
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2019 No. 1458

The Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) Regulations 2019

PART 3

Religious protection

Protection against compulsion in relation to religious involvement in civil partnership

10.—(1) The Equality Act 2010⁽¹⁾ is amended as follows.

(2) In section 110⁽²⁾, after subsection (5B) insert—

“(5BA) If A is a protected person, A does not contravene this section if A—

- (a) does not allow religious premises to be used as the place at which two people register as civil partners of each other under Part 2 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (“the 2004 Act”), or
- (b) does not provide, arrange, facilitate or participate in, or is not present at—
 - (i) an occasion during which two people register as civil partners of each other on religious premises under Part 2 of the 2004 Act, or
 - (ii) a ceremony or event in England or Wales to mark the formation of a civil partnership,

for the reason that the person does not wish to do things of that sort in relation to civil partnerships generally, or those between two people of the same sex, or those between two people of the opposite sex.

(5BB) In subsection (5BA)—

“protected person” has the meaning given by section 30ZA(2) of the 2004 Act;

“religious premises” has the meaning given by section 6A(3C) of the 2004 Act.”.

(3) In Part 6A of Schedule 3⁽³⁾—

- (a) in the heading, after “Same Sex Couples” insert “and Civil Partnership”;
- (b) after paragraph 25A insert—

“No compulsion for religious organisations or persons acting on their behalf to act in relation to civil partnerships

25AA.—(1) A protected person does not contravene section 29 only because the person—

- (a) does not allow religious premises to be used as the place at which two people register as civil partners of each other under Part 2 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (“the 2004 Act”), or

⁽¹⁾ 2010 c. 15.

⁽²⁾ Section 110 was amended by the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013, section 2(5) and [S.I. 2014/3229](#).

⁽³⁾ Part 6A was added by the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013, section 2(6).

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- (b) does not provide, arrange, facilitate or participate in, or is not present at—
 - (i) an occasion during which two people register as civil partners of each other on religious premises under Part 2 of the 2004 Act, or
 - (ii) a ceremony or event in England or Wales to mark the formation of a civil partnership,

for the reason that the person does not wish to do things of that sort in relation to civil partnerships generally, or those between two people of the same sex, or those between two people of the opposite sex.

(2) An employer or principal does not contravene section 29 only because the employer or principal is treated under section 109 as doing something that does not, by virtue of sub-paragraph (1), amount to a contravention of section 29 by the employee or agent who in fact does it.

- (3) In this paragraph—
 - “protected person” has the meaning given by section 30ZA(2) of the 2004 Act;
 - “religious premises” has the meaning given by section 6A(3C) of the 2004 Act⁽⁴⁾.

(4) Section 6A(3C) was added by [S.I. 2005/2000](#).