



# Coroners and Justice Act 2009

## 2009 CHAPTER 25

### PART 2

#### CRIMINAL OFFENCES

#### CHAPTER 1

#### MURDER, INFANTICIDE AND SUICIDE

##### *Suicide*

### **59 Encouraging or assisting suicide (England and Wales)**

- (1) The Suicide Act 1961 (c. 60) is amended as follows.
- (2) In section 2 (criminal liability for complicity in another's suicide), for subsection (1) substitute—
  - “(1) A person (“D”) commits an offence if—
    - (a) D does an act capable of encouraging or assisting the suicide or attempted suicide of another person, and
    - (b) D's act was intended to encourage or assist suicide or an attempt at suicide.
  - (1A) The person referred to in subsection (1)(a) need not be a specific person (or class of persons) known to, or identified by, D.
  - (1B) D may commit an offence under this section whether or not a suicide, or an attempt at suicide, occurs.
  - (1C) An offence under this section is triable on indictment and a person convicted of such an offence is liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 14 years.”

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**Changes to legislation:** Coroners and Justice Act 2009, Section 59 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 13 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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- (3) In subsection (2) of that section, for “it” to the end substitute “ of a person it is proved that the deceased person committed suicide, and the accused committed an offence under subsection (1) in relation to that suicide, the jury may find the accused guilty of the offence under subsection (1). ”
- (4) After that section insert—

**“2A Acts capable of encouraging or assisting**

- (1) If D arranges for a person (“D2”) to do an act that is capable of encouraging or assisting the suicide or attempted suicide of another person and D2 does that act, D is also to be treated for the purposes of this Act as having done it.
- (2) Where the facts are such that an act is not capable of encouraging or assisting suicide or attempted suicide, for the purposes of this Act it is to be treated as so capable if the act would have been so capable had the facts been as D believed them to be at the time of the act or had subsequent events happened in the manner D believed they would happen (or both).
- (3) A reference in this Act to a person (“P”) doing an act that is capable of encouraging the suicide or attempted suicide of another person includes a reference to P doing so by threatening another person or otherwise putting pressure on another person to commit or attempt suicide.

**2B Course of conduct**

A reference in this Act to an act includes a reference to a course of conduct, and a reference to doing an act is to be read accordingly.”

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**Commencement Information**

**II** S. 59 in force at 1.2.2010 by S.I. 2010/145, art. 2(2), **Sch. para. 2**

**Changes to legislation:**

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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):

- s. 11A and cross-heading inserted by [2023 c. 41 Sch. 11 para. 1\(1\)](#)
- Sch. 1A inserted by [2023 c. 41 Sch. 11 para. 1\(2\)](#)