on his [^{F9}detention or arrest;]
- (e) for E, on the making of his claim for asylum; and
- (f) for F, at the same time as for the person [^{F10}of whose family he is a member or] whose dependant he is.

(9) “The relevant period” ends on the earliest of the following—

- (a) the grant of leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom;
- (b) for A, B, C [^{F11}, CA] or D, his removal or deportation from the United Kingdom;
- [^{F12}(c) for C—
 - (i) the time when the [^{F13}decision mentioned in subsection (7)(c)] ceases to have effect, whether as a result of an appeal or otherwise, or
 - (ii) if a deportation order has been made against him, its revocation or its otherwise ceasing to have effect;]
- [^{F14}(ca) for CA, when he no longer requires leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom;]
- (d) for D, his release if he is no longer liable to be detained under paragraph 16 of Schedule 2 to the 1971 Act;
- (e) for E, the final determination or abandonment of his claim for asylum; and

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- (f) for F, at the same time as for the person [^{F15}of whose family he is a member or] whose dependant he is.
- (10) No fingerprints may be taken from A if the immigration officer considers that A has a reasonable excuse for the failure concerned.
- (11) No fingerprints may be taken from B unless the decision to take them has been confirmed by a chief immigration officer.
- (12) An authorised person may not take fingerprints from a person under the age of sixteen unless his decision to take them has been confirmed—
- (a) if he is a constable, by a person designated for the purpose by the chief constable of his police force;
 - (b) if he is a person mentioned in subsection (5)(b) or (e), by a chief immigration officer;
 - (c) if he is a prison officer, by a person designated for the purpose by the governor of the prison;
 - (d) if he is an officer of the Secretary of State, by a person designated for the purpose by the Secretary of State.
- (13) Neither subsection (3) nor subsection (12) prevents an authorised person from taking fingerprints if he reasonably believes that the person from whom they are to be taken is aged sixteen or over.
- [^{F16}(13A) For the purposes of subsection (7)(f)(i), a person is a member of the family of another person (“P”) if—
- (a) the person is—
 - (i) P's partner,
 - (ii) P's child, or a child living in the same household as P in circumstances where P has care of the child,
 - (iii) in a case where P is a child, P's parent, or
 - (iv) an adult dependant relative of P, and
 - (b) the person does not have a right of abode in the United Kingdom or indefinite leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom.
- (13B) In subsection (13A) “child” means a person who is under the age of 18.]
- (14) For the purposes of subsection [^{F17}(7)(f)(ii)], a person is a dependant of another person if—
- (a) he is that person’s spouse or child under the age of eighteen; and
 - (b) he does not have a right of abode in the United Kingdom or indefinite leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom.
- (15) “Claim for asylum” has the same meaning as in Part VI.
- ^{F18}(16)
- [^{F19}(17) Section 157(1) applies to this section (in so far as it relates to removal centres by virtue of subsection (5)(e)) as it applies to Part VIII.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 141(5)(e) substituted (10.2.2003) by [Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 \(c. 41\)](#), [ss.66\(2\)\(3\)\(n\)](#), [162\(1\)](#), (with [s. 159](#)); [S.I. 2003/1](#), [art. 2](#), [Sch.](#)

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- F2** Words in s. 141(6) substituted (10.2.2003) by [Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 \(c. 41\), ss.66\(2\)\(3\)\(n\), 162\(1\) \(with s. 159\); S.I. 2003/1, art. 2, Sch.](#)
- F3** Words in s. 141(7)(b) substituted (15.1.2018) by [Immigration Act 2016 \(c. 19\), s. 94\(1\), Sch. 10 para. 30\(2\); S.I. 2017/1241, reg. 2\(c\) \(with Sch.\) \(as amended by S.I. 2018/31, reg. 2\)](#)
- F4** S. 141(7)(c)(ca) substituted for s. 141(7)(c) (20.10.2014) by [Immigration Act 2014 \(c. 22\), s. 75\(3\), Sch. 9 para. 29\(2\)\(a\); S.I. 2014/2771, art. 2\(e\) \(with arts. 9-11\) \(as amended \(2.3.2015 and 6.4.2015\) by S.I. 2015/371, arts. 1\(2\)\(3\), 7, 8; and with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/2928, art. 2 \(which S.I. is revoked \(6.4.2015\) by S.I. 2015/371, arts. 1\(3\), 9\)\)](#)
- F5** Words in s. 141(7)(d) substituted (31.8.2006) by [Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 \(c. 13\), ss. 28\(2\), 62\(1\)\(2\); S.I. 2006/2226, art. 3, Sch. 1](#)
- F6** S. 141(7)(f) substituted (12.7.2016) by [Immigration Act 2016 \(c. 19\), ss. 57\(2\), 94\(1\); S.I. 2016/603, reg. 3\(j\)](#)
- F7** Words in s. 141(8)(b) substituted (15.1.2018) by [Immigration Act 2016 \(c. 19\), s. 94\(1\), Sch. 10 para. 30\(3\); S.I. 2017/1241, reg. 2\(c\) \(with Sch.\) \(as amended by S.I. 2018/31, reg. 2\)](#)
- F8** S. 141(8)(c)(ca) substituted for s. 141(8)(c) (20.10.2014) by [Immigration Act 2014 \(c. 22\), s. 75\(3\), Sch. 9 para. 29\(3\); S.I. 2014/2771, art. 2\(e\) \(with arts. 9-11\) \(as amended \(2.3.2015 and 6.4.2015\) by S.I. 2015/371, arts. 1\(2\)\(3\), 7, 8; and with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/2928, art. 2 \(which S.I. is revoked \(6.4.2015\) by S.I. 2015/371, arts. 1\(3\), 9\)\)](#)
- F9** Words in s. 141(8)(d) substituted (31.8.2006) by [Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 \(c. 13\), ss. 28\(3\), 62\(1\)\(2\); S.I. 2006/2226, art. 3, Sch. 1](#)
- F10** Words in s. 141(8)(f) inserted (12.7.2016) by [Immigration Act 2016 \(c. 19\), ss. 57\(3\), 94\(1\); S.I. 2016/603, reg. 3\(j\)](#)
- F11** Word in s. 141(9)(b) inserted (20.10.2014) by [Immigration Act 2014 \(c. 22\), s. 75\(3\), Sch. 9 para. 29\(4\)\(a\); S.I. 2014/2771, art. 2\(e\) \(with arts. 9-11\) \(as amended \(2.3.2015 and 6.4.2015\) by S.I. 2015/371, arts. 1\(2\)\(3\), 7, 8; and with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/2928, art. 2 \(which S.I. is revoked \(6.4.2015\) by S.I. 2015/371, arts. 1\(3\), 9\)\)](#)
- F12** S. 141(9)(c) substituted (1.10.2004) by [Asylum and Immigration \(Treatment of Claimants, etc.\) Act 2004 \(c. 19\), ss. 15\(4\), 48\(3\); S.I. 2004/2523, art. 2, Sch.](#)
- F13** Words in s. 141(9)(c)(i) substituted (20.10.2014) by [Immigration Act 2014 \(c. 22\), s. 75\(3\), Sch. 9 para. 29\(4\)\(b\); S.I. 2014/2771, art. 2\(e\) \(with arts. 9-11\) \(as amended \(2.3.2015 and 6.4.2015\) by S.I. 2015/371, arts. 1\(2\)\(3\), 7, 8; and with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/2928, art. 2 \(which S.I. is revoked \(6.4.2015\) by S.I. 2015/371, arts. 1\(3\), 9\)\)](#)
- F14** S. 141(9)(ca) inserted (20.10.2014) by [Immigration Act 2014 \(c. 22\), s. 75\(3\), Sch. 9 para. 29\(4\)\(e\); S.I. 2014/2771, art. 2\(e\) \(with arts. 9-11\) \(as amended \(2.3.2015 and 6.4.2015\) by S.I. 2015/371, arts. 1\(2\)\(3\), 7, 8; and with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/2928, art. 2 \(which S.I. is revoked \(6.4.2015\) by S.I. 2015/371, arts. 1\(3\), 9\)\)](#)
- F15** Words in s. 141(9)(f) inserted (12.7.2016) by [Immigration Act 2016 \(c. 19\), ss. 57\(4\), 94\(1\); S.I. 2016/603, reg. 3\(j\)](#)
- F16** S. 141(13A)(13B) inserted (12.7.2016) by [Immigration Act 2016 \(c. 19\), ss. 57\(5\), 94\(1\); S.I. 2016/603, reg. 3\(j\)](#)
- F17** Word in s. 141(14) substituted (12.7.2016) by [Immigration Act 2016 \(c. 19\), ss. 57\(6\), 94\(1\); S.I. 2016/603, reg. 3\(j\)](#)
- F18** S. 141(16) omitted (20.10.2014) by virtue of [Immigration Act 2014 \(c. 22\), s. 75\(3\), Sch. 9 para. 29\(5\); S.I. 2014/2771, art. 2\(e\) \(with arts. 9-11\) \(as amended \(2.3.2015 and 6.4.2015\) by S.I. 2015/371, arts. 1\(2\)\(3\), 7, 8; and with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/2928, art. 2 \(which S.I. is revoked \(6.4.2015\) by S.I. 2015/371, arts. 1\(3\), 9\)\)](#)
- F19** S. 141(17) added (31.8.2006) by [Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 \(c. 13\), ss. 28\(4\), 62\(1\)\(2\); S.I. 2006/2226, art. 3, Sch. 1](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 141 modified by [S.I. 1993/1813, art. 7\(1\), Sch. 4, para. 2A \(as inserted \(26.10.2006\) by Channel Tunnel \(International Arrangements\) \(Amendment\) Order 2006 \(S.I. 2006/2626\), arts. 1, 2\)](#)

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C2 S. 141 extended (with modifications) by S.I. 2002/2818, art. 11(1)(f), Sch. 2, para. 1A (as inserted (18.11.2006) by [Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 \(Juxtaposed Controls\) \(Amendment\) Order 2006 \(S.I. 2006/2908\)](#), arts. 1, **2(a)**)

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- s. 141(7)(b) words substituted by [S.I. 2017/617 reg. 2](#) (This amendment comes into force on the commencement of paragraph 1 of Schedule 10 to the Immigration Act 2016 (c. 19))
- s. 141(7)(e) words substituted by [2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 4\(b\)\(i\)](#)
- s. 141(8)(e) words substituted by [2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 4\(b\)\(i\)](#)
- s. 141(9)(e) words substituted by [2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 4\(b\)\(i\)](#)
- s. 141(15) words substituted by [2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 4\(b\)\(ii\)](#)

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. 10(12) inserted by [2023 c. 37 s. 10\(6\)](#)
- s. 40(1)-(1C) substituted for s. 40(1) by [2022 c. 36 s. 76\(2\)](#)
- s. 40(4A)(4B) inserted by [2022 c. 36 s. 76\(5\)](#)
- s. 72(10) repealed by [2004 c. 19 Sch. 4](#)
- s. 94(2A)-(2C) inserted by [2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 3\(3\)](#)
- s. 94(2D) inserted by [2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 7\(4\)](#)
- s. 94(3)(3A) substituted for s. 94(3) by [2002 c. 41 s. 44\(4\)](#) (This amendment is repealed (prosp.) by [2016 c. 19, Sch. 11 para. 41](#))
- s. 94(3A)-(3D) inserted by [2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 3\(5\)](#)
- s. 95A inserted by [2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 9](#)
- s. 96(1A) inserted by [2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 10\(3\)](#)
- s. 97(3A)(b)(iv) inserted by [2022 c. 36 s. 13\(2\)\(c\)\(ii\)](#)
- s. 97(8)(9) inserted by [2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 11\(4\)](#)
- s. 98A inserted by [2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 13](#)
- s. 98A(5) inserted by [2022 c. 36 s. 13\(4\)](#)
- s. 103(4)(a) words substituted by [2004 c. 19 s. 10\(4\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 103(5)(b) word substituted by [S.I. 2008/2833 Sch. 3 para. 183\(ii\)](#)
- s. 103A(1) words substituted by [2004 c. 19 s. 10\(5\)](#)
- s. 103A(1) heading words substituted by [2004 c. 19 s. 10\(5\)](#)
- s. 103A(1) words substituted by [S.I. 2008/2833 Sch. 3 para. 184](#)
- s. 125(2)(ba) inserted by [2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 22\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 146(2)(za) inserted by [2016 c. 19 s. 44\(9\)](#)
- s. 166(5)(ca) substituted for word in s. 166(5)(c) by [2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 24\(2\)](#)
- s. 166(5A)(5B) inserted by [2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 24\(3\)](#)
- s. 166(6)(aa) substituted for word in s. 166(6)(a) by [2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 24\(4\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 21 modified by [2002 c. 41 s. 23\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 3 para. 2(5) modified by [2002 c. 41 s. 23\(2\)\(b\)](#)