

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990

1990 CHAPTER 37

Miscellaneous and General

43 Keeping and examining gametes and embryos in connection with crime, etc.

- (1) Regulations may provide—
 - (a) for the keeping and examination of gametes or embryos, in such manner and on such conditions (if any) as may be specified in regulations, in connection with the investigation of, or proceedings for, an offence (wherever committed), or
 - (b) for the storage of gametes, in such manner and on such conditions (if any) as may be specified in regulations, where they are to be used only for such purposes, other than treatment services, as may be specified in regulations.
- (2) Nothing in this Act makes unlawful the keeping or examination of any gametes or embryos in pursuance of regulations made by virtue of this section.
- (3) In this section "examination" includes use for the purposes of any test.

Commencement Information

I1 S. 43 wholly in force, s. 43 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 49(2), s. 43(1) in force for certain purposes at 8.7.1991; and s. 43 fully in force at 1.8.1991 see S.I. 1991/1400, art. 2(1)(f)(2)

44 Civil liability to child with disability.

(1) After section 1 of the MICongenital Disabilities (Civil Liability) Act 1976 (civil liability to child born disabled) there is inserted—

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990, Cross Heading: Miscellaneous and General. (See end of Document for details)

"1A Extension of section 1 to cover infertility treatments.

- (1) In any case where—
 - (a) a child carried by a woman as the result of the placing in her of an embryo or of sperm and eggs or her artificial insemination is born disabled
 - (b) the disability results from an act or omission in the course of the selection, or the keeping or use outside the body, of the embryo carried by her or of the gametes used to bring about the creation of the embryo, and
 - (c) a person is under this section answerable to the child in respect of the act or omission,

the child's disabilities are to be regarded as damage resulting from the wrongful act of that person and actionable accordingly at the suit of the child.

- (2) Subject to subsection (3) below and the applied provisions of section 1 of this Act, a person (here referred to as "the defendant") is answerable to the child if he was liable in tort to one or both of the parents (here referred to as "the parent or parents concerned") or would, if sued in due time, have been so; and it is no answer that there could not have been such liability because the parent or parents concerned suffered no actionable injury, if there was a breach of legal duty which, accompanied by injury, would have given rise to the liability.
- (3) The defendant is not under this section answerable to the child if at the time the embryo, or the sperm and eggs, are placed in the woman or the time of her insemination (as the case may be) either or both of the parents knew the risk of their child being born disabled (that is to say, the particular risk created by the act or omission).
- (4) Subsections (5) to (7) of section 1 of this Act apply for the purposes of this section as they apply for the purposes of that but as if references to the parent or the parent affected were references to the parent or parents concerned."
- (2) In section 4 of that Act (interpretation, etc)—
 - (a) at the end of subsection (2) there is inserted—

"and references to embryos shall be construed in accordance with section 1 of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990",

- (b) in subsection (3), after "section 1" there is inserted "1A", and
- (c) in subsection (4), for "either" there is substituted "any".

Commencement Information

I2 S. 44 wholly in force at 1.8.1991 see s. 49(2) and S.I. 1991/1400, art. 2(2)

Marginal Citations

M1 1976 c. 28.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990, Cross Heading: Miscellaneous and General. (See end of Document for details)

45 Regulations.

- (1) The Secretary of State may make regulations for any purpose for which regulations may be made under this Act.
- [F1(1A) Subsection (1) does not enable the Secretary of State to make regulations by virtue of section 19(6) (which confers regulation-making powers on the Authority).]
 - (2) The power to make regulations [F2under this Act] shall be exercisable by statutory instrument.
 - [F3(3) The power to make regulations under this Act may be exercised—
 - (a) either in relation to all cases to which the power extends, or in relation to those cases subject to specified exceptions, or in relation to any specified cases or classes of case, and
 - (b) so as to make, as respects the cases in relation to which it is exercised—
 - (i) the full provision to which the power extends or any less provision (whether by way of exception or otherwise);
 - (ii) the same provision for all cases in relation to which the power is exercised, or different provision as respects the same case or class of case for different purposes;
 - (iii) any such provision either unconditionally, or subject to any specified condition.
 - (3A) Any power of the Secretary of State or the Authority to make regulations under this Act includes power to make such transitional, incidental or supplemental provision as the Secretary of State or the Authority considers appropriate.]
 - [^{F4}(4) The Secretary of State shall not make regulations by virtue of any of the provisions specified in subsection (4A) unless a draft has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.

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(4A) Those provisions are—
section 1(6);
section 3(3)(c);
section 3ZA(5);
section 4(2) or (3);
section 4A(5) or (11);
section 20A(3);
section 20B(2);
section 24(4B);
section 31ZA(2)(a);
section 33C;
section 33D;
section 35A;
section 43;
paragraph 1(1)(g), 1ZC or 3A(1)(c) of Schedule 2.]
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(5) A statutory instrument containing regulations [F5 made by the Secretary of State] shall, if made without a draft having been approved by resolution of each House of Parliament, be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990, Cross Heading: Miscellaneous and General. (See end of Document for details)

(6) In this Act "regulations" means regulations under this section.

Textual Amendments

- F1 S. 45(1A) inserted (6.4.2009) by Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 (c. 22), ss. 30(2), 68(2); S.I. 2009/479, art. 5(f)(h) (with art. 7Sch.)
- F2 Words in s. 45(2) inserted (6.4.2009) by Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 (c. 22), ss. 30(3), 68(2); S.I. 2009/479, art. 5(f)(h) (with art. 7Sch.)
- F3 S. 45(3)(3A) substituted for s. 45(3) (6.4.2009) by Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 (c. 22), ss. 30(4), 68(2); S.I. 2009/479, art. 5(f)(h) (with art. 7Sch.)
- F4 S. 45(4)(4A) substituted for s. 45(4) (6.4.2009) by Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 (c. 22), ss. 30(5), 68(2); S.I. 2009/479, art. 5(f)(h) (with art. 7Sch.)
- F5 Words in s. 45(5) inserted (6.4.2009) by Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 (c. 22), ss. 30(6), 68(2); S.I. 2009/479, art. 5(f)(h) (with art. 7Sch.)

Commencement Information

I3 S. 45 fully in force at 8.7.1991 see s. 49(2) and S.I. 1991/1400, art. 2(1)(g)

[F645A Power to make consequential provision

- (1) The Secretary of State may by order make such provision modifying any provision made by or under any enactment as the Secretary of State considers necessary or expedient in consequence of any provision made by regulations under any of the relevant provisions of this Act.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), "the relevant provisions of this Act" are—
 - (a) section 1(6) (power to include things within the meaning of "embryo" and "gametes" etc.);
 - (b) section 4A(11) (power to amend definition of "human admixed embryo" and other terms).
- (3) Before making an order under this section containing provision which would, if included in an Act of the Scottish Parliament, be within the legislative competence of that Parliament, the Secretary of State must consult the Scottish Ministers.
- (4) Before making an order under this section containing provision which would be within the legislative competence of the National Assembly for Wales if it were included in [F7 an Act of the Assembly], the Secretary of State must consult the Welsh Ministers.
- (5) Before making an order under this section containing provision which would if included in an Act of the Northern Ireland Assembly, be within the legislative competence of that Assembly, the Secretary of State must consult the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.
- (6) In this section—

"enactment" means-

- (a) an Act of Parliament (other than this Act),
- (b) an Act of the Scottish Parliament,
- (c) a Measure or Act of the National Assembly for Wales, or
- (d) Northern Ireland legislation,

whenever passed or made;

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990, Cross Heading: Miscellaneous and General. (See end of Document for details)

"modify" includes amend, add to, revoke or repeal;

"the Assembly Act provisions" has the meaning given by section 103(8) of the Government of Wales Act 2006.]

Textual Amendments

- **F6** S. 45A inserted (1.10.2009) by Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 (c. 22), **ss. 31**, 68(2); S.I. 2009/2232, art. 2(o)
- F7 Words in s. 45A(4) substituted (1.4.2018) by Wales Act 2017 (c. 4), s. 71(4), Sch. 6 para. 52 (with Sch. 7 paras. 1, 6); S.I. 2017/1179, reg. 3(r)

[F845B Orders

- (1) The power to make an order under section 8C(1)(c) or 45A of this Act shall be exercisable by statutory instrument.
- (2) The power to make an order under section 8C(1)(c) or 45A of this Act includes power to make such transitional, incidental or supplemental provision as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.
- (3) A statutory instrument containing an order made by the Secretary of State by virtue of section 8C(1)(c) shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.
- (4) The Secretary of State shall not make an order by virtue of section 45A unless a draft has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.]

Textual Amendments

F8 S. 45B inserted (1.10.2009) by Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 (c. 22), **ss. 32**, 68(2); S.I. 2009/2232, art. 2(p)

46 Notices.

- (1) This section has effect in relation to any notice required or authorised by this Act to be given to or served on any person.
- (2) The notice may be given to or served on the person—
 - (a) by delivering it to the person,
 - (b) by leaving it at the person's proper address, or
 - (c) by sending it by post to the person at that address.
- (3) The notice may—
 - (a) in the case of a body corporate, be given to or served on the secretary or clerk of the body,
 - (b) in the case of a partnership, be given to or served on any partner, and
 - (c) in the case of an unincorporated association other than a partnership, be given to or served on any member of the governing body of the association.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990, Cross Heading: Miscellaneous and General. (See end of Document for details)

- (4) For the purposes of this section and section 7 of the M2Interpretation Act 1978 (service of documents by post) in its application to this section, the proper address of any person is the person's last known address and also—
 - (a) in the case of a body corporate, its secretary or its clerk, the address of its registered or principal office, and
 - (b) in the case of an unincorporated association or a member of its governing body, its principal office.
- (5) Where a person has notified the Authority of an address or a new address at which notices may be given to or served on him under this Act, that address shall also be his proper address for the purposes mentioned in subsection (4) above or, as the case may be, his proper address for those purposes in substitution for that previously notified.

Commencement Information

I4 S. 46 fully in force at 1.8.1991 see s. 49(2) and S.I. 1991/1400, art. 2(2)

Marginal Citations

M2 1978 c. 30.

47 Index.

The expressions listed in the left-hand column below are respectively defined or (as the case may be) are to be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of this Act listed in the right-hand column in relation to those expressions.

| Activities governed by this Act | Section 4(5) |
|--|--------------------------------|
| [F9Appeals committee] | [F9Section 20A(2)] |
| Authority | Section 2(1) |
| [F10Basic partner treatment services | Section 2(1)] |
| Carry, in relation to a child | Section 2(3) |
| [F11Competent authority | Section 2(1)] |
| Directions | Section 2(1) |
| [F12Distribution, in relation to gametes or embryos intended for human application | Section 2(1)] |
| Embryo [F13(except in section 4A or in the term "human admixed embryo")] | Section 1 |
| [F14First Directive | Section 1A] |
| [F15Fourth Directive | Section 1A] |
| Gametes, eggs or sperm [F16(except in section 4A)] | Section 1 |
| [F9Human admixed embryo] | [^{F9} Section 4A(6)] |
| [^{F17} Human application | Section 2(1)] |
| [F15Importing licensee | Section 2B(2] |
| | |

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990, Cross Heading: Miscellaneous and General. (See end of Document for details)

| Keeping, in relation to embryos or gametes | Section 2(2) |
|--|----------------------|
| Licence | Section 2(1) |
| F18 | F18 |
| | |
| F18 | F18 |
| [F19]Non-medical fertility services | Section 2(1) |
| [F9Nuclear DNA (in relation to an embryo)] | [F9Section 2(1)] |
| [F20]Partner-donated sperm | Section 1(5)] |
| Person responsible | Section 17(1) |
| Person to whom a licence applies | Section 17(2) |
| [F21Person to whom a third party agreement applies | Section 2A(3)] |
| I ^{F22} Processing, in relation to gametes or embryos intended for human application | Section 2(1)] |
| [F23Procurement, in relation to gametes or embryos intended for human application | Section 2(1)] |
| [F15Qualifying gametes or embryos | Section 2B(3)] |
| [F24Relevant third party premises, in relation to a licence | Section 2A(2)] |
| [F25Second Directive | Section 1A] |
| [F26Serious adverse event | Section 2(1)] |
| [F27]Serious adverse reaction | Section 2(1)] |
| Statutory storage period | Section 14(3) to (5) |
| Store, and similar expressions, in relation to embryos[F28, human admixed embryos] or gametes | [F29Section 2(1)] |
| [F15Third country | Section 2B(4)] |
| [F15Third country premises | Section 2B(5)] |
| [F15Third country supplier | Section 2B(6)] |
| [F30Third Directive | Section 1A] |
| [F31Third party | Section 2A(2)] |
| [F32Third party agreement | Section 2A(1)] |
| [F33Traceability | Section 2(1)] |
| Treatment services | Section 2(1) |

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990, Cross Heading: Miscellaneous and General. (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

- F9 Words in s. 47 inserted (1.10.2009) by Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 (c. 22), s. 68(2), Sch. 7 para. 13(d); S.I. 2009/2232, art. 2(y)
- F10 S. 47 Table: entry inserted (25.5.2007 for certain purposes, otherwise 5.7.2007) by The Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Quality and Safety) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/1522), regs 1, 28(2)(b)
- F11 S. 47: table entry inserted (25.5.2007 for certain purposes, otherwise 5.7.2007) by The Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Quality and Safety) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/1522), regs 1, 28(2)(b)
- F12 S. 47 Table: entry inserted (25.5.2007 for certain purposes, otherwise 5.7.2007) by The Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Quality and Safety) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/1522), regs 1, 28(2)(b)
- F13 Words in s. 47 inserted (1.10.2009) by Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 (c. 22), s. 68(2), Sch. 7 para. 13(a); S.I. 2009/2232, art. 2(y)
- F14 S. 47 Table: entry inserted (25.5.2007 for certain purposes, otherwise 5.7.2007) by The Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Quality and Safety) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/1522), regs 1, 28(2)(b)
- F15 Words in s. 47 inserted (6.3.2018 for specified purposes, 1.4.2018 in so far as not already in force) by The Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Amendment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. 2018/334), regs. 1(3), 5(5)
- **F16** Words in s. 47 inserted (1.10.2009) by Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 (c. 22), s. 68(2), **Sch. 7 para. 13(b)**; S.I. 2009/2232, art. 2(y)
- F17 S. 47 Table: entry inserted (25.5.2007 for certain purposes, otherwise 5.7.2007) by The Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Quality and Safety) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/1522), regs 1, 28(2)(b)
- **F18** S. 47 entries repealed (1.10.2009) by Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 (c. 22), s. 68(2), Sch. 7 para. 13(e), **Sch. 8 Pt. 1**; S.I. 2009/2232, art. 2(y)
- F19 S. 47 Table: entry inserted (25.5.2007 for certain purposes, otherwise 5.7.2007) by The Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Quality and Safety) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/1522), regs 1, 28(2)(b)
- **F20** S. 47 Table: entry inserted (25.5.2007 for certain purposes, otherwise 5.7.2007) by The Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Quality and Safety) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/1522), regs 1, **28(2)(b)**
- **F21** S. 47 Table: entry inserted (25.5.2007 for certain purposes, otherwise 5.7.2007) by The Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Quality and Safety) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/1522), regs 1, **28(2)(b)**
- F22 S. 47 Table: entry inserted (25.5.2007 for certain purposes, otherwise 5.7.2007) by The Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Quality and Safety) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/1522), regs 1, 28(2)(b)
- F23 S. 47 Table: entry inserted (25.5.2007 for certain purposes, otherwise 5.7.2007) by The Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Quality and Safety) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/1522), regs 1, 28(2)(b)
- **F24** S. 47 Table: entry inserted (25.5.2007 for certain purposes, otherwise 5.7.2007) by The Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Quality and Safety) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/1522), regs 1, **28(2)(b)**
- F25 S. 47 Table: entry inserted (25.5.2007 for certain purposes, otherwise 5.7.2007) by The Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Quality and Safety) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/1522), regs 1, 28(2)(b)
- F26 S. 47 Table: entry inserted (25.5.2007 for certain purposes, otherwise 5.7.2007) by The Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Quality and Safety) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/1522), regs 1, 28(2)(b)
- F27 S. 47 Table: entry inserted (25.5.2007 for certain purposes, otherwise 5.7.2007) by The Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Quality and Safety) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/1522), regs 1, 28(2)(b)
- **F28** Words in s. 47 inserted (1.10.2009) by Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 (c. 22), s. 68(2), **Sch. 7 para. 13(c)**; S.I. 2009/2232, art. 2(y)
- F29 S. 47 Table: words in entry substituted (25.5.2007 for certain purposes, otherwise 5.7.2007) by The Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Quality and Safety) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/1522), regs 1, 28(2)(a)
- **F30** S. 47 Table: entry inserted (25.5.2007 for certain purposes, otherwise 5.7.2007) by The Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Quality and Safety) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/1522), regs 1, **28(2)(b)**
- F31 S. 47 Table: entry inserted (25.5.2007 for certain purposes, otherwise 5.7.2007) by The Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Quality and Safety) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/1522), regs 1, 28(2)(b)
- **F32** S. 47 Table: entry inserted (25.5.2007 for certain purposes, otherwise 5.7.2007) by The Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Quality and Safety) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/1522), regs 1, **28(2)(b)**

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990, Cross Heading: Miscellaneous and General. (See end of Document for details)

F33 S. 47 Table: entry inserted (25.5.2007 for certain purposes, otherwise 5.7.2007) by The Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Quality and Safety) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/1522), regs 1, 28(2)(b)

Commencement Information

IS S. 47 wholly in force at 1.8.1991 see s. 49(2) and S.I. 1991/1400, art. 2(2)

48 Northern Ireland.

| (1) This Act (except [F34 | sections 33A(2)(r) | and] 37) extends | to Northern | Ireland. |
|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------|----------|
| F35(2) | | _ | | |

Textual Amendments

- **F34** Words in s. 48(1) substituted (1.10.2009) by Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 (c. 22), s. 68(2), **Sch. 7 para. 14**; S.I. 2009/2232, art. 2(y)
- F35 S. 48(2) repealed (2.12.1999) by 1998 c. 47, s. 100(2), Sch. 15; S.I. 1999/3209, art. 2, Sch.

Commencement Information

S. 48 wholly in force at 1.11.1994; s. 48 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 49(2); s. 48(1) in force for specified purposes at 1.4.1991, 8.7.1991 and 1.8.1991 by S.I. 1991/1400, art. 2(1)(2); s. 48(2) in force at 1.8.1991 by S.I. 1991/1400, art. 2(1)(2); s. 48(1) in force for specified purposes at 5.7.1994 and 1.11.1994 by S.I. 1994/1776, art. 2(1)(2)

49 Short title, commencement, etc.

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990.
- (2) This Act shall come into force on such day as the Secretary of State may by order made by statutory instrument appoint and different days may be appointed for different provisions and for different purposes.
- (3) Sections 27 to 29 of this Act shall have effect only in relation to children carried by women as a result of the placing in them of embryos or of sperm and eggs, or of their artificial insemination (as the case may be), after the commencement of those sections.
- (4) Section 27 of the M3Family Law Reform Act 1987 (artificial insemination) does not have effect in relation to children carried by women as the result of their artificial insemination after the commencement of sections 27 to 29 of this Act.
- (5) Schedule 4 to this Act (which makes minor and consequential amendments) shall have effect.
- (6) An order under this section may make such transitional provision as the Secretary of State considers necessary or desirable and, in particular, may provide that where activities are carried on under the supervision of a particular individual, being activities which are carried on under the supervision of that individual at the commencement of sections 3 and 4 of this Act, those activities are to be treated, during such period as may be specified in or determined in accordance with the order, as authorised by a licence (having, in addition to the conditions required by this Act, such conditions as may be so specified or determined) under which that individual is the person responsible.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990, Cross Heading: Miscellaneous and General. (See end of Document for details)

(7) Her Majesty may by Order in Council direct that any of the provisions of this Act shall extend, with such exceptions, adaptations and modifications (if any) as may be specified in the Order, to any of the Channel Islands.

Subordinate Legislation Made

P1 S. 49(2)(6): power exercised by S.Is: 1990/2165, 1991/480, 1991/1400, 1991/1781, 1994/1776

Marginal Citations

M3 1987 c. 42.

Status:

Point in time view as at 01/04/2018.

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990, Cross Heading: Miscellaneous and General.