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STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

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**1996 No. 479**

**The Children's Homes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996**

**Part I**

**Introductory**

**Citation, commencement and interpretation**

**1.—(1)** These Regulations may be cited as the Children's Homes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996 and shall come into operation on 4th November 1996.

**(2)** In these Regulations—

“the Order” means the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995;

“children's home” means a home provided under Part VII of the Order, a voluntary home or a registered children's home;

“Fire Authority” means the Fire Authority for Northern Ireland;

“guardian ad litem” means a guardian ad litem appointed pursuant to Article 60 of the Order or rules made under Article 66 of the Adoption (Northern Ireland) Order 1987<sup>(1)</sup>;

“medicinal product” means anything in respect of which a product licence under the Medicines Act 1968<sup>(2)</sup> is required;

“person in charge” means in relation to a children's home, the person appointed as the person in charge of it by the responsible authority;

“registered dental practitioner” means a person registered in the dentists register under the Dentists Act 1984<sup>(3)</sup>;

“registration authority” means, in the case of a voluntary home or a registered children's home, the Health and Social Services Board in whose area the home is, or is to be, situated;

“responsible authority” means—

- (a)** in the case of a home provided under Part VII of the Order, the authority by whom it is provided;
- (b)** in the case of a voluntary home, the voluntary organisation by whom it is provided; and
- (c)** in the case of a registered children's home, the person carrying it on.

**Application of Regulations to different classes of children's homes**

**2.—(1)** Subject to paragraph (2),—

- (a)** this Part, Part II and Part III apply to all children's homes;

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<sup>(1)</sup> S.I.1987/2203 (N.I. 22); paragraph 166 of Schedule 9 to the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 substituted a new Article 66 with effect from 19th February 1996

<sup>(2)</sup> 1968 c. 67

<sup>(3)</sup> 1984 c. 24

- (b) Part IV applies only to voluntary homes;
- (c) Part V applies only to registered children’s homes; and
- (d) Part VI applies only to voluntary homes and registered children’s homes.

(2) These Regulations shall not apply to premises used by an authority only to accommodate children for the purpose of a holiday for periods of less than 28 days at a time in the case of any one child.

**Exemptions from registration and regulation as voluntary home or registered children’s home**

**3.** The following homes are exempted from the definitions of “voluntary home” in Article 74(1) of the Order and “registered children’s home” in Article 90(1) of the Order—

- (a) any home used only to accommodate children for the purpose of a holiday for periods of less than 28 days at a time in the case of any one child;
- (b) a probation hostel and a bail hostel as defined in Article 2 of the Probation Board (Northern Ireland) Order 1982<sup>(4)</sup>;
- (c) a hostel run by or on behalf of a professional football club to provide care and accommodation exclusively for professional footballers or trainee professional footballers who are under the age of 18;
- (d) an institution within the further education sector within the meaning of Article 100 of the Education Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 1989<sup>(5)</sup>.

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<sup>(4)</sup> S.I. 1982/713 (N.I. 10)  
<sup>(5)</sup> S.I. 1989/2406 (N.I. 20)