



Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008

2008 CHAPTER 22

PART 2

PARENTHOOD IN CASES INVOLVING ASSISTED REPRODUCTION

Effect of sections 33 to 47

48 Effect of sections 33 to 47

- (1) Where by virtue of section 33, 35, 36, 42 or 43 a person is to be treated as the mother, father or parent of a child, that person is to be treated in law as the mother, father or parent (as the case may be) of the child for all purposes.
- (2) Where by virtue of section 33, 38, 41, 45 or 47 a person is not to be treated as a parent of the child, that person is to be treated in law as not being a parent of the child for any purpose.
- (3) Where section 39(1) or 40(1) or (2) applies, the deceased man—
 - (a) is to be treated in law as the father of the child for the purpose mentioned in section 39(3) or 40(4), but
 - (b) is to be treated in law as not being the father of the child for any other purpose.
- (4) Where section 46(1) or (2) applies, the deceased woman—
 - (a) is to be treated in law as a parent of the child for the purpose mentioned in section 46(4), but
 - (b) is to be treated in law as not being a parent of the child for any other purpose.
- (5) Where any of subsections (1) to (4) has effect, references to any relationship between two people in any enactment, deed or other instrument or document (whenever passed or made) are to be read accordingly.
- (6) In relation to England and Wales and Northern Ireland, a child who—

Changes to legislation: Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008, Cross Heading: Effect of sections 33 to 47 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 28 July 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) View outstanding changes

- (a) has a parent by virtue of section 42, or
 - (b) has a parent by virtue of section 43 who is at any time during the period beginning with the time mentioned in section 43(b) and ending with the time of the child's birth a party to a [^{F1}marriage or] civil partnership with the child's mother,
- is the legitimate child of the child's parents.
- (7) In relation to England and Wales and Northern Ireland, nothing in the provisions of section 33(1) or sections 35 to 47, read with this section—
- (a) affects the succession to any dignity or title of honour or renders any person capable of succeeding to or transmitting a right to succeed to any such dignity or title, or
 - (b) affects the devolution of any property limited (expressly or not) to devolve (as nearly as the law permits) along with any dignity or title of honour.
- (8) In relation to Scotland—
- (a) those provisions do not apply to any title, coat of arms, honour or dignity transmissible on the death of its holder or affect the succession to any such title, coat of arms or dignity or its devolution, and
 - (b) where the terms of any deed provide that any property or interest in property is to devolve along with a title, coat of arms, honour or dignity, nothing in those provisions is to prevent that property or interest from so devolving.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 48(6)(b) inserted (E.W.S.) (2.12.2019) by [The Civil Partnership \(Opposite-sex Couples\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/1458\)](#), regs. 1(2), **16(8)**; and said words in s. 48(6)(b) also inserted (N.I.) (13.1.2020) by [The Marriage \(Same-sex Couples\) and Civil Partnership \(Opposite-sex Couples\) \(Northern Ireland\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/1514\)](#), regs. 1(2), **26(8)** (with regs. 6-9)

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 55(3)(e) and word inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 75\(b\)](#)