



# Senior Courts Act 1981

## 1981 CHAPTER 54

### PART I

#### CONSTITUTION OF [F<sup>1</sup>SENIOR COURTS]

##### *The Crown Court*

#### **8 The Crown Court.**

- (1) The jurisdiction of the Crown Court shall be exercisable by—
- any judge of the High Court; or
  - any Circuit judge [F<sup>1</sup>, Recorder, qualifying judge advocate or District Judge (Magistrates' Courts)] ; or
  - subject to and in accordance with the provisions of sections 74 and 75(2), a judge of the High Court, Circuit judge [F<sup>2</sup>, Recorder or qualifying judge advocate ] sitting with not more than four justices of the peace,
- and any such persons when exercising the jurisdiction of the Crown Court shall be judges of the Crown Court.

[F<sup>3</sup>(1A) The jurisdiction of the Crown Court exercisable by a qualifying judge advocate by virtue of subsection (1) is the jurisdiction of the Court in relation to any criminal cause or matter other than an appeal from a youth court.]

[F<sup>4</sup>(2) A justice of the peace is not disqualified from acting as a judge of the Crown Court merely because the proceedings are not at a place within the local justice area to which he is assigned or because the proceedings are not related to that area in any other way.]

- (3) When the Crown Court sits in the City of London it shall be known as the Central Criminal Court; and the Lord Mayor of the City and any Alderman of the City shall be entitled to sit as judges of the Central Criminal Court with any judge of the High Court [F<sup>5</sup>, Circuit judge, Recorder, qualifying judge advocate or District Judge (Magistrates' Courts)] .

*Changes to legislation: Senior Courts Act 1981, Cross Heading: The Crown Court is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 April 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) View outstanding changes*

[<sup>F6</sup>(4) Subsection (1A) does not affect the jurisdiction of the Crown Court exercisable by a person who holds an office mentioned in subsection (1)(a) or (b) where that person is also a qualifying judge advocate.]

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 8(1)(b) substituted (2.4.2012) by [Armed Forces Act 2011 \(c. 18\)](#), s. 32(3), **Sch. 2 para. 1(2)**; S.I. 2012/669, art. 4(c)
- F2** Words in s. 8(1)(c) substituted (2.4.2012) by [Armed Forces Act 2011 \(c. 18\)](#), s. 32(3), **Sch. 2 para. 1(3)**; S.I. 2012/669, art. 4(c)
- F3** S. 8(1A) inserted (2.4.2012) by [Armed Forces Act 2011 \(c. 18\)](#), s. 32(3), **Sch. 2 para. 1(4)**; S.I. 2012/669, art. 4(c)
- F4** S. 8(2) substituted (1.4.2005) by [Courts Act 2003 \(c. 39\)](#), ss. 109(1), 110, **Sch. 8 para. 259(2)**; S.I. 2005/910, **art. 3(y)**
- F5** Words in s. 8(3) substituted (2.4.2012) by [Armed Forces Act 2011 \(c. 18\)](#), s. 32(3), **Sch. 2 para. 1(5)**; S.I. 2012/669, art. 4(c)
- F6** S. 8(4) inserted (2.4.2012) by [Armed Forces Act 2011 \(c. 18\)](#), s. 32(3), **Sch. 2 para. 1(6)**; S.I. 2012/669, art. 4(c)

**Changes to legislation:**

Senior Courts Act 1981, Cross Heading: The Crown Court is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 April 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.

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**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. 31(3)(a) word inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 85\(1\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 31(3)(a) word inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 85\(1\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 31(3)(b) and word inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 85\(1\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 31(3)(b) and word inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 85\(1\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 31(3A)(3B) inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 85\(2\)](#)
- s. 31(3A)(3B) inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 85\(2\)](#)