



Children Act 1989

1989 CHAPTER 41

PART I

INTRODUCTORY

4 Acquisition of parental responsibility by father.

- (1) Where a child's father and mother were not married to each other at the time of his birth—
 - (a) the court may, on the application of the father, order that he shall have parental responsibility for the child; or
 - (b) the father and mother may by agreement ("a parental responsibility agreement") provide for the father to have parental responsibility for the child.
- (2) No parental responsibility agreement shall have effect for the purposes of this Act unless—
 - (a) it is made in the form prescribed by regulations made by the Lord Chancellor; and
 - (b) where regulations are made by the Lord Chancellor prescribing the manner in which such agreements must be recorded, it is recorded in the prescribed manner.
- (3) Subject to section 12(4), an order under subsection (1)(a), or a parental responsibility agreement, may only be brought to an end by an order of the court made on the application—
 - (a) of any person who has parental responsibility for the child; or
 - (b) with leave of the court, of the child himself.
- (4) The court may only grant leave under subsection (3)(b) if it is satisfied that the child has sufficient understanding to make the proposed application.

Status: Point in time view as at 03/03/2003. This version of this provision has been superseded.

Changes to legislation: Children Act 1989, Section 4 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 23 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

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Commencement Information

II S. 4 wholly in force at 14.10.1991 see s. 108(2)(3) and S.I. 1991/828, art. 3(2)

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