



# Children (Scotland) Act 1995

## 1995 CHAPTER 36

### PART I

#### PARENTS, CHILDREN AND GUARDIANS

##### *Parental responsibilities and parental rights*

#### **1 Parental responsibilities.**

- (1) Subject to section 3(1)(b) [F1, and (d)] and (3) of this Act, a parent has in relation to his child the responsibility—
- (a) to safeguard and promote the child's health, development and welfare;
  - (b) to provide, in a manner appropriate to the stage of development of the child—
    - (i) direction;
    - (ii) guidance,to the child;
  - (c) if the child is not living with the parent, to maintain personal relations and direct contact with the child on a regular basis; and
  - (d) to act as the child's legal representative,
- but only in so far as compliance with this section is practicable and in the interests of the child.
- (2) "Child" means for the purposes of—
- (a) paragraphs (a), (b)(i), (c) and (d) of subsection (1) above, a person under the age of sixteen years;
  - (b) paragraph (b)(ii) of that subsection, a person under the age of eighteen years.
- (3) The responsibilities mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (d) of subsection (1) above are in this Act referred to as "parental responsibilities"; and the child, or any person acting on his behalf, shall have title to sue, or to defend, in any proceedings as respects those responsibilities.

---

**Changes to legislation:** Children (Scotland) Act 1995, Section 1 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) View outstanding changes

---

- (4) The parental responsibilities supersede any analogous duties imposed on a parent at common law; but this section is without prejudice to any other duty so imposed on him or to any duty imposed on him by, under or by virtue of any other provision of this Act or of any other enactment.

---

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 1(1) inserted (6.4.2009 for certain purposes, otherwise 1.9.2009) by [Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 \(c. 22\)](#), ss. 56, 68, [Sch. 6 para. 48](#); S.I. 2009/479, [art. 6\(1\)\(e\)\(2\)](#) (as amended by S.I. 2009/2232, [art. 3](#))

---

#### Commencement Information

- II** [S. 1](#) wholly in force at 1.4.1997; [s. 1](#) not in force at Royal Assent see [s. 105\(1\)](#); [s. 1\(1\)-\(3\)](#) in force for certain purposes at 1.11.1995 by S.I. 1995/2787, [art. 3](#), [Sch.](#); [s. 1](#) in force at 1.4.1997 insofar as not already in force by S.I. 1996/3201, [art. 3\(7\)](#) (with [arts. 4-6](#)) (as amended (7.3.1997) by S.I. 1997/744, [arts. 2, 3](#))

**Changes to legislation:**

Children (Scotland) Act 1995, Section 1 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.

[View outstanding changes](#)

**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:**

- Act applied (with modifications) by [S.I. 2010/875 reg. 16Sch. 2](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). These Regulations never came into effect, having been revoked before coming into force by [S.I. 2010/1906, reg. 2](#))
- Act power to modify conferred by [2010 asp 8, s. 190\(2A\)](#) (as substituted) by [2024 asp 5 s. 29\(2\)\(b\)](#)

**Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):**

- [s. 3\(3A\)\(ba\)](#) inserted by [2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 25](#)
- [s. 4B](#) inserted by [2020 asp 16 s. 28\(2\)](#)
- [s. 6\(1A\)-\(1D\)](#) inserted by [2020 asp 16 s. 1\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- [s. 10\(1A\)](#) inserted by [2024 asp 2 Sch. 1 para. 18\(b\)](#)
- [s. 11\(14\)](#) inserted by [2020 asp 16 s. 10\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- [s. 11B11C](#) inserted by [2020 asp 16 s. 8\(2\)](#)
- [s. 11B\(2\)](#) power to amend conferred by [2020 asp 16 s. 32](#)
- [s. 11D](#) inserted by [2020 asp 16 s. 17\(2\)](#)
- [s. 11D\(3\)](#) power to amend conferred by [2020 asp 16 s. 32](#)
- [s. 11E](#) inserted by [2020 asp 16 s. 18\(2\)](#)
- [s. 11F](#) inserted by [2020 asp 16 s. 20\(2\)](#)
- [s. 11G](#) inserted by [2020 asp 16 s. 22\(2\)](#)
- [s. 11ZA11ZB](#) inserted by [2020 asp 16 s. 1\(4\)](#)
- [s. 11ZA\(2A\)](#) inserted by [2020 asp 16 s. 30\(2\)](#)
- [s. 11ZA\(3\)\(f\)](#) inserted by [2020 asp 16 s. 16\(2\)](#)
- [s. 16\(1A\)](#) inserted by [2020 asp 16 s. 30\(3\)](#)
- [s. 16\(2\)-\(2B\)](#) substituted for [s. 16\(2\)](#) by [2020 asp 16 s. 1\(6\)](#)
- [s. 17A](#) inserted by [2024 asp 5 s. 24\(2\)](#)
- [s. 33A](#) inserted by [2024 asp 5 s. 30\(2\)](#)
- [s. 100A](#) inserted by [2020 asp 16 s. 21\(2\)](#)
- [s. 101D](#) inserted by [2020 asp 16 s. 11\(2\)](#)
- [s. 101E](#) inserted by [2020 asp 16 s. 12\(2\)](#)