



# Child Support Act 1991

## 1991 CHAPTER 48

### *Miscellaneous and supplemental*

#### 54 Interpretation. **E+W+S**

In this Act—

“absent parent”, has the meaning given in section 3(2);

“adjudication officer” has the same meaning as in the benefit Acts;

[<sup>F1</sup>“application for a departure direction” means an application under section 28A;]

“assessable income” has the meaning given in paragraph 5 of Schedule 1;

“benefit Acts” means the [<sup>F2</sup>Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 and the Social Security Administration Act 1992];

“Chief Adjudication Officer” has the same meaning as in the benefit Acts;

“Chief Child Support Officer” has the meaning given in section 13;

“child benefit” has the same meaning as in the <sup>M1</sup>Child Benefit Act 1975;

“child support appeal tribunal” means a tribunal appointed under section 21;

“child support maintenance” has the meaning given in section 3(6);

“child support officer” has the meaning given in section 13;

[<sup>F1</sup>“current assessment”, in relation to an application for a departure direction, means (subject to any regulations made under paragraph 10 of Schedule 4A) the maintenance assessment with respect to which the application is made;]

“deduction from earnings order” has the meaning given in section 31(2);

[<sup>F1</sup>“departure direction” has the meaning given in section 28A;]

“disability living allowance” has the same meaning as in the [<sup>F2</sup>benefit Acts];

“family credit” has the same meaning as in the benefit Acts;

“general qualification” shall be construed in accordance with section 71 of the <sup>M2</sup>Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (qualification for judicial appointments);

[<sup>F3</sup>“income-based jobseeker’s allowance” has the same meaning as in the Jobseekers Act 1995;]

*Status: Point in time view as at 02/12/1996. This version of this provision has been superseded.*

*Changes to legislation: Child Support Act 1991, Section 54 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 17 September 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)*

- “income support” has the same meaning as in the benefit Acts;
- “interim maintenance assessment” has the meaning given in section 12;
- “liability order” has the meaning given in section 33(2);
- “maintenance agreement” has the meaning given in section 9(1);
- “maintenance assessment” means an assessment of maintenance made under this Act and, except in prescribed circumstances, includes an interim maintenance assessment;
- “maintenance order” has the meaning given in section 8(11);
- “maintenance requirement” means the amount calculated in accordance with paragraph 1 of Schedule 1;
- “parent”, in relation to any child, means any person who is in law the mother or father of the child;
- [<sup>F1</sup>“parent with care” means a person who is, in relation to a child, both a parent and a person with care.]
- [<sup>F4</sup>“parental responsibility”, in the application of this Act—
- (a) to England and Wales, has the same meaning as in the Children Act 1989; and
- (b) to Scotland, shall be construed as a reference to “parental responsibilities” within the meaning given by section 1(3) of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995;]
- <sup>F5</sup> .....
- “person with care” has the meaning given in section 3(3);
- “prescribed” means prescribed by regulations made by the Secretary of State;
- “qualifying child” has the meaning given in section 3(1);

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 54 inserted (4.9.1995) by [Child Support Act 1995 \(c. 34\)](#), s. 30(4), [Sch. 3 para. 16](#); S.I. 1995/2302, art. 2, Sch. Pt. 1
- F2** Words in s. 54 substituted (1.7.1992) by [Social Security \(Consequential Provisions\) Act 1992 \(c. 6\)](#), s. 4, [Sch. 2 para. 114\(a\)\(b\)](#)
- F3** Words in s. 54 inserted (7.10.1996) by [Jobseekers Act 1995 \(c. 18\)](#), s. 41(2), [Sch. 2 para. 20\(6\)](#); S.I. 1996/2208, art. 2(b)
- F4** Words in s. 54 substituted (1.11.1996) by [Children \(Scotland\) Act 1995 \(c. 36\)](#), s. 105(1)(b), [Sch. 4 para. 52\(4\)\(a\)](#); S.I. 1996/2203, art. 3(3), Sch. (with arts. 4-7)
- F5** Words in s. 54 repealed (1.11.1996) by [Children \(Scotland\) Act 1995 \(c. 36\)](#), s. 105(1)(b), Sch. 4 para. 52(4)(b), [Sch. 5](#); S.I. 1996/2203, art. 3(3), Sch. (with arts. 4-7)

#### Marginal Citations

- M1** 1975 c. 61.
- M2** 1990 c. 41.

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