



Domestic Abuse Act 2021

2021 CHAPTER 17

PART 1

DEFINITION OF “DOMESTIC ABUSE”

3 Children as victims of domestic abuse

- (1) This section applies where behaviour of a person (“A”) towards another person (“B”) is domestic abuse.
- (2) Any reference in this Act to a victim of domestic abuse includes a reference to a child who—
 - (a) sees or hears, or experiences the effects of, the abuse, and
 - (b) is related to A or B.
- (3) A child is related to a person for the purposes of subsection (2) if—
 - (a) the person is a parent of, or has parental responsibility for, the child, or
 - (b) the child and the person are relatives.
- (4) In this section—
 - “child” means a person under the age of 18 years;
 - “parental responsibility” has the same meaning as in the Children Act 1989 (see section 3 of that Act);
 - “relative” has the meaning given by section 63(1) of the Family Law Act 1996.

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 3 in force at 1.10.2021 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2021/1038](#), [reg. 2\(c\)](#)
- I2** S. 3 in force at 1.11.2021 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2021/1038](#), [reg. 3\(a\)](#)
- I3** S. 3 in force at 31.1.2022 in so far as not already in force by [S.I. 2022/73](#), [reg. 2](#)

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, Section 3.