



Judicature (Northern Ireland) Act 1978

1978 CHAPTER 23

PART II

THE HIGH COURT

Jurisdiction in relation to persons under disability

26 Wards of court.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, no minor shall be made a ward of court except by virtue of an order to that effect made by the High Court.
- (2) Where application is made for such an order in respect of a minor, the minor shall become a ward of court on the making of the application, but shall cease to be a ward of court at the expiration of such period as may be prescribed, unless within that period an order has been made in accordance with the application.

[^{F1}(2A) Subsection (2) does not apply with respect to a child who is the subject of a care order (as defined by Article 2(2) of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995).]

- (3) The High Court may, either upon an application in that behalf or without such an application, order that any minor who is for the time being a ward of court shall cease to be a ward of court.
- (4) The power of the High Court to make a minor a ward of court or to make an order in relation to a minor who is a ward of court may be exercised irrespective of whether or not the minor has property of any kind.

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 26(2A) added (4.11.1996) by S.I. 1995/755 (N.I. 2), arts. 1(2), 185(1), **Sch. 9 para. 90** (with Sch. 8 paras. 1(1), 23(4)) S.R. 1996/297, **art. 2(2)**

Changes to legislation:

Judicature (Northern Ireland) Act 1978, Section 26 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 24 February 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.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 14(1)(1A) substituted for s. 14(1) by [2002 c. 26 Sch. 12 para. 13](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). Sch. 5 repealed (3.4.2006) without ever being in force by 2005 c. 4, Sch. 5 para. 125, Sch. 18 Pt. 3; S.I. 2006/1014, art. 2, Sch. 1 paras. 12(f), 30(c))
- s. 106(3A) inserted by [2011 c. 24 \(N.I.\) s. 89\(1\)](#)