



Civil Partnership Act 2004

2004 CHAPTER 33

PART 3

CIVIL PARTNERSHIP: SCOTLAND

CHAPTER 6

MISCELLANEOUS AND INTERPRETATION

Miscellaneous

126 Regulations

- (1) In this Chapter and in Chapters 2 [^{F1}(except in section 88F)] and 5, “prescribed” means prescribed by regulations made by the Registrar General.
- (2) Regulations so made may make provision (including provision as to fees) supplementing, in respect of the provision of services by or on behalf of the Registrar General or by local registration authorities (as defined by section 5(3) of the 1965 Act), the provisions of Chapter 2 of this Part.
- (3) Any power to make regulations under subsection (1) or (2) is exercisable by statutory instrument; and no such regulations are to be made except with the approval of the Scottish Ministers.
- (4) A statutory instrument containing regulations under subsection (1) or (2), or regulations under section [^{F2}94A(1)(a)(i) [^{F3}, (2A)(a)(i)] or (5), 94B(3), 94E(4)] [^{F4}, 106(3)(a)(i) or 121A(7)], is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of the Scottish Parliament.

Changes to legislation: Civil Partnership Act 2004, Chapter 6 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 March 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** Words in s. 126(1) inserted for specified purposes (1.3.2015) by [The Referral and Investigation of Proposed Marriages and Civil Partnerships \(Scotland\) Order 2015 \(S.I. 2015/396\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 7** (with art. 1(3))
- F2** Words in s. 126(4) inserted (16.12.2014) by [Marriage and Civil Partnership \(Scotland\) Act 2014 \(asp 5\)](#), **ss. 24(20)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.
- F3** Words in s. 126(4) inserted (18.1.2021 for specified purposes, 1.6.2021 in so far as not already in force) by [Civil Partnership \(Scotland\) Act 2020 \(asp 15\)](#), **ss. 7(2)(f)**, 16; S.S.I. 2020/457, reg. 2(b); S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F4** Words in s. 126(4) substituted (1.2.2021 for specified purposes, 1.6.2021 in so far as not already in force) by [Civil Partnership \(Scotland\) Act 2020 \(asp 15\)](#), **ss. 11(3)**, 16; S.S.I. 2020/414, reg. 2(1)(c); S.S.I. 2021/23, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

127 Attachment

Where an attachment has been executed of furniture and plenishings of which the debtor's civil partner has the possession or use by virtue of an order under section 103(3) or (4), the sheriff, on the application of that civil partner made within 40 days after the execution of the attachment, may—

- (a) declare the attachment null, or
- (b) make such order as he thinks appropriate to protect such possession or use by that civil partner,

if satisfied that the purpose of the attachment was wholly or mainly to prevent such possession or use.

128 Promise or agreement to enter into civil partnership

No promise or agreement to enter into civil partnership creates any rights or obligations under the law of Scotland; and no action for breach of such a promise or agreement may be brought in any court in Scotland, whatever the law applicable to the promise or agreement.

129 Lord Advocate as party to action for nullity or dissolution of civil partnership

F5

Textual Amendments

- F5** S. 129 repealed (4.5.2006) by [Family Law \(Scotland\) Act 2006 \(asp. 2\)](#), ss. 45(2), 46(2), **Sch. 3**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

130 Civil partner of accused a competent witness

F6

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Textual Amendments

- F6** S. 130 repealed (28.3.2011 with effect as mentioned in the Schedule to the commencing instrument) by [Criminal Justice and Licensing \(Scotland\) Act 2010 \(asp 13\)](#), ss. **86(2)**, 206(1); S.S.I. 2011/178, **art. 2**, Sch.

131 Succession: legal rights arising by virtue of civil partnership

- (1) Where a person dies survived by a civil partner then, unless the circumstance is as mentioned in subsection (2), the civil partner has right to half of the moveable net estate belonging to the deceased at the time of death.
- (2) That circumstance is that the person is also survived by issue, in which case the civil partner has right to a third of that moveable net estate and those issue have right to another third of it.
- (3) In this section—
 - “issue” means issue however remote, and
 - “net estate” has the meaning given by section 36(1) (interpretation) of the Succession (Scotland) Act 1964 (c. 41).
- (4) Every testamentary disposition executed after the commencement of this section by which provision is made in favour of the civil partner of the testator and which does not contain a declaration to the effect that the provision so made is in full and final satisfaction of the right to any share in the testator’s estate to which the civil partner is entitled by virtue of subsection (1) or (2), has effect (unless the disposition contains an express provision to the contrary) as if it contained such a declaration.
- (5) In section 36(1) of the Succession (Scotland) Act 1964 (c. 41), in the definition of “legal rights”, for “and legitim” substitute “legitim and rights under section 131 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004”.

132 Assurance policies

Section 2 of the Married Women’s Policies of Assurance (Scotland) Act 1880 (c. 26) (which provides that a policy of assurance may be effected in trust for a person’s spouse, children or spouse and children) applies in relation to a policy of assurance—

- (a) effected by a civil partner (in this section referred to as “A”) on A’s own life, and
- (b) expressed upon the face of it to be for the benefit of A’s civil partner, or of A’s children, or of A’s civil partner and children,

as it applies in relation to a policy of assurance effected as, and expressed upon the face of it to be for such benefit as, is mentioned in that section.

133 Council Tax: liability of civil partners

After section 77 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (c. 14), insert—

“77A Liability of civil partners

- (1) Where—

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- (a) a person who is liable to pay council tax in respect of any chargeable dwelling and any day is in civil partnership with another person or living with another person in a relationship which has the characteristics of the relationship between civil partners; and
- (b) that other person is also a resident of the dwelling on that day but would not, apart from this section, be so liable,

those persons shall be jointly and severally liable to pay the council tax payable in respect of that dwelling and that day.

- (2) Subsection (1) above shall not apply as respects any day on which the other person there mentioned falls to be disregarded for the purposes of discount—
 - (a) by virtue of paragraph 2 of Schedule 1 to this Act (the severely mentally impaired); or
 - (b) being a student, by virtue of paragraph 4 of that Schedule.”

134 General provisions as to fees

- (1) Subject to such exceptions as may be prescribed, a district registrar may refuse to comply with any application voluntarily made to him under this Part until the appropriate fee, if any, provided for by or under this Part is paid to him; and any such fee, if not prepaid, is recoverable by the registrar to whom it is payable.
- (2) Circumstances, of hardship or otherwise, may be prescribed in which fees provided for by or under this Part may be remitted by the Registrar General.

Commencement Information

- II** S. 134 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 134 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 134 in force at 14.9.2005 for certain purposes by [S.S.I. 2005/428](#), [art. 2](#), [Sch.](#) and otherwise 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by [S.S.I. 2005/604](#), [art. 2\(b\)](#)

Interpretation

135 Interpretation of this Part

- [^{F7}(1)] In this Part, unless the context otherwise requires—
- “the 1965 Act” means the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages (Scotland) Act 1965 (c. 49);
 - [^{F8}“2014 Act” means the Immigration Act 2014;]
 - [^{F9}“approved celebrant” has the meaning given by section 94A(4)(a);]
 - “authorised registrar” has the meaning given by section 87;
 - “caravan” means a caravan which is mobile or affixed to land;
 - “child of the family” has the meaning given by section 101(7);
 - “civil partnership book” has the meaning given by section 89;
 - “civil partnership schedule” has the meaning given by section 94;
 - [^{F10}“civil registration” has the meaning given by section 94A(4)(c);]
 - “civil partnership register” has the meaning given by section 95(2);
 - “the court” means the Court of Session or the sheriff;

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“district” means a registration district as defined by section 5(1) of the 1965 Act;

“district registrar” has the meaning given by section 7(12) of the 1965 Act;

“entitled partner” and “non-entitled partner”, subject to sections 106(2) and 111(2), have the meanings respectively assigned to them by section 101(1);

“exclusion order” has the meaning given by section 104(1);

“family” has the meaning given by section 101(7);

“family home” means [^{F11}, subject to subsection (2),] any house, caravan, houseboat or other structure which has been provided or has been made available by one or both of the civil partners as, or has become, a family residence and includes any garden or other ground or building ^{F12}. . . usually occupied with, or otherwise required for the amenity or convenience of, the house, caravan, houseboat or other structure but does not include a residence provided or made available by [^{F13}a person for one] civil partner to reside in, whether with any child of the family or not, separately from the other civil partner;

“furniture and plenishings” means any article situated in a family home of civil partners which—

- (a) is owned or hired by either civil partner or is being acquired by either civil partner under a hire-purchase agreement or conditional sale agreement, and
- (b) is reasonably necessary to enable the home to be used as a family residence,

but does not include any vehicle, caravan or houseboat or such other structure as is mentioned in the definition of “family home”;

“notice of proposed civil partnership” has the meaning given by section 88(1);

“occupancy rights” means the rights conferred by section 101(1);

“Registrar General” means the Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages for Scotland;

“registration office” means a registration office provided under section 8(1) of the 1965 Act;

[^{F14}“relevant national” has the same meaning as in section 30A;]

[^{F15}“religious or belief body” means an organised group of people—

- (a) which meets regularly for religious worship, or
- (b) the principal object (or one of the principal objects) of which is to uphold or promote philosophical beliefs and which meets regularly for that purpose;]

[^{F15}“religious or belief civil partnership” has the meaning given by section 94A(4)(b);]

“tenant” includes—

- (a) a sub-tenant,
- (b) a statutory tenant as defined in section 3 of the Rent (Scotland) Act 1984 (c. 58), and
- (c) a statutory assured tenant as defined in section 16(1) of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1988 (c. 43),

and “tenancy” is to be construed accordingly.

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[^{F16}(2) If—

- (a) the tenancy of a family home is transferred from one civil partner to the other by agreement or under any enactment, and
 - (b) following the transfer, the civil partner to whom the tenancy was transferred occupies the home but the other civil partner does not,
- the home shall, on such transfer, cease to be a family home.]

Textual Amendments

- F7** S. 135 renumbered as s. 135(1) (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 33, 46(2), **Sch. 1 para. 12**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)
- F8** Words in s. 135(1) inserted for specified purposes (1.3.2015) by The Referral and Investigation of Proposed Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Scotland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/396), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 8(a)** (with art. 1(3))
- F9** Words in s. 135(1) inserted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(21)(a)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.
- F10** Words in s. 135(1) inserted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(21)(b)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.
- F11** Words in s. 135(1) inserted (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 33, 46(2), **Sch. 1 para. 12(a)(i)**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)
- F12** Words in s. 135 repealed (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 45(2), 46(2), **Sch. 3**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)
- F13** Words in s. 135(1) substituted (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 33, 46(2), **Sch. 1 para. 12(a)(ii)**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)
- F14** Words in s. 135(1) inserted for specified purposes (1.3.2015) by The Referral and Investigation of Proposed Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Scotland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/396), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 8(b)** (with art. 1(3))
- F15** Words in s. 135(1) inserted (16.12.2014) by Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 5), **ss. 24(21)(c)**, 36; S.S.I. 2014/287, art. 3, sch.
- F16** S. 135(2) inserted (4.5.2006) by Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 2), ss. 33, 46(2), **Sch. 1 para. 12(b)**; S.S.I. 2006/212, **art. 2** (subject to arts. 3-13)

136 The expression “relative” in the 1965 Act

In section 56(1) of the 1965 Act (interpretation), in the definition of “relative”, at the end insert “ , a civil partner and anyone related to the civil partner of the person as regards whom the expression is being construed ”.

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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. 102(8A) inserted by [2023 asp 3 s. 56\(2\)](#)
- s. 103(10) inserted by [2023 asp 3 s. 56\(5\)](#)
- s. 108(5) inserted by [2023 asp 3 s. 56\(8\)](#)
- s. 213(1A) inserted by [2013 c. 30 Sch. 2 para. 5\(2\)](#)