



Clergy Ordination Act 1804

1804 CHAPTER 43 44 Geo 3

An Act to enforce the due Observance of the Canons and Rubrick respecting the Ages of Persons to be admitted into the sacred Orders of Deacon and Priest. [3d May 1804]

Whereas by the canons of the churches heretofore of England and Ireland, now the United Church of England and Ireland, it is ordained, ordered, and directed that no bishop shall admit any person into the sacred order of a deacon who is not twenty-three years old, nor to be a priest except he be twenty-four years compleat: And whereas by the prefaces to the forms of ordination of priests and deacons established and used by authority of several Acts of the Parliaments of England and Ireland respectively it is directed that none shall be admitted deacon except he be twenty-three years of age, unless he have a faculty, and that every man which is to be admitted a priest shall be full twenty-four years old: And whereas in Ireland the aforesaid rule respecting the ages of persons desiring to be admitted into holy orders has been sometimes disregarded and rendered of no effect, to the great scandal and detriment of the Church, and to the prejudice of religion: For the better prevention whereof for the future, and also in order that one certain and undoubted rule and course of practice may hereafter prevail and be observed in this respect in England and Ireland.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1 Short title given by [Short Titles Act 1896 \(c. 14\)](#)
- C2 United Church of England and Ireland dissolved by [Irish Church Act 1869 \(c. 42\), s. 2](#)

Commencement Information

- I1 Act wholly in force at Royal Assent

[1.] Deacons not to be admitted before 23, nor priests before 24.

From and after the passing of this Act no person shall be admitted a deacon before he shall have attained the age of three and twenty years compleat, and no person shall be admitted a priest before he shall have attained the age of four and twenty years compleat: And in case any person shall, from and after the passing of this Act, be admitted a deacon before he shall have attained the age of three and twenty years compleat, or be admitted a priest before he shall have attained the age of four and

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twenty years compleat [^{F1}unless being over the age of twenty-three years he hath a faculty from the Archbishop of Canterbury], that then and in every such case the admission of every such person as deacon or priest respectively shall be merely void in law as if such admission had not been made, and the person so admitted shall be wholly incapable of having, holding, or enjoying, or being admitted to any parsonage, vicarage, benefice, or other ecclesiastical promotion or dignity whatsoever, in virtue of such his admission as deacon or priest respectively, or of any qualification derived or supposed to be derived therefrom: . . . ^{F2}

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words inserted by [Clergy \(Ordination and Miscellaneous Provisions\) Measure 1964 \(No. 6\), s. 2](#)
F2 Words repealed by [Patronage \(Benefices\) Measure 1986 \(No. 3, SIF 21:4\), s. 41\(2\), Sch. 5](#)

2 This Act not to affect the right of granting faculties.

And nothing herein contained shall extend or be construed to extend to take away any right of granting faculties heretofore lawfully exercised and which now be lawfully exercised by the Archbishop of Canterbury [or the Archbishop of Armagh]

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C3** The text referring to the Archbishop of Armagh, now spent by virtue of [Irish Church Act 1869 \(c. 42\), s. 10](#), is in the form in which it was originally enacted: it was not reproduced in Statutes in Force and does not reflect any amendments or repeals which may have been made prior to 1.2.1991

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