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STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

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**2020 No. 55**

**The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions)  
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020**

**Restrictions on movement**

5.—(1) During the emergency period, no person may leave the place where they are living without reasonable excuse.

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1), a reasonable excuse includes the need—

- (a) to obtain basic necessities, including food and medical supplies for those in the same household (including any pets or animals in the household) or for vulnerable persons and supplies for the essential upkeep, maintenance and functioning of the household, or the household of a vulnerable person, or to obtain money, including from any business listed in Part 3 of Schedule 2;
- (b) to take exercise either alone or with other members of their household;
- (c) to seek medical assistance, including to access any of the services referred to in paragraph 37 or 38 of Schedule 2;
- (d) to provide care or assistance, including relevant personal care within the meaning of paragraph 7(3B) of Schedule 2 to the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (Northern Ireland) Order 2007(1), to a vulnerable person, or to provide emergency assistance;
- (e) to donate blood
- (f) to travel for the purposes of work or to provide voluntary or charitable services, where it is not reasonably possible for that person to work, or to provide those services, from the place where they are living;
- (g) to attend a funeral of—
  - (i) a member of the person's household,
  - (ii) a close family member, or
  - (iii) if no-one within sub-paragraphs (i) or (ii) is attending, a friend;
- (h) to fulfil a legal obligation, including attending court or satisfying bail conditions, or to participate in legal proceedings;
- (i) to access critical public services, including—
  - (i) childcare or educational facilities (where these are still available to a child in relation to whom that person is the parent, or has parental responsibility for, or care of the child);
  - (ii) social care services;
  - (iii) services provided by the Department for Communities;
  - (iv) services provided to victims (such as victims of crime);

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(1) *S.I. 2007/1351 (N.I. 11)*. Sub-paragraph (3B) was substituted, with sub-paragraphs (1) to (3) and (3A) to (3E) for sub-paragraphs (1) to (3) by s. 78 of and paragraph 3(2) of Schedule 7 to, the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 (c. 9)

- (j) in relation to children who do not live in the same household as their parents, or one of their parents, to continue existing arrangements for access to, and contact between, parents and children, and for the purposes of this paragraph, “parent” includes a person who is not a parent of the child, but who has parental responsibility for, or who has care of the child;
  - (k) in the case of a minister of religion or worship leader, to go to their place of worship;
  - (l) to move house where reasonably necessary;
  - (m) to avoid injury or illness or to escape a risk of harm.
- (3) For the purposes of paragraph (1), the place where a person is living includes the premises where they live together with any garden, yard, passage, stair, garage, outhouse or other appurtenance of such premises.
- (4) Paragraph (1) does not apply to any person who is homeless.