



Children Act 1989

1989 CHAPTER 41

PART III

[^{F1}SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PROVIDED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN ENGLAND]

Advice and assistance for certain children [^{F1} and young persons]

[^{F1}23A The responsible authority and relevant children.

- (1) The responsible local authority shall have the functions set out in section 23B in respect of a relevant child.
- (2) In subsection (1) “relevant child” means (subject to subsection (3)) a child who—
 - (a) is not being looked after [^{F2}by any local authority in England or by any local authority in Wales];
 - (b) was, before last ceasing to be looked after, an eligible child for the purposes of paragraph 19B of Schedule 2; and
 - (c) is aged sixteen or seventeen.
- (3) The [^{F3}Secretary of State] may prescribe—
 - (a) additional categories of relevant children; and
 - (b) categories of children who are not to be relevant children despite falling within subsection (2).
- (4) In subsection (1) the “responsible local authority” is the one which last looked after the child.
- (5) If under subsection (3)(a) the [^{F4}Secretary of State] prescribes a category of relevant children which includes children who do not fall within subsection (2)(b) (for example, because they were being looked after by a local authority in Scotland), [^{F5}the [^{F4}Secretary of State]] may in the regulations also provide for which local authority is to be the responsible local authority for those children.]

Changes to legislation: Children Act 1989, Section 23A is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 01 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. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

Textual Amendments

- F1** Ss. 23A, 23B, 23C inserted (1.10.2001) by 2000 c. 35, **s. 2(4)**; S.I. 2001/2191, **art. 2**; S.I. 2001/2878, **art. 2**
- F2** Words in s. 23A(2)(a) substituted (6.4.2016) by The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2016 (S.I. 2016/413), regs. 2(1), **74(a)**
- F3** Words in s. 23A(3) substituted (6.4.2016) by The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2016 (S.I. 2016/413), regs. 2(1), **74(b)**
- F4** Words in s. 23A(5) substituted (6.4.2016) by The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2016 (S.I. 2016/413), regs. 2(1), **74(c)**
- F5** Words in s. 23A(5) substituted (13.11.2008) by Children and Young Persons Act 2008 (c. 23), ss. 39, 44, **Sch. 3 para. 8(3)(b)**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 23A(2) modified (W.) (1.10.2001) by S.I. 2001/2189, **reg. 4(4)(5)** (as amended (1.8.2002) by S.I. 2002/1855, **reg. 2(b)(i)**)

Changes to legislation:

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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. 4(1A)(aa) inserted by [2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 21\(3\)](#)
- s. 4(1C) inserted by [2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 21\(4\)](#)
- s. 4ZA(2)(aa) inserted by [2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 22\(3\)](#)
- s. 4ZA(3A) inserted by [2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 22\(4\)](#)
- s. 8(4)(k) inserted by [2021 c. 17 s. 52\(1\)](#)
- s. 31A(4A) inserted by [2014 c. 6 s. 15\(2\)\(b\)](#)