



Victims and Prisoners Act 2024

2024 CHAPTER 21

PART 2

VICTIMS OF MAJOR INCIDENTS

Meaning of “major incident” etc

34 **Meaning of “major incident” etc**

- (1) This Part concerns advocates for victims of major incidents.
- (2) In this Part, “major incident” means an incident that—
 - (a) occurs in England or Wales after this section comes into force,
 - (b) causes the death of, or serious harm to, a significant number of individuals, and
 - (c) is declared in writing by the Secretary of State to be a major incident for the purposes of this Part.
- (3) Before declaring an incident that occurs in Wales to be a major incident, the Secretary of State must consult the Welsh Ministers.
- (4) For the purposes of this Part, “harm” includes physical, mental or emotional harm.
- (5) In this Part, “victims”, in relation to a major incident, means—
 - (a) individuals who have suffered harm as a direct result of the incident (whether or not that harm is serious harm), and
 - (b) close family members or close friends of individuals who have died or suffered serious harm as a direct result of the incident.
- (6) In this Part, “advocate” means—
 - (a) the standing advocate appointed under [section 35\(1\)](#);
 - (b) an individual appointed as an advocate in respect of a major incident under [section 36\(1\)](#).

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (7) But a reference in this Part to an advocate appointed in respect of a major incident includes the standing advocate only if the standing advocate has been appointed in respect of that incident under [section 36\(1\)](#).