



Legal Aid Act 1988

1988 CHAPTER 34

E+W

An Act to make new provision for the administration of, and to revise the law relating to, legal aid, advice and assistance. [29th July 1988]

Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1 Act amended (1.1.1992) by S.I. 1991/2684, arts. 4, 5, [Schedule 1](#)
- C2 By [Criminal Justice Act 1991](#) (c. 53, SIF 39:1), s. 101(1), [Sch. 12 para.23](#); S.I. 1991/2208, art. 2(1), [Sch.1](#) it is provided (14.10.1991) that in relation to any time before the commencement of s. 70 of that 1991 Act (which came into force on 1.10.1992 by S.I. 1992/333, art. 2(2), [Sch. 2](#)) references in any enactment amended by that 1991 Act, to youth courts shall be construed as references to juvenile courts.
- C3 Act modified (E.W.) (prosp.) by 1996 c. 27, [ss. 23\(8\)](#), 67(3) (with [Sch. 9 para. 5](#))
Act extended (22.5.2000) by S.I. 2000/1119, regs. 1, 14, [Sch. 3 Pt. 1](#)
Act applied (with modifications) (28.8.2000) by 2000 c. 25, s. 1(2), [Sch. 2 para. 8](#); S.I. 2000/2125, [art. 2](#)
Act applied (E.W.) (with modifications) (2.10.2000) by S.I. 2000/2227, [reg. 4](#)
- C4 Act: functions of the Lord Chancellor transferred to the Secretary of State (19.8.2003) by [The Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs Order 2003](#) (S.I. 2003/1887), [art. 4](#), [Sch. 1](#)
- C5 Act: functions of the Secretary of State transferred to the Lord Chancellor (12.1.2006) by [The Transfer of Functions \(Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State\) Order 2005](#) (S.I. 2005/3429), [art. 3\(1\)\(a\)](#) (with arts. 4, 5)

Status: Point in time view as at 19/06/1997. This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

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PART I **E+W**

PRELIMINARY

1 Purpose of this Act. **E+W**

The purpose of this Act is to establish a framework for the provision under Parts II, III, [F1 IIIA] IV, V and VI of advice, assistance and representation which is publicly funded with a view to helping persons who might otherwise be unable to obtain advice, assistance [F2, mediation] or representation on account of their means.

Textual Amendments

- F1** In s. 1 "IIIA" inserted (21.3.1997) by 1996 c. 27, s. 66(1), **Sch. 8 Pt. II para. 44(2)**; S.I. 1997/1077, **art.2**
- F2** Word in s. 1 inserted (21.3.1997) by 1996 c. 27, s. 66(1), **Sch. 8 Pt. II para.44(3)**; S.I. 1997/1077, **art.2**

2 Interpretation. **E+W**

- (1) This section has effect for the interpretation of this Act.
- (2) "Advice " means oral or written advice on the application of English law to any particular circumstances that have arisen in relation to the person seeking the advice and as to the steps which that person might appropriately take having regard to the application of English law to those circumstances.
- (3) "Assistance " means assistance in taking any of the steps which a person might take, including steps with respect to proceedings, having regard to the application of English law to any particular circumstances that have arisen in relation to him, whether by taking such steps on his behalf (including assistance by way of representation) or by assisting him in taking them on his own behalf.
- [F3(3A) "Mediation " means mediation to which Part IIIA of this Act applies; and includes steps taken by a mediator in any case—
 - (a) in determining whether to embark on mediation;
 - (b) in preparing for mediation; and
 - (c) in making any assessment under that Part.]
- (4) "Representation " means representation for the purposes of proceedings and it includes—
 - (a) all such assistance as is usually given by a [F4 legal representative] in the steps preliminary or incidental to any proceedings;
 - (b) all such assistance as is usually so given in civil proceedings in arriving at or giving effect to a compromise to avoid or bring to an end any proceedings; and
 - (c) in the case of criminal proceedings, advice and assistance as to any appeal;
 and related expressions have corresponding meanings.
- (5) Regulations may specify what is, or is not, to be included in advice or assistance of any description, or representation for the purposes of proceedings of any description, to which any Part or provision of a Part of this Act applies and the regulations may

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provide for the inclusion, in prescribed circumstances, of advice or assistance given otherwise than under this Act.

- (6) Advice, assistance and representation under this Act, except when made available under Part II, [^{F5}shall only be by legal representatives], but in the case of Part II, may be by other persons.
- [^{F6}(7) Subject to section 59 of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990, regulations—
- (a) may prescribe the circumstances in which representation shall be only by one legal representative and may require him to be from a prescribed category;
 - (b) may regulate representation by more than one legal representative from any one or more prescribed categories.
- (7A) If it is satisfied that the circumstances of a particular case in the Supreme Court or the House of Lords warrant a direction under this subsection, the Board or, in the case of criminal proceedings the competent authority, may direct that representation in that case shall be by one legal representative.
- (7B) In subsection (7A), “competent authority ” shall be construed in accordance with section 20.]
- (8) The Lord Chancellor may, if it appears to him to be necessary to do so for the purpose of fulfilling any obligation imposed on the United Kingdom or Her Majesty’s Government in the United Kingdom by any international agreement, by order direct that such advice or assistance relating to the application of other laws than English law as is specified in the order shall be advice or assistance for any of the purposes of this Act.
- (9) For the purposes of the application of subsection (8) above in the case of an obligation to provide for the transmission to other countries of applications for legal aid under their laws, the reference to advice or assistance relating to the application of other laws includes a reference to advice or assistance for the purposes of making and transmitting such an application.
- (10) In this Act “person ” does not include a body of persons corporate or unincorporate which is not concerned in a representative, fiduciary or official capacity so as to authorise advice, assistance or representation to be granted to such a body.
- (11) In this Act “legally assisted person ” means any person who receives, under this Act, advice, assistance [^{F7}, mediation] or representation and, in relation to proceedings, any reference to an assisted party or an unassisted party is to be construed accordingly.

Textual Amendments

- F3** S. 2(3A) inserted (21.3.1997) by 1996 c. 27, s. 26(2); S.I. 1997/1077, art. 2
- F4** Words in s. 2(4) substituted (*I. 4. 1991*) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 125(3), **Sch. 18 para. 63(3)(a)**; S.I. 1991/608, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F5** Words in s. 2(6) substituted (*I. 4. 1991*) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 125(3), **Sch. 18 para. 61(1)**; S.I. 1991/608, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F6** S. 2(7)(7A)(7B) substituted (*I. 4. 1991*) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 125(3), **Sch. 18 para. 61(2)**.; S.I. 1991/608, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F7** Word in s. 2(11) inserted (21.3.1997) by 1996 c. 27, s. 66(1), **Sch. 8 Pt. II para. 44(3)**; S.I. 1997/1077, art.2

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Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C6 S. 2(7) restricted (1. 4. 1991) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 59(1)(2); S.I. 1991/608, art. 2, Sch.

PART II E+W

LEGAL AID BOARD AND LEGAL AID

3 The Legal Aid Board. E+W

- (1) There shall be established a body to be known as the Legal Aid Board (in this Act referred to as “the Board”).
- (2) Subject to subsections (3) and (4) below, the Board shall have the general function of securing that advice, assistance [^{F8}, mediation]and representation are available in accordance with this Act and of administering this Act.
- (3) Subsection (2) above does not confer on the Board any functions with respect to the grant of representation under Part VI for the purposes of proceedings for contempt.
- (4) Subsection (2) above does not confer on the Board any of the following functions unless the Lord Chancellor so directs by order and then only to the extent specified in the order.

The functions referred to are—

- (a) determination of the costs of representation under Part IV;
 - (b) functions as respects representation under Part V other than determination of the costs of representation for the purposes of proceedings in magistrates’ courts;
 - ^{F9}(c)
 - (d) determination of the financial resources of persons for the purposes of this Act.
- (5) Subject to subsection (6) below, the Board shall consist of no fewer than 11 and no more than 17 members appointed by the Lord Chancellor; and the Lord Chancellor shall appoint one of the members to be chairman.
 - (6) The Lord Chancellor may, by order, substitute, for the number for the time being specified in subsection (5) above as the maximum or minimum membership of the Board, such other number as he thinks appropriate.
 - (7) The Board shall include at least two solicitors appointed after consultation with the Law Society.
 - (8) The Lord Chancellor shall consult the General Council of the Bar with a view to the inclusion on the Board of at least two barristers.
 - (9) In appointing persons to be members of the Board the Lord Chancellor shall have regard to the desirability of securing that the Board includes persons having expertise in or knowledge of—
 - (a) the provision of legal services;
 - ^{F10}(aa) the provision of mediation;]

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- (b) the work of the courts and social conditions; and
- (c) management.

(10) Schedule 1 to this Act shall have effect with respect to the Board.

Textual Amendments

- F8** Word in s. 3(2) inserted (21.3.1997) by 1996 c. 27, s. 66(1), **Sch. 8 Pt. II para. 44(3)**; S.I. 1997/1077, **art.2**
- F9** S. 3(4)(c) repealed (14.10.1991) by Children Act 1989 (c. 41, SIF 20), s. 108(2), **Sch. 15**; S.I. 1991/828, **art. 3(2)**
- F10** S. 3(9)(aa) inserted (21.3.1997) by 1996 c. 27, s. 66(1), **Sch. 8 Pt. II para. 44(4)**; S.I. 1997/1077, **art.2**

4 Powers of the Board. **E+W**

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Board may do anything—
- (a) which it considers necessary or desirable to provide or secure the provision of advice, assistance [^{F11}, mediation] and representation under this Act; or
 - (b) which is calculated to facilitate or is incidental or conducive to the discharge of its functions;
- and advice, assistance [^{F11}, mediation] and representation may be provided in different ways in different areas in England and Wales and in different ways in different fields of law.
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1) above, the Board shall have power—
- (a) to enter into any contract including, subject to subsection (7) below, any contract to acquire or dispose of land;
 - (b) to make grants (with or without conditions, including conditions as to repayment);
 - (c) to make loans;
 - (d) to invest money;
 - (e) to promote or assist in the promotion of publicity relating to the functions of the Board;
 - (f) to undertake any inquiry or investigation which the Board considers necessary or expedient in relation to the discharge of its functions; and
 - (g) to give the Lord Chancellor such advice as it may consider appropriate in relation to the provision of advice, assistance [^{F11}, mediation] and representation under this Act.
- (3) Subsection (1) above does not confer on the Board power to borrow money or to acquire and hold shares in bodies corporate or take part in forming bodies corporate.
- (4) The powers to provide advice, assistance [^{F11}, mediation] or representation under this Part and to secure its provision under this Part by means of contracts with, or grants or loans to, other persons or bodies—
- (a) shall not be exercisable unless the Lord Chancellor so directs and then only to the extent specified in the direction; and
 - (b) if exercisable, shall be exercised in accordance with any directions given by him.

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- (5) The power to secure the provision of representation under Part IV by means of contracts with other persons shall only be exercisable in the classes of case prescribed in regulations.
- (6) Advice, assistance and representation provided by the Board under this Part may be granted with or without limitations and may be amended, withdrawn or revoked.
- (7) The power under subsection (2) above to enter into contracts to acquire or dispose of land shall not be exercised without the approval in writing of the Lord Chancellor.
- (8) The Board may, from time to time, prepare and submit to the Lord Chancellor proposals for the assumption by it of any functions in relation to the provision of advice, assistance or representation under this Act.

Textual Amendments

F11 Words in s. 4(1)(2)(4) inserted (21.3.1997) by 1996 c. 27, 66(1), Sch. 8 Pt. II para. 44(3); S.I. 1997/1077, art.2

5 Duties of the Board. **E+W**

- (1) The Board shall, from time to time, publish information as to the discharge of its functions in relation to advice, assistance [^{F12}, mediation] and representation including the forms and procedures and other matters connected therewith.
- (2) The Board shall, from time to time, furnish to the Lord Chancellor such information as he may require relating to its property and to the discharge or proposed discharge of its functions.
- (3) It shall be the duty of the Board to provide to the Lord Chancellor, as soon as possible after 31st March in each year, a report on the discharge of its functions during the preceding twelve months.
- (4) The Board shall deal in any report under subsection (3) above with such matters as the Lord Chancellor may from time to time direct.
- (5) The Board shall have regard, in discharging its functions, to such guidance as may from time to time be given by the Lord Chancellor.
- (6) Guidance under subsection (5) above shall not relate to the consideration or disposal, in particular cases, of—
 - (a) applications for advice, assistance [^{F12}, mediation] or representation;
 - (b) supplementary or incidental applications or requests to the Board in connection with any case where advice, assistance [^{F12}, mediation] or representation has been made available.
- (7) For the purposes of subsection (2) above the Board shall permit any person authorised by the Lord Chancellor for the purpose to inspect and make copies of any accounts or documents of the Board and shall furnish such explanations of them as that person or the Lord Chancellor may require.

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Textual Amendments

F12 Words in s. 5(1)(6) inserted (21.3.1997) by 1996 c. 27, 66(1), Sch. 8 Pt. II para. 44(3); S.I. 1997/1077, art. 2

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C7 S. 5(3) applied (with modifications) (27.9.1999) by 1999 c. 22, ss. 105, 108(3)(e), Sch. 14 Pt. II para. 6(2) (with Sch. 14 para. 7(2))

6 Board to have separate legal aid fund. **E+W**

- (1) The Board shall establish and maintain a separate legal aid fund.
- (2) Subject to regulations, there shall be paid out of the fund—
 - (a) such sums as are, by virtue of any provision of or made under this Act, due from the Board in respect of remuneration and expenses properly incurred in connection with the provision, under this Act, of advice, assistance [^{F13}, mediation] or representation;
 - (b) costs awarded to any unassisted party under section 13 or 18;
 - (c) any part of a contribution repayable by the Board under section 16(4) or 23(7); and
 - (d) such other payments for the purposes of this Act as the Lord Chancellor may, with the concurrence of the Treasury, determine.
- (3) Subject to regulations, there shall be paid into the fund—
 - (a) any contribution payable to the Board by any person in respect of advice, assistance [^{F13}, mediation] or representation under this Act;
 - (b) any sum awarded under an order of a court or agreement as to costs in any proceedings in favour of any legally assisted party which is payable to the Board;
 - (c) any sum which is to be paid out of property recovered or preserved for any legally assisted party to any proceedings;
 - [^{F14}(ca) any sum which is to be paid out of property on which it is charged under regulations under section 13C(5) below]
 - (d) any sum in respect of the costs of an unassisted party awarded under section 13 or 18 which is repaid to the Board under that section;
 - (e) the sums to be paid by the Lord Chancellor in pursuance of section 42(1)(a); and
 - (f) such other receipts of the Board as the Lord Chancellor may, with the concurrence of the Treasury, determine.

Textual Amendments

F13 Words in s. 6(2)(a)(3)(a) inserted (21.3.1997) by 1996 c. 27, 66(1), Sch. 8 Pt. II para. 44(3); S.I. 1997/1077, art. 2

F14 S. 6(3)(ca) inserted (21.3.1997) by 1996 c. 27, 66(1), Sch. 8 Pt. II para. 44(5); S.I. 1997/1077, art. 2

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7 Accounts and audit. **E+W**

- (1) The Board shall keep separate accounts with respect to—
 - (a) its legal aid fund; and
 - (b) the receipts and expenditure of the Board which do not relate to that fund;
 and shall prepare in respect of each financial year a statement of accounts.
- (2) The accounts shall be kept and the statement of accounts shall be prepared in such form as the Lord Chancellor may, with the approval of the Treasury, direct.
- (3) The accounts shall be audited by persons to be appointed in respect of each financial year by the Lord Chancellor in accordance with a scheme of audit approved by him, and the auditors shall be furnished by the Board with copies of the statement and shall prepare a report to the Lord Chancellor on the accounts and statement.
- [^{F15}(4) No person shall be appointed auditor under subsection (3) above unless he is—
 - (a) eligible for appointment as a company auditor under section 25 of the Companies Act 1989; or
 - (b) a member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.]
 - (5) Upon completion of the audit of the accounts, the auditors shall send to the Lord Chancellor a copy of the statement of accounts and of their report, and the Lord Chancellor shall send a copy of the statement and of the report to the Comptroller and Auditor General.
 - (6) The Lord Chancellor and the Comptroller and Auditor General may inspect the accounts and any records relating to them.
 - (7) The Lord Chancellor shall lay before each House of Parliament a copy of every statement of accounts and report of the auditors sent to him under subsection (5) above.
 - (8) In this section “financial year” means the period beginning with the day on which the Board is established and ending with 31st March next following and each subsequent period of 12 months ending with 31st March in each year.

Textual Amendments

F15 S. 7(4) substituted (1.10.1991) by S.I. 1991/1997, reg. 2, **Sch. para.69**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C8 S. 7(1) applied (with modifications) (27.9.1999) by 1999 c. 22, ss. 105, 108(3)(e), **Sch. 14 Pt. II para. 6(3)** (with Sch. 14 para. 7(2))

C9 S. 7(2)-(7) applied (27.9.1999) by 1999 c. 22, ss. 105, 108(3)(e), **Sch. 14 Pt. II para. 6(4)** (with Sch. 14 para. 7(2))

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PART III U.K.

ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE

8 Scope of this Part. E+W

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, this Part applies to any advice or assistance and advice and assistance under this Part shall be available to any person subject to and in accordance with the provisions of this section and sections 9, 10 and 11.
- (2) This Part only applies to assistance by way of representation if, and to the extent that, regulations so provide; and regulations may make such provision in relation to representation for the purposes of any proceedings before a court or tribunal or at a statutory inquiry.
- (3) Advice or assistance of all descriptions or advice or assistance of any prescribed description is excluded from this Part, or is so excluded as regards any area, if regulations so provide; and if regulations provide for all descriptions to be excluded as regards all areas then, so long as the regulations so provide, this Part (other than this subsection) shall not have effect.
- (4) Advice or assistance of any prescribed description is restricted to its provision to prescribed descriptions of persons if regulations so provide.
- (5) This Part does not apply to advice or assistance given to a person in connection with proceedings before a court or tribunal or at a statutory inquiry at a time when he is being represented in those proceedings under any other Part of this Act.

9 Availability of, and payment for, advice and assistance. E+W

- (1) Advice and assistance to which this Part applies shall be available to any person whose financial resources are such as, under regulations, make him eligible for advice or assistance under this Part.
- (2) If regulations so provide, advice or assistance to which this Part applies shall be available, in prescribed circumstances and subject to any prescribed conditions, to persons without reference to their financial resources.
- (3) Subject to any prescribed exceptions, assistance by way of representation under this Part shall not be given without the approval of the Board.
- (4) Approval under subsection (3) above may be given with or without limitations and may be amended, withdrawn or revoked.
- (5) Except as provided by subsection (6) or (7) below, the legally assisted person shall not be required to pay to his ^{F16}legal representative]any charge or fee.
- (6) Except as provided by subsection (7) below, a legally assisted person shall, if his financial resources are such as, under regulations, make him liable to make a contribution, be liable to pay to his ^{F16}legal representative, in respect of the advice or assistance, charges or fees of such amount as is determined or fixed by or under the regulations.
- (7) A legally assisted person to whom advice or assistance is made available by virtue of regulations under subsection (2) above shall, in circumstances prescribed by the regulations and, if the regulations apply only to persons of a prescribed description,

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he is a person of that description, be liable to pay to his ^{F16}legal representative], in respect of the advice or assistance, a fee of such amount as is fixed by or under the regulations (in lieu of a contribution under subsection (6) above).

Textual Amendments

F16 Words in s. 9(5)(6)(7) substituted (1. 4. 1991) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 125(3), **Sch. 18 para. 63(4)**; S.I.1991/608, art. 2, **Sch.**

10 Financial limit on prospective cost of advice or assistance. **E+W**

- (1) Where at any time (whether before or after the advice or assistance has begun to be given) it appears to a ^{F17}legal representative] that the cost of giving advice or assistance to a person under this Part is likely to exceed the prescribed limit—
 - (a) the ^{F17}legal representative] shall determine to what extent that advice or assistance can be given without exceeding that limit; and
 - (b) shall not give it (nor, as the case may be, instruct ^{F18}an additional legal representative] to give it) so as to exceed that limit except with the approval of the Board.
- (2) Approval under subsection (1)(b) above may be given with or without limitations and may be amended, withdrawn or revoked.
- (3) For the purposes of this section the cost of giving advice or assistance shall be taken to consist of such of the following as are applicable in the circumstances, namely—
 - (a) any disbursements, that is to say, expenses (including fees payable to ^{F18}an additional legal representative]) which may be incurred by the ^{F19}legal representative] in, or in connection with, the giving of the advice or assistance; and
 - (b) any charges or fees (other than charges for disbursements) which would be properly chargeable by the ^{F19}legal representative] in respect of the advice or assistance.

Textual Amendments

F17 Words in s. 10(1) substituted (1. 4. 1991) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 125(3), **Sch. 18 para. 63(4)**; S.I.1991/608, art. 2, **Sch.**

F18 Words in s. 10(1)(b)(3)(a) substituted (1. 4. 1991) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 125(3), **Sch. 18 para. 61(3)**; S.I.1991/608, art. 2, **Sch.**

F19 Words in s. 10(3) substituted (1. 4. 1991) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 125(3), **Sch. 18 para. 63(3)(d)**; S.I.1991/608, art. 2, **Sch.**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C10 S. 10(1) excluded by S.I. 1989/340 reg. 4(2)

11 Payment for advice or assistance otherwise than through legally assisted person's contribution. **E+W**

- (1) This section applies to any charges or fees which, apart from section 9, would be properly chargeable in respect of advice or assistance given under this Part, in so far

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as those charges or fees are not payable by the legally assisted person in accordance with that section.

- (2) Except in so far as regulations otherwise provide, charges or fees to which this section applies shall constitute a first charge for the benefit of the [F20]legal representative]—
 - (a) on any costs which are payable to the legally assisted person by any other person in respect of the matter in connection with which the advice or assistance is given, and
 - (b) on any property which is recovered or preserved for the legally assisted person in connection with that matter.
- (3) In so far as the charge created by subsection (2) above in respect of any charges or fees to which this section applies is insufficient to meet them, the deficiency shall, subject to subsection (5) below, be payable to the [F20]legal representative]by the Board.
- (4) For the purposes of subsection (2) above, it is immaterial, in the case of costs, whether the costs are payable by virtue of a judgment, order of a court or otherwise and, in the case of property, what its nature is and where it is situated and the property within the charge includes the legally assisted person's rights under any compromise or settlement arrived at to avoid proceedings or bring them to an end.
- (5) For the purpose of determining what charges or fees would be properly chargeable, and whether there is a deficiency to be paid by the Board, charges or fees in respect of advice or assistance under this Part shall, in prescribed circumstances, be determined in such manner as may be prescribed.

Textual Amendments

F20 Words in s. 11 substituted (*I. 4. 1991*) by [Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 \(c. 41, SIF 37\)](#), s. 125(3), [Sch. 18 para. 63\(4\)](#); [S.I.1991/608](#), art. 2, [Sch.](#)

12 **Limit on costs against person receiving assistance by way of representation.** **U.K.**

- (1) Where a person receives any assistance by way of representation in any proceedings before a court or tribunal or at a statutory inquiry, then, except in so far as regulations otherwise provide, his liability by virtue of an order for costs made against him with respect to the proceedings shall not exceed the amount (if any) which is a reasonable one for him to pay having regard to all the circumstances, including the financial resources of all the parties and their conduct in connection with the dispute.
- (2) Regulations shall make provision as to the court, tribunal or person by whom that amount is to be determined and the extent to which any determination of that amount is to be final.
- (3) None of the following, namely, a legally assisted person's dwelling house, clothes, household furniture and the tools and implements of his trade shall—
 - (a) be taken into account in assessing his financial resources for the purposes of this section, or
 - (b) be subject to execution or any corresponding process in any part of the United Kingdom to enforce the order,except so far as regulations may prescribe.

Status: Point in time view as at 19/06/1997. This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Legal Aid Act 1988 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 20 June 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)

13 **Costs of successful unassisted parties.** E+W

- (1) This section applies to proceedings in which a person who receives assistance by way of representation is a party and which are finally decided in favour of an unassisted party.
- (2) In any proceedings to which this section applies the court by which the proceedings are so decided may, subject to subsections (3) and (4) below, make an order for the payment by the Board to the unassisted party of the whole or any part of the costs incurred by him in the proceedings.
- (3) Before making an order under this section, the court shall consider what order for costs should be made against the assisted party and for determining his liability in respect of such costs.
- (4) An order under this section in respect of any costs may only be made if—
 - (a) an order for costs would be made in the proceedings apart from this Act;
 - (b) as respects the costs incurred in a court of first instance, those proceedings were instituted by the assisted party and the court is satisfied that the unassisted party will suffer severe financial hardship unless the order is made; and
 - (c) in any case, the court is satisfied that it is just and equitable in all the circumstances of the case that provision for the costs should be made out of public funds.
- (5) Without prejudice to any other provision restricting appeals from any court, no appeal shall lie against an order under this section, or against a refusal to make such an order, except on a point of law.
- (6) In this section “costs ” means costs as between party and party, and includes the costs of applying for an order under this section; and where a party begins to receive the assistance after the proceedings have been instituted, or ceases to receive the assistance before they are finally decided or otherwise receives the assistance in connection with part only of the proceedings, the reference in subsection (2) above to the costs incurred by the unassisted party in the proceedings shall be construed as a reference to so much of those costs as is attributable to that part.
- (7) For the purposes of this section proceedings shall be treated as finally decided in favour of the unassisted party—
 - (a) if no appeal lies against the decision in his favour;
 - (b) if an appeal lies against the decision with leave, and the time limited for applications for leave expires without leave being granted; or
 - (c) if leave to appeal against the decision is granted or is not required, and no appeal is brought within the time limited for appeal;

and where an appeal against the decision is brought out of time the court by which the appeal (or any further appeal in those proceedings) is determined may make an order for the repayment by the unassisted party to the Board of the whole or any part of any sum previously paid to him under this section in respect of those proceedings.
- (8) Where a court decides any proceedings in favour of the unassisted party and an appeal lies (with or without leave) against that decision, the court may, if it thinks fit, make or refuse to make an order under this section forthwith, but if an order is made forthwith it shall not take effect—

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- (a) where leave to appeal is required, unless the time limited for applications for leave to appeal expires without leave being granted;
 - (b) where leave to appeal is granted or is not required, unless the time limited for appeal expires without an appeal being brought.
- (9) For the purposes of this section “court ” includes a tribunal.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C11 S. 13 amended by S.I. 1989/340, art. 35

[^{F21}**PART IIIA** **E+W**

MEDIATION]

Textual Amendments

F21 Pt. IIIA (s. 13A) inserted (21.3.1997) by 1996 c. 27, s. 26(1); S.I. 1997/1077, art.2

[^{F22}**13A** **Scope of this Part.** **E+W**

- (1) This Part applies to mediation in disputes relating to family matters.
- (2) “Family matters ” means matters which are governed by English law and in relation to which any question has arisen, or may arise—
 - (a) under any provision of—
 - (i) the 1973 Act;
 - (ii) the ^{M1}Domestic Proceedings and Magistrates’ Courts Act 1978;
 - (iii) Parts I to V of the ^{M2}Children Act 1989;
 - (iv) Parts II and IV of the Family Law Act 1996; or
 - (v) any other enactment prescribed;
 - (b) under any prescribed jurisdiction of a prescribed court or tribunal; or
 - (c) under any prescribed rule of law.
- (3) Regulations may restrict this Part to mediation in disputes of any prescribed description.
- (4) The power to—
 - (a) make regulations under subsection (2), or
 - (b) revoke any regulations made under subsection (3),is exercisable only with the consent of the Treasury.]

Textual Amendments

F22 Pt. IIIA (s. 13A) inserted (21.3.1997) by 1996 c. 27, 26(1); S.I. 1997/1077, art.2

Marginal Citations

M1 1978 c. 22.

Status: Point in time view as at 19/06/1997. This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

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M2 1989 c. 41.

[13B ^{F23} **Provision and availability of mediation.** **E+W**

- (1) The Board may secure the provision of mediation under this Part.
- (2) If mediation is provided under this Part, it is to be available to any person whose financial resources are such as, under regulations, make him eligible for mediation.
- (3) A person is not to be granted mediation in relation to any dispute unless mediation appears to the mediator suitable to the dispute and the parties and all the circumstances.
- (4) A grant of mediation under this Part may be amended, withdrawn or revoked.
- (5) The power conferred by subsection (1) shall be exercised in accordance with any directions given by the Lord Chancellor.
- (6) Any contract entered into by the Board for the provision of mediation under this Part must require the mediator to comply with a code of practice.
- (7) The code must require the mediator to have arrangements designed to ensure—
 - (a) that parties participate in mediation only if willing and not influenced by fear of violence or other harm;
 - (b) that cases where either party may be influenced by fear of violence or other harm are identified as soon as possible;
 - (c) that the possibility of reconciliation is kept under review throughout mediation; and
 - (d) that each party is informed about the availability of independent legal advice.
- (8) Where there are one or more children of the family, the code must also require the mediator to have arrangements designed to ensure that the parties are encouraged to consider—
 - (a) the welfare, wishes and feelings of each child; and
 - (b) whether and to what extent each child should be given the opportunity to express his or her wishes and feelings in the mediation.
- (9) A contract entered into by the Board for the provision of mediation under this Part must also include such other provision as the Lord Chancellor may direct the Board to include.
- (10) Directions under this section may apply generally to contracts, or to contracts of any description, entered into by the Board, but shall not be made with respect to any particular contract.]

Textual Amendments

F23 S. 13B inserted (21.3.1997) by 1996 c. 27, s.27; S.I. 1997/1077, art.2

[13C ^{F24} **Payment for mediation under this Part.** **E+W**

- (1) Except as provided by this section, the legally assisted person is not to be required to pay for mediation provided under this Part.

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- (2) Subsection (3) applies if the financial resources of a legally assisted person are such as, under regulations, make him liable to make a contribution.
- (3) The legally assisted person is to pay to the Board in respect of the costs of providing the mediation, a contribution of such amount as is determined or fixed by or under the regulations.
- (4) If the total contribution made by a person in respect of any mediation exceeds the Board's liability on his account, the excess shall be repaid to him.
- (5) Regulations may provide that, where—
 - (a) mediation under this Part is made available to a legally assisted person, and
 - (b) property is recovered or preserved for the legally assisted person as a result of the mediation,a sum equal to the Board's liability on the legally assisted person's account is, except so far as the regulations otherwise provide, to be a first charge on the property in favour of the Board.
- (6) Regulations under subsection (5) may, in particular, make provision—
 - (a) as to circumstances in which property is to be taken to have been, or not to have been, recovered or preserved; and
 - (b) as to circumstances in which the recovery or preservation of property is to be taken to be, or not to be, the result of any mediation.
- (7) For the purposes of subsection (5), the nature of the property and where it is situated is immaterial.
- (8) The power to make regulations under section 34(2)(f) and (8) is exercisable in relation to any charge created under subsection (5) as it is exercisable in relation to the charge created by section 16.
- (9) For the purposes of subsections (4) and (5), the Board's liability on any person's account in relation to any mediation is the aggregate amount of—
 - (a) the sums paid or payable by the Board on his account for the mediation, determined in accordance with subsection (10);
 - (b) any sums paid or payable in respect of its net liability on his account, determined in accordance with subsection (11) and the regulations—
 - (i) in respect of any proceedings, and
 - (ii) for any advice or assistance under Part III in connection with the proceedings or any matter to which the proceedings relate,so far as the proceedings relate to any matter to which the mediation relates; and
 - (c) any sums paid or payable in respect of its net liability on his account, determined in accordance with the regulations, for any other advice or assistance under Part III in connection with the mediation or any matter to which the mediation relates.
- (10) For the purposes of subsection (9)(a), the sums paid or payable by the Board on any person's account for any mediation are—
 - (a) sums determined under the contract between the Board and the mediator as payable by the Board on that person's account for the mediation; or

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- (b) if the contract does not differentiate between such sums and sums payable on any other person's account or for any other mediation, such part of the remuneration payable under the contract as may be specified in writing by the Board.
- (11) For the purposes of subsection (9)(b), the Board's net liability on any person's account in relation to any proceedings is its net liability on his account under section 16(9)(a) and (b) in relation to the proceedings.]

Textual Amendments

F24 S. 13C inserted (21.3.1997) by 1996 c. 27, s. 28(1); S.I. 1997/1077, art.2

PART IV U.K.

CIVIL LEGAL AID

14 Scope of this Part. E+W

- (1) This Part applies to such proceedings before courts or tribunals or at statutory inquiries in England and Wales as—
- are proceedings of a description for the time being specified in Part I of Schedule 2 to this Act, except proceedings for the time being specified in Part II of that Schedule, and
 - are not proceedings for which representation may be granted under Part V, and representation under this Part shall be available to any person subject to and in accordance with sections 15 and 16.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3) below, Schedule 2 may be varied by regulations so as to extend or restrict the categories of proceedings for the purposes of which representation is available under this Part, by reference to the court, tribunal or statutory inquiry, to the issues involved, to the capacity in which the person seeking representation is concerned or otherwise.
- (3) Regulations under subsection (2) above may not have the effect of adding any proceedings before any court or tribunal or at any statutory inquiry before or at which persons have no right, and are not normally allowed, to be represented by [^{F25}a legal representative].
- (4) Regulations under subsection (2) above which extend the categories of proceedings for the purposes of which representation is available under this Part shall not be made without the consent of the Treasury.

Textual Amendments

F25 Words in s. 14(3) substituted (1. 4. 1991) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 125(3), Sch. 18 para. 63(1)(a); S.I.1991/608, art. 2, Sch.

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15 Availability of, and payment for, representation under this Part. **E+W**

- (1) Subject to subsections (2) [^{F26}to [^{F27}(3D)]] [^{F28}and (3F)] below, representation under this Part for the purposes of proceedings to which this Part applies shall be available to any person whose financial resources are such as, under regulations, make him eligible for representation under this Part.
- (2) A person shall not be granted representation for the purposes of any proceedings unless he satisfies the Board that he has reasonable grounds for taking, defending or being a party to the proceedings.
- (3) A person may be refused representation for the purposes of any proceedings if, in the particular circumstances of the case it appears to the Board—
 - (a) unreasonable that he should be granted representation under this Part, or
 - (b) more appropriate that he should be given assistance by way of representation under Part III;and regulations may prescribe the criteria for determining any questions arising under paragraph (b) above.

[^{F29}(3A) Representation under this Part shall not be available—

- (a) to any local authority; or]
- (b) to any other body which falls within a prescribed description, [^{F30}or]

[^{F30}(c) to a guardian *ad litem*,]

for the purposes of any proceedings under the Children Act 1989.

(3B) Regardless of subsection (2) or (3), representation under this Part must be granted where a child who is brought before a court under section 25 of the 1989 Act (use of accommodation for restricting liberty) is not, but wishes to be, legally represented before the court.

[^{F31}(3C) Subject to subsection (3A) but regardless of subsections (2) or (3), representation under this Part must be granted to the child in respect of whom the application is made, to any parent of such a child and to any person with parental responsibility for him within the meaning of the 1989 Act to cover proceedings relating to an application for the following orders under that Act—

- (a) an order under section 31 (a care or supervision order);
- (b) an order under section 43 (a child assessment order);
- (c) an order under section 44 (an emergency protection order); or
- (d) an order under section 45 (extension or discharge of an emergency protection order).

(3D) Subject to subsections (2) and (3) [^{F28}and (3F)], representation must be granted to cover proceedings relating to an appeal against an order made under section 31 of the 1989 Act to a person who has been granted representation by virtue of subsection (3C).

(3E) Subject to subsections (1) and (3A) but regardless of subsections (2) or (3), representation under this Part must be granted where a person applies to be or has been joined as a party to any of the proceedings mentioned in subsection (3C).

[^{F32}(3F) A person shall not be granted representation for the purposes of proceedings relating to family matters, unless he has attended a meeting with a mediator—

- (a) to determine—

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- (i) whether mediation appears suitable to the dispute and the parties and all the circumstances, and
 - (ii) in particular, whether mediation could take place without either party being influenced by fear of violence or other harm; and
 - (b) if mediation does appear suitable, to help the person applying for representation to decide whether instead to apply for mediation.
- (3G) Subsection (3F) does not apply—
- (a) in relation to proceedings under—
 - (i) Part IV of the Family Law Act 1996;
 - (ii) section 37 of the ^{M3}Matrimonial Causes Act 1973;
 - (iii) Part IV or V of the ^{M4}Children Act 1989;
 - (b) in relation to proceedings of any other description that may be prescribed; or
 - (c) in such circumstances as may be prescribed.
- (3H) So far as proceedings relate to family matters, the Board, in determining under subsection (3)(a) whether, in relation to the proceedings, it is reasonable that a person should be granted representation under this Part—
- (a) must have regard to whether and to what extent recourse to mediation would be a suitable alternative to taking the proceedings; and
 - (b) must for that purpose have regard to the outcome of the meeting held under subsection (3F) and to any assessment made for the purposes of section 13B(3).]
- (4) Representation under this Part may be granted by the Board with or without limitations and may be amended, withdrawn or revoked.
- (5) Where the case is one in which the Board has power to secure the provision of representation under this Part by means of contracts with other persons, the grant of representation under this Part may be limited under subsection (4) above as regards the persons who may represent the legally assisted person to representation only in pursuance of a contract made with the Board.
- (6) Except in so far as he is required under section 16 to make a contribution, a legally assisted person shall not be required to make any payment in respect of representation under this Part and it shall be for the Board to pay his [^{F33}legal representative].
- (7) The Board’s obligation under subsection (6) above is—
- (a) in the case of representation provided in pursuance of a contract between the Board and the legally assisted person’s [^{F34}legal representative], to make such payments as are due under the contract; and
 - (b) in the case of representation provided otherwise than in pursuance of such a contract, to make such payments as are authorised by regulations.
- (8) Nothing in subsection (6) above affects the duty of the [^{F34}legal representative] to pay in the first instance expenses incurred in connection with the proceedings that would ordinarily be paid in the first instance by a person’s [^{F34}legal representative].

Textual Amendments

F26 Words in s. 15(1) substituted (14.10.1991) by [Children Act 1989 \(c. 41, SIF 20\)](#), s. 99(2); S.I. 1991/828, art. 3(2)

F27 Words in s. 15(1) substituted (14.10.1991) by S.I. 1991/1924, art. 2(a)

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- F28** Words in s. 15(1)(3D) inserted (21.3.1997) by 1996 c. 27, s. 66(1), **Sch. 8 Pt. II para. 44(6)(a)(b)**; S.I. 1997/1077, **art.2**
- F29** S. 15(3A)(3B) inserted (14.10.1991) by Children Act 1989 (c. 41, SIF 20), **s. 99(2)**; S.I. 1991/828, **art. 3(2)**
- F30** Word in s. 15(3A)(b) and (3A)(c) inserted (14.10.1991) by S.I. 1991/2036 art. 3
- F31** S. 15(3C)-(3E) inserted (14.10.1991) by S.I. 1991/1924, **art. 2(b)**
- F32** S. 15(3F)-(3H) inserted (21.3.1997) by 1996 c. 27, **s.29**; S.I. 1997/1077, **art.2**
- F33** Words in s. 15(6) substituted (1. 4. 1991) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 125(3), **Sch. 18 para. 61(4)**; S.I. 1991/608, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F34** Words in s. 15(7)(8) substituted (1. 4. 1991) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 125(3), **Sch. 18 para. 63(4)**; S.I.1991/608, art. 2, **Sch.**

Marginal Citations

- M3** 1973 c. 18.
M4 1989 c. 41.

16 Reimbursement of Board by contributions and out of costs or property recovered. **E+W**

- (1) A legally assisted person shall, if his financial resources are such as, under regulations, make him liable to make such a contribution, pay to the Board a contribution in respect of the costs of his being represented under this Part.
- (2) The contribution to be required of him by the Board shall be determined by the Board in accordance with the regulations and may take the form of periodical payments or one or more capital sums or both.
- (3) The contribution required of a person may, in the case of periodical payments, be made payable by reference to the period during which he is represented under this Part or any shorter period and, in the case of a capital sum, be made payable by instalments.
- (4) If the total contribution made by a person in respect of any proceedings exceeds the net liability of the Board on his account, the excess shall be repaid to him.
- (5) Any sums recovered by virtue of an order or agreement for costs made in favour of a legally assisted person with respect to the proceedings shall be paid to the Board.
- (6) Except so far as regulations otherwise provide—
 - (a) any sums remaining unpaid on account of a person's contribution in respect of the sums payable by the Board in respect of any proceedings, and
 - (b) a sum equal to any deficiency by reason of his total contribution being less than the net liability of the Board on his account,shall be a first charge for the benefit of the Board on any property which is recovered or preserved for him in the proceedings.
- (7) For the purposes of subsection (6) above it is immaterial what the nature of the property is and where it is situated and the property within the charge includes the rights of a person under any compromise or settlement arrived at to avoid the proceedings or bring them to an end and any sums recovered by virtue of an order for costs made in his favour in the proceedings (not being sums payable to the Board under subsection (5) above).

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- (8) The charge created by subsection (6) above on any damages or costs shall not prevent a court allowing them to be set off against other damages or costs in any case where a [^{F35}legal representative's]lien for costs would not prevent it.
- (9) In this section references to the net liability of the Board on a legally assisted person's account in relation to any proceedings are references to the aggregate amount of—
- (a) the sums paid or payable by the Board on his account in respect of those proceedings to any [^{F36}legal representative], ^{F37} . . .
 - (b) any sums so paid or payable for any advice or assistance under Part III in connection with those proceedings or any matter to which those proceedings relate,
- [^{F38}and
- (c) if and to the extent that regulations so provide, any sums paid or payable in respect of the Board's liability on the legally assisted person's account in relation to any mediation in connection with any matter to which those proceedings relate.]

being sums not recouped by the Board by sums which are recoverable by virtue of an order or agreement for costs made in his favour with respect to those proceedings or by virtue of any right of his to be indemnified against expenses incurred by him in connection with those proceedings.

- (10) Where a legally assisted person has been represented in any proceedings in pursuance of a contract made with the Board on terms which do not differentiate between the remuneration for his and other cases, the reference in subsection (9)(a) above to the sums paid or payable by the Board on his account in respect of the proceedings shall be construed as a reference to such part of the remuneration payable under the contract as may be specified in writing by the Board.

- [^{F39}(11) For the purposes of subsection (9)(c) above, the Board's liability on any person's account in relation to any mediation is its liability on his account under section 13C(9) (a) and (c) above in relation to the mediation.]

Textual Amendments

- F35** Words in s. 16(8) substituted (*I. 4. 1991*) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 125(3), **Sch. 18 para. 63(2)**; S.I. 1991/608, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F36** Words in s. 16(9)(a) substituted (*I. 4. 1991*) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 125(3), **Sch. 18 para. 63(3)(a)**; S.I. 1991/608, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F37** Word in s. 16(9)(a) repealed (21.3.1997) by 1996 c. 27, s. 66(1)(3), Sch. 8 Pt. II para. 44(7), **Sch.10**; S.I. 1997/1077, **art.2**
- F38** S. 16(9)(c) and preceding word "and" inserted (21.3.1997) by 1996 c. 27, 28(2); S.I. 1997/1077, **art.2**
- F39** S. 16(11) inserted (21.3.1997) by 1996 c. 27, s. 28(3); S.I. 1997/1077, **art.2**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C12** S. 16(6) restricted (14.10.1991) by S.I. 1991/2036, **reg. 21(2)**

17 Limit on costs against assisted party. **U.K.**

- (1) The liability of a legally assisted party under an order for costs made against him with respect to any proceedings shall not exceed the amount (if any) which is a reasonable

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one for him to pay having regard to all the circumstances, including the financial resources of all the parties and their conduct in connection with the dispute.

- (2) Regulations shall make provision as to the court, tribunal or person by whom that amount is to be determined and the extent to which any determination of that amount is to be final.
- (3) None of the following, namely, a legally assisted person's dwelling house, clothes, household furniture and the tools and implements of his trade shall—
 - (a) be taken into account in assessing his financial resources for the purposes of this section, or
 - (b) be subject to execution or any corresponding process in any part of the United Kingdom to enforce the order,except so far as regulations may prescribe.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C13 S. 17(1) modified by S.I. 1989/338, **art. 15(2)**

C14 S. 17(1) applied (with modifications) by S.I. 1989/339, **art. 131**

C15 S. 17(1) modified by S.I. 1989/339, **art. 132**

18 Costs of successful unassisted parties. **E+W**

- (1) This section applies to proceedings to which a legally assisted person is a party and which are finally decided in favour of an unassisted party.
- (2) In any proceedings to which this section applies the court by which the proceedings were so decided may, subject to subsections (3) and (4) below, make an order for the payment by the Board to the unassisted party of the whole or any part of the costs incurred by him in the proceedings.
- (3) Before making an order under this section, the court shall consider what order for costs should be made against the assisted party and for determining his liability in respect of such costs.
- (4) An order under this section in respect of any costs may only be made if—
 - (a) an order for costs would be made in the proceedings apart from this Act;
 - (b) as respects the costs incurred in a court of first instance, those proceedings were instituted by the assisted party and the court is satisfied that the unassisted party will suffer severe financial hardship unless the order is made; and
 - (c) in any case, the court is satisfied that it is just and equitable in all the circumstances of the case that provision for the costs should be made out of public funds.
- (5) Without prejudice to any other provision restricting appeals from any court, no appeal shall lie against an order under this section, or against a refusal to make such an order, except on a point of law.
- (6) In this section “costs ” means costs as between party and party, and includes the costs of applying for an order under this section; and where a party begins to receive representation after the proceedings have been instituted, or ceases to receive representation before they are finally decided or otherwise receives representation in

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connection with part only of the proceedings, the reference in subsection (2) above to the costs incurred by the unassisted party in the proceedings shall be construed as a reference to so much of those costs as is attributable to that part.

(7) For the purposes of this section proceedings shall be treated as finally decided in favour of the unassisted party—

- (a) if no appeal lies against the decision in his favour;
- (b) if an appeal lies against the decision with leave, and the time limited for applications for leave expires without leave being granted; or
- (c) if leave to appeal against the decision is granted or is not required, and no appeal is brought within the time limited for appeal;

and where an appeal against the decision is brought out of time the court by which the appeal (or any further appeal in those proceedings) is determined may make an order for the repayment by the unassisted party to the Board of the whole or any part of any sum previously paid to him under this section in respect of those proceedings.

(8) Where a court decides any proceedings in favour of the unassisted party and an appeal lies (with or without leave) against that decision, the court may, if it thinks fit, make or refuse to make an order under this section forthwith, but if an order is made forthwith it shall not take effect—

- (a) where leave to appeal is required, unless the time limited for applications for leave to appeal expires without leave being granted;
- (b) where leave to appeal is granted or is not required, unless the time limited for appeal expires without an appeal being brought.

(9) For the purposes of this section “court ” includes a tribunal.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C16 S. 18 restricted by S.I. 1989/339, arts. 138, 143

C17 S. 18(4)(b) modified by S.I. 1989/339, art. 135

PART V E+W

CRIMINAL LEGAL AID

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C18 Pt. V (ss. 19-26) applied (with modifications) (15.3.1996) by S.I. 1996/716, art. 24(1)(b)

Pt. V (ss. 19-26) modified (30.9.1998 in the petty sessions areas and petty sessional divisions noted in S.I. 1998/2327, Sch. 2 and otherwise 1.11.1999) by 1998 c. 37, s. 49(1)(j); S.I. 1998/2327, art. 3(2), Sch.2; S.I. 1999/2976, art. 2

19 Scope of this Part. E+W

(1) This Part applies to criminal proceedings before any of the following—

- (a) a magistrates’ court;
- (b) the Crown Court;

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- (c) the criminal division of the Court of Appeal or the Courts-Martial Appeal Court; and
- (d) the House of Lords in the exercise of its jurisdiction in relation to appeals from either of those courts;

and representation under this Part shall be available to any person subject to and in accordance with sections 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25.

- (2) Representation under this Part for the purposes of the proceedings before any court extends to any proceedings preliminary or incidental to the proceedings, including bail proceedings, whether before that or another court.
- (3) Representation under this Part for the purposes of the proceedings before a magistrates' court extends to any proceedings before a [^{F40}youth court] or other magistrates' court to which the case is remitted.
- (4) In subsection (2) above in its application to bail proceedings, "court" has the same meaning as in the ^{M5}Bail Act 1976, but that subsection does not extend representation to bail proceedings before a judge of the High Court exercising the jurisdiction of that Court.
- (5) In this Part—

"competent authority" is to be construed in accordance with section 20;

"Court of Appeal" means the criminal division of that Court;

"criminal proceedings" includes proceedings for dealing with an offender for an offence or in respect of a sentence or as a fugitive offender and also includes proceedings instituted under section 115 of the ^{M6}Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 (binding over) in respect of an actual or apprehended breach of the peace or other misbehaviour and proceedings for dealing with a person for a failure to comply with a condition of a recognizance to keep the peace or be of good behaviour [^{F41}and also includes proceedings under section 15 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1969 (variation and discharge of supervision orders) and section 16(8) of that Act (appeals in such proceedings)];

"proceedings for dealing with an offender as a fugitive offender" means proceedings before a metropolitan stipendiary magistrate under section 9 of the ^{M7}Extradition Act 1870, section 7 of the ^{M8}Fugitive Offenders Act 1967 or section 6 of the ^{M9}Criminal Justice Act 1988; and

"remitted", in relation to a [^{F40}youth court], means remitted under section 56(1) of the ^{M10}Children and Young Persons Act 1933;

and any reference, in relation to representation for the purposes of any proceedings, to the proceedings before a court includes a reference to any proceedings to which representation under this Part extends by virtue of subsection (2) or (3) above.

Textual Amendments

F40 Words in s. 19(3)(5) substituted (1.10.1992) by [Criminal Justice Act 1991 \(c. 53\), s. 100, Sch. 11 para.40\(2\)\(q\)](#); S.I. 1992/333, art. 2(2), [Sch.2](#).

F41 Words in s. 19 added (14.10.1991) by [Children Act 1989 \(c. 41, SIF 20\), s. 99\(3\)](#); S.I. 1991/828, [art. 3\(2\)](#).

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C19 Definition of
"proceedings for dealing with an offender as a fugitive offender"

Status: Point in time view as at 19/06/1997. This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

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in s. 19(5) modified (27.9.1999) by 1999 c. 22, ss. 105, 108(3)(e), **Sch. 14 Pt. V para. 26** (with Sch. 14 para. 7(2))

Marginal Citations

- M5** 1976 c. 63.
- M6** 1980 c. 43.
- M7** 1870 c. 52.
- M8** 1967 c. 68.
- M9** 1988 c. 33.
- M10** 1933 c. 12.

20 Competent authorities to grant representation under this Part. **E+W**

- (1) Subject to any provision made by virtue of subsection (10) below, the following courts are competent to grant representation under this Part for the purposes of the following proceedings, on an application made for the purpose.
- (2) The court before which any proceedings take place, or are to take place, is always competent as respects those proceedings, except that this does not apply to the House of Lords; and, in the case of the Court of Appeal and the Courts-Martial Appeal Court, the reference to proceedings which are to take place includes proceedings which may take place if notice of appeal is given or an application for leave to appeal is made.
- (3) The Court of Appeal or, as the case may be, the Courts-Martial Appeal Court is also competent as respects proceedings on appeal from decisions of theirs to the House of Lords.
- (4) The magistrates' court—
 - (a) which commits a person for trial or sentence or to be dealt with in respect of a sentence,
 - (b) which has been given a notice of transfer under section 4 of the ^{M11}Criminal Justice Act 1987 (transfer of serious fraud cases) [^{F42}or section 53 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 (transfer of certain cases involving children)], ^{F43}... [^{F44}or]
 - ^{F45}(bb)
 - (c) from which a person appeals against his conviction or sentence,
 is also competent as respects the proceedings before the Crown Court.
- (5) The magistrates' court inquiring into an offence as examining justices is also competent, before it decides whether or not to commit the person for trial, as respects any proceedings before the Crown Court on his trial.
- (6) The Crown Court is also competent as respects applications for leave to appeal and proceedings on any appeal to the Court of Appeal under section 9(11) of the ^{M12}Criminal Justice Act 1987 (appeals against orders or rulings at preparatory hearings).
- (7) On ordering a retrial under section 7 of the ^{M13}Criminal Appeal Act 1968 (new trials ordered by Court of Appeal or House of Lords on fresh evidence) the court ordering the retrial is also competent as respects the proceedings before the Crown Court.
- (8) Any magistrates' court to which, in accordance with regulations, a person applies for representation when he has been arrested for an offence but has not appeared or

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been brought before a court is competent as respects the proceedings in relation to the offence in any magistrates' court.

- (9) In the event of the Lord Chancellor making an order under section 3(4) as respects the function of granting representation under this Part for the purposes of proceedings before any court, the Board shall be competent as respects those proceedings, on an application made for the purpose.
- (10) An order under section 3(4) may make provision restricting or excluding the competence of any court mentioned in any of subsections (2) to (8) above and may contain such transitional provisions as appear to the Lord Chancellor necessary or expedient.

Textual Amendments

- F42** Words in s. 20(4)(b) inserted (1.10.1992) by [Criminal Justice Act 1991 \(c. 53\)](#), s. 53(5), [Sch. 6 para. 9](#); [S.I. 1992/333](#), art. 2(2), [Sch. 2](#).
- F43** Word in s. 20(4) omitted (9.5.1991) by virtue of [War Crimes Act 1991 \(c. 13\)](#), s. 3(2) and repealed (1.10.1992) by [Criminal Justice Act 1991 \(c. 53\)](#), s. 101(2), [Sch. 13](#); [S.I. 1992/333](#), art. 2(2), [Sch. 2](#).
- F44** Word "or" in s. 20(4)(b) inserted (4.7.1996) by [1996 c. 25](#), [s.46\(2\)\(a\)](#) (with s. 78(1))
- F45** [S. 20\(4\)\(bb\)](#) repealed (4.7.1996) by [1996 c. 25](#), ss. 44, 46(2)(b), 80, [Sch. 5 para.2](#) (with s. 78(1))

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C20** [S. 20\(4\)](#) restricted (1.10.1992) by [Criminal Justice Act 1991 \(c. 53\)](#), s. 53(5), [Sch. 6 para. 7\(1\)\(b\)](#); [S.I. 1992/333](#), art. 2(2), [Sch. 2](#).

Marginal Citations

- M11** [1987 c. 38](#).
- M12** [1987 c. 38](#).
- M13** [1968 c. 19](#).

21 Availability of representation under this Part. **E+W**

- (1) Representation under this Part for the purposes of any criminal proceedings shall be available in accordance with this section to the accused or convicted person but shall not be available to the prosecution except in the case of an appeal to the Crown Court against conviction or sentence, for the purpose of enabling an individual who is not acting in an official capacity to resist the appeal.
- (2) Subject to subsection (5) below, representation may be granted where it appears to the competent authority to be desirable to do so in the interests of justice; and section 22 applies for the interpretation of this subsection in relation to the proceedings to which that section applies.
- (3) Subject to subsection (5) below, representation must be granted—
- where a person is committed for trial on a charge of murder, for his trial;
 - where the prosecutor appeals or applies for leave to appeal to the House of Lords, for the proceedings on the appeal;
 - where a person charged with an offence before a magistrates' court—
 - is brought before the court in pursuance of a remand in custody when he may be again remanded or committed in custody, and

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- (ii) is not, but wishes to be, legally represented before the court (not having been legally represented when he was so remanded),
 for so much of the proceedings as relates to the grant of bail; and
- (d) where a person—
- (i) is to be sentenced or otherwise dealt with for an offence by a magistrates' court or the Crown Court, and
- (ii) is to be kept in custody to enable enquiries or a report to be made to assist the court,
 for the proceedings on sentencing or otherwise dealing with him.
- (4) Subject to any provision made under section 3(4) by virtue of section 20(10), in a case falling within subsection (3)(a) above, it shall be for the magistrates' court which commits the person for trial, and not for the Crown Court, to make the grant of representation for his trial.
- (5) Representation shall not be granted to any person unless it appears to the competent authority that his financial resources are such as, under regulations, make him eligible for representation under this Part.
- (6) Before making a determination for the purposes of subsection (5) above in the case of any person, the competent authority shall, except in prescribed cases, require a statement of his financial resources in the prescribed form to be furnished to the authority.
- (7) Where a doubt arises whether representation under this Part should be granted to any person, the doubt shall be resolved in that person's favour.
- (8) Where an application for representation for the purposes of an appeal to the Court of Appeal or the Courts-Martial Appeal Court is made to a competent authority before the giving of notice of appeal or the making of an application for leave to appeal, the authority may, in the first instance, exercise its power to grant representation by making a grant consisting of advice on the question whether there appear to be reasonable grounds of appeal and assistance in the preparation of an application for leave to appeal or in the giving of a notice of appeal.
- (9) Representation granted by a competent authority may be amended or withdrawn, whether by that or another authority competent to grant representation under this Part.
- (10) Regulations may provide for an appeal to lie to a specified court or body against any refusal by a magistrates' court to grant representation under this Part and for that other court or body to make any grant of representation that could have been made by the magistrates' court.
- [^{F46}(10A) Where section 44A of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968 (death of convicted person) applies, the reference in subsection (1) above to the convicted person shall be construed as a reference to the person approved under that section.]
- (11) Subsection (3) above shall have effect in its application to a person who has not attained the age of eighteen as if the references in paragraphs (c) and (d) to remand in custody and to being remanded or kept in custody included references to being committed under section 23 of the ^{M14}Children and Young Persons Act 1969 to the care of a local authority or a remand centre.

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Textual Amendments

F46 S. 21(10A) inserted (1.1.1996) by 1995 c. 35, s. 29(1), Sch. 2 para. 17; S.I. 1995/3061, art.3(d)(h)

Marginal Citations

M14 1969 c. 54.

22 Criteria for grant of representation for trial proceedings. **E+W**

- (1) This section applies to proceedings by way of a trial by or before a magistrates' court or the Crown Court or on an appeal to the Crown Court against a person's conviction.
- (2) The factors to be taken into account by a competent authority in determining whether it is in the interests of justice that representation be granted for the purposes of proceedings to which this section applies to an accused shall include the following—
 - (a) the offence is such that if proved it is likely that the court would impose a sentence which would deprive the accused of his liberty or lead to loss of his livelihood or serious damage to his reputation;
 - (b) the determination of the case may involve consideration of a substantial question of law;
 - (c) the accused may be unable to understand the proceedings or to state his own case because of his inadequate knowledge of English, mental illness or other mental or physical disability;
 - (d) the nature of the defence is such as to involve the tracing and interviewing of witnesses or expert cross-examination of a witness for the prosecution;
 - (e) it is in the interests of someone other than the accused that the accused be represented.
- (3) The Lord Chancellor may, by order, vary the factors listed in subsection (2) above by amending factors in the list or by adding new factors to the list.

23 Reimbursement of public funds by contributions. **E+W**

- (1) Where representation under this Part is granted to any person whose financial resources are such as, under regulations, make him liable to make a contribution, the competent authority shall order him to pay a contribution in respect of the costs of his being represented under this Part.
- (2) Where the legally assisted person has not attained the age of sixteen, the competent authority may, instead of or in addition to ordering him to make a contribution, order any person—
 - (a) who is an appropriate contributor in relation to him, and
 - (b) whose financial resources are such as, under regulations, make him liable to make a contribution,to pay a contribution in respect of the costs of the representation granted to the legally assisted person.
- (3) Regulations may authorise the making of a contribution order under subsection (1) or (2) above after the grant of representation in prescribed circumstances.

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- (4) The amount of the contribution to be required under subsection (1) or (2) above by the competent authority shall be such as is determined in accordance with the regulations.
- (5) A legally assisted person or appropriate contributor may be required to make his contribution in one sum or by instalments as may be prescribed.
- (6) Regulations may provide that no contribution order shall be made in connection with a grant of representation under this Part for the purposes of proceedings in the Crown Court, the Court of Appeal or the House of Lords in a case where a contribution order was made in connection with a grant of such representation to the person in question in respect of proceedings in a lower court.
- (7) Subject to subsection (8) below, if the total contribution made in respect of the costs of representing any person under this Part exceeds those costs, the excess shall be repaid—
 - (a) where the contribution was made by one person only, to him; and
 - (b) where the contribution was made by two or more persons, to them in proportion to the amounts contributed by them.
- (8) Where a contribution has been made in respect of the costs of representing any person under this Part in any proceedings and an order for costs is made in favour of that person in respect of those proceedings, then, where sums due under the order for costs are paid to the Board or the Lord Chancellor under section 20(2) of the ^{M15}Prosecution of Offences Act 1985 (recovery regulations)—
 - (a) if the costs of the representation do not exceed the sums so paid, subsection (7) above shall not apply and the contribution shall be repaid;
 - (b) if the costs of the representation do exceed the sums so paid, subsection (7) above shall apply as if the costs of the representation were equal to the excess.
- (9) References in subsection (8) above to the costs of representation include any charge or fee treated as part of those costs by section 26(2).
- (10) In this Part—

“appropriate contributor ”, means a person of a description prescribed under section 34(2)(c); and

“contribution order ” means an order under subsection (1) or (2) above.

Marginal Citations

M15 1985 c. 23.

24 Contribution orders: supplementary. **E+W**

- (1) Where a competent authority grants representation under this Part and in connection with the grant makes a contribution order under which any sum is required to be paid on the making of the order, it may direct that the grant of representation shall not take effect until that sum is paid.
- (2) Where a legally assisted person fails to pay any relevant contribution when it is due, the court in which the proceedings for the purposes of which he has been granted representation are being heard may, subject to subsection (3) below, revoke the grant.

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- (3) A court shall not exercise the power conferred by subsection (2) above unless, after affording the legally assisted person an opportunity of making representations in such manner as may be prescribed, it is satisfied—
- (a) that he was able to pay the relevant contribution when it was due; and
 - (b) that he is able to pay the whole or part of it but has failed or refused to do so.
- (4) In subsection (2) above “relevant contribution”, in relation to a legally assisted person, means any sum—
- (a) which he is required to pay by a contribution order made in connection with the grant to him of representation under this Part, and
 - (b) which falls due after the making of the order and before the conclusion of the proceedings for the purposes of which he has been granted such representation.
- (5) Regulations with respect to contribution orders may—
- (a) provide for their variation or revocation in prescribed circumstances;
 - (b) provide for their making in default of the prescribed evidence of a person’s financial resources;
 - (c) regulate their making after the grant of representation;
 - (d) authorise the remission or authorise or require the repayment in prescribed circumstances of sums due or paid under such orders; and
 - (e) prescribe the court or body by which any function under the regulations is to be exercisable.
- (6) Schedule 3 to this Act shall have effect with respect to the enforcement of contribution orders.

25 Payment of costs of representation under this Part. **E+W**

- (1) Where representation under this Part has been granted to any person the costs of representing him shall be paid—
- (a) by the Lord Chancellor, or
 - (b) by the Board,
- as the Lord Chancellor may direct.
- (2) Subject to regulations, the costs of representing any person under this Part shall include sums on account of the fees payable to his [^{F47}legal representative] and disbursements reasonably incurred by his [^{F47}legal representative] for or in connection with his representation.
- (3) The costs required by this section to be paid in respect of representing him shall not include any sum in respect of allowances to witnesses attending to give evidence in the proceedings for the purposes of which he is represented in any case where such allowances are payable under any other enactment.

Textual Amendments

- F47** Words in s. 25(2) substituted (1.4.1991) by [Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 \(c. 41, SIF 37\)](#), s. 125(3), [Sch. 18 para. 63\(4\)](#); [S.I.1991/608](#), art. 2, [Sch.](#)

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26 Payment for advice or assistance where representation under this Part is subsequently granted. E+W

- (1) This section has effect where—
 - (a) advice or assistance under Part III is given to a person in respect of any matter which is or becomes the subject of criminal proceedings against him; and
 - (b) he is subsequently granted representation under this Part for the purposes of those proceedings.
- (2) If the ^{F48}[legal representative] acting for the person under the grant of representation is the ^{F49}[one] who gave him the advice or assistance, any charge or fee in respect of the advice or assistance which, apart from this section, would fall to be secured, recovered or paid as provided by section 11 shall instead be paid under section 25 as if it were part of the costs of the representation.
- (3) If a contribution order is made in connection with the grant of representation under this Part to him—
 - (a) any sum which he is required by virtue of section 9(6) or (7) to pay in respect of the advice or assistance (whether or not already paid) shall be credited against the contribution to be made by him under the contribution order; and
 - (b) section 25 shall have effect in a case to which subsection (2) above applies as if the charges and fees properly chargeable in respect of the advice or assistance were part of the costs of the representation under this Part and as if any such sum as is mentioned in paragraph (a) above which he has paid were part of the contribution made under the contribution order.

Textual Amendments

- F48** Words in s. 26 substituted (1.4.1991) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 125(3), **Sch. 18 para. 63(4)**; S.I. 1991/608, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F49** Word in s. 26(2) substituted (1.4.1991) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 125(3), **Sch. 18 para. 61(5)**; S.I.1991/608, art. 2, **Sch.**

PART VI E+W

LEGAL AID IN SPECIAL CASES

Care proceedings

^{F50}**27** **E+W**

Textual Amendments

- F50** S. 27 repealed (14.10.1991) by Children Act 1989 (c. 41, SIF 20), ss. 99(4), 108(7), **Sch.15**; S.I. 1991/828, **art. 3(2)**

^{F51}**28** **E+W**

Status: Point in time view as at 19/06/1997. This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

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Textual Amendments

F51 S. 28 repealed (14.10.1991) by Children Act 1989 (c. 41, SIF 20), ss. 99(4), 108(7), **Sch.15**; S.I. 1991/828, **art. 3(2)**

Contempt proceedings

29 Representation in contempt proceedings. E+W

- (1) This section applies to any proceedings where a person is liable to be committed or fined—
 - (a) by a magistrates’ court under section 12 of the ^{M16}Contempt of Court Act 1981;
 - (b) by a county court under section 14, 92 or 118 of the ^{M17}County Courts Act 1984;
 - (c) by any superior court for contempt in the face of that or any other court;and in this Act “proceedings for contempt ” means so much of any proceedings as relates to dealing with a person as mentioned in paragraph (a), (b) or (c) above.
- (2) In any proceedings for contempt against a person the court may order that he be granted representation under this section for the purposes of the proceedings if it appears to the court to be desirable to do so in the interests of justice.
- (3) In this section, “superior court ” means the Court of Appeal, the High Court, the Crown Court, the Courts-Martial Appeal Court, the Restrictive Practices Court, the Employment Appeal Tribunal and any other court exercising in relation to its proceedings powers equivalent to those of the High Court, and includes the House of Lords in the exercise of its jurisdiction in relation to appeals from courts in England and Wales.

Commencement Information

II S. 29 wholly in force at 1.5.1991 see s. 47(2) and S.I. 1991/790, **art. 1(2)**

Marginal Citations

M16 1981 c. 49.

M17 1984 c. 28.

Supplementary

30 Supplementary. E+W

^{F52}(1)

^{F52}(2)

- (3) In Part V, section 25 shall apply for the purposes of representation in proceedings for contempt as it applies for the purposes of representation under that Part in criminal proceedings.

Status: Point in time view as at 19/06/1997. This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

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Textual Amendments

F52 S. 30(1)(2) repealed (14.10.1991) by Children Act 1989 (c. 41, SIF 20), ss. 99(4), 108(7), **Sch.15** ; S.I. 1991/828, **art. 3(2)**

PART VII **E+W**

GENERAL AND SUPPLEMENTARY

31 **Act not generally to affect position of legal representatives or other parties.** **E+W**

- (1) Except as expressly provided by this Act or regulations under it—
 - (a) the fact that the services of [^{F53}a legal representative] are given under this Act shall not affect the relationship between or rights of [^{F54}the legal representative]and client or any privilege arising out of such relationship; and
 - (b) the rights conferred by this Act on a person receiving advice, assistance or representation under it shall not affect the rights or liabilities of other parties to the proceedings or the principles on which the discretion of any court or tribunal is normally exercised.
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1)(b) above, for the purpose of determining the costs of a legally assisted person in pursuance of an order for costs or an agreement for costs in his favour (other than an order under Part II of the ^{M18}Prosecution of Offences Act 1985) the services of his [^{F55}legal representative]shall be treated as having been provided otherwise than under this Act and his [^{F56}legal representative shall be treated as having paid the fees of any additional legal representative instructed by him].
- (3) A person who provides advice, assistance or representation under this Act shall not take any payment in respect of the advice, assistance or representation except such payment as is made by the Board or authorised by, or by regulations under, this Act.
- (4) The revocation under this Act of a grant (or, in the case of Part III, of approval for a grant) of advice, assistance or representation to a legally assisted person shall not affect the right of any legal representative of his, arising otherwise than under a contract, to remuneration for work done before the date of the revocation.

Textual Amendments

- F53** Words in s. 31(1)(a) substituted (*I. 4. 1991*) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 125(3), **Sch. 18 para. 63(1)(a)**; S.I. 1991/608, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F54** Words in s. 31(1)(a) substituted (*I. 4. 1991*) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 125(3), **Sch. 18 para. 62(1)(a)**; S.I. 1991/608, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F55** Words in s. 31(2) substituted (*I. 4. 1991*) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 125(3), **Sch. 18 para. 63(3)(c)**; S.I. 1991/608, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F56** Words in s. 31(2) substituted (*I. 4. 1991*) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s., 125(3), **Sch. 18 para. 62(1)(b)**; S.I. 1991/608, art. 2, **Sch.**

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Marginal Citations

M18 1985 c. 23.

32 Selection and assignment of legal representatives. **E+W**

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, a person entitled to receive advice or assistance or representation may [^{F57}select the legal representative to advise, assist or act for him from among the legal representatives willing] to provide advice, assistance or representation under this Act.
- (2) Where the Board limits a grant of representation under Part IV to representation in pursuance of a contract made by the Board, it may, as it thinks fit, assign to the legally assisted person [^{F58}one or more legal representatives or direct that he may only select a legal representative from among those with whom such a contract subsists.]
- (3) A person's right to select his [^{F59}legal representative] is subject, in the case of representation under Part V, to regulations under subsection (8) below.
- (4) Subsection (1) above does not confer any right of selection in relation to proceedings under section 29 for the purposes of proceedings for contempt.
- (5) Where a court grants representation to a person for the purposes of proceedings for contempt, it may assign to him for the purposes of the proceedings any [^{F60}legal representative] who is within the precincts of the court at the time.
- (6) The selection by or assignment to a person of [^{F61}a legal representative] shall not prejudice the law and practice relating to the conduct of proceedings by a [^{F59}legal representative] or the circumstances in which a [^{F59}legal representative] may refuse or give up a case or entrust it to another.
- (7) Regulations may provide that the right conferred by subsection (1) above shall be exercisable only in relation to [^{F62}legal representatives] who are for the time being members of a prescribed panel.
- (8) Regulations may provide as respects representation under Part V that subsection (1) above shall not apply in cases of any prescribed description and that in any such case a prescribed authority shall assign [^{F63}one or more legal representatives] in accordance with regulations under section 2(7) to the person entitled to receive such representation.
- [^{F64}(9) None of the following persons may be selected or assigned under this section—
 - (a) a solicitor who is for the time being excluded from legal aid work under section 47(2) of the Solicitors Act 1974 (powers of Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal);
 - (b) a barrister excluded from such work under section 42 of the Administration of Justice Act 1985 (exclusion of barristers from legal aid work);
 - (c) any other legal representative excluded from such work for disciplinary reasons by an authorised body.]
- (10) Notwithstanding subsection (1) above, a [^{F65}legal representative] who has been selected to act for a person under that subsection may himself select to act for that person, as the [^{F66}legal representative's] agent, any other [^{F65}legal representative] who is not for the time being excluded from selection.

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Textual Amendments

- F57** Words in s. 32(1) substituted (*I. 4. 1991*) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 124(3), 125(3), **Sch. 18 para. 62(2)(a)**; S.I. 1991/608, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F58** Words in s. 32(2) substituted (*I. 4. 1991*) by Court and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 125(3), **Sch. 18**, para. 62(2)(b); S.I. 1991/608, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F59** Words in s. 32 substituted (*I. 4. 1991*) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 125(3), **Sch. 18 para. 63(3)(a)**; S.I. 1991/608, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F60** Words in s. 32(5) substituted (*I. 4. 1991*) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 125(3), **Sch. 18 para. 63(3)(b)**; S.I. 1991/608, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F61** Words in s. 32(6) substituted (*I. 4. 1991*) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 125(3), **Sch. 18 para. 63(1)(b)**; S.I. 1991/608, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F62** Words in s. 32(7) substituted (*I. 4. 1991*) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 125(3), **Sch. 18 para. 63(5)(a)**; S.I. 1991/608, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F63** Words in s. 32(8) substituted (*I. 4. 1991*) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 125(3), **Sch. 18 para. 62(2)(c)**; S.I. 1991/608, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F64** S. 32(9) substituted (*I. 4. 1991*) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 125(3), **Sch. 18 para. 62(2)(d)**; S.I. 1991/608, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F65** Words in s. 32(10) substituted (*I. 4. 1991*) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 125(3), **Sch. 18 para. 63(4)**; S.I. 1991/608, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F66** Words in s. 32(10) substituted (*I. 4. 1991*) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 125(3), **Sch. 18 para. 63(2)**; S.I. 1991/608, art. 2, **Sch.**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C21** S. 32(1) restricted (1.1.2000) by S.I. 1999/166, **regs. 6(5), 8(3)** (with **regs. 6(6), 8(4)**) (as inserted (1.1.2000) by S.I. 1999/2278, **reg. 4**)
- C22** S. 32(8) restricted (*I. 4. 1991*) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), **s. 59(1)(2)**; S.I. 1991/608, art. 2, **Sch.**

33 Legal aid complaints against barristers and their exclusion from legal aid work. **E+W**

The following sections shall be substituted for sections 41 and 42 of the ^{M19}Administration of Justice Act 1985—

“41 Application to legal aid complaints against barristers of disciplinary provisions.

- (1) The disciplinary provisions applicable to barristers shall apply to legal aid complaints relating to the conduct of barristers as they apply to other complaints about their conduct.
- (2) Subject to any exclusion or restriction made by those provisions, any disciplinary tribunal which hears a legal aid complaint relating to the conduct of a barrister may, if it thinks fit and whether or not it makes any other order, order that any fees—
 - (a) otherwise payable in connection with his services under or in accordance with the Legal Aid Act 1988, or
 - (b) otherwise chargeable in connection with his services in respect of advice or assistance made available under Part III of that Act,
 shall be reduced or cancelled.

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- (3) Accordingly, in so far as any of sections 9, 11, 15(6) and (7) and 25(2) of the Legal Aid Act 1988 (which relate to remuneration for legal aid work) has effect in relation to any fees reduced or cancelled by an order under subsection (2) above, it shall so have effect subject to the provisions of that order.
- (4) An appeal shall lie in the case of an order under subsection (2) above in the same manner as an appeal would lie in the case of any other order of such a tribunal.
- (5) The reference in subsection (2) above to a disciplinary tribunal is a reference to a tribunal acting under the disciplinary provisions applicable to barristers and it includes a reference to a member exercising any functions of the tribunal delegated to him.

42 Exclusion of barristers from legal aid work.

- (1) Subject to any exclusion or restriction made by the disciplinary provisions applicable to barristers, where a disciplinary tribunal hears a charge of professional misconduct or breach of professional standards against a barrister, it may order that he shall be excluded from legal aid work, either temporarily or for a specified period, if it determines that there is good reason for the exclusion arising out of—
 - (a) his conduct in connection with any such services as are mentioned in section 40(1), or
 - (b) his professional conduct generally.
- (2) Subsection (4) of section 41 shall apply to an order under subsection (1) as it applies to an order under subsection (2) of that section.
- (3) The disciplinary provisions applicable to barristers shall include provision enabling a barrister who has been excluded from legal aid work under this section to apply for an order terminating his exclusion from such work.
- (4) In this section—
 - (a) the reference to a disciplinary tribunal shall be construed in accordance with section 41(5); and
 - (b) references to a person being excluded from legal aid work are references to his being excluded from those who may be selected or assigned under section 32 of the Legal Aid Act 1988.”

Marginal Citations

M19 1985 c. 61.

34 Regulations. E+W

- (1) The Lord Chancellor may make such regulations as appear to him necessary or desirable for giving effect to this Act or for preventing abuses of it.
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1) above, any such regulations may—
 - (a) make provision as to the matters which are or are not to be treated as distinct matters for the purposes of advice or assistance under Part III, as to the

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- proceedings which are or are not to be treated as distinct proceedings for the purposes of representation under Part IV, and as to the apportionment of sums recoverable or recovered by virtue of any order for costs made generally with respect to matters or proceedings treated as distinct;
- (b) regulate the procedure of any court or tribunal in relation to advice, assistance or representation under this Act or orders for costs made thereunder and authorise the delegation (subject to appeal) or the exercise of their functions by members, officers or other courts or the judges or members of other courts;
 - (c) regulate the availability of advice, assistance [^{F67}, mediation] or representation (other than for the purposes of proceedings for contempt) and the making of contributions towards its provision by reference to the financial resources or, in prescribed cases, the aggregate financial resources, of persons and provide for the courts, persons or bodies who are to determine the financial resources of persons and the persons who are to be required or permitted to furnish information for those purposes;
 - (d) provide for the cases in which a person may be refused advice, assistance [^{F67}, mediation] or representation or have the grant of it withdrawn or revoked by reason of his conduct when seeking or receiving advice, assistance [^{F67}, mediation] or representation (whether in the same or a different matter);
 - (e) make provision for the remuneration and payment of the expenses of [^{F68} legal representatives] and for the courts, persons or bodies by whom, and the manner in which, any determinations which may be required for those purposes are to be made, reviewed or appealed;
 - (f) make provision for the recovery of sums due to the Board and for making effective the charge created by this Act on property recovered or preserved for a legally assisted person and regulating the release or postponement of the enforcement of any charge (however created) in favour of the Board.
- (3) Regulations may also modify this Act for the purposes of its application to prescribed descriptions of persons or in prescribed circumstances.
 - (4) Without prejudice to subsection (3) above, regulations may also modify this Act for the purposes of its application—
 - (a) in cases where its modification appears to the Lord Chancellor necessary for the purpose of fulfilling any obligation imposed on the United Kingdom or Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom by any international agreement; or
 - (b) in relation to proceedings for securing the recognition or enforcement in England and Wales of judgments given outside the United Kingdom for whose recognition or enforcement in the United Kingdom provision is made by any international agreement.
 - (5) Regulations made for the purposes mentioned in subsection (2)(b) above may include provisions—
 - (a) as to the determination of costs incurred in connection with proceedings not actually begun; and
 - (b) as to the cases in which and extent to which a person receiving advice, assistance or representation may be required to give security for costs, and the manner in which it may be so given.
 - (6) Regulations made for the purposes mentioned in subsection (2)(c) above may provide that the income or capital of a person in receipt of prescribed [^{F69} benefits under Part VII

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of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 (income-related benefits)] is to be taken as not exceeding a prescribed amount.

- (7) Regulations made for the purposes mentioned in subsection (2)(e) above may include provisions—
- (a) imposing conditions for the allowance of remuneration and expenses;
 - (b) attaching financial penalties in the event of appeals or reviews of determinations being unsuccessful;
 - (c) authorising the making of interim payments of remuneration or in respect of expenses.
- (8) Regulations made for the purposes mentioned in subsection (2)(f) above may include provisions—
- (a) for the enforcement for the benefit of the Board of an order or agreement for costs made in favour of a legally assisted person;
 - (b) for making a [^{F70}legal representative's]right to payment by the Board wholly or partly dependent on his performance of the duties imposed on him by regulations made for the purposes of that paragraph; and
 - (c) requiring interest to be charged at a prescribed rate in circumstances where enforcement of a charge in favour of the Board is postponed.
- (9) The Lord Chancellor, in making regulations for the purposes mentioned in subsection (2)(e) above as respects any description of legal aid work, shall have regard, among the matters which are relevant, to—
- (a) the time and skill which it requires;
 - (b) the general level of fee income arising from it;
 - (c) the general level of expenses of [^{F71}legal representatives]which is attributable to it;
 - (d) the number and general level of competence of [^{F71}legal representatives]undertaking it;
 - (e) the effect of the regulations on the handling of the work; and
 - (f) the cost to public funds of any provision made by the regulations.
- (10) Before making regulations for the purposes mentioned in subsection (2)(e) above, the Lord Chancellor shall consult the General Council of the Bar and the Law Society.
- (11) Regulations under this Act may make different provision for different descriptions of advice, assistance [^{F67}, mediation]or representation, for different cases or classes of case, for different areas or for other different circumstances and for different descriptions of persons.
- (12) Before making regulations as to the procedure of any court or tribunal, the Lord Chancellor shall so far as practicable consult any rule committee or similar body by whom or on whose advice rules of procedure for the court or tribunal may be made apart from this provision or whose consent or concurrence is required to any such rules so made.
- (13) No regulations shall be made under this section which include provision for the purposes mentioned in subsection (2)(c) or (e) above except with the consent of the Treasury.

^{F72}(14)

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Textual Amendments

- F67** Word and preceding comma in s. 34(2)(c)(d)(11) inserted (21.3.1997) by 1996 c. 27, s. 66(1), **Sch. 8 Pt. II para. 44(3); S.I. 1997/1077, art.2(d)**
- F68** Words in s. 34(2)(e) substituted (*I. 4. 1991*) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s.125(3), **Sch. 18 para. 63(5)(b); S.I. 1991/608, art. 2, Sch.**
- F69** Words in s. 34(6) substituted (1.7.1992) by Social Security (Consequential Provisions) Act 1992 (c. 6), ss. 4, 7(2), **Sch. 2 para. 97.**
- F70** Words in s. 34(8)(b) substituted (*I. 4. 1991*) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 125(3), **Sch. 18 para. 63(2); S.I. 1991/608, art. 2, Sch.**
- F71** Words in s. 34(9)(c)(d) substituted (*I. 4. 1991*) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 125(3), **Sch. 18 para. 63(5)(c); S.I. 1991/608, art. 2, Sch.**
- F72** S. 34(14) repealed (1.7.1992) by Social Security (Consequential Provisions) Act 1992 (c. 6), ss. 3, 7(2), **Sch. 1** (subject as mentioned (6.3.1992) in Local Government Finance Act 1992 (c. 14), **s. 118(5)(7)** (with s. 118(1)(2)(4)).

35 Advisory Committee. **E+W**

- (1) The existing advisory committee shall continue in being to advise the Lord Chancellor on such questions relating to the provision of advice, assistance or representation under this Act as he may from time to time refer to them and to make recommendations or furnish comments to him on such matters as they consider appropriate.
- (2) Appointments to the committee by the Lord Chancellor, whether by way of replacing existing members or making additional appointments, shall be made so as to secure that the committee is constituted of persons having knowledge of the work of the courts and social conditions.
- (3) The Lord Chancellor may pay to the members of the advisory committee such travelling and other allowances as he may, with the consent of the Treasury, determine; and any expenses of the Lord Chancellor under this subsection shall be defrayed out of money provided by Parliament.
- (4) It shall be the duty of the advisory committee to provide to the Lord Chancellor, as soon as possible after 31st March in each year, a report containing any advice, recommendations or comments of theirs on questions or matters arising during the preceding twelve months.
- (5) The Lord Chancellor shall lay before each House of Parliament a copy of the annual report of the committee made to him under subsection (4) above.
- (6) The Lord Chancellor may, by order dissolve the advisory committee on such day as is specified in the order and on that day this section shall cease to have effect except as regards the defrayal out of money provided by Parliament of the allowances falling to be paid thereafter under subsection (3) above.
- (7) In this section “the existing advisory committee ” means the advisory committee in existence under section 21 of the ^{M20}Legal Aid Act 1974 at the passing of this Act.

Marginal Citations

M20 1974 c. 4.

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36 Orders and regulations: general. E+W

- (1) Any power under this Act to make an order or regulations shall be exercisable by statutory instrument.
- (2) As respects orders under this Act other than orders under section 47—
 - (a) except in the case of an order under section 3(4) and 35(6), any instrument containing the order shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament;
 - (b) in the case of an order under section 3(4) or 35(6), no such order shall be made unless a draft of it has been laid before and approved by resolution of each House of Parliament.
- (3) As respects regulations under this Act—
 - (a) except in the case of regulations under section 8, 14(2) and 32(7), any instrument containing the regulations shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament;
 - (b) in the case of regulations under section 8, 14(2) or 32(7), no such regulations shall be made unless a draft of them has been laid before and approved by resolution of each House of Parliament.

37 Laying of Board's annual reports before Parliament. E+W

The Lord Chancellor shall lay before each House of Parliament a copy of the annual report of the Board made to him under section 5(3).

38 Restriction of disclosure of information. E+W

- (1) Subject to the following provisions of this section, no information furnished for the purposes of this Act to the Board or any court or other person or body of persons upon whom functions are imposed or conferred by regulations and so furnished in connection with the case of a person seeking or receiving advice, assistance [^{F73}, mediation] or representation shall be disclosed otherwise than—
 - (a) for the purpose of enabling or assisting the Lord Chancellor to perform his functions under or in relation to this Act,
 - (b) for the purpose of enabling the Board to discharge its functions under this Act,
 - (c) for the purpose of facilitating the proper performance by any court, tribunal or other person or body of persons of functions under this Act,
 - (d) with a view to the institution of, or otherwise for the purposes of, any criminal proceedings for an offence under this Act,
 - (e) in connection with any other proceedings under this Act, or
 - (f) for the purpose of facilitating the proper performance by any tribunal of disciplinary functions as regards [^{F74}legal representatives][^{F75}or mediators].
- (2) This section does not apply to information in the form of a summary or collection of information so framed as not to enable information relating to any particular person to be ascertained from it.
- (3) Subsection (1) above shall not prevent the disclosure of information for any purpose with the consent of the person in connection with whose case it was furnished and, where he did not furnish it himself, with that of the person or body of persons who did.

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- (4) A person who, in contravention of this section, discloses any information furnished to the Board or any court or other person or body of persons for the purposes of this Act shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale.
- (5) Proceedings for an offence under this section shall not be brought without the written consent of the Attorney General.
- (6) For the avoidance of doubt it is hereby declared that information furnished to [F76 a legal representative][F75 or mediator] as such by or on behalf of a person seeking or receiving advice, assistance [F73, mediation] or representation under this Act is not information furnished to the Board or a person upon whom functions are imposed or conferred as mentioned in subsection (1) above.

Textual Amendments

- F73** Words in s. 38(1)(6) inserted (21.3.1997) by 1996 c. 27, s. 66(1), **Sch. 8 Pt. II para. 44(3)**; S.I. 1997/1077, **art.2(d)**
- F74** Words in s. 38(1)(f) substituted (*I. 4. 1991*) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 125(3), **Sch. 18 para. 63(5)(d)**; S.I. 1991/608, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F75** Words in s. 38(1)(f)(6) inserted (21.3.1997) by 1996 c. 27, s. 66(1), **Sch. 8 Pt. II para. 44(8)(a)(b)**; S.I. 1997/1077, **art.2(d)**
- F76** Words in s. 38(6) substituted (*I. 4. 1991*) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 125(3), **Sch. 18 para. 63(1)(a)**; S.I. 1991/608, art. 2, **Sch.**

39 Proceedings for misrepresentation etc. **E+W**

- (1) If any person seeking or receiving advice, assistance [F77, mediation] or representation under this Act—
 - (a) intentionally fails to comply with regulations as to the information to be furnished by him, or
 - (b) in furnishing any information required by regulations knowingly makes any false statement or false representation,
 he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or to both.
- (2) Notwithstanding anything in the ^{M21}Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, proceedings in respect of an offence under subsection (1) above may be brought at any time within the period of six months beginning with the date on which evidence sufficient in the opinion of the prosecutor to justify a prosecution comes to his knowledge.
- (3) Nothing in subsection (2) above shall authorise the commencement of proceedings for an offence at a time more than two years after the date on which the offence was committed.
- (4) A county court shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine any action brought by the Board to recover the loss sustained by it on account of its legal aid fund by reason of—
 - (a) the failure of a person seeking or receiving advice, assistance [F77, mediation] or representation to comply with regulations as to the information to be furnished by him, or
 - (b) a false statement or false representation made by such a person in furnishing information for the purposes of this Act,

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F78 . . .

Textual Amendments

- F77** Word and preceding comma in s. 39(1)(4)(a) inserted (21.3.1997) by 1996 c. 27, s. 66(1), **Sch. 8 Pt. II para. 44(3)**; S.I. 1997/1077, **art.2(d)**
- F78** Words in s. 39(4) omitted by virtue of S.I. 1991/724, **art. 2(8)**, **Schedule**, Pt I

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C23** S. 39(4) extended by S.I. 1991/724, **art. 2(1)(m)**

Marginal Citations

- M21** 1980 c. 43.

40 **Adaptation of rights of indemnity in cases of advice, assistance or representation in civil proceedings.** **E+W**

- (1) This section shall have effect for the purpose of adapting in relation to Parts III and IV any right (however and whenever created or arising) which a person may have to be indemnified against expenses incurred by him.
- (2) In determining for the purposes of any such right the reasonableness of any expenses, the possibility of avoiding them or part of them by taking advantage of Part III or Part IV shall be disregarded.
- (3) Where a person having any such right to be indemnified against expenses incurred in connection with any proceedings receives in connection with those proceedings advice, assistance or representation then (without prejudice to the effect of the indemnity in relation to his contribution, if any, under section 9 or 16) the right shall enure also for the benefit of the Board as if any expenses incurred by the Board on his account in connection with the advice, assistance or representation had been incurred by him.
- (4) Where a person's right to be indemnified enures for the benefit of the Board under subsection (3) above in a case where he has been represented in pursuance of a contract made with the Board on terms which do not differentiate between the remuneration for his and other cases, the reference in that subsection to any expenses incurred by the Board on his account shall be construed as a reference to such part of the remuneration payable under the contract as may be specified in writing by the Board.
- (5) Where—
 - (a) a person's right to be indemnified against expenses incurred in connection with any proceedings arises by virtue of an agreement and is subject to any express condition conferring on those liable under it any right with respect to the bringing or conduct of the proceedings, and
 - (b) those liable have been given a reasonable opportunity of exercising the right so conferred and have not availed themselves of the opportunity,the right to be indemnified shall be treated for the purpose of subsection (3) above as not being subject to that condition.
- (6) Nothing in subsections (3) and (5) above shall be taken as depriving any person or body of persons of the protection of any enactment or, except as provided in subsection (5), as conferring any larger right to recover money in respect of any expenses than the

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person receiving advice, assistance or representation would have had if the expenses had been incurred by him.

41 Application to Crown. E+W

This Act binds the Crown.

42 Finance. E+W

- (1) The Lord Chancellor shall pay to the Board out of money provided by Parliament—
- (a) such sums as are required (after allowing for payments by the Board into its legal aid fund under paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d) and (f) of section 6(3)) to meet the payments which, under subsection (2) of that section, are to be paid by the Board out of that fund; and
 - (b) such sums as he may, with the approval of the Treasury, determine are required for the other expenditure of the Board.
- (2) The Lord Chancellor may, with the approval of the Treasury—
- (a) determine the manner in which and times at which the sums referred to in subsection (1)(a) above shall be paid to the Board; and
 - (b) impose conditions on the payment of the sums referred to in subsection (1) (b) above.

43 Definitions. E+W

In this Act—

“advice”, “assistance”^[F79], “mediation” and “representation” have the meanings assigned to them by section 2(2), (3)^[F79], (3A) and (4) respectively subject, however, to the other provisions of that section;

^[F80]“authorised body” has the meaning assigned by section 119(1) of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990;

“the Board” has the meaning assigned to it by section 3(1);

“determination”, in relation to the costs of advice or assistance^[F79], “mediation” or representation for the purposes of proceedings, includes taxation and assessment;

“financial resources”, in relation to any person, includes any valuable facility which is available to him;

[“^{F81}family matters” has the meaning assigned by section 13A(2);]

^[F80]“legal representative” means an authorised advocate or authorised litigator, as defined by section 119(1) of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990;

^[F82]“mediator” means a person with whom the Board contracts for the provision of mediation by any person.]

“order for costs” includes any judgment, order, decree, award or direction for the payment of the costs of one party to any proceedings by another party, whether given or made in those proceedings or not;

“prescribed” means prescribed by regulations made by the Lord Chancellor under this Act;

“proceedings for contempt” has the meaning assigned to it by section 29(1);

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Changes to legislation: Legal Aid Act 1988 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 20 June 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)

“regulations ” means regulations made by the Lord Chancellor under this Act;

“sentence ”, in relation to a person, includes any order made on his conviction of an offence;

“solicitor ” means solicitor of the Supreme Court;

“statutory inquiry ” has the meaning assigned to it by [^{F83}section 16(1) of the Tribunals and Inquiries Act 1992]; and

“tribunal ” includes an arbitrator or umpire, however appointed, and whether the arbitration takes place under a reference by consent or otherwise.

Textual Amendments

- F79** Words in s. 43 inserted (21.3.1997) by 1996 c. 27, s. 66(1), **Sch. 8 Pt. II para. 44(9)(a)(b)**; S.I. 1997/1077, **art.2(d)**
- F80** Definitions in s. 43 inserted (1.4.1991) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 125(3), **Sch. 18 para. 60**; S.I. 1991/608, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F81** In s. 43 definition of “family matters ” inserted (21.3.1997) by 1996 c. 27, s. 66(1), **Sch. 8 Pt. II para. 44(9)(c)**; S.I. 1997/1077, **art.2(d)**
- F82** In s. 43 definition of “mediator ” inserted (21.3.1997) by 1996 c. 27, s. 26(3); S.I. 1997/1077, **art.2(c)**
- F83** Words in s. 43 substituted (1.10.1992) by Tribunals and Inquiries Act 1992 (c. 53), ss. 18(1), 19(2), **Sch. 3 para. 21**.

PART VIII **E+W+S**

MISCELLANEOUS

Scottish provisions

44 **Scottish provisions.** **S**

The ^{M22}Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 1986 shall have effect subject to the amendments specified in Schedule 4 to this Act.

Marginal Citations

M22 1986 c. 47.

Supplementary

45 **Amendments, repeals and transitional provisions.** **E+W**

- (1) The enactments specified in Schedule 5 to this Act shall have effect subject to the amendments there specified.
- (2) Subject to subsection (4) below, the enactments specified in Schedule 6 to this Act are repealed to the extent specified in the third column of that Schedule.

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- (3) Where any enactment amended or repealed by subsection (1) or (2) above extends to the United Kingdom or any part of it, the amendment or repeal has a corresponding extent.
- (4) Schedule 7 to this Act shall have effect for the purpose of making the transitional and saving provisions set out there.

46 Amendments of Legal Aid Act 1974 pending repeal. E+W

The Legal Aid Act 1974 shall have effect subject to the amendments specified in Schedule 8 to this Act.

47 Short title, commencement and extent. E+W

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Legal Aid Act 1988.
- (2) Subject to subsections (3) and (4) below, this Act shall come into force on such day as the Lord Chancellor appoints by order and different days may be appointed for different provisions.
- (3) Section 44 and Schedule 4 shall come into force on such day as the Secretary of State appoints by order and different days may be appointed for different provisions.
- (4) Sections 35 (together with the repeal of section 21 of the ^{M23}Legal Aid Act 1974) and 46 shall come into force on the date on which this Act is passed.
- (5) An order under subsection (2) or (3) above may contain such transitional and saving provisions as appear to the Lord Chancellor or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State necessary or expedient.
- (6) This Act, with the exception of sections 12(3) and 17(3), section 44 and Schedule 4 and the amendments or repeals of the enactments referred to in section 45(3), extends to England and Wales only and section 44 and Schedule 4 extend to Scotland only.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C24** Power of appointment conferred by s. 47(2) partly exercised: [S.I. 1988/1361](#), 1989/288
C25 Power of appointment conferred by s. 47(3) partly exercised: [S.I. 1988/1388](#)

Marginal Citations

- M23** 1974 c. 4.

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SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1 **E+W**

Section 3.

THE LEGAL AID BOARD

Incorporation and Status

- 1 The Board shall be a body corporate.
- 2 The Board shall not be regarded as the servant or agent of the Crown or as enjoying any status, immunity or privilege of the Crown; and the Board's property shall not be regarded as property of, or held on behalf of, the Crown.

Tenure of Members

- 3 Subject to paragraphs 4 and 5 any member of the Board shall hold and vacate office in accordance with the terms of his appointment, but a person shall not be appointed a member of the Board for a period of more than 5 years.
- 4 (1) The chairman or a member may resign office by giving notice in writing to the Lord Chancellor, and if the chairman ceases to be a member he shall cease to be the chairman.
(2) A person who ceases to be the chairman or a member shall be eligible for reappointment.
- 5 The Lord Chancellor may terminate the appointment of a member of the Board if satisfied that—
 - (a) he has become bankrupt or made an arrangement with his creditors;
 - (b) he is unable to carry out his duties as a Board member by reason of physical or mental illness;
 - (c) he has been absent from meetings of the Board for a period longer than six consecutive months without the permission of the Board; or
 - (d) he is otherwise unable or unfit to discharge the functions of a member of the Board.

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Members' interests

- 6 (1) Before appointing a person to be a member of the Board, the Lord Chancellor shall satisfy himself that that person will have no such financial or other interest as is likely to affect prejudicially the exercise or performance by him of his functions as a member of the Board.
- (2) The Lord Chancellor shall from time to time satisfy himself with respect to every member of the Board that he has no such interest as is referred to in sub-paragraph (1) above.
- (3) Any person whom the Lord Chancellor proposes to appoint as, and who has consented to be, a member of the Board, and any member of the Board, shall, whenever requested by the Lord Chancellor to do so, supply him with such information as the Lord Chancellor considers necessary for the performance by the Lord Chancellor of his duties under this paragraph.
- 7 (1) A member of the Board who is in any way directly or indirectly interested in a contract made or proposed to be made by the Board shall disclose the nature of his interest at a meeting of the Board; and the disclosure shall be recorded in the minutes of the Board, and the member shall not take any part in any deliberation or decision of the Board with respect to that contract.
- (2) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1) above, a general notice given at a meeting of the Board by a member of the Board to the effect that he is a member of a specified company or firm and is to be regarded as interested in any contract which may, after the date of the notice, be made with the company or firm shall be regarded as a sufficient disclosure of his interest in relation to any contract so made.
- (3) A member of the Board need not attend in person at a meeting of the Board in order to make any disclosure which he is required to make under this paragraph if he takes reasonable steps to secure that the disclosure is made by a notice which is brought up and read out at the meeting.

Remuneration of members

- 8 (1) The Board may—
- (a) pay to its members such remuneration; and
 - (b) make provision for the payment of such pensions, allowances or gratuities to or in respect of its members,
- as the Lord Chancellor may, with the approval of the Treasury, determine.
- (2) Where a person ceases to be a member of the Board otherwise than on the expiry of his term of office, and it appears to the Lord Chancellor that there are special circumstances which make it right for that person to receive compensation, the Lord Chancellor may, with the consent of the Treasury, direct the Board to make that person a payment of such amount as the Lord Chancellor may, with the consent of the Treasury, determine.

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Staff

- 9 (1) The Board shall appoint a person to be the chief executive of the Board who shall be responsible to the Board for the exercise of its functions.
- (2) The Board may appoint such other employees as it thinks fit.
- (3) The Board may only appoint a person to be its chief executive or the holder of any other employment of a specified description after consultation with, and subject to the approval of, the Lord Chancellor.
- (4) The reference in sub-paragraph (3) above to employment of a specified description is a reference to any employment for the time being specified by the Lord Chancellor in a direction given for the purposes of that sub-paragraph.
- (5) An appointment under this paragraph may be made on such terms and conditions as the Board, with the approval of the Lord Chancellor and consent of the Treasury, may determine.
- 10 (1) The Board shall make, in respect of such of its employees as, with the approval of the Lord Chancellor and the consent of the Treasury, it may determine such arrangements for providing pensions, allowances or gratuities, including pensions, allowances or gratuities by way of compensation for loss of employment, as it may determine.
- (2) Arrangements under sub-paragraph (1) above may include the establishment and administration, by the Board or otherwise, of one or more pension schemes.
- (3) If an employee of the Board—
- (a) becomes a member of the Board; and
- (b) was by reference to his employment by the Board a participant in a pension scheme established and administered by it for the benefit of its employees, the Board may determine that his service as a member shall be treated for the purposes of the scheme as service as an employee of the Board whether or not any benefits are to be payable to or in respect of him by virtue of paragraph 8.
- (4) Where the Board exercises the power conferred by sub-paragraph (3) above, any discretion as to the benefits payable to or in respect of the member concerned which the scheme confers on the Board shall be exercised only with the approval of the Lord Chancellor and consent of the Treasury.

Proceedings

- 11 (1) Subject to anything in regulations, the Board may regulate its own proceedings.
- (2) The Board may make such arrangements as it considers appropriate for the discharge of its functions, including the delegation of specified functions and shall make such arrangements for the delegation of functions to committees and persons as may be prescribed.
- (3) Subject to anything in regulations, committees may be appointed and may be dissolved by the Board, and may include, or consist entirely of, persons who are not members of the Board.

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- (4) A committee shall act in accordance with such directions as the Board may from time to time give, and the Board may provide for anything done by a committee to have effect as if it had been done by the Board.
- (5) The validity of any proceedings of the Board or of any committee appointed by the Board shall not be affected by any vacancy among its members or by any defect in the appointment of any member.

Instruments

- 12 (1) The fixing of the seal of the Board shall be authenticated by the chairman or another member of the Board and by some other person authorised either generally or specially by the Board to act for that purpose.
- (2) A document purporting to be duly executed under the seal of the Board, or to be signed on the Board's behalf, shall be received in evidence and, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to be so executed or signed.

Allowances

- 13 The Board may pay to the members of any committee such fees and allowances as the Lord Chancellor may, with the consent of the Treasury, determine.

SCHEDULE 2 E+W

Section 14.

CIVIL PROCEEDINGS: SCOPE OF PART IV REPRESENTATION

PART I E+W

DESCRIPTION OF PROCEEDINGS

- 1 Proceedings in, or before any person to whom a case is referred in whole or in part by, any of the following courts, namely—
- (a) the House of Lords in the exercise of its jurisdiction in relation to appeals from courts in England and Wales;
 - (b) the Court of Appeal;
 - (c) the High Court;
 - (d) any county court.
- 2 The following proceedings in a magistrates' court, namely— ^{F84}
- (a)
 - (b) proceedings under section 43 of the ^{M24}National Assistance Act 1948, section 22 of the ^{M25}Maintenance Orders Act 1950, section 4 of the

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- ^{M26}Maintenance Orders Act 1958, or section 18 of the ^{M27}Supplementary Benefits Act 1976;
- (c) proceedings in relation to an application for leave of the court to remove a child from a person’s custody under section 27 or 28 of the ^{M28}Adoption Act 1976 or proceedings in which the making of an order under Part II or section 29 or 55 of the Adoption Act 1976 is opposed by any party to the proceedings;
 - (d) proceedings under Part I of the ^{M29}Maintenance Orders (Reciprocal Enforcement) Act 1972 relating to a maintenance order made by a court of a country outside the United Kingdom;
 - ^{F84}(e)
 - (f) proceedings for or in relation to an order under Part I of the ^{M30}Domestic Proceedings and Magistrates’ Courts Act 1978.
 - [^{F85}(g) proceedings under the Children Act 1989.]
 - [^{F86}(h) appeals under section 20, where they are to be made to a magistrates’ court ^{F87}, and proceedings under section 27 of the Child Support Act 1991 ^{F88}.]
 - [^{F89}(i) proceedings under section 30 of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 ^{F90}.]

Textual Amendments

- F84** Sch. 2 Part I para. 2(a)(e) repealed (14.10.1991) by Children Act 1989 (c. 41, SIF 20), s. 108(7), **Sch. 15**; S.I. 1991/828, **art. 3(2)**
- F85** Sch. 2 Part I para. 2(g) added (14.10.1991) by Children Act 1989 (c. 41, SIF 20), s. 108(4), **Sch. 12 para. 45**; S.I. 1991/828, **art. 3(2)**
- F86** Sch. 2 Pt. I para.2(h) added (27.5.1993) by S.I. 1993/1354, **reg. 2**
- F87** Appeals on issues of parentage are to be made to a court under the Child Support Appeals (Jurisdiction of Courts) Order 1993 (S.I.1993/961), made under sections 45(1) and (7) and 58(7) of the Child Support Act 1991 (c.48).Under the Children (Allocation of Proceedings) (Amendment) Order 1993 (S.I.1993/624), these proceedings are allocated to magistrates’ courts in the first instance.
- F88** 1991 c.48; section 20 is modified by S.I. 1993/961, which provides for appeals on parentage issues to go to a court.
- F89** Sch. 2 Pt. II para. 2(i) added (1.11.1994) by S.I. 1994/2768, **reg.2**
- F90** 1990 c.37.

Marginal Citations

- M24** 1948 c. 29.
- M25** 1950 c. 37.
- M26** 1958 c. 39.
- M27** 1976 c. 71.
- M28** 1976 c. 36.
- M29** 1972 c. 18.
- M30** 1978 c. 22.

3 Proceedings in the Employment Appeal Tribunal.

4 Proceedings in the Lands Tribunal.

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- 5 Proceedings before a Commons Commissioner appointed under section 17(1) of the ^{M31}Commons Registration Act 1965.

Marginal Citations

M31 1965 c. 64.

- 6 Proceedings in the Restrictive Practices Court under Part III of the ^{M32}Fair Trading Act 1973, and any proceedings in that court in consequence of an order made, or undertaking given to the court, under that Part of that Act.

Marginal Citations

M32 1973 c. 41.

PART II **E+W**

EXCEPTED PROCEEDINGS

- 1 Proceedings wholly or partly in respect of defamation, but so that the making of a counterclaim for defamation in proceedings for which representation may be granted shall not of itself affect any right of the defendant to the counterclaim to representation for the purposes of the proceedings and so that representation may be granted to enable him to defend the counterclaim.
- 2 Relator actions.
- 3 Proceedings for the recovery of a penalty where the proceedings may be taken by any person and the whole or part of the penalty is payable to the person taking the proceedings.
- 4 Election petitions under the Representation of the ^{M33}People Act 1983.

Marginal Citations

M33 1983 c. 2.

- 5 In a county court, proceedings for or consequent on the issue of a judgment summons and, in the case of a defendant, proceedings where the only question to be brought before the court is as to the time and mode of payment by him of a debt (including liquidated damages) and costs.

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- [^{F91}5A Proceedings for a decree of divorce or judicial separation unless the cause is defended, or the petition is directed to be heard in open court, or it is not practicable by reason of physical or mental incapacity for the applicant to proceed without representation; except that representation shall be available for the purpose of making or opposing an application—
- (a) for an injunction;
 - (b) for ancillary relief, excluding representation for the purpose only of inserting a prayer for ancillary relief in the petition;
 - (c) for an order relating to the custody of (or access to) a child, or the education or care or supervision of a child, excluding representation for the purpose only of making such an application where there is no reason to believe that the application will be opposed;
 - (d) for an order declaring that the court is satisfied as to arrangements for the welfare of the children of the family, excluding representation for the purpose only of making such an application where there is no reason to believe that the application will be opposed; or
 - (e) for the purpose of making or opposing any other application, or satisfying the court on any other matter which raises a substantial question for determination by the court.]

Textual Amendments

F91 Sch. 2 Part I para. 5A added by S.I. 1989/549, art. 2

- [^{F92}5B Proceedings to the extent that they consist in, or arise out of, an application to the court under section 235A of the ^{M34}Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.]

Textual Amendments

F92 Sch. 2 Pt. II para. 5B inserted (30.8.1993) by 1993 c. 19, s. 4(2), Sch. 8 para.39; S.I. 1993/1908, art. 2(1), Sch.1

Marginal Citations

M34 1992 c. 52.

- 6 Proceedings incidental to any proceedings excepted by this Part of this Schedule.

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SCHEDULE 3 E+W

Sections 24 and 30.

CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS: ENFORCEMENT OF CONTRIBUTION ORDERS

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C26 Sch. 3 modified (27.9.1999) by 1999 c.22, ss. 105, 108(3)(e), Sch. 14 Pt. V para. 37 (with Sch. 14 para. 7(2))

PART I E+W

ORDERS MADE BY A COURT

Collecting court

- 1 In this Part “collecting court”, in relation to a contribution order, means a magistrates’ court specified in the order; and the court so specified shall be—
- (a) in a case where the court making the order is itself a magistrates’ court, that court;
 - (b) in a case where the order is made on an appeal from a magistrates’ court, or in respect of a person who was committed (whether for trial or otherwise by a magistrates’ court) to the Crown Court, the court from which the appeal is brought or, as the case may be, which committed him; and
 - (c) in any other case, a magistrates’ court nominated by the court making the order.

Enforcement proceedings

- 2 (1) Any sum required to be paid by a contribution order shall be recoverable as if it had been adjudged to be paid by an order of the collecting court, subject to and in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph.
- (2) Sections 17 (not more than one committal for same arrears) and 18 (power to review committal) of the ^{M35}Maintenance Orders Act 1958 shall apply as if a contribution order were a maintenance order.
- (3) The collecting court may exercise, in relation to a contribution order, the power conferred by section 75 of the ^{M36}Magistrates’ Courts Act 1980 (power to dispense with immediate payment); and for the purposes of that section any provisions made by the authority which made the order as to time for payment, or payment by instalments, shall be treated as made by the collecting court.
- (4) The following provisions of the Magistrates’ Courts Act 1980 shall apply as if a contribution order were enforceable as an affiliation order—
- section 80 (application of money found on defaulter to satisfy sum adjudged);
 - section 93 (complaint for arrears);
 - section 94 (effect of committal on arrears); and
 - section 95 (power to remit arrears).

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- (5) Any costs awarded under section 64 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 on the hearing of a complaint for the enforcement of a contribution order shall be enforceable as a sum required to be paid by that order.

Marginal Citations

M35 1958 c. 39.

M36 1980 c. 43.

- 3 (1) Without prejudice to paragraph 2, any sum required to be paid by a contribution order shall be enforceable by the High Court or a county court as if the sum were due to the clerk of the collecting court in pursuance of a judgment or order of the High Court or county court, as the case may be.
- (2) The clerk of the collecting court shall not take proceedings by virtue of this paragraph unless authorised to do so by the court.
- (3) This paragraph shall not authorise—
- (a) the enforcement of a sum required to be paid by a contribution order by issue of a writ of fieri facias or other process against goods or by imprisonment or attachment of earnings; ^{F93} . . .
- ^{F93}(b)

Textual Amendments

F93 Schedule 3, Pt. I, para. 3(3); para. 3(3)(b) and the word "or" preceding it omitted by virtue of S.I. 1991/724, art. 2(8), Schedule, Pt.I

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C27 Schedule 3, Pt.I, para. 3(1) extended by S.I. 1991/724, art.2(1)(m)

- 4 (1) Any expenses incurred by the clerk of a magistrates' court in recovering any sum required to be paid by a contribution order shall be treated for the purposes of Part VI of [^{F94}the Justices of the Peace Act 1997] as expenses of the magistrates' courts committee.
- (2) Any sum paid to a clerk of a magistrates' court in or towards satisfaction of a liability imposed by a contribution order shall be paid by him to the Lord Chancellor and [^{F94}section 60(4) of the Justices of the Peace Act 1997] (regulations as to accounts of justices' clerks) shall apply in relation to sums payable to the Lord Chancellor under this sub-paragraph as it applies in relation to sums payable to the Secretary of State under that section.

Textual Amendments

F94 Words in Sch. 3 para. 4(1)(2) substituted (19.6.1997) by 1997 c. 25, ss. 73(2), 74(1), Sch. 5 para. 24(a)(b)

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Transfer of enforcement proceedings to different court

- 5 (1) Where in relation to any contribution order it appears to the collecting court that the person subject to it is residing in a petty sessions area other than that for which the court acts, the court may make an order under this paragraph (“a transfer order”) with respect to the contribution order specifying the other petty sessions area.
- (2) Where a court makes a transfer order in relation to any contribution order—
- (a) payment under the contribution order shall be enforceable in the petty sessions area specified in the transfer order; and
 - (b) as from the date of the transfer order, a magistrates’ court for that petty sessions area shall be substituted for the court which made the transfer order as the collecting court in relation to the contribution order.

Limitations on enforcement by proceedings

- 6 Any sum due under a contribution order shall not be recoverable, and payment of any such sum shall not be enforced, under paragraph 2 or 3 until—
- (a) the conclusion of the proceedings for the purposes of which the relevant grant of representation was made; or
 - (b) if earlier, the revocation or withdrawal of the relevant grant of representation.
- 7 Where a contribution order has been made in respect of a member of Her Majesty’s armed forces and the Secretary of State notifies the collecting court that any sum payable under the order will be recovered by deductions from the person’s pay, the collecting court shall not enforce payment of any sum unless and until the Secretary of State subsequently notifies it that the person is no longer a member of those forces and that sum has not been fully recovered.

Power to defer enforcement proceedings

- 8 The collecting court may defer recovering any sum due under a contribution order if—
- (a) an appeal is pending in respect of the proceedings for the purposes of which the relevant grant of representation was made; or
 - (b) the person granted representation has been ordered to be retried.

Interpretation

- 9 In this Part—
- (a) “relevant grant of representation”, in relation to a contribution order, means the grant of representation in connection with which the order was made; and

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- (b) references to the proceedings for the purposes of which a grant of representation has been made include, where the proceedings are proceedings before a magistrates' court which result—
- (i) in the legally assisted person being committed to the Crown Court for trial or sentence, or
 - (ii) in his case being remitted to a [^{F95}youth court] in pursuance of section 56(1) of the ^{M37}Children and Young Persons Act 1933, the proceedings before the Crown Court or that [^{F95}youth court].

Textual Amendments

F95 Words in Sch. 3 para. 9 substituted (1.10.1992) by Criminal Justice Act 1991 (c. 53, SIF 39:1), s. 100, Sch. 11 para.40(1)(2)(q); S.I. 1992/333, art. 2(2), Sch.2.

Marginal Citations

M37 1933 c. 12.

PART II **E+W**

ORDERS MADE BY THE BOARD

Limitations on enforcement by proceedings

- 10 (1) Any sum due under a contribution order shall not be recoverable, and payment of any such sum shall not be enforced until—
- (a) the conclusion of the proceedings for the purposes of which the relevant grant of representation was made; or
 - (b) if earlier, the revocation or withdrawal of the relevant grant of representation.
- (2) In this paragraph—
- (a) “relevant grant of representation”, in relation to a contribution order, means the grant of representation in connection with which the order was made; and
 - (b) the reference to the proceedings for the purposes of which the relevant grant of representation was made includes, where the proceedings are proceedings before a magistrates' court which result—
 - (i) in the legally assisted person being committed to the Crown Court for trial or sentence, or
 - (ii) in his case being remitted to a [^{F96}youth court] in pursuance of section 56(1) of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933, the proceedings before the Crown Court or that [^{F96}youth court].

Textual Amendments

F96 Words in Sch. 3 para. 10 substituted (1.10.1992) by Criminal Justice Act 1991 (c. 53, SIF 39:1), s. 100, Sch. 11 para.40(1)(2)(q); S.I. 1992/333, art. 2(2), Sch.2.

Status: Point in time view as at 19/06/1997. This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Legal Aid Act 1988 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 20 June 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)

- 11 Where a contribution order has been made in respect of a member of Her Majesty’s armed forces and the Secretary of State notifies the Board that any sum payable under the order will be recovered by deductions from the person’s pay, the Board shall not enforce payment of any sum unless and until the Secretary of State subsequently notifies it that the person is no longer a member of those forces and that sum has not been fully recovered.

SCHEDULE 4 S

Section 44.

AMENDMENTS OF LEGAL AID (SCOTLAND) ACT 1986 (C. 47)

PART I S

DIRECT PAYMENT OF FEES AND OUTLAYS BY LEGALLY ASSISTED PERSON

- 1 In section 4(2) (payments out of the Scottish Legal Aid Fund)—
- (a) in paragraph (a), after the word “due ” there shall be inserted the words “out of the Fund ”.
 - (b) in paragraph (c), the words “for the purposes of this Act ” are repealed.
- 2 In section 16—
- (a) subsection (1) is repealed;
 - (b) in subsection (2), the words “In this section and ” are repealed.

PROSPECTIVE

- 3 In section 17 (contributions, etc.)—
- (a) in subsection (1), for the words from “by the Board ” to “the Fund ” there shall be substituted the words “to contribute to the fees and outlays incurred by them (or on their behalf) ”;
 - ^{F97}(b) subsections (3) to (8) are repealed;
 - ^{F98}(c)

Textual Amendments

F97 Sch. 4 para. 3(b) repealed (*prosp.*) by Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Act 1990 (c. 40, SIF 76), ss. 74(2), 75(2), **Sch. 9**

F98 Sch. 4 para. 3(c) repealed (26.8.1991) by Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Act 1990 (c. 40, SIF 76), ss. 74(2), **Sch. 9**; S.I. 1991/1903, art. 3, Sch.

- 4 In section 32 (a) (restriction on payment etc.), the words “, out of the Fund ” are repealed.

Status: Point in time view as at 19/06/1997. This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Legal Aid Act 1988 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 20 June 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)

PROSPECTIVE

- 5 In section 33 (fees and outlays of solicitors and counsel) in subsection (1), for the words from “out ” to the end there shall be substituted the words—
- “in respect of any fees or outlays properly incurred by him in so acting—
- (a) by the person concerned, to the extent to which a contribution has been determined for him under section 17 of this Act;
 - (b) to the extent that such fees and outlays exceed any such contribution out of the Fund in accordance with section 4(2)(a) of this Act.”
- 6 In section 36(2) (regulations), in paragraph (b) at end add—
- “and the power to substitute different amounts for the amount specified in section 10(2) of this Act includes power to substitute different amounts in relation to different cases or classes of case”.

PART II S

LIABILITY OF LEGALLY ASSISTED PERSON FOR EXPENSES TO BE ASSESSED IN ALL CASES

- 7 In section 18 (expenses)—
- (a) subsection (1) is repealed;
 - (b) in subsection (2), for the words “in proceedings to which this section applies ”, there shall be substituted the words “in any proceedings ”.
- 8 In section 19(1) (expenses out of the Fund), for the words “to which this section applies ” there shall be substituted the words “to which a legally assisted person is party and which are finally decided in favour of an unassisted party ”.
- 9 In section 20(1) (supplementary), for the words “sections 18 and ” there shall be substituted the word “section ”.

PART III S

BOARD’S PROPERTY TO BE RATEABLE

- 10 In Schedule 1, paragraph 2(4) is repealed.

Status: Point in time view as at 19/06/1997. This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

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SCHEDULE 5 U.K.

Section 45.

MINOR AND CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS

Public Records Act 1958 (c. 51)

- 1 In Schedule 1 to the Public Records Act 1958 (definition of public records), there shall be inserted at the end of Part I of the Table at the end of paragraph 3 the following entry—

“Lord Chancellor’s Department.	Legal Aid Board.”
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Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1967 (c. 13)

- 2 In Schedule 2 to the Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1967 (which lists the bodies subject to the jurisdiction of the Parliamentary Commissioner), there shall be inserted (at the appropriate place in alphabetical order) the following entry—

“Legal Aid Board.”

Attachment of Earnings Act 1971 (c. 32)

- 3 In section 25(1) of the Attachment of Earnings Act 1971, for the words “section 7 or 8(2) of the Legal Aid Act 1982 ” there shall be substituted the words “section 23 of the Legal Aid Act 1988 ”.

House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975 (c. 24)

- 4 In Part III of Schedule 1 to the House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975 (other disqualifying offices), there shall be inserted (at the appropriate places in alphabetical order) the following entries—

“Chairman of the Legal Aid Board.”

“Member of the Legal Aid Board.”

Northern Ireland Assembly Disqualification Act 1975 (c. 25)

- 5 In Part III of Schedule 1 to the Northern Ireland Assembly Disqualification Act 1975 (other disqualifying offices), there shall be inserted (at the appropriate places in alphabetical order) the following entries—

“Chairman of the Legal Aid Board.”

“Member of the Legal Aid Board.”

Status: Point in time view as at 19/06/1997. This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Legal Aid Act 1988 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 20 June 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)

Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (c. 65)

- 6 In section 75(4) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975—
- (a) for the words “Legal Aid Act 1974 ” there shall be substituted the words “Legal Aid Act 1988 ”; and
 - (b) for the words “any of those Acts for payment of any sum into the legal aid fund ” there shall be substituted the words “either of those Acts for payment of any sum to the Legal Aid Board or into the Scottish Legal Aid Fund ”.

Race Relations Act 1976 (c. 74)

- 7 In section 66(6) of the Race Relations Act 1976—
- (a) for the words “Legal Aid Act 1974 ” there shall be substituted the words “Legal Aid Act 1988 ”; and
 - (b) for the words “any of those Acts for payment of any sum into the legal aid fund ” there shall be substituted the words “either of those Acts for payment of any sum to the Legal Aid Board or into the Scottish Legal Aid Fund ”.

Child Care Act 1980 (c. 5)

- 8 In section 21A of the Child Care Act 1980, after subsection (8), there shall be inserted the following subsection—
- “(9) In this section “legal aid ” means representation for the purposes of care proceedings under Part VI of the Legal Aid Act 1988.”

Magistrates’ Courts Act 1980 (c. 43)

- 9 In section 92(1)(b) of the Magistrates’ Courts Act 1980, for the words “section 7 or 8(2) of the Legal Aid Act 1982 ” there shall be substituted the words “section 23 of the Legal Aid Act 1988 ”.

Supreme Court Act 1981 (c. 54)

- 10 In section 47(7) of the Supreme Court Act 1981, for the words “legal aid contribution order made under section 7 or 8(2) of the Legal Aid Act 1982 ” there shall be substituted the words “contribution order made under section 23 of the Legal Aid Act 1988 ”.

Telecommunications Act 1984 (c. 12)

- 11 In section 52 of the Telecommunications Act 1984, the following subsection shall be substituted for subsection (5)—

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- “(5) A charge conferred by subsection (4) above is subject to—
- (a) any charge under the Legal Aid Act 1988 and any provision of that Act for payment of any sum to the Legal Aid Board;
 - (b) any charge or obligation for payment in priority to other debts under the Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 1986 and any provision of that Act for payment of any sum into the Scottish Legal Aid Fund; or
 - (c) any charge under the Legal Aid, Advice and Assistance (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 and any provision of that Order for payment of any sum into the legal aid fund.”

Prosecution of Offences Act 1985 (c. 23)

- 12 In section 19(2)(b) of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985, the words “(including any legal aid order) ” shall be omitted and at the end of that paragraph there shall be inserted the words “or any grant of representation for the purposes of the proceedings which has been made under the Legal Aid Act 1988. ”
- 13 In section 20(2) of that Act, for the words “out of the legal aid fund or ” there shall be substituted the words “by the Legal Aid Board or out of ”.
- 14 In section 21(1) of that Act, for the definition of “legally assisted person ” there shall be substituted the following—
- ““legally assisted person ”, in relation to any proceedings, means a person to whom representation under the Legal Aid Act 1988 has been granted for the purposes of the proceedings;”.
- 15 In section 21 of that Act, after subsection (4), there shall be inserted the following subsection—
- “(4A) Where one party to any proceedings is a legally assisted person then—
- (a) for the purposes of sections 16 and 17 of this Act, his costs shall be taken not to include either the expenses incurred on his behalf by the Legal Aid Board or the Lord Chancellor or, if he is liable to make a contribution under section 23 of the Legal Aid Act 1988, any sum paid or payable by way of contribution; and
 - (b) for the purposes of sections 18 and 19 of this Act, his costs shall be taken to include the expenses incurred on his behalf by the Legal Aid Board or the Lord Chancellor (without any deduction on account of any contribution paid or payable under section 23 of the Legal Aid Act 1988) but, if he is liable to make such a contribution his costs shall be taken not to include any sum paid or payable by way of contribution.”

Child Abduction and Custody Act 1985 (c. 60)

- 16 In section 11 of the Child Abduction and Custody Act 1985, for the words “Part I of the Legal Aid Act 1974 ” there shall be substituted the words “Part III or IV of the Legal Aid Act 1988 ”.

Status: Point in time view as at 19/06/1997. This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

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Administration of Justice Act 1985 (c. 61)

- 17 In section 40 of the Administration of Justice Act 1985 (preliminary provisions concerning legal aid complaints), for the words from the beginning of paragraph (a) to the end there shall be substituted the words “the provision for any person of services under the Legal Aid Act 1988 including, in the case of a solicitor, provision for any person of such services in the capacity of agent for that person’s solicitor.”
- 18 In section 43 of that Act (jurisdiction and powers of Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal in relation to complaints against solicitors)—
- (a) in subsection (3), for paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) there shall be substituted the following—
 - “(a) otherwise payable under or in accordance with the Legal Aid Act 1988, or
 - (b) otherwise chargeable in respect of advice or assistance made available under Part III of that Act;” and
 - (b) in subsection (4), for paragraphs (a) and (b) there shall be substituted the words “any of sections 9, 11, 15(6) and (7) and 25(2) of, or any provision made under, the Legal Aid Act 1988 ”.
- 19 In section 44 of that Act—
- (a) in subsection (3), in the inserted subsection (2A), for the words from the beginning of paragraph (a) to the end there shall be substituted the words—
 - “(a) his conduct, including conduct in the capacity of agent for another solicitor, in connection with the provision for any person of services under the Legal Aid Act 1988; or
 - (b) his professional conduct generally.”; and
 - (b) in subsection (4), in the inserted subsection (6), for the words from “each ” to the end there shall be substituted the words “those who may be selected or assigned for the purpose of providing for any person services under the Legal Aid Act 1988. ”

Housing Act 1985 (c. 68)

- 20 In section 170(5) of the Housing Act 1985—
- (a) for the words “Legal Aid Act 1974 ” there shall be substituted the words “Legal Aid Act 1988 ”; and
 - (b) for the words “into the legal aid fund ” there shall be substituted the words “to the Legal Aid Board ”.

Family Law Act 1986 (c. 55)

- 21 Section 64 of the Family Law Act 1986 (family proceedings rules) shall cease to have effect.

Status: Point in time view as at 19/06/1997. This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

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Criminal Justice Act 1987 (c. 38)

- 22 In section 4(1) of the Criminal Justice Act 1987, for the words “section 28(7A) of the Legal Aid Act 1974 ” there shall be substituted the words “section 20(4) of the Legal Aid Act 1988 ”.

SCHEDULE 6 **U.K.**

Section 45.

REPEALS

1967 c. 80.	The Criminal Justice Act 1967.	Section 90.
1974 c. 4.	The Legal Aid Act 1974.	The whole Act.
1974 c. 47.	The Solicitors Act 1974.	Section 75(d). In Schedule 3, paragraph 10.
1975 c. 72.	The Children Act 1975.	Section 65. In Schedule 3, paragraph 82.
1976 c. 36.	The Adoption Act 1976.	In Schedule 3, paragraph 18.
1976 c. 63.	The Bail Act 1976.	Section 11.
1976 c. 71.	The Supplementary Benefits Act 1976.	In Schedule 7, paragraphs 33 and 35.
1977 c. 38.	The Administration of Justice Act 1977.	In Schedule 1, Part I.
1977 c. 45.	The Criminal Law Act 1977.	In Schedule 12, the entry relating to the Legal Aid Act 1974.
1978 c. 22.	The Domestic Proceedings and Magistrates’ Courts Act 1978.	In Schedule 2, paragraphs 45 and 52.
1979 c. 26.	The Legal Aid Act 1979.	The whole Act.
1979 c. 55.	The Justices of the Peace Act 1979.	In Schedule 2, paragraph 27.
1980 c. 5.	The Child Care Act 1980.	In Schedule 5, paragraph 36.
1980 c. 30.	The Social Security Act 1980.	In Schedule 4, paragraph 9.
1980 c. 43.	The Magistrates’ Courts Act 1980.	In Schedule 7, paragraphs 126 to 129.
1981 c. 49.	The Contempt of Court Act 1981.	Section 13. In Schedule 2, Part I.

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1982 c. 27.	The Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982.	Section 40(1).
1982 c. 44.	The Legal Aid Act 1982.	The whole Act.
1982 c. 48.	The Criminal Justice Act 1982.	Section 25(2). Section 29(3). Section 60(4).
1983 c. 41.	The Health and Social Services and Social Security Adjudications Act 1983.	In Schedule 1, paragraph 3.
1984 c. 42.	The Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act 1984.	In Schedule 1, paragraph 18.
1984 c. 60.	The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.	Section 59.
1985 c. 23.	The Prosecution of Offences Act 1985.	Section 16(8). In section 19(2)(b), the words “(including any legal aid order)”. In section 21(1), the definition of “legal aid order”.
1985 c. 61.	The Administration of Justice Act 1985.	Sections 45 and 46. In Schedule 7, paragraphs 1 to 3.
1986 c. 28.	The Children and Young Persons (Amendment) Act 1986.	Section 3(3).
1986 c. 47.	The Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 1986.	In section 4(2)(c), the words “for the purposes of this Act”. In section 16, subsection (1) and, in subsection (2), the words “in this section and”. In section 17, subsections (3) to (8). Section 18(1). In section 32(a), the words “, out of the Fund”. In Schedule 1, paragraph 2(4).

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1986 c. 50.	The Social Security Act 1986.	In Schedule 10, paragraphs 46, 47 and 56.
1986 c. 55.	The Family Law Act 1986.	Section 64.
1987 c. 38.	The Criminal Justice Act 1987.	In Schedule 2, paragraphs 7 and 8.

SCHEDULE 7 E+W

Section 45.

TRANSITION

Preliminary

- 1 In this Schedule— “the 1974 Act ” means the ^{M38}Legal Aid Act 1974; and
 “the appointed day ” means the day appointed by the Lord Chancellor under section 47(2) of this Act for the coming into force of section 3(2) thereof.

Marginal Citations

M38 1974 c. 4.

The Legal Aid Fund

- 2 (1) On the appointed day the legal aid fund (“the Old Fund ”) maintained by the Law Society under section 17 of the 1974 Act shall be wound up.
- (2) If, as at the appointed day, after taking account of all receipts and expenses of the Law Society attributable to their functions under the 1974 Act and the ^{M39}Legal Aid Act 1982 (“the 1982 Act ”), there is in relation to the Old Fund any surplus or deficit—
- (a) such surplus shall be paid by the Law Society to the Lord Chancellor; and
 - (b) such deficit shall be made up by payment to the Law Society by the Lord Chancellor of the amount of the deficit.
- (3) Notwithstanding their repeal by this Act—
- (a) sections 15(9) and 18 of the 1974 Act shall continue to have effect for the purposes of requiring the Law Society to account for the Old Fund and to report on the discharge of its functions under that Act up to the appointed day; and
 - (b) section 17(5) of that Act shall continue to have effect for the purposes of any determination as to the expenses or receipts of the Law Society;
- and, if the appointed day falls on a day which is not the last day of the financial year (for the purposes of the said section 18), references in those sections to the financial year shall be construed as references to the period commencing on the day immediately following the end of the last complete financial year and ending with the appointed day.

Status: Point in time view as at 19/06/1997. This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Legal Aid Act 1988 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 20 June 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)

- (4) The Lord Chancellor shall pay to the Law Society such expenses incurred after the appointed day in connection with their functions under sections 15(9) and 18 of the 1974 Act as appear to him to be reasonable.
- (5) Any payments received by the Lord Chancellor under sub-paragraph (2)(a) above shall be paid by him into the legal aid fund established by the Board under section 6.
- (6) Any amount required to be paid by the Lord Chancellor under sub-paragraph (2)(b) or (4) above shall be defrayed out of money provided by Parliament.

Marginal Citations

M39 1982 c. 44.

Rights, obligations and property

- 3 (1) Subject to paragraph 2, on the appointed day all rights, obligations and property of the Law Society which are referable to its functions under the 1974 Act and the 1982 Act shall become rights, obligations and property of the Board.
- (2) Any payments which are required to be made into or out of the Old Fund in connection with legal aid or advice or assistance under the 1974 Act shall, on and after the appointed day, be paid to or by the Board.

Transfer of functions

- 4 (1) Any grant of legal aid under Part I of the 1974 Act which is in force immediately before the appointed day shall, on and after the appointed day, have effect as a grant by the Board of representation under Part IV of this Act.
- (2) Any approval given in connection with the grant of legal aid or advice or assistance under Part I of the 1974 Act which is in force immediately before the appointed day shall, on and after the appointed day, have effect as an approval by the Board in connection with the corresponding advice, assistance or representation under Part III or IV of this Act.
- (3) Anything which, immediately before the appointed day, is in the process of being done by or in relation to the Law Society in connection with any function which it has relating to legal aid or advice or assistance under Part I of the 1974 Act, may be continued, on and after the appointed day, by or in relation to the Board.

Legal aid contribution orders

- 5 Notwithstanding their repeal by this Act, the provisions of the 1974 Act and the 1982 Act with respect to legal aid contribution orders shall continue to have effect in relation to any such order made in connection with a legal aid order made by virtue of section 28(11A) of the 1974 Act (legal aid for proceedings for contempt).

Status: Point in time view as at 19/06/1997. This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

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The Board: transfers of employment

- 6 (1) The Board shall make, not later than such date as the Lord Chancellor may determine, an offer of employment by the Board to such of the persons employed immediately before that date by the Law Society for the purpose of their functions under the 1974 Act as fall within such descriptions as the Lord Chancellor designates for the purposes of this paragraph or are persons whom the Board wishes to employ.
- (2) The terms of the offer shall be such that they are, taken as a whole, not less favourable to the person to whom the offer is made than the terms on which he is employed on the date on which the offer is made.
- (3) An offer made in pursuance of this paragraph shall not be revocable during the period of 3 months commencing with the date on which it is made.
- 7 (1) Where a person becomes an employee of the Board on acceptance of an offer made under paragraph 6, then, for the purposes of [F⁹⁹the Employment Rights Act 1996], his period of employment with the Law Society shall count as a period of employment by the Board, and the change of employment shall not break the continuity of the period of employment.
- (2) Where an offer is made under paragraph 6 to any person, none of the agreed redundancy procedures applicable to employees of the Law Society shall apply to him.
- (3) Where a person employed by the Law Society ceases to be so employed—
- (a) on becoming a member of the staff of the Board on accepting an offer under paragraph 6, or
- (b) having unreasonably refused such an offer,
- F¹⁰⁰ . . . he shall not be treated for the purposes of any scheme in force under section 19 of the 1974 Act as having been retired on redundancy.
- (4) Where a person to whom an offer under paragraph 6 has been made continues in employment in the Law Society after having not unreasonably refused that offer he shall be treated for all purposes as if no offer under paragraph 6 had been made to him.

Textual Amendments

F99 Words in Sch. 7 para. 7(1) substituted (22.8.1996) by 1996 c. 18, ss. 240, 243, Sch. 1 para.36 (with ss. 191-195, 202)

F100 Words in Sch. 7 para. 7(3) repealed (22.8.1996) by 1996 c. 18, ss. 242, 243, Sch. 3 Pt.I (with ss. 191-195, 202)

- 8 (1) Any dispute as to whether an offer purporting to be made under paragraph 6 complies with that paragraph shall be referred to and be determined by an industrial tribunal.
- (2) An industrial tribunal shall not consider a complaint referred to it under subparagraph (1) above unless the complaint is presented to the tribunal before the end of the period of 3 months beginning with the date of the offer of employment or within such further period as the tribunal considers reasonable in a case where it is satisfied

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that it was not reasonably practicable for the complaint to be presented before the end of the period of 3 months.

- (3) An appeal shall lie to the Employment Appeal Tribunal on a question of law arising from the decision of, or in proceedings before, an industrial tribunal under this paragraph.
 - (4) Except as mentioned in sub-paragraph (3) above, no appeal shall lie from the decision of an industrial tribunal under this paragraph.
- 9
- (1) In the event of the Board assuming under section 3(4) any of the functions specified in that subsection the Lord Chancellor shall by regulations make such provision corresponding to paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 in respect of employees to whom this paragraph applies as appears to him to be appropriate.
 - (2) This paragraph applies to persons employed—
 - (a) in the civil service of the State, or
 - (b) by a magistrates' courts committee,and so employed wholly or mainly in connection with the functions referred to in sub-paragraph (1) above.

Pensions

- 10 Any arrangements made by the Law Society under section 19 of the 1974 Act in respect of any pension shall be treated on and after the appointed day (so far as may be necessary to preserve their effect) as having been made under paragraph 10(2) of Schedule 1 to this Act, and any pension scheme administered by the Law Society immediately before the appointed day shall be deemed to be a pension scheme established and administered by the Board under that paragraph and shall continue to be administered accordingly.

Representation in affiliation proceedings: transitory provision

- 11 Until the repeal of the ^{M40}Affiliation Proceedings Act 1957 by the ^{M41}Family Law Reform Act 1987 takes effect, Schedule 2 to this Act shall be taken to include proceedings in the Crown Court or a magistrates' court for or in relation to an affiliation order within the meaning of the Affiliation Proceedings Act 1957.

Marginal Citations

M40 1957 c. 55.

M41 1987 c. 42.

Status: Point in time view as at 19/06/1997. This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

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SCHEDULE 8 E+W

Section 46.

TRANSITORY AMENDMENTS OF LEGAL AID ACT 1974

Preliminary

1 In this Schedule “the 1974 Act ” means the ^{M42}Legal Aid Act 1974.

Marginal Citations

M42 1974 c. 4.

Regulation of charges on property

- 2 In section 20(2)(e) of the 1974 Act (regulation of charge on property)—
- (a) after the words “receiving advice or assistance or legal aid ” there shall be inserted the words “and regulating the release or postponement of the enforcement of any charge (however created) for the benefit of the legal aid fund ”; and
 - (b) at the end there shall be inserted the words “; and
 - (iii) requiring interest to be charged at a prescribed rate in circumstances where enforcement of a charge for the benefit of the legal aid fund is postponed”.

Remuneration

3 In section 39 of the 1974 Act, for subsection (3) (fair remuneration in criminal and certain other legal aid cases) there shall be substituted the following—

“(3) The Lord Chancellor, in making regulations under this section as to the amounts payable to counsel or solicitors undertaking any description of legal aid work under this Part of this Act, shall have regard, among the matters which are relevant, to—

- (a) the time and skill which it requires;
- (b) the general level of fee income arising from it;
- (c) the general level of expenses of barristers and solicitors which is attributable to it;
- (d) the number and general level of competence of barristers and solicitors undertaking it;
- (e) the effect of the regulations on the handling of the work; and
- (f) the cost to public funds of any provision made by the regulations.”.

- 4 (1) In Schedule 2 to the 1974 Act (remuneration in civil legal aid cases)—
- (a) in paragraph 1(1), for the words “95 per cent. of the ” there shall be substituted the words “the full ”; and

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- (b) in paragraph 2(1), for the words “95 per cent. of the ” there shall be substituted the words “the full ”.
- (2) The amendments made by this paragraph have effect in relation to any case in which the order or direction for taxation is made on or after the date on which this Act is passed.

Status:

Point in time view as at 19/06/1997. This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation:

Legal Aid Act 1988 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 20 June 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.