



# Armed Forces Act 2006

## 2006 CHAPTER 52

### PART 11

#### THE SERVICE CIVILIAN COURT

##### *The Service Civilian Court: court and proceedings*

#### **277 The Service Civilian Court**

(1) There shall be a court, to be known as the Service Civilian Court.

[<sup>F1</sup>(2) The Service Civilian Court may sit in any place, whether within or outside the United Kingdom.]

#### **Textual Amendments**

**F1** S. 277(2) substituted (2.4.2012) by [Armed Forces Act 2011 \(c. 18\)](#), **ss. 18, 32(3)**; [S.I. 2012/669](#), **art. 4(a)**

#### **Commencement Information**

**I1** S. 277 in force at 28.3.2009 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2009/812](#), **art. 3(a)(b)** (with transitional provisions in [S.I. 2009/1059](#))

**I2** S. 277 in force at 31.10.2009 in so far as not already in force by [S.I. 2009/1167](#), **art. 4**

#### **278 Constitution and proceedings of the Service Civilian Court**

(1) In any proceedings, the Service Civilian Court is to consist of a single judge advocate.

(2) The judge advocate for any proceedings is to be specified by or on behalf of the Judge Advocate General.

(3) Schedule 10 (proceedings of the Service Civilian Court) has effect.

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*Changes to legislation: Armed Forces Act 2006, Cross Heading: The Service Civilian Court: court and proceedings is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 April 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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#### Commencement Information

- I3** S. 278 in force at 28.3.2009 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2009/812](#), [art. 3\(a\)\(b\)](#) (with transitional provisions in [S.I. 2009/1059](#))
- I4** S. 278 in force at 31.10.2009 in so far as not already in force by [S.I. 2009/1167](#), [art. 4](#)

### 279 Court must consider whether trial by Court Martial more appropriate

- (1) Before arraignment, the Service Civilian Court must decide whether it or the Court Martial should try the charge.
- (2) Before making a decision under this section, the court must—
  - (a) give the Director of Service Prosecutions (“the Director”) an opportunity to inform the court of the defendant's previous convictions (if any); and
  - (b) give the Director and the defendant an opportunity to make representations as to whether the Service Civilian Court or the Court Martial should try the charge.
- (3) In making a decision under this section, the court must consider—
  - (a) the nature of the case;
  - (b) the seriousness of the offence;
  - (c) whether its powers of punishment in respect of the offence would be adequate;
  - (d) any other circumstances it considers to be relevant; and
  - (e) any representations made by the Director and the defendant.
- (4) If the court decides that the charge should be tried by the Court Martial—
  - (a) it must refer the charge to that court; and
  - (b) the charge is to be regarded for the purposes of Part 5 as allocated for Court Martial trial.
- (5) Section 238(3) (meaning of “previous conviction”) applies for the purposes of subsection (2)(a) above.

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

- C1** S. 279(1) restricted (31.10.2009) by [The Armed Forces \(Service Civilian Court\) Rules 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1209\)](#), [art. 1](#), [rule 34](#)

#### Commencement Information

- I5** S. 279 in force at 28.3.2009 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2009/812](#), [art. 3\(a\)\(b\)](#) (with transitional provisions in [S.I. 2009/1059](#))
- I6** S. 279 in force at 31.10.2009 in so far as not already in force by [S.I. 2009/1167](#), [art. 4](#)

### 280 Right to elect trial by Court Martial instead of by SCC

- (1) This section applies where the Service Civilian Court decides (under section 279) that it should try a charge.
- (2) Before arraignment the court must, in the way specified by SCC rules, give the defendant the opportunity of electing Court Martial trial of the charge.

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- (3) If the defendant or (if more than one person is jointly charged) any of the defendants elects Court Martial trial of the charge—
- (a) the Service Civilian Court must refer the charge to the Court Martial; and
  - (b) the charge is to be regarded for the purposes of Part 5 as allocated for Court Martial trial.
- (4) If subsection (3) does not apply, the Service Civilian Court must try the charge (but this is subject to the exercise by the Director of Service Prosecutions of the power under section 126(2)(b), (d) or (e)).
- (5) Where the Service Civilian Court is, in accordance with SCC rules, to try together two or more charges against the defendant, an election for Court Martial trial in respect of any of the charges takes effect as an election in respect of all of them.

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**Commencement Information**

- I7** S. 280 in force at 28.3.2009 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2009/812](#), [art. 3\(a\)\(b\)](#) (with transitional provisions in [S.I. 2009/1059](#))
- I8** S. 280 in force at 31.10.2009 in so far as not already in force by [S.I. 2009/1167](#), [art. 4](#)

## **281 Power of SCC to convict of offence other than that charged**

Section 161 (power of Court Martial to convict of offence other than that charged) applies in relation to the Service Civilian Court as it applies in relation to the Court Martial.

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**Commencement Information**

- I9** S. 281 in force at 28.3.2009 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2009/812](#), [art. 3\(a\)\(b\)](#) (with transitional provisions in [S.I. 2009/1059](#))
- I10** S. 281 in force at 31.10.2009 in so far as not already in force by [S.I. 2009/1167](#), [art. 4](#)

**Changes to legislation:**

Armed Forces Act 2006, Cross Heading: The Service Civilian Court: court and proceedings is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 April 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.

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**Changes and effects yet to be applied to :**

- specified provision(s) transitional provisions for effects of commencing SI 2009/812 by [S.I. 2009/1059 Order](#)

**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):

- Pt. 12A inserted by [2016 c. 21 s. 7](#)
- Pt. 16B inserted by [2023 c. 48 s. 1](#)
- s. 50(2)(ca) inserted by [2011 c. 18 Sch. 4 para. 3\(3\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). Sch. 4 para. 3(3) repealed (8.3.2015) without ever being in force by [2014 c. 12, Sch. 11 para. 82\(2\)](#); [S.I. 2015/373, art. 2\(g\)\(ii\)](#))
- s. 209(8) inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 41\(3\)](#)
- s. 213(3A) words inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 41\(6\)](#)
- s. 218A(6A) inserted by Sch. 26 para. 12(1)(db) (as inserted) by [S.I. 2020/1520 reg. 6\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 218A(6A) words omitted by virtue of [2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 12\(1\)\(dc\)](#) (as inserted) by [S.I. 2020/1520 reg. 6\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 219A(1)(d)(i) omitted by virtue of [2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 14\(a\)\(i\)](#) (as substituted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 219A(1)(d)(iii) omitted by virtue of [2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 14\(a\)\(i\)](#) (as substituted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 219A(1)(da) inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 41\(7\)](#)
- s. 219A(1)(da)(i) omitted by virtue of [2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 14\(a\)\(ii\)](#) (as substituted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 219A(2A) inserted by [2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 14\(bb\)](#) (as inserted) by [S.I. 2020/1520 reg. 6\(3\)](#)
- s. 219ZA inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 8 para. 2](#)
- s. 219ZA(1)(e) words omitted by virtue of [2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 13A\(a\)](#) (as inserted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 219ZA(4)-(6) omitted by virtue of [2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 13A\(b\)](#) (as inserted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 219ZA(7) words omitted by virtue of [2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 13A\(c\)](#) (as inserted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 223(1A) inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 41\(8\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 224A(1)(d)(iii) and word inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 41\(9\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- s. 224A(1)(d)(iii) words substituted by [2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 15\(a\)\(iii\)](#) (as inserted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 224A(1A) inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 8 para. 8\(4\)](#)
- s. 224A(3A) inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 41\(9\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 224B inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 8 para. 9](#)
- s. 225(1A) inserted by [2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 15A](#) (as inserted) by [S.I. 2020/1520 reg. 6\(4\)](#)
- s. 226(1A) inserted by [2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 15B](#) (as inserted) by [S.I. 2020/1520 reg. 6\(4\)](#)
- s. 227(3)(a)(b) substituted for words by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 41\(10\)](#)
- s. 238(6)(a) word omitted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 41\(11\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 238(6)(b) word substituted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 41\(11\)\(c\)](#)

- s. 238(6)(aa) inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 41\(11\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 239(3A)(3B) inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 8 para. 3](#)
- s. 239(3A) words omitted by virtue of 2020 c. 17, Sch 26 para. 18(a)(i) (as inserted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(d\)](#)
- s. 239(3A) words omitted by virtue of 2020 c. 17, Sch 26 para. 18(a)(ii) (as inserted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(d\)](#)
- s. 239(3B) words omitted by virtue of 2020 c. 17, Sch 26 para. 18(b) (as inserted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(d\)](#)
- s. 260(1)(ca) inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 41\(14\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- s. 260(1)(ca) words omitted by virtue of 2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 19(a)(iia) (as inserted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(e\)\(i\)](#)
- s. 260(4B)(a) words omitted by virtue of 2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 19(b)(ii) (as substituted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(e\)\(ii\)](#)
- s. 260(4B)(za) inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 41\(14\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 260(4B)(za) words omitted by virtue of 2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 19(b)(i) (as substituted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(e\)\(ii\)](#)
- s. 261(1)(ba) inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 41\(15\)](#)
- s. 261(1)(ba) words omitted by virtue of 2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 20(c) (as inserted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(f\)](#)
- s. 261A(3)(a) words in s. 261A(3) renumbered as s. 261A(3)(a) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 8 para. 4\(a\)](#)
- s. 261A(3)(b)(c) inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 8 para. 4\(b\)](#)
- s. 261A(3)(b) words omitted by virtue of 2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 20A(a) (as inserted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(g\)](#)
- s. 261A(3)(c)(i) words omitted by virtue of 2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 20A(b) (as inserted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(g\)](#)
- s. 262A(2A) inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 41\(16\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 262A(2A)(b) omitted by virtue of 2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 21(a) (as substituted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(h\)](#)
- s. 262A(3A) inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 41\(16\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 262A(3A) omitted by virtue of 2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 21(b) (as substituted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(h\)](#)
- s. 262A(4) words inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 41\(16\)\(c\)\(i\)](#)
- s. 262A(4) words inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 41\(16\)\(c\)\(ii\)](#)
- s. 262A(4) words omitted by virtue of 2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 21(c) (as substituted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(h\)](#)
- s. 270A270B inserted by [2008 c. 4 Sch. 25 para. 27](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 25 para. 26(3)(4) repealed (2.4.2012) by 2011 c. 18, Sch. 3 para. 20(3), Sch. 5; S.I. 2012/669, art. 4(d)(f) (with art. 13))
- s. 270B(6)(aa) inserted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 17 para. 9\(2\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 17 para. 9 repealed (2.4.2012) without ever being in force by 2011 c. 18, Sch. 5; S.I. 2012/669, art. 4(f))
- s. 270B(10) word repealed by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 23 Pt. 5](#)
- s. 270B(10)(a) words inserted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 17 para. 9\(3\)\(a\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 17 para. 9 repealed (2.4.2012) without ever being in force by 2011 c. 18, Sch. 5; S.I. 2012/669, art. 4(f))
- s. 270B(10)(b) words substituted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 17 para. 9\(3\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 17 para. 9 repealed (2.4.2012) without ever being in force by 2011 c. 18, Sch. 5; S.I. 2012/669, art. 4(f))
- s. 270B(10)(c)-(e) inserted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 17 para. 9\(3\)\(c\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 17 para. 9 repealed (2.4.2012) without ever being in force by 2011 c. 18, Sch. 5; S.I. 2012/669, art. 4(f))
- s. 304B inserted by [2016 c. 21 s. 8](#)
- s. 304C inserted by [2016 c. 21 s. 9](#)
- s. 304C(5A) inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 8 para. 5](#)
- s. 304C(5A) words omitted by virtue of 2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 24A(a) (as inserted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(i\)](#)

- s. 304C(5A) words substituted by 2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 24A(b) (as inserted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(i\)](#)
- s. 304D inserted by [2016 c. 21 s. 10](#)
- s. 304E inserted by [2016 c. 21 s. 11](#)
- s. 304F-304H inserted by [2016 c. 21 s. 12](#)
- s. 377(8) inserted by 2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 26 (as inserted) by [S.I. 2020/1520 reg. 6\(5\)](#)
- Sch. 7 para. 9(A1) inserted by [2020 c. 9 Sch. 2 para. 123\(8\)\(a\)](#) (This pre-consolidation amendment comes into force immediately before the consolidation date on 1.12.2020 (see 2020 c. 9, ss. 3, 5(2)(3) and 2020 c. 17, ss. 2, 416) to facilitate the sentencing consolidation and then is repealed immediately afterwards on 1.12.2020 by the Sentencing Act 2020 (c. 17), Sch. 28; S.I. 2020/1236, reg. 2)