



# Criminal Justice Act 2003

## 2003 CHAPTER 44

### PART 11

#### EVIDENCE

### CHAPTER 2

#### HEARSAY EVIDENCE

#### *General*

#### **132 Rules of court**

- (1) Rules of court may make such provision as appears to the appropriate authority to be necessary or expedient for the purposes of this Chapter; and the appropriate authority is the authority entitled to make the rules.
- (2) The rules may make provision about the procedure to be followed and other conditions to be fulfilled by a party proposing to tender a statement in evidence under any provision of this Chapter.
- (3) The rules may require a party proposing to tender the evidence to serve on each party to the proceedings such notice, and such particulars of or relating to the evidence, as may be prescribed.
- (4) The rules may provide that the evidence is to be treated as admissible by agreement of the parties if—
  - (a) a notice has been served in accordance with provision made under subsection (3), and
  - (b) no counter-notice in the prescribed form objecting to the admission of the evidence has been served by a party.
- (5) If a party proposing to tender evidence fails to comply with a prescribed requirement applicable to it—

---

*Changes to legislation:* Criminal Justice Act 2003, Cross Heading: General is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 26 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

---

- (a) the evidence is not admissible except with the court’s leave;
  - (b) where leave is given the court or jury may draw such inferences from the failure as appear proper;
  - (c) the failure may be taken into account by the court in considering the exercise of its powers with respect to costs.
- (6) In considering whether or how to exercise any of its powers under subsection (5) the court shall have regard to whether there is any justification for the failure to comply with the requirement.
- (7) A person shall not be convicted of an offence solely on an inference drawn under subsection (5)(b).
- (8) Rules under this section may—
- (a) limit the application of any provision of the rules to prescribed circumstances;
  - (b) subject any provision of the rules to prescribed exceptions;
  - (c) make different provision for different cases or circumstances.
- (9) Nothing in this section prejudices the generality of any enactment conferring power to make rules of court; and no particular provision of this section prejudices any general provision of it.

[<sup>F1</sup>(10) In this section “prescribed” means prescribed by rules of court]

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 132(10) substituted (1.9.2004) by [The Courts Act 2003 \(Consequential Amendments\) Order 2004 \(S.I. 2004/2035\)](#), art. 3, [Sch. para. 51](#) (with art. 2(2))

### 133 Proof of statements in documents

Where a statement in a document is admissible as evidence in criminal proceedings, the statement may be proved by producing either—

- (a) the document, or
- (b) (whether or not the document exists) a copy of the document or of the material part of it,

authenticated in whatever way the court may approve.

#### Commencement Information

- II** S. 133 wholly in force at 4.4.2005, see s. 336(3) and [S.I. 2005/950](#), [art. 2\(1\)](#), [Sch. 1 para. 6](#) (subject to [art. 2\(2\)](#), [Sch. 2](#))

### 134 Interpretation of Chapter 2

(1) In this Chapter—

“copy”, in relation to a document, means anything on to which information recorded in the document has been copied, by whatever means and whether directly or indirectly;

“criminal proceedings” means criminal proceedings in relation to which the strict rules of evidence apply;

---

**Changes to legislation:** Criminal Justice Act 2003, Cross Heading: General is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 26 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

---

“defendant”, in relation to criminal proceedings, means a person charged with an offence in those proceedings;

“document” means anything in which information of any description is recorded;

“oral evidence” includes evidence which, by reason of any disability, disorder or other impairment, a person called as a witness gives in writing or by signs or by way of any device;

“statutory provision” means any provision contained in, or in an instrument made under, this or any other Act, including any Act passed after this Act.

- (2) Section 115 (statements and matters stated) contains other general interpretative provisions.
- (3) Where a defendant is charged with two or more offences in the same criminal proceedings, this Chapter has effect as if each offence were charged in separate proceedings.

---

**Commencement Information**

- I2** S. 134 wholly in force at 4.4.2005, see s. 336(3) and S.I. 2005/950, [art. 2\(1\)](#), [Sch. 1 para. 6](#) (subject to [art. 2\(2\)](#), [Sch. 2](#))

### 135 Armed forces

Schedule 7 (hearsay evidence: armed forces) has effect.

---

**Commencement Information**

- I3** S. 135 wholly in force at 4.4.2005, see s. 336(3) and S.I. 2005/950, [art. 2\(1\)](#), [Sch. 1 para. 6](#) (subject to [art. 2\(2\)](#), [Sch. 2](#))

### 136 Repeals etc

In the Criminal Justice Act 1988 (c. 33), the following provisions (which are to some extent superseded by provisions of this Chapter) are repealed—

- (a) Part 2 and Schedule 2 (which relate to documentary evidence);
- (b) in Schedule 13, paragraphs 2 to 5 (which relate to documentary evidence in service courts etc).

---

**Commencement Information**

- I4** S. 136 wholly in force at 4.4.2005, see s. 336(3) and S.I. 2005/950, [art. 2\(1\)](#), [Sch. 1 para. 6](#) (subject to [art. 2\(2\)](#), [Sch. 2](#))

**Changes to legislation:**

Criminal Justice Act 2003, Cross Heading: General is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 26 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 :**

- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing SI 2012/2574, Sch. by [S.I. 2012/2761 art. 2](#)

**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. 150(aa) inserted by [2012 c. 10 Sch. 26 para. 19\(2\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 26 para. 19 omitted (11.12.2013) by virtue of 2013 c. 22, Sch. 16 para. 23(2); S.I. 2013/2981, art. 2(d))
- s. 150(ba) inserted by [2012 c. 10 Sch. 26 para. 19\(3\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 26 para. 19 omitted (11.12.2013) by virtue of 2013 c. 22, Sch. 16 para. 23(2); S.I. 2013/2981, art. 2(d))
- s. 151(A1) inserted by [2008 c. 4 s. 11\(3\)](#)
- s. 151(1A) inserted by [2008 c. 4 s. 11\(5\)](#)
- s. 151(1A)(b) word substituted by [2008 c. 4 Sch. 4 para. 76\(3\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 151(1A) is still only prospectively inserted by 2008 c. 4, s. 11(5))
- s. 151(1A)(c) substituted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 17 para. 8\(3\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 151(1A) is still only prospectively inserted by 2008 c. 4, s. 11(5))
- s. 151(2A)(b) substituted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 17 para. 8\(4\)](#)
- s. 151(4A) inserted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 17 para. 8\(5\)](#)
- s. 151(8)(a) words substituted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 17 para. 8\(6\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 151(8)(b) words inserted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 17 para. 8\(6\)\(b\)\(i\)](#)
- s. 151(8)(b) words substituted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 17 para. 8\(6\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#)
- s. 151(8)(c)-(f) inserted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 17 para. 8\(6\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 165(5) inserted by [2014 c. 12 s. 179\(3\)](#)
- s. 237(1A) inserted by [2006 c. 48 s. 34\(3\)](#)
- s. 237(1B)(f)(g) inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 40\(b\)](#)
- s. 239A inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 8\(1\)](#)
- s. 239A cross-heading inserted by [2015 c. 2 Sch. 3 para. 5](#)
- s. 250(5C) inserted by [2015 c. 2 Sch. 3 para. 7\(4\)](#)
- s. 255A(4A) inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 9\(2\)](#)
- s. 255B(3A) inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 9\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 255B(4A)-(4C) inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 9\(3\)\(d\)](#)
- s. 255C(3A) inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 9\(4\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 255C(4A)-(4C) inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 9\(4\)\(d\)](#)
- s. 256A(1)-(1B) substituted for s. 256A(1) by [2015 c. 2 s. 9\(6\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 256A(4A)(4B) inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 9\(6\)\(f\)](#)
- s. 256A(5)(6) substituted for s. 256A(5) by [2015 c. 2 s. 9\(6\)\(g\)](#)
- s. 256AZA inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 10\(1\)](#)
- s. 257(3) inserted by [2006 c. 48 s. 34\(4\)](#)
- s. 258(1A) inserted by [2006 c. 48 s. 34\(5\)](#)
- s. 260(4)(aa) substituted for word by [2008 c. 4 s. 34\(7\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 34(2)(4)(b)(7)(10) omitted (3.12.2012) by virtue of 2012 c. 10, s. 118(4)(b); S.I. 2012/2906, art. 2(d))

- Sch. 15B para. 49A omitted by [S.I. 2019/780 reg. 26\(4\)\(c\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Regs. 21, 25, 26, 27, 30 revoked (1.12.2020) by 2020 c. 17, Sch. 28; S.I. 2020/1236, reg. 2)
- Sch. 15B para. 49B omitted by [S.I. 2019/780 reg. 26\(4\)\(d\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Regs. 21, 25, 26, 27, 30 revoked (1.12.2020) by 2020 c. 17, Sch. 28; S.I. 2020/1236, reg. 2)
- Sch. 20B para. 34(6)(7) substituted for Sch. 20B para. 34(6) by [2015 c. 2 Sch. 3 para. 10](#)