



# Insolvency Act 1986

## 1986 CHAPTER 45

### PART IX

#### BANKRUPTCY

#### CHAPTER II

##### PROTECTION OF BANKRUPT'S ESTATE AND INVESTIGATION OF HIS AFFAIRS

#### **[<sup>F1</sup>283A Bankrupt's home ceasing to form part of estate**

- (1) This section applies where property comprised in the bankrupt's estate consists of an interest in a dwelling-house which at the date of the bankruptcy was the sole or principal residence of—
  - (a) the bankrupt,
  - (b) the bankrupt's spouse [<sup>F2</sup>or civil partner], or
  - (c) a former spouse [<sup>F3</sup>or former civil partner] of the bankrupt.
- (2) At the end of the period of three years beginning with the date of the bankruptcy the interest mentioned in subsection (1) shall—
  - (a) cease to be comprised in the bankrupt's estate, and
  - (b) vest in the bankrupt (without conveyance, assignment or transfer).
- (3) Subsection (2) shall not apply if during the period mentioned in that subsection—
  - (a) the trustee realises the interest mentioned in subsection (1),
  - (b) the trustee applies for an order for sale in respect of the dwelling-house,
  - (c) the trustee applies for an order for possession of the dwelling-house,
  - (d) the trustee applies for an order under section 313 in Chapter IV in respect of that interest, or
  - (e) the trustee and the bankrupt agree that the bankrupt shall incur a specified liability to his estate (with or without the addition of interest from the

---

**Changes to legislation:** *Insolvency Act 1986, Section 283A is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 11 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*

---

date of the agreement) in consideration of which the interest mentioned in subsection (1) shall cease to form part of the estate.

- (4) Where an application of a kind described in subsection (3)(b) to (d) is made during the period mentioned in subsection (2) and is dismissed, unless the court orders otherwise the interest to which the application relates shall on the dismissal of the application—
- (a) cease to be comprised in the bankrupt's estate, and
  - (b) vest in the bankrupt (without conveyance, assignment or transfer).
- (5) If the bankrupt does not inform the trustee or the official receiver of his interest in a property before the end of the period of three months beginning with the date of the bankruptcy, the period of three years mentioned in subsection (2)—
- (a) shall not begin with the date of the bankruptcy, but
  - (b) shall begin with the date on which the trustee or official receiver becomes aware of the bankrupt's interest.
- (6) The court may substitute for the period of three years mentioned in subsection (2) a longer period—
- (a) in prescribed circumstances, and
  - (b) in such other circumstances as the court thinks appropriate.
- (7) The rules may make provision for this section to have effect with the substitution of a shorter period for the period of three years mentioned in subsection (2) in specified circumstances (which may be described by reference to action to be taken by a trustee in bankruptcy).
- (8) The rules may also, in particular, make provision—
- (a) requiring or enabling the trustee of a bankrupt's estate to give notice that this section applies or does not apply;
  - (b) about the effect of a notice under paragraph (a);
  - (c) requiring the trustee of a bankrupt's estate to make an application to the Chief Land Registrar.
- (9) Rules under subsection (8)(b) may, in particular—
- (a) disapply this section;
  - (b) enable a court to disapply this section;
  - (c) make provision in consequence of a disapplication of this section;
  - (d) enable a court to make provision in consequence of a disapplication of this section;
  - (e) make provision (which may include provision conferring jurisdiction on a court or tribunal) about compensation.]

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 283A inserted (1.4.2004) by 2002 c. 40, ss. 261(1), 279 (with s. 249(6)); S.I. 2003/2093, art. 2(2), Sch. 2 (subject to arts. 3-8 (as amended by S.I. 2003/2332, art. 2))
- F2** Words in s. 283A(1)(b) inserted (5.12.2005) by Civil Partnership Act 2004 (c. 33), ss. 261(1), 263, Sch. 27 para. 113(a); S.I. 2005/3175, art. 2(2) (subject to art. 2(3)-(5))
- F3** Words in s. 283A(1)(c) inserted (5.12.2005) by Civil Partnership Act 2004 (c. 33), ss. 261(1), 263, Sch. 27 para. 113(b); S.I. 2005/3175, art. 2(2) (subject to art. 2(3)-(5))

---

**Changes to legislation:** *Insolvency Act 1986, Section 283A is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 11 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*

---

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

- C1** S. 283A modified (1.7.2005) by S.I. 1994/2421, Sch. 4 Pt. II para. 28A (as inserted (1.7.2005) by S.I. 2005/1516, art. 9(4))  
S. 283A modified (1.7.2005) by S.I. 1994/2421, Sch. 7 para. 7A (as inserted (1.7.2005) by S.I. 2005/1516, art. 10(4))
- C2** S. 283A(4)-(9) applied (with modifications) by 2002 c. 40, ss. 261(10), 279 (with s. 249(6)); S.I. 2003/2093, art. 2(2), Sch. 2 (subject to arts. 3-8 (as amended by S.I. 2003/2332, art. 2))

**Changes to legislation:**

Insolvency Act 1986, Section 283A is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 11 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.

[View outstanding changes](#)

**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\(3\)\(b\)](#)