



Children and Young Persons Act 1933

1933 CHAPTER 12 23 and 24 Geo 5

PART I

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY AND EXPOSURE TO MORAL AND PHYSICAL DANGER

Offences

1 Cruelty to persons under sixteen.

- (1) If any person who has attained the age of sixteen years and [^{F1}has responsibility for] any child or young person under that age, wilfully assaults, ill-treats, neglects, abandons, or exposes him, or causes or procures him to be assaulted, ill-treated, neglected, abandoned, or exposed, in a manner likely to cause him unnecessary suffering or injury to health (including injury to or loss of sight, or hearing, or limb, or organ of the body, and any mental derangement), that person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be liable—
- (a) on conviction on indictment, to a fine . . . ^{F2} or alternatively, . . . ^{F3}, or in addition thereto, to imprisonment for any term not exceeding [^{F4}ten] years;
 - (b) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding [^{F5}£400] pounds, or alternatively, . . . ^{F3}, or in addition thereto, to imprisonment for any term not exceeding six months.
- (2) For the purposes of this section—
- (a) a parent or other person legally liable to maintain a child or young person [^{F6}, or the legal guardian of a child or young person,] shall be deemed to have neglected him in a manner likely to cause injury to his health if he has failed to provide adequate food, clothing, medical aid or lodging for him, or if, having been unable otherwise to provide such food, clothing, medical aid or lodging, he has failed to take steps to procure it to be provided under [^{F7}the enactments applicable in that behalf];
 - (b) where it is proved that the death of an infant under three years of age was caused by suffocation (not being suffocation caused by disease or the presence of any foreign body in the throat or air passages of the infant) while the infant

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was in bed with some other person who has attained the age of sixteen years, that other person shall, if he was, when he went to bed, under the influence of drink, be deemed to have neglected the infant in a manner likely to cause injury to its health.

- (3) A person may be convicted of an offence under this section—
 - (a) notwithstanding that actual suffering or injury to health, or the likelihood of actual suffering or injury to health, was obviated by the action of another person;
 - (b) notwithstanding the death of the child or young person in question.
- (4) F8
- (5) F9
- (7) ^{F10}

Textual Amendments

F1 Words in s. 1(1) substituted (14. 10. 1991) by Children Act 1989 (c. 41, SIF 20), s. 108(5)(6), **Sch. 13 para. 2** (with Sch. 14 para. 1(1)); S.I. 1991/828, **art. 3(2)**.

F2 Words repealed by Children Act 1975 (c. 72), **Sch. 4 Pt. III**

F3 Words repealed by Children and Young Persons Act 1963 (c. 37), s. 64, **Sch. 5**

F4 Word substituted by Criminal Justice Act 1988 (c. 33, SIF 39:1), s. **45(1)(2)**

F5 Words substituted by Children Act 1975 (c. 72), **Sch. 3 para. 1**

F6 Words in s. 1(2)(a) inserted (14. 10. 1991) by Children Act 1989 (c. 41, SIF 20), s. 108(4)(6), **Sch. 12 para. 2** (with Sch. 14 para. 1(1)); S.I. 1991/828, **art. 3(2)**.

F7 Words substituted by S.I. 1951/174 (1951 I, p. 1369), Sch.

F8 S. 1(4) repealed by Criminal Law Act 1967 (c. 58), s. 12, **Sch. 3 Pt. III**

F9 S. 1(5)(6) repealed by Criminal Justice Act 1988 (c. 33, SIF 39:1), s. 170(2), **Sch. 16**

F10 S. 1(7) repealed (15.1.2005) by Children Act 2004 (c. 31), ss. 58(5), 64, 67(7)(f), **Sch. 5 Pt. 5**

2 F11

Textual Amendments

F11 Ss. 2, 3(2) repealed by Sexual Offences Act 1956 (c. 69). s. 52, Sch. 4

3 Allowing persons under sixteen to be in brothels.

- (1) If any person having [^{F12}responsibility for] a child or young person who has attained the age of four years and is under the age of sixteen years, allows that child or young person to reside in or to frequent a brothel, he shall be [^{F13}liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding [^{F14}level 2 on the standard scale]], or alternatively . . . ^{F15} or in addition thereto, to imprisonment for any term not exceeding six months.
- (2) ^{F16}

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Textual Amendments

- F12** Words in s. 3(1) substituted (14. 10. 1991) by Children Act 1989 (c. 41, SIF 20), s. 108(5)(6), **Sch. 13 para. 3(a)** (with Sch. 14 para. 1(1)); S.I. 1991/828, **art. 3(2)**.
- F13** Words substituted by Criminal Law Act 1977 (c. 45), **Sch. 1 para. 4**
- F14** Words substituted by virtue of Criminal Justice Act 1982 (c. 48, SIF 39:1), **s. 46**
- F15** Words repealed by Children and Young Persons Act 1963 (c. 37), s. 64, **Sch. 5**
- F16** S. 3(2) repealed by Sexual Offences Act 1956 (c. 69). s. 52, Sch. 4

4 Causing or allowing persons under sixteen to be used for begging.

- (1) If any person causes or procures any child or young person under the age of sixteen years or, having [^{F17}responsibility for] such a child or young person, allows him to be in any street, premises, or place for the purpose of begging or receiving alms, or of inducing the giving of alms (whether or not there is any pretence of singing, playing, performing, offering anything for sale, or otherwise) he shall, on summary conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding [^{F18}level 2 on the standard scale], or alternatively, . . .^{F19} or in addition thereto, to imprisonment for any term not exceeding three months.
- (2) If a person having [^{F17}responsibility for] a child or young person is charged with an offence under this section, and it is proved that the child or young person was in any street, premises, or place for any such purpose as aforesaid, and that the person charged allowed the child or young person to be in the street, premises, or place, he shall be presumed to have allowed him to be in the street, premises, or place for that purpose unless the contrary is proved.
- (3) If any person while singing, playing, performing or offering anything for sale in a street or public place has with him a child who has been lent or hired out to him, the child shall, for the purposes of this section, be deemed to be in that street or place for the purpose of inducing the giving of alms.

Textual Amendments

- F17** Words in s. 4(1)(2) substituted (14. 10. 1991) by Children Act 1989 (c. 41, SIF 20), s. 108(5)(6), **Sch. 13 para. 3(b)** (with Sch. 14 para. 1(1)); S.I. 1991/828, **art. 3(2)**.
- F18** Words substituted by virtue of Criminal Justice Act 1982 (c. 48, SIF 39:1), **s. 46**
- F19** Words repealed by Children and Young Persons Act 1963 (c. 37), s. 64, **Sch. 5**

5 Giving intoxicating liquor to children under five.

If any person gives, or causes to be given, to any child under the age of five years any intoxicating liquor, except upon the order of a duly qualified medical practitioner, or in case of sickness, apprehended sickness, or other urgent cause, he shall, on summary conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding [^{F20}level 1 on the standard scale].

Textual Amendments

- F20** Words substituted by virtue of Criminal Justice Act 1982 (c. 48, SIF 39:1), **s. 46**

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6 F21

Textual Amendments

F21 S. 6 repealed by [Licensing Act 1953 \(c. 46\)](#), [Sch. 10](#)

7 Sale of tobacco, &c. to persons under sixteen.

- (1) Any person who sells to a person [^{F22} . . .] under the age of sixteen years any tobacco or cigarette papers, whether for his own use or not, shall be liable, [^{F23} on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale.]
- [^{F24}(1A) It shall be a defence for a person charged with an offence under subsection (1) above to prove that he took all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to avoid the commission of the offence.]
- (2) If on complaint to a [^{F25}magistrates' court] it is proved to the satisfaction of the court that any automatic machine for the sale of tobacco kept on any premises [^{F26}has been used by any person] under the age of sixteen years, the court [^{F27}shall] order the owner of the machine, or the person on whose premises the machine is kept, to take such precautions to prevent the machine being so used as may be specified in the order or, if necessary, to remove the machine, within such time as may be specified in the order, and if any person against whom such an order has been made fails to comply therewith, he shall be liable, on summary conviction, [^{F28}to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale.]
- (3) It shall be the duty of a constable and of a park-keeper being in uniform to seize any tobacco or cigarette papers in the possession of any person apparently under the age of sixteen years whom he finds smoking in any street or public place, and any tobacco or cigarette papers so seized shall be disposed of, if seized by a constable, in such manner as the police authority may direct, and if seized by a park-keeper, in such manner as the authority or person by whom he was appointed may direct.
- (4) Nothing in this section shall make it an offence to sell tobacco or cigarette papers to, or shall authorise the seizure of tobacco or cigarette papers in the possession of, any person who is at the time employed by a manufacturer of or dealer in tobacco, either wholesale or retail, for the purposes of his business, or is a boy messenger in uniform in the employment of a messenger company and employed as such at the time.
- (5) For the purposes of this section the expression “tobacco” includes cigarettes [^{F29}any product containing tobacco and intended for oral or nasal use] and smoking mixtures intended as a substitute for tobacco, and the expression “cigarettes” includes cut tobacco rolled up in paper, tobacco leaf, or other material in such form as to be capable of immediate use for smoking.

Textual Amendments

- F22** Word in s. 7(1) omitted (1.3.1992) by virtue of [Children and Young Persons \(Protection from Tobacco\) Act 1991 \(c. 23, SIF 20\)](#), [s. 1\(2\)\(a\)](#), (with s. 8(3)); S.I. 1992/332, [art. 2](#)
- F23** Words in s. 7(1) substituted (1.3.1992) by [Children and Young Persons \(Protection from Tobacco\) Act 1991 \(c. 23, SIF 20\)](#), [s. 1\(2\)\(b\)](#), (with s. 8(3)); S.I. 1992/332, [art. 2](#)
- F24** S. 7(1A) inserted (1.3.1992) by [Children and Young Persons \(Protection from Tobacco\) Act 1991 \(c. 23, SIF 20\)](#), [s. 1\(3\)](#), (with s. 8(3)); S.I. 1992/332, [art.2](#)

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- F25** Words in s. 7(2) substituted (1.4.2005) by Courts Act 2003 (c. 39), ss. 109(1), 110, **Sch. 8 para. 72**; S.I. 2005/910, **art. 3(bb)**
- F26** Words in s. 7(2) substituted (1.3.1992) by Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991 (c. 23, SIF 20), **s. 1(4)(a)**, (with s. 8(3)(4)); S.I. 1992/332, **art. 2**
- F27** Word substituted by Protection of Children (Tobacco) Act 1986 (c. 34, SIF 20), **s. 1(1)(b)(2)**
- F28** Words in s. 7(2) substituted (1.3.1992) by Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991 (c. 23, SIF 20), **s. 1(4)(b)**, (with s. 8(3)(4)); S.I. 1992/332, **art. 2**
- F29** Words inserted by Protection of Children (Tobacco) Act 1986 (c. 34, SIF 20), **s. 1(1)(c)**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** In s. 7: definition of "tobacco" applied (20.2.1993) by Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991 (c. 23, SIF 20), **s. 4(8)**; S.I. 1992/3227, **art. 2(2)**.
- C2** S. 7: power to amend conferred (19.7.2006 for specified purposes and otherwise 1.7.2007) by Health Act 2006 (c. 28), **ss. 13, 83**; S.I. 2007/1375, **art. 2(a)**
- C3** Criminal Justice Act 1982 (c. 48, SIF 39:1), **ss. 35** (in relation to liability on first and subsequent convictions), 38 (increase of fines) and 46 (substitution of references to levels on the standard scale) apply (E.W.)
- C4** S. 7(2) saved (1.3.1992) by Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991 (c. 23, SIF 20), **s. 8(5)**; S.I. 1992/332, **art. 2**

8 **F30**

Textual Amendments

- F30** S. 8 repealed by Consumer Credit Act 1974 (c. 39), s. 192(1)(4), **Sch. 5**

9 **F31**

Textual Amendments

- F31** S. 9 repealed by Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964 (c. 69), **Sch. Pt. I**

F32 **10**

Textual Amendments

- F32** S. 10 repealed (1.10.1993) by 1993 c.35, ss. 303(4), 307(1)(3), Sch. 19, para. 1, **Sch. 21 Pt.I**; S.I. 1993/1975, art. 9, **Sch. 1**Appendix.

11 †**Exposing children under seven to risk of burning.**

If any person who has attained the age of sixteen years, having [^{F33}responsibility for] any child under the age of [^{F34}twelve] years, allows the child to be in any room containing an open fire grate [^{F35}or any heating appliance liable to cause injury to a person by contact therewith] not sufficiently protected to guard against the risk of his being burnt or scalded without taking reasonable precautions against that risk, and

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by reason thereof the child is killed or suffers serious injury, he shall on summary conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding [^{F36}level 1 on the standard scale]:

Provided that neither this section, nor any proceedings taken thereunder, shall affect any liability of any such person to be proceeded against by indictment for any indictable offence.

Textual Amendments

- F33** Words in s. 11 substituted (14. 10. 1991) by Children Act 1989 (c. 41, SIF 20), s. 108(5)(6), **Sch. 13 para. 3(c)** (with Sch. 14 para. 1(1)); S.I. 1991/828, **art. 3(2)**.
- F34** Word substituted by Children and Young Persons (Amendment) Act 1952 (c. 50), **Sch. para. 1(a)**
- F35** Words inserted by Children and Young Persons (Amendment) Act 1952 (c. 50), **Sch. para. 1(b)**
- F36** Words substituted by virtue of Criminal Justice Act 1982 (c. 48, SIF 39:1), **s. 46**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C5** Unreliable marginal note.
- C6** Words in s. 11 substituted by 1952 c. 50, continued to have effect (5.11.1993) by 1993 c. 50, s. 1(2), **Sch. 2 Pt. II para. 23**.

12 Failing to provide for safety of children at entertainments.

- (1) Where there is provided in any building an entertainment for children, or an entertainment at which the majority of the persons attending are children, then, if the number of children attending the entertainment exceeds one hundred, it shall be the duty of the person providing the entertainment to station and keep stationed wherever necessary a sufficient number of adult attendants, properly instructed as to their duties, to prevent more children or other persons being admitted to the building, or to any part thereof, than the building or part can properly accommodate, and to control the movement of the children and other persons admitted while entering and leaving the building or any part thereof, and to take all other reasonable precautions for the safety of the children.
- (2) Where the occupier of a building permits, for hire or reward, the building to be used for the purpose of an entertainment, he shall take all reasonable steps to secure the observance of the provisions of this section.
- (3) If any person on whom any obligation is imposed by this section fails to fulfil that obligation, he shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding, in the case of a first offence fifty pounds, and in the case of a second or subsequent offence one hundred pounds, and also, if the building in which the entertainment is given is licensed . . . ^{F37} under any of the enactments relating to the licensing of theatres and of houses and other places for music or dancing, the licence shall be liable to be revoked by the authority by whom the licence was granted.
- (4) A constable may enter any building in which he has reason to believe that such an entertainment as aforesaid is being, or is about to be, provided, with a view to seeing whether the provisions of this section are carried into effect, and an officer authorised for the purpose by an authority by whom licences are granted under any of the enactments referred to in the last foregoing subsection shall have the like power of entering any building so licensed by that authority.
- (5) The institution of proceedings under this section shall—

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- (a) in the case of a building [^{F38}licensed by a local authority] under [^{F39}section 1 of the Cinemas Act 1985], or under the enactments relating to the licensing of theatres or of houses and other places for music or dancing, be the duty of [^{F38}that local authority]; and
 - (b) in any other case, be the duty of the police authority.
- (6) This section shall not apply to any entertainment given in a private dwelling-house.

Textual Amendments

- F37** Words repealed by [Cinemas Act 1985 \(c. 13, SIF 45A\)](#), s. 24(2), [Sch. 3](#)
- F38** Words substituted by [Local Government Act 1985 \(c. 51, SIF 81:1\)](#), s. 16, [Sch. 8 para. 5](#)
- F39** Words substituted by [Cinemas Act 1985 \(c. 13, SIF 45A\)](#), s. 24(1), [Sch. 2 para. 2](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C7** [S. 12](#): functions of local authority not to be the responsibility of an executive of the authority (E.) (16.11.2000) by virtue of [S.I. 2000/2853](#), reg. 2(1), [Sch. 1 B1 35](#)
- C8** [Criminal Justice Act 1982 \(c. 48, SIF 39:1\)](#), [ss. 35](#) (in relation to liability on first and subsequent convictions), 38 (increase of fines) and 46 (substitution of references to levels on the standard scale) apply (E.W.)

VALID FROM 01/04/2009

^{F40}Persistent sales of tobacco to persons under 18

Textual Amendments

- F40** Ss. 12A-12D and preceding cross-heading inserted (1.4.2009) by [Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 \(c. 4\)](#), [ss. 143\(2\)](#), 153; [S.I. 2009/860](#), [art. 2\(c\)](#)

12A Restricted premises orders

- (1) This section applies where a person (“the offender”) is convicted of a tobacco offence (“the relevant offence”).
- (2) The person who brought the proceedings for the relevant offence may by complaint to a magistrates' court apply for a restricted premises order to be made in respect of the premises in relation to which that offence was committed (“the relevant premises”).
- (3) A restricted premises order is an order prohibiting the sale on the premises to which it relates of any tobacco or cigarette papers to any person.
- (4) The prohibition applies to sales whether made—
 - (a) by the offender or any other person, or
 - (b) by means of any machine kept on the premises or any other means.
- (5) The order has effect for the period specified in the order, but that period may not exceed one year.
- (6) The applicant must, after making reasonable enquiries, give notice of the application to every person appearing to the applicant to be a person affected by it.

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- (7) The court may make the order if (and only if) it is satisfied that—
- (a) on at least 2 occasions within the period of 2 years ending with the date on which the relevant offence was committed, the offender has committed other tobacco offences in relation to the relevant premises, and
 - (b) the applicant has complied with subsection (6).
- (8) Persons affected by the application may make representations to the court as to why the order should not be made.
- (9) If—
- (a) a person affected by an application for a restricted premises order was not given notice under subsection (6), and
 - (b) consequently the person had no opportunity to make representations to the court as to why the order should not be made,
- the person may by complaint apply to the court for an order varying or discharging it.
- (10) On an application under subsection (9) the court may, after hearing—
- (a) that person, and
 - (b) the applicant for the restricted premises order,
- make such order varying or discharging the restricted premises order as it considers appropriate.
- (11) For the purposes of this section the persons affected by an application for a restricted premises order in respect of any premises are—
- (a) the occupier of the premises, and
 - (b) any other person who has an interest in the premises.

12B Restricted sale orders

- (1) This section applies where a person (“the offender”) is convicted of a tobacco offence (“the relevant offence”).
- (2) The person who brought the proceedings for the relevant offence may by complaint to a magistrates' court apply for a restricted sale order to be made in respect of the offender.
- (3) A restricted sale order is an order prohibiting the person to whom it relates—
 - (a) from selling any tobacco or cigarette papers to any person,
 - (b) from having any management functions in respect of any premises in so far as those functions relate to the sale on the premises of tobacco or cigarette papers to any person,
 - (c) from keeping any cigarette machine on any premises for the purpose of selling tobacco or permitting any cigarette machine to be kept on any premises by any other person for that purpose, and
 - (d) from having any management functions in respect of any premises in so far as those functions relate to any cigarette machine kept on the premises for the purpose of selling tobacco.
- (4) The order has effect for the period specified in the order, but that period may not exceed one year.

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(5) The court may make the order if (and only if) it is satisfied that, on at least 2 occasions within the period of 2 years ending with the date on which the relevant offence was committed, the offender has committed other tobacco offences.

(6) In this section any reference to a cigarette machine is a reference to an automatic machine for the sale of tobacco.

12C Enforcement

(1) If—

(a) a person sells on any premises any tobacco or cigarette papers in contravention of a restricted premises order, and

(b) the person knew, or ought reasonably to have known, that the sale was in contravention of the order,

the person commits an offence.

(2) If a person fails to comply with a restricted sale order, the person commits an offence.

(3) It is a defence for a person charged with an offence under subsection (2) to prove that the person took all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to avoid the commission of the offence.

(4) A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding £20,000.

(5) A restricted premises order is a local land charge and in respect of that charge the applicant for the order is the originating authority for the purposes of the Local Land Charges Act 1975.

12D Interpretation

(1) In sections 12A and 12B a “tobacco offence” means—

(a) an offence committed under section 7(1) on any premises (which are accordingly “the premises in relation to which the offence is committed”), or

(b) an offence committed under section 7(2) in respect of an order relating to any machine kept on any premises (which are accordingly “the premises in relation to which the offence is committed”).

(2) In sections 12A to 12C the expressions “tobacco” and “cigarette” have the same meaning as in section 7.

(3) In sections 12A and 12B “notice” means notice in writing.]

Special Provisions as to Prosecutions for Offences specified in First Schedule

13

(1) F41

(2) F41

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Textual Amendments
F41 S. 13(1)(2) repealed by Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (c. 60, SIF 95), s. 119, Sch. 7 Pt. I

14 Mode of charging offences and limitation of time.

- (1) Where a person is charged with committing any of the offences mentioned in the First Schedule to this Act in respect of two or more children or young persons, the same information or summons may charge the offence in respect of all or any of them, but the person charged shall not, if he is summarily convicted, be liable to a separate penalty in respect of each child or young person except upon separate informations.
- (2) The same information or summons ^{F42} . . . may charge him with the offences of assault, ill-treatment, neglect, abandonment, or exposure, together or separately, and may charge him with committing all or any of those offences in a manner likely to cause unnecessary suffering or injury to health, alternatively or together, but when those offences are charged together the person charged shall not, if he is summarily convicted, be liable to a separate penalty for each.
- (3) ^{F43}
- (4) When any offence mentioned in the First Schedule to this Act charged against any person is a continuous offence, it shall not be necessary to specify in the information, summons, or indictment, the date of the acts constituting the offence.

Textual Amendments
F42 Words in s. 14(2) repealed (E.W.) (14. 10. 1991) by Children Act 1989 (c. 41, SIF 20), s. 108(6)(7), Sch.15 (with Sch. 14 para. 27(4)); S.I. 1991/828, art. 3(2).
F43 S. 14(3) repealed by Children and Young Persons Act 1963 (c. 37), s. 64, Sch. 5

15 ^{F44}

Textual Amendments
F44 S. 15 repealed by Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (c. 60, SIF 47, 95), s. 119, Sch. 7 Pt. V

Supplemental

16 ^{F45}

Textual Amendments
F45 S. 16 repealed by Administration of Justice (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1933 (c. 36), Sch. 3

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[^{F46}17 **Interpretation of Part I.**

- (1) For the purposes of this Part of this Act, the following shall be presumed to have responsibility for a child or young person—
 - (a) any person who—
 - (i) has parental responsibility for him (within the meaning of the Children Act 1989); or
 - (ii) is otherwise legally liable to maintain him; and
 - (b) any person who has care of him.
- (2) A person who is presumed to be responsible for a child or young person by virtue of subsection (1)(a) shall not be taken to have ceased to be responsible for him by reason only that he does not have care of him.]

Textual Amendments

F46 S. 17 substituted (14. 10. 1991) by Children Act 1989 (c. 41, SIF 20), s. 108(5)(6), Sch. 13 para.5 (with Sch. 14 para. 1(1)); S.I. 1991/828, art. 3(2).

Status:

Point in time view as at 01/04/2005. This version of this part contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation:

Children and Young Persons Act 1933, Part I is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 20 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.