



Family Law Act 1986

1986 CHAPTER 55

PART II

RECOGNITION OF DIVORCES, ANNULMENTS AND LEGAL SEPARATIONS

Supplemental

54 Interpretation of Part II.

(1) In this Part—

“annulment” includes any [^{F1}nullity of marriage order or] decree or declarator of nullity of marriage, however expressed;

^{F2}
...

“part of the United Kingdom” means England and Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland;

“proceedings” means judicial or other proceedings.

(2) In this Part “country” includes a colony or other dependent territory of the United Kingdom but for the purposes of this Part a person shall be treated as a national of such a territory only if it has a law of citizenship or nationality separate from that of the United Kingdom and he is a citizen or national of that territory under that law.

Textual Amendments

F1 Words in s. 54 inserted (6.4.2022) by [Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 \(c. 11\), s. 8\(1\)\(8\), Sch. para. 51\(5\)](#); S.I. 2022/283, reg. 2

F2 Words in s. 54(1) omitted (S.) (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Jurisdiction and Judgments \(Family, Civil Partnership and Marriage \(Same Sex Couples\)\) \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment etc.\) Regulations 2019 \(S.S.I. 2019/104\), reg. 1, sch. 1 para. 2\(8\)](#) (with reg. 6) (as amended by S.S.I. 2020/441, regs. 1(2)(a), 16); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1); and (E.W.N.I.) by virtue of [The Jurisdiction and Judgments \(Family\) \(Amendment etc.\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/519\), reg. 1\(1\), Sch. para. 15\(8\)](#) (with reg. 8) (as amended by S.I. 2020/1574, regs. 1, 5(2)); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

Changes to legislation:

Family Law Act 1986, Section 54 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 12 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:

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

- s. 1(1)(ca)-(cc) inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 7](#)
- s. 2A(1)(1A) substituted for s. 2(1) by [1996 c. 27 Sch. 8 para. 37\(3\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). Sch. 8 Pt. I repealed (except for paras. 4, 16(1)(5)(a)(6)(b)(7)) (13.5.2014) by Children and Families Act 2014 (c. 6), ss. 18(2)(e), 139(4))
- s. 19(1A)-(1C) inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 8](#)
- s. 29A inserted by [2020 asp 16 s. 29\(2\)](#)
- s. 38(4) inserted by [1996 c. 27 Sch. 8 para. 37\(9\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). Sch. 8 Pt. I repealed (except for paras. 4, 16(1)(5)(a)(6)(b)(7)) (13.5.2014) by Children and Families Act 2014 (c. 6), ss. 18(2)(e), 139(4))