



Civil Partnership Act 2004

2004 CHAPTER 33

PART 4

CIVIL PARTNERSHIP: NORTHERN IRELAND

CHAPTER 2

DISSOLUTION, NULLITY AND OTHER PROCEEDINGS

Introduction

161 Powers to make orders and effect of orders

- (1) The court may, in accordance with this Chapter—
- (a) make an order (a “dissolution order”) which dissolves a civil partnership on the ground that it has broken down irretrievably;
 - (b) make an order (a “nullity order”) which annuls a civil partnership which is void or voidable;
 - (c) ^{F1}
 - (d) make an order (a “separation order”) which provides for the separation of the civil partners.
- (2) Every [^{F2}dissolution order or nullity order]—
- (a) is, in the first instance, a conditional order, and
 - (b) may not be made final before the end of the prescribed period (see section 162);
- and any reference in this Chapter to a conditional order is to be read accordingly.
- (3) A nullity order made where a civil partnership is voidable annuls the civil partnership only as respects any time after the order has been made final, and the civil partnership is to be treated (despite the order) as if it had existed up to that time.

Changes to legislation: Civil Partnership Act 2004, Section 161 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 05 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

- (4) In this Chapter “the court” has the meaning given by section 188.
- (5) This Chapter is subject to section 219 and sections 228 to 232 (jurisdiction of the court).

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 161(1)(c) repealed (9.11.2009) by [Presumption of Death Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2009 \(c. 6 \(N.I.\)\)](#), ss. 19(1), (2), 20, Sch. 2, {Sch. 3}; S.R. 2009/356, [art. 2](#)
- F2** Words in s. 161(2) substituted (9.11.2009) by [Presumption of Death Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2009 \(c. 6 \(N.I.\)\)](#), ss. 19(1), 20, [Sch. 2](#); S.R. 2009/356, [art. 2](#)

Changes to legislation:

Civil Partnership Act 2004, Section 161 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 05 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. 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\(2\)](#)