
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2003 No. 495

The Guardian's Allowance (General) Regulations 2003

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Guardian's Allowance (General) Regulations 2003 and shall come into force on 7th April 2003 immediately after the commencement of section 49 of the Tax Credits Act 2002.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these Regulations –

“the Act” means the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992;

“adopted” means adopted pursuant to –

- (a) an order made in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man;
- (b) an overseas adoption within the meaning of section 72(2) of the Adoption Act 1976(1);
- (c) a Convention adoption order within the meaning of section 72(1) of the Adoption Act 1976(2); or
- (d) a foreign adoption order within the meaning of section 4(3) of the Adoption (Hague Convention) Act (Northern Ireland) 1969(3).

“the Board” means the Commissioners of Inland Revenue;

“the Northern Ireland Act” means the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992.

Modification to section 77(2) of the Act

3. Section 77(2) of the Act and section 77(2) of the Northern Ireland Act shall be treated as modified where regulations 4 to 6 apply.

Adopted children

4.—(1) Where a child has been adopted by two persons jointly, a reference in section 77(2) of the Act or section 77(2) of the Northern Ireland Act to the child's parents shall be read as a reference to those two persons.

(2) Where a child has been adopted by one person only, the circumstances to be satisfied in section 77(2) of the Act or section 77(2) of the Northern Ireland Act are that that person is dead.

(1) 1976 c. 36. Section 72(2) was amended by sections 15(1) and 17, and paragraph 3(8) of Schedule 2 to the Adoption (Intercountry Aspects) Act 1999 (c. 18). The Adoption (Designation of Overseas Adoptions) Order 1973 (S.I.1973/19) as amended by S.I. 1993/690 was made under section 72(2).

(2) 1976 c. 36. Section 72(1) was amended by sections 8 and 17 of the Adoption (Intercountry Aspects) Act 1999 (c. 18).

(3) 1969 c. 22 (N.I.).

Illegitimate children

5. Where –

- (a) a child's parents are unmarried at the date of the birth; and
- (b) paternity has not been established –
 - (i) by a court of competent jurisdiction; or
 - (ii) in the opinion of the determining authority,
 the circumstances to be satisfied in section 77(2) of the Act or section 77(2) of the Northern Ireland Act are that the mother of the child is dead.

Children of divorced parents

6.—(1) Where –

- (a) the marriage of a child's parents has been terminated by divorce;
- (b) at the death of one of the parents the child was not in the custody of or maintained by the other parent;
- (c) there is no court order –
 - (i) granting custody of the child to that other parent; or
 - (ii) imposing any liability on him for the child's maintenance; and
- (d) there is no maintenance assessment or maintenance calculation, as defined by section 54 of the Child Support Act 1991(4), or, for Northern Ireland, Article 2(2) of the Child Support (Northern Ireland) Order 1991(5) in force in respect of that other parent and child,

the circumstances to be satisfied in section 77(2) of the Act or section 77(2) of the Northern Ireland Act are that one of the child's parents is dead.

(2) Where a child has been adopted by two persons jointly, any reference in paragraph (1) above to the child's parents shall be read as a reference to those two persons.

Circumstances in which a person is to be treated as being in prison

7.—(1) The circumstances in which a person is to be treated as being in prison for the purposes of section 77 of the Act or section 77 of the Northern Ireland Act are that he is –

- (a) serving a custodial sentence within the meaning of section 76 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000(6), Article 2(2) of the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 1996(7) or a sentence of detention or imprisonment within the meaning of section 307(1) of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995(8), with not less than 2 years remaining from the death of the other parent; or
- (b) detained in a hospital by order of the court under –
 - (i) section 37(1)(9), 38, or 45A(10) of the Mental Health Act 1983;

(4) 1991 c. 48. Section 54 was amended by paragraph 11(20)(d) of Schedule 3 to the Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act 2000.

(5) S.I. 1991/2628 (N.I. 23). Article 2(2) was amended by paragraph 12(e) of Schedule 3 to the Child Support, Pensions and Social Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2000.

(6) 2000 c. 6.

(7) S.I. 1996/3160 (N.I. 24) as amended by paragraph 51(b) of Schedule 5 to the Criminal Justice (Children) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 (S.I. 1998/1504 (N.I.9)).

(8) 1995 c. 46.

(9) 1983 c. 20. Section 37(1) was amended by section 55 of, and paragraph 12(1) of Schedule 4 to, the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997 (c. 43), and section 165(1) of, and paragraphs 90(1) and (2) of Schedule 9 to, the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 (c. 6).

(10) 1983 c. 20. Section 45A was inserted by section 46 of the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997 (c. 43).

- (ii) section 5 of the Criminal Procedure (Insanity) Act 1964(11);
- (iii) section 6 or 14 of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968(12);
- (iv) section 57, 58 or 59A of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995(13);
- (v) Article 44, 45, 50A, or 51(2) and (3) of the Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986(14); or
- (vi) section 11 or 13(5A) and (6) of the Criminal Appeal (Northern Ireland) Act 1980 (15).

(2) In calculating the length of the sentence for the purposes of paragraphs (1)(a) above and (4) below –

- (a) disregard any reduction made to the length of the sentence to take account of any period spent in custody prior to sentencing; and
- (b) include any period spent in custody immediately prior to sentencing, save that where he is serving a custodial sentence or sentence of detention or imprisonment with the meaning of paragraph (1)(a) above immediately prior to sentencing, include only such period of that sentence as remains following sentencing for the later sentence,

but nothing in this paragraph shall permit the payment of guardian's allowance in respect of any period in custody prior to sentencing.

(3) Subject to paragraph (4) below, a person shall not cease to be treated as being in prison in accordance with paragraph (1) above by virtue of the fact that he is temporarily released, unlawfully at large, or, in the case of a person serving a sentence, transferred to a hospital.

(4) A person serving a sentence in accordance with paragraph (1)(a) above shall cease to be treated as being in prison in accordance with that paragraph where –

- (a) he is released on licence, the remainder of his sentence is remitted, his sentence is reduced on appeal to a term of less than 2 years, or his conviction is quashed on appeal; or
- (b) he is not in custody and has not been in custody for a period at least equal to the remaining period of his sentence,

but that where a person to whom sub-paragraph (b) applies returns to prison to serve the remainder of the sentence, the length of the sentence for the purposes of paragraph (1)(a) above shall be the period of the remainder of the sentence.

(5) This regulation shall apply, subject to the necessary modifications, to a parent who is outside Great Britain or Northern Ireland and serving a custodial sentence with not less than 2 years remaining from the death of the other parent or detained in a hospital by a court order.

(11) 1964 c. 84. Section 5 was substituted by section 3 of the Criminal Procedure (Insanity and Unfitness to Plead) Act 1991 (c. 25).

(12) 1968 c. 19. Sections 6 and 14 were substituted by section 4 of the Criminal Procedure (Insanity and Unfitness to Plead) Act 1991 (c. 25).

(13) 1995 c. 46. Section 57 was amended by paragraph 26(1) of Schedule 5 to the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000. Section 58 was amended by paragraph 26(2) of Schedule 5 to the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000, section 3 of the Mental Health (Public Safety and Appeals) (Scotland) Act 1999, and paragraph 21 of Schedule 1 to the Crime and Punishment (Scotland) Act 1997 (c. 48). Section 59A was inserted by Article 51(1) of the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 (S.I. 1996/3160 (N.I.24)) and amended by paragraph 26 of Schedule 5 to the Criminal Justice (Children) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998. Article 51(2) and (3) was amended by Article 51(2) of the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 1996.

(14) S.I. 1986/595 (N.I.4). Article 44 was amended by Schedule 1 to the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1994 (S.I. 1994/429 (N.I.2)) and paragraph 25 of Schedule 5 to the Criminal Justice (Children) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 (S.I. 1998/1504 (N.I.9)). Article 50A was inserted by Article 51(1) of the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 (S.I. 1996/3160 (N.I.24)) and amended by paragraph 26 of Schedule 5 to the Criminal Justice (Children) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998. Article 51(2) and (3) was amended by Article 51(2) of the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 1996.

(15) 1980 c. 47. Section 11 was amended by Part I of Schedule 5 to the Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 (S.I. 1986/595 (N.I.4)). Section 13 was amended by paragraphs 5 and 6 of Schedule 5 to the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 (S.I. 1996/3160 (N.I.24)).

Rate of allowance and payment to the National Insurance Fund or the Northern Ireland National Insurance Fund

8.—(1) Where a person treated as being in prison for the purposes of section 77 of the Act or section 77 of the Northern Ireland Act contributes to the cost of providing for a child, the weekly rate of any guardian's allowance payable shall be reduced by the amount of the contribution made in the week preceding the week for which any allowance is payable.

(2) In a case where entitlement to guardian's allowance is established by reference to a person being in prison, that person shall, on notice being given by the Board, pay to the National Insurance Fund or the Northern Ireland National Insurance Fund an amount equal to that paid by way of guardian's allowance.

Residence condition

9.—(1) There shall be no entitlement to guardian's allowance in respect of a child unless at least one of the child's parents –

- (a) was born in the United Kingdom; or
- (b) at the date of death of the parent whose death gives rise to the claim for guardian's allowance, has, in any two year period since the age of 16, spent at least 52 weeks of that period in Great Britain or Northern Ireland, as the case may require.

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1)(b) above, a person shall be treated as being present in Great Britain or Northern Ireland (as the case may require) where –

- (a) his absence is by virtue of his employment –
 - (i) as a serving member of the forces within the meaning of regulation 140 of the Social Security (Contributions) Regulations 2001⁽¹⁶⁾;
 - (ii) as an airman within the meaning of regulation 111 of those Regulations; or
 - (iii) as a mariner within the meaning of regulation 115 of those Regulations; or
- (b) his absence is by virtue of his employment and that employment is prescribed employment within the meaning of regulation 114(1) of those Regulations (continental shelf operations).

(3) Where a child has been adopted by two persons jointly, any reference in paragraph (1) above to the child's parents shall be read as a reference to those two parents, and where a child has been adopted by one person only, that person must satisfy the requirement of paragraph (1) above.

(4) Where regulation 5 applies, the child's mother must satisfy the requirement of paragraph (1) above.

Prescribed manner of making an election under section 77(9) of the Act or section 77(9) of the Northern Ireland Act

10.—(1) An election under section 77(9) of the Act or section 77(9) of the Northern Ireland Act (payment of guardian's allowance not to be made to a husband) must –

- (a) be in writing, and
- (b) be made either –
 - (i) on a form approved by the Board, or
 - (ii) in such other manner as the Board may accept as sufficient in the circumstances of the particular case.

(16) S.I. 2001/1004.

- (2) In relation to guardian's allowance under the Act, notice of the election must be given to –
- (a) the Child Benefit Office, Waterview Park, Washington, Tyne and Wear; or
 - (b) any Inland Revenue Enquiry Centre.
- (3) In relation to guardian's allowance under the Northern Ireland Act, notice of the election must be given to –
- (a) the Child Benefit Office (Northern Ireland), Windsor House, Bedford Street, Belfast; or
 - (b) any Inland Revenue Enquiry Centre.
- (4) An election may be given by means of electronic communication in accordance with Schedule 2 to the Child Benefit and Guardian's Allowance (Administration) Regulations 2003⁽¹⁷⁾.

Revocations

11. The Regulations specified in column (1) of the Schedule are revoked to the extent mentioned in column (3) of the Schedule.

5th March 2003

Nick Ainger
Jim Fitzpatrick
Two of the Lords Commissioners of Her
Majesty's Treasury