



Civil Partnership Act 2004

2004 CHAPTER 33

PART 1

INTRODUCTION

1 Civil partnership

(1) A civil partnership is a relationship between two people of the same sex (“civil partners”)—

- (a) which is formed when they register as civil partners of each other—
 - (i) in England or Wales (under Part 2),
 - (ii) in Scotland (under Part 3),
 - (iii) in Northern Ireland (under Part 4), or
 - (iv) outside the United Kingdom under an Order in Council made under Chapter 1 of Part 5 (registration at British consulates etc. or by armed forces personnel), or
- (b) which they are treated under Chapter 2 of Part 5 as having formed (at the time determined under that Chapter) by virtue of having registered an overseas relationship.

(2) Subsection (1) is subject to the provisions of this Act under or by virtue of which a civil partnership is void.

(3)^[F1](a) A civil partnership ends only on death, dissolution or annulment ^[F2], or
(b) in the case of a civil partnership formed as mentioned in subsection (1)(a)(i) or (iv), on the conversion of the civil partnership into a marriage under section 9 of the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013.]

^[F3](3A) Subsection (3) is subject to section 11(2)(a) of the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (ending of certain civil partnerships on marriage under Scots law).]

(4) The references in subsection (3) to dissolution and annulment are to dissolution and annulment having effect under or recognised in accordance with this Act.

Status: Point in time view as at 27/09/2017.

Changes to legislation: Civil Partnership Act 2004, Part 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 25 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)

- (5) References in this Act to an overseas relationship are to be read in accordance with Chapter 2 of Part 5.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Word in s. 1(3) inserted (10.12.2014) by [Marriage \(Same Sex Couples\) Act 2013 \(c. 30\), s. 21\(3\), Sch. 7 para. 34\(a\)](#); S.I. 2014/3169, art. 2
- F2** S. 1(3)(b) and word inserted (10.12.2014) by [Marriage \(Same Sex Couples\) Act 2013 \(c. 30\), s. 21\(3\), Sch. 7 para. 34\(b\)](#); S.I. 2014/3169, art. 2
- F3** S. 1(3A) inserted (S.) (16.12.2014) by [Marriage and Civil Partnership \(Scotland\) Act 2014 \(asp 5\), ss. 11\(9\), 36](#); S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.

Status:

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