



Immigration Act 2014

2014 CHAPTER 22

PART 4

MARRIAGE AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP

CHAPTER 2

SHAM MARRIAGE AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP

55 Meaning of “sham marriage” and “sham civil partnership”

(1) The Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 is amended in accordance with this section.

(2) In section 24 (duty to report suspicious marriages), for subsection (5) substitute—

“(5) A marriage (whether or not it is void) is a “sham marriage” if—

- (a) either, or both, of the parties to the marriage is not a relevant national,
- (b) there is no genuine relationship between the parties to the marriage, and
- (c) either, or both, of the parties to the marriage enter into the marriage for one or more of these purposes—
 - (i) avoiding the effect of one or more provisions of United Kingdom immigration law or the immigration rules;
 - (ii) enabling a party to the marriage to obtain a right conferred by that law or those rules to reside in the United Kingdom.

(6) In subsection (5)—

“relevant national” means—

- (a) a British citizen,
- (b) a national of an EEA State other than the United Kingdom, or
- (c) a national of Switzerland;

Status: Point in time view as at 04/05/2021.

Changes to legislation: Immigration Act 2014, CHAPTER 2 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 26 August 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)

“United Kingdom immigration law” includes any subordinate legislation concerning the right of relevant nationals to move between and reside in member States.”.

(3) In section 24A (duty to report suspicious civil partnerships), for subsection (5) substitute—

- “(5) A civil partnership (whether or not it is void) is a “sham civil partnership” if—
- (a) either, or both, of the parties to the civil partnership is not a relevant national,
 - (b) there is no genuine relationship between the parties to the civil partnership, and
 - (c) either, or both, of the parties to the civil partnership enter into the civil partnership for one or more of these purposes—
 - (i) avoiding the effect of one or more provisions of United Kingdom immigration law or the immigration rules;
 - (ii) enabling a party to the civil partnership to obtain a right conferred by that law or those rules to reside in the United Kingdom.

(5A) In subsection (5)—

“relevant national” means—

- (a) a British citizen,
- (b) a national of an EEA State other than the United Kingdom, or
- (c) a national of Switzerland;

“United Kingdom immigration law” includes any subordinate legislation concerning the right of relevant nationals to move between and reside in member States.”.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 55 extended (Isle of Man) (with modifications) (31.12.2020) by S.I. 2008/680, art. 22(2), Sch. 9A (as amended by [The Immigration \(Isle of Man\) \(Amendment\) Order 2020 \(S.I. 2020/1214\)](#), arts. 1, 5, 12)

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 55 in force at 1.3.2015 by S.I. 2015/371, art. 2(1)(i)

56 Duty to report suspicious marriages and civil partnerships

(1) The Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 is amended in accordance with this section.

(2) In section 24 (duty to report suspicious marriages), in subsection (1)—

- (a) after paragraph (a) insert—
 - “(aa) a superintendent registrar, or registrar of births, deaths and marriages, who receives information in advance of a person giving such a notice,”;
- (b) at the end of paragraph (c), omit “or”;
- (c) after paragraph (c) insert—

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- “(ca) a district registrar who receives information in advance of a person submitting such a notice or certificate,”;
 - (d) after paragraph (d) insert “or
 - (da) a registrar or deputy registrar who receives information in advance of a person giving such a notice,”.
- (3) In section 24A (duty to report suspicious civil partnerships), in subsection (1)—
 - (a) after paragraph (a) insert—
 - “(aa) a registration authority that receives information in advance of a person giving such a notice,”;
 - (b) at the end of paragraph (c), omit “or”;
 - (c) after paragraph (c) insert—
 - “(ca) a district registrar who receives information in advance of a person giving such a notice,”;
 - (d) after paragraph (d) insert “or
 - (da) a registrar who receives information in advance of a person giving such a notice,”.

Status:

Point in time view as at 04/05/2021.

Changes to legislation:

Immigration Act 2014, CHAPTER 2 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 26 August 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.