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STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

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**2002 No. 79**

**The Social Security (Loss of Benefit)  
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2002**

**PART V**

**HOUSING BENEFIT**

**Circumstances where a reduced amount of housing benefit is payable**

17.—(1) Subject to regulation 18, any payment of housing benefit which falls to be made to an offender in respect of any week in the disqualification period or to an offender's family member in respect of any week in the relevant period shall be reduced—

- (a) where the claimant or a member of his family is pregnant or seriously ill, by a sum equivalent to 20 per cent.;
- (b) in any other case, by a sum equivalent to 40 per cent.,

of the amount which is or, where he is not the claimant or is not single, would be applicable to the offender in respect of a single claimant for those benefits on the first day of the disqualification period or, where the payment falls to be made to an offender's family member, on the first day of the relevant period and specified in paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 2 to the Housing Benefit Regulations<sup>(1)</sup>.

(2) A reduction under paragraph (1) shall, if it is not a multiple of 5p, be rounded to the nearest such multiple or, if it is a multiple of 2.5p but not of 5p, to the next lower multiple of 5p.

(3) Where the rate of housing benefit payable to a claimant changes, the rules set out in paragraphs (1) and (2) for a reduction in the benefit payable shall be applied to the new rate and any adjustment to the reduction shall take effect from the beginning of the first benefit week to commence for the claimant following the change.

(4) In this regulation "benefit week" shall have the same meaning as in regulation 2(1) of the Housing Benefit Regulations.

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<sup>(1)</sup> The amounts in paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 2 were substituted by S.R. 2001 No. 41