



# Insolvency Act 1986

## 1986 CHAPTER 45

### PART IX

#### BANKRUPTCY

#### CHAPTER I

[<sup>F1</sup>THE COURT: BANKRUPTCY PETITIONS AND BANKRUPTCY ORDERS]

#### *Preliminary*

#### **266 Other preliminary conditions.**

- (1) Where a bankruptcy petition relating to an individual is presented by a person who is entitled to present a petition under two or more paragraphs of section 264(1), the petition is to be treated for the purposes of this Part as a petition under such one of those paragraphs as may be specified in the petition.
- (2) A bankruptcy petition shall not be withdrawn without the leave of the court.
- (3) The court has a general power, if it appears to it appropriate to do so on the grounds that there has been a contravention of the rules or for any other reason, to dismiss a bankruptcy petition or to stay proceedings on such a petition; and, where it stays proceedings on a petition, it may do so on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.
- (4) Without prejudice to subsection (3), where a petition under section 264(1)(a) <sup>F1</sup>... or (c) in respect of an individual is pending at a time when a criminal bankruptcy order is made against him, or is presented after such an order has been so made, the court may on the application of the Official Petitioner dismiss the petition if it appears to it appropriate to do so.

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**Changes to legislation:** Insolvency Act 1986, Section 266 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 17 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

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#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Word in s. 266(4) omitted (6.4.2016) by virtue of [Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013 \(c. 24\)](#), s. 103(3), [Sch. 19 para. 8](#); S.I. 2016/191, art. 2 (with art. 3)

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 266 modified (1.12.1994) by [S.I. 1994/2421](#), art. 11(2)(3), [Sch. 7 para. 4](#)
- C2** S. 266 applied with modifications by [S.I. 1986/1999](#), art. 3, [Sch. 1 Pt. 2](#) (as amended (31.5.2002) by [S.I. 2002/1309](#), [art. 3\(2\)\(4\)](#)) and as amended (31.12.2020) by [The Insolvency \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/146\)](#), reg. 1(3), [Sch. para. 108\(2\)\(c\)](#) (with regs. 4, 5); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1))

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

- Act amendment to earlier affecting provision S.I. 1986/1999, art. 3, Sch. 1 Pt. 2 by [S.I. 2017/1119 Sch. 3 para. 1](#)
- Act savings and transitional provisions for amendments by S.I. 2022/1166 by [S.I. 2022/1172 Regulations](#)

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

- s. 41HB(2) words substituted by [2018 c. 14 s. 1\(3\)\(b\)](#)