



Immigration Act 2016

2016 CHAPTER 19

PART 3

ENFORCEMENT

Detention and bail

60 Limitation on detention of pregnant women

- (1) This section applies to a woman if the Secretary of State is satisfied that the woman is pregnant.
- (2) A woman to whom this section applies may not be detained under a relevant detention power unless the Secretary of State is satisfied that—
 - (a) the woman will shortly be removed from the United Kingdom, or
 - (b) there are exceptional circumstances which justify the detention.
- (3) In determining whether to authorise the detention under a relevant detention power of a woman to whom this section applies, a person who, apart from this section, has power to authorise the detention must have regard to the woman's welfare.
- (4) A woman to whom this section applies may not be detained under a relevant detention power for a period of—
 - (a) more than 72 hours from the relevant time, or
 - (b) more than seven days from the relevant time, in a case where the longer period of detention is authorised personally by a Minister of the Crown (within the meaning of the Ministers of the Crown Act 1975).
- (5) In subsection (4) “the relevant time” means the later of—
 - (a) the time at which the Secretary of State is first satisfied that the woman is pregnant, and
 - (b) the time at which the detention begins.

Changes to legislation: Immigration Act 2016, Section 60 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 17 August 2023. 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

- (6) A woman to whom this section applies who has been released following detention under a relevant detention power may be detained again under such a power in accordance with this section.
- (7) This section does not apply to the detention under paragraph 16(2) of Schedule 2 to the Immigration Act 1971 of an unaccompanied child to whom paragraph 18B of that Schedule applies.
- (8) In this section—
 - “relevant detention power” means a power to detain under—
 - (a) paragraph 16(2) of Schedule 2 to the Immigration Act 1971 (detention of persons liable to examination or removal),
 - (b) paragraph 2(1), (2) or (3) of Schedule 3 to that Act (detention pending deportation),
 - (c) section 62 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 (detention of persons liable to examination or removal), or
 - (d) section 36(1) of the UK Borders Act 2007 (detention pending deportation);
 - “woman” means a female of any age.
- (9) The Immigration Act 1971 is amended in accordance with subsections (10) and (11).
- (10) In paragraph 16 of Schedule 2 (detention of persons liable to examination or removal) after sub-paragraph (2A) insert—
 - “(2B) The detention under sub-paragraph (2) of a person to whom section 60 (limitation on detention of pregnant women) of the Immigration Act 2016 applies is subject to that section.”
- (11) In paragraph 2 of Schedule 3 (detention or control pending deportation) after sub-paragraph (4) insert—
 - “(4ZA) The detention under sub-paragraph (1), (2) or (3) of a person to whom section 60 (limitation on detention of pregnant women) of the Immigration Act 2016 applies is subject to that section.”
- (12) In section 62 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 (detention by Secretary of State) after subsection (7) insert—
 - “(7A) The detention under this section of a person to whom section 60 (limitation on detention of pregnant women) of the Immigration Act 2016 applies is subject to that section.”
- (13) In section 36 of the UK Borders Act 2007 (detention) after subsection (2) insert—
 - “(2A) The detention under subsection (1) of a person to whom section 60 (limitation on detention of pregnant women) of the Immigration Act 2016 applies is subject to that section.”

Commencement Information

II [S. 60](#) in force at 12.7.2016 by [S.I. 2016/603](#), [reg. 3\(m\)](#)

Changes to legislation:

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- s. 60(8) words inserted by [2023 c. 37 s. 11\(11\)](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2017/1241, Sch. by [S.I. 2018/31 reg. 2](#)

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. 69(9)(d) and word inserted by [2023 c. 37 s. 21\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 10 para. 3(2)(eza) inserted by [2023 c. 37 s. 13\(3\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 10 para. 3(3A)-(3C) inserted by [2023 c. 37 s. 13\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 10 para. 3A and cross-heading inserted by [2023 c. 37 s. 13\(4\)](#)