

*These notes refer to the Children Act 2004 (c.31)  
which received Royal Assent on 15th November 2004*

# CHILDREN ACT 2004

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS

#### Part 4 – Advisory and Support Services for Family Proceedings

##### Other provisions

##### *Section 67: Commencement*

259. [Part 1](#), which establishes the Children’s Commissioner, section 59, the power to give financial assistance, and section 63, which allows disclosure of information by the Inland Revenue will come into force on Royal Assent.
260. [Sections 45 to 47](#), which create the power to establish by regulations a registration scheme for private foster carers in England and Wales, section 49 which creates the power by order to make provision on payments to foster carers, and section 58 which restricts the use of the defence of reasonable chastisement, will come into force two months after Royal Assent.
261. The rest of the Act’s provisions will be brought into force on dates appointed by the Secretary of State or, where specified, by the National Assembly for Wales by commencement order. In particular:
- Sections 25 and 31 will be commenced by the National Assembly for Wales except where their provisions relate to non-devolved bodies in which case they may only be commenced with the consent of the Secretary of State.
  - Section 28 will be commenced by the National Assembly for Wales insofar as its provisions relate to devolved bodies. Provisions relating to non-devolved bodies will be commenced by the Secretary of State after consulting the National Assembly for Wales.

##### Hansard References

262. The following table sets out the dates and Hansard references for each stage of this Act’s passage through Parliament.

<i>Stage</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Hansard Reference</i>
<i>House of Lords</i>		
Introduction	3 March 2004	Vol. 658 Cols. 657-8
Second Reading	30 March 2004	Vol. 659 Cols. 1208-310
Committee	4 May 2004	Vol. 660 Cols. 1036-96
	6 May 2004	Vol. 660 Cols. 1218-57, 1273-344

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<i>Stage</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Hansard Reference</i>
	20 May 2004	Vol. 661 Cols. 878-914, 925-1000
	24 May 2004	Vol. 661 Cols. 1052-124, 1137-86
	27 May 2004	Vol. 661 Cols. 1441-88, 1507-24
Report	17 June 2004	Vol. 662 Cols. 870-902, 922-1004
	21 June 2004	Vol. 662 Cols. 1013-30, 1043-76
	22 June 2004	Vol. 662 Cols. 1208-34
	5 July 2004	Vol. 663 Cols. 518-603
Third Reading	15 July 2004	Vol. 663 Cols. 1414-97
<b><i>House of Commons</i></b>		
Introduction	19 July 2004	Bill 144 2003/4
Second Reading	13 Sept 2004	Vol. 424 Cols. 1000-88
Committee	12 Oct 2004, 14 Oct 2004, 19 Oct 2004 and 21 Oct 2004	Hansard Standing Committee B
Report and Third Reading	2 Nov 2004	Vol. 426 Cols. 173-281
<b>Lords Consideration of Commons Amendments</b>	10 Nov 2004	Vol. 666 Cols. 993-1008
<b>Royal Assent</b> — 15 November 2004		House of Lords Hansard Vol. 666, Col. 1185
		House of Commons Hansard Vol. 426, Col. 1009