

*These notes refer to the Family Law Act (Northern Ireland)
2001 (c.12) which received Royal Assent on 17 July 2001*

Family Law Act (Northern Ireland) 2001

EXPLANATORY NOTES

COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS

Section 3: Tests for determining parentage

This section amends the Family Law Reform (NI) Order 1977 and will enable courts to direct the taking and testing of bodily samples for use in scientific tests for the purpose of resolving questions of parentage, that is whether a named individual is or is not the father or mother of a child. At present courts are confined to directing the taking and testing of blood samples only. The new scientific tests can be carried out other types of tissue such as skin, saliva, or hair. Other amendments to the Family Law Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 1977 are contained in section 65 of the Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act (Northern Ireland) 2001. The implementation of the amendments contained in section 3 of this Act is dependent on section 65 of the new child support legislation being brought into force.