

2007 No. 249

LEGAL AID AND ADVICE

**The Civil Legal Aid (Financial Conditions) (Scotland)
Regulations 2007**

Made - - - - - *14th March 2007*

Coming into force - - - - - *9th April 2007*

The Scottish Ministers, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 36(1) and (2)(b) of the Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 1986(a) and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf, hereby make the following Regulations, a draft of which has, in accordance with section 37(2) of that Act, been laid before and approved by resolution of the Scottish Parliament:

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Civil Legal Aid (Financial Conditions) (Scotland) Regulations 2007 and shall come into force on 9th April 2007.

(2) In these Regulations, “the Act” means the Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 1986.

Application

2. These Regulations shall apply only in relation to any case where an application for civil legal aid is made on or after 9th April 2007.

Amendment of the Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 1986

3. For the yearly amount of £9,781 specified in section 15(1) of the Act(b), substitute the yearly amount of £10,074.

4. For the capital amount of £11,070 specified in section 15(2)(a) of the Act(c), substitute the capital amount of £11,402.

5. For the yearly amount of £2,995 specified in section 17(2)(a) of the Act(d), substitute the yearly amount of £3,085.

6. For the capital amount of £6,640 specified in section 17(2)(b) of the Act(e), substitute the capital amount of £6,879.

(a) 1986 c.47; section 36(2)(b) was amended by the Legal Aid Act 1988 (c.34), Schedule 4, paragraph 6. The functions of the Secretary of State were transferred to the Scottish Ministers by virtue of section 53 of the Scotland Act 1988 (c.46).
(b) The previous figure specified in section 15(1) was inserted by S.S.I. 2006/178.
(c) The previous figure specified in section 15(2)(a) was inserted by S.S.I. 2006/178.
(d) The previous figure specified in section 17(2)(a) was inserted by S.S.I. 2006/178.
(e) The previous figure specified in section 17(2)(b) was inserted by S.S.I. 2006/178.

Revocation

7. The Civil Legal Aid (Financial Conditions) (Scotland) Regulations 2006^(a) are hereby revoked except in relation to any case where an application for civil legal aid is made to the Scottish Legal Aid Board before 9th April 2007.

St Andrew's House,
Edinburgh
14th March 2007

JOHANN MLAMONT
Authorised to sign by the Scottish Ministers

^(a) S.S.I. 2006/178.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations increase certain of the financial limits of eligibility for civil legal aid under the Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 1986.

The income limits are increased to make eligible for civil legal aid, persons with a yearly disposable income of not more than £10,074 (instead of £9,781) and to make eligible without payment of a contribution, persons with a yearly disposable income of not more than £3,085 (instead of £2,995) (regulations 3 and 5).

The upper limit of disposable capital, above which civil legal aid may be refused if it appears the applicant can afford to proceed without it, is increased from £11,070 to £11,402 (regulation 4).

The upper limit of disposable capital, above which a legally assisted person may be required to pay a contribution, is increased from £6,640 to £6,879 (regulation 6).

The Civil Legal Aid (Financial Conditions) (Scotland) Regulations 2006 are revoked except in relation to any case where an application for civil legal aid is made to the Scottish Legal Aid Board before 9th April 2007 (regulation 7).

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