

**2024 No. 846 (C. 54)**

**PRISONS, ENGLAND AND WALES**

**The Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 (Commencement No. 2)  
Regulations 2024**

*Made* - - - -

*30th July 2024*

The Secretary of State makes these Regulations in exercise of the power conferred by section 81(2) of the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024<sup>(a)</sup>.

**Citation and extent**

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 (Commencement No. 2) Regulations 2024.

(2) These Regulations extend to England and Wales.

**Provisions coming into force on 2nd August 2024**

2. The following provisions of the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 come into force on 2nd August 2024—

- (a) Section 75(1), (2), (3)(b) to (d) and (4) (whole life prisoners prohibited from forming a marriage);
- (b) Section 76(1) to (6), (8) and (9) (whole life prisoners prohibited from forming a civil partnership).

30th July 2024

*Shabana Mahmood*  
Secretary of State  
Ministry of Justice

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Regulations)*

These Regulations bring into force section 75(1), (2), (3)(b) to (d) and (4) of the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024, which amends the Marriage Act 1949 (c. 76) and the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 (c. 18), and section 76(1) to (6), (8) and (9) of the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024, which amends the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (c. 33).

Sections 75 and 76 amend the Marriage Act 1949 and Civil Partnership Act 2004 respectively to prohibit prisoners subject to whole life orders from marrying or entering into civil partnerships unless they have permission from the Secretary of State (who may only give permission for a whole life prisoner to marry if satisfied that this is justified by exceptional circumstances).

Sections 75 and 76 also make further various amendments to the Marriage Act 1949 and the Civil Partnership Act 2004 respectively, to ensure that registrars have all the information they need at the point they consider an application to marry or enter into a civil partnership, and to clarify the relevant procedure.

Finally, Section 75 amends the Marriage Act 1949 and the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973, to establish that if a prisoner subject to a whole life order does manage to marry without written permission from the Secretary of State, their marriage will not be legally valid.

An impact assessment has not been produced for this statutory instrument as no significant impact on the private, voluntary or public sectors is foreseen.

## NOTE AS TO EARLIER COMMENCEMENT REGULATIONS

*(This note is not part of the Regulations)*

The following provisions of the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 have been brought into force by commencement Regulations made before the date of these Regulations.

<i>Provision</i>	<i>Date of Commencement</i>	<i>S.I. No.</i>
Section 68	17 June 2024	2024/755

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