

2002 No. 3072

SOCIAL SECURITY

The Jobseeker's Allowance (Amendment) Regulations 2002

Made - - - - - 12th December 2002

Coming into force in accordance with regulation 1

Whereas a draft of this instrument was laid before Parliament in accordance with section 37(2) of the Jobseekers Act 1995(a) and approved by resolution of each House of Parliament;

Now, therefore, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 6(4), 8(1)(a) and (2)(d)(ii), 35(1) and 36(2) and (4) of the Jobseekers Act 1995(b), and after agreement by the Social Security Advisory Committee that proposals in respect of these Regulations need not be referred to it(c), hereby makes the following Regulations:

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Jobseeker's Allowance (Amendment) Regulations 2002 and shall come into force—

- (a) for the purposes of regulation 5, on the day after the day on which they are made;
- (b) for all other purposes, on 1st January 2003.

Amendment of the Jobseeker's Allowance Regulations

2. The Jobseeker's Allowance Regulations 1996(d) shall be amended in accordance with the following regulations.

Amendment of regulation 5: exceptions to requirement to be available immediately

3. In regulation 5—

(a) for paragraph (1) there shall be substituted the following paragraph—

“(1) In order to be regarded as available for employment—

- (a) a person who has caring responsibilities is not required to be able to take up employment immediately, providing he is willing and able to take up employment on being given 48 hours' notice; and
- (b) a person who is engaged in voluntary work is not required to be able to take up employment immediately, providing he is willing and able—
 - (i) to take up employment on being given one week's notice; and

(a) 1995 c. 18.

(b) Relevant amendments have been made to section 8 by the Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999 (c. 30). Section 8(1) was amended by sections 59 and 70 of, and paragraph 7 of Schedule 7 and paragraph 29 of Schedule 8 to, that Act. Section 8(1A) was inserted by section 59 of, and paragraph 7 of Schedule 7 to, that Act. Section 35(1) is an interpretation provision and is cited because of the meaning ascribed to the words “prescribed” and “regulations”.

(c) See sections 170 and 173(1)(b) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992 (c. 5); paragraph 67 of Schedule 2 to the Jobseekers Act 1995 added that Act to the list of “relevant enactments” in respect of which regulations must normally be referred to the Committee.

(d) S.I. 1996/207; the relevant amending instruments are S.I. 1996/1517, 2000/1978 and 2000/2194.

- (ii) to attend for interview in connection with the opportunity of any such employment on being given 48 hours' notice.”;
- (b) in paragraph (5) after the words “take up employment immediately, the” there shall be inserted the words “one week,”;
- (c) after paragraph (5) there shall be inserted the following paragraph—
 - “(6) In this regulation “week” means any period of seven consecutive days.”.

Amendment of regulation 12: volunteers

4. For regulation 12 there shall be substituted the following regulation—
- “12.—(1) Paragraph (2) applies if in any week a person is engaged in voluntary work and—
- (a) he has restricted the total number of hours for which he is available in accordance with regulation 7(2), 13(3) or (4) or 17(2); and
 - (b) the hours in which he is engaged in voluntary work fall in whole or in part within his pattern of availability.
- (2) In determining whether a person to whom this paragraph applies is available for employment no matter relating to his voluntary work shall be relevant providing—
- (a) on being given one week's notice, he is willing and able to re-arrange the hours in which he is engaged in voluntary work in order to take up employment at times falling within his pattern of availability; and
 - (b) on being given 48 hours' notice, he is willing and able to re-arrange the hours in which he is engaged in voluntary work in order to attend for interview at times falling within his pattern of availability in connection with the opportunity of any such employment; and
 - (c) he complies with the requirements of regulation 6.
- (3) In paragraph (2) “week” means any period of seven consecutive days.”.

Amendment of regulation 15: circumstances in which a person is not to be regarded as available

5. In regulation 15 before paragraph (c) there shall be inserted the following paragraph—
- “(bc) if he is on paternity leave or ordinary adoption leave by virtue of section 75A of the Employment Rights Act 1996(a);”.

Amendment of regulation 30: circumstances in which a claimant is to be regarded as having good cause for failing to comply with a notification under regulation 23 or 23A

6. In regulation 30(a) after “regulation 5(1)” there shall be inserted “(a) or (b)”.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

Malcolm Wicks
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
Department for Work and Pensions

12th December 2002

(a) 1996 c. 18. Section 75A was inserted by section 3 of the Employment Act 2002 (c. 22).

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations amend the Jobseeker's Allowance Regulations 1996 (S.I. 1996/207) ("the Jobseeker's Allowance Regulations").

Regulations 3 and 4 amend regulation 5 and regulation 12 of the Jobseeker's Allowance Regulations such that a person who is engaged in voluntary work shall be treated as available for employment if he is available to commence employment on receipt of one week's notice and is available for interview in connection with the opportunity of any such employment on receipt of 48 hours' notice.

Regulation 5 amends regulation 15 of the Jobseeker's Allowance Regulations to provide that a person on statutory paternity leave or ordinary adoption leave shall not be regarded as being available for employment for the purposes of those regulations.

Regulation 6 makes a minor technical amendment to regulation 30(a) of the Jobseeker's Allowance Regulations that is consequential on the amendments made by regulation 3(a).

These Regulations do not impose any charge on business.

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