



Family Law Act 1996

1996 CHAPTER 27

PART I

PRINCIPLES OF PARTS II AND III

1 The general principles underlying [^{F1}section 22].

The court and any person, in exercising functions under or in consequence of [^{F2}section 22], shall have regard to the following general principles—

- (a) that the institution of marriage is to be supported;
- (b) that the parties to a marriage which may have broken down are to be encouraged to take all practicable steps, whether by marriage counselling or otherwise, to save the marriage;

- ^{F3}(c)
- ^{F4}(d)

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 1 heading substituted (13.5.2014) by [Children and Families Act 2014 \(c. 6\), ss. 18\(4\), 139\(4\)](#) (with [s. 18\(6\)](#))
- F2** Words in s. 1 substituted (13.5.2014) by [Children and Families Act 2014 \(c. 6\), ss. 18\(4\), 139\(4\)](#) (with [s. 18\(6\)](#))
- F3** S. 1(c) repealed (13.5.2014) by [Children and Families Act 2014 \(c. 6\), ss. 18\(2\)\(a\), 139\(4\)](#)
- F4** S. 1(d) repealed (13.5.2014) by [Children and Families Act 2014 \(c. 6\), ss. 18\(2\)\(a\), 139\(4\)](#)

Changes to legislation:

Family Law Act 1996, Section 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 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.

[View outstanding changes](#)

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. 63(2)(k) inserted by [2021 c. 17 s. 52\(2\)](#)