



# Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

## 2006 CHAPTER 47

### *Restrictions on participating in regulated activity*

#### **7 Barred person not to engage in regulated activity**

- (1) An individual commits an offence if he—
  - (a) seeks to engage in regulated activity from which he is barred;
  - (b) offers to engage in regulated activity from which he is barred;
  - (c) engages in regulated activity from which he is barred.
- (2) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (1) is liable—
  - (a) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years, or to a fine, or to both;
  - (b) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding [<sup>F1</sup>the general limit in a magistrates' court], or to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum, or to both.
- (3) It is a defence for a person charged with an offence under subsection (1) to prove that he did not know, and could not reasonably be expected to know, that he was barred from that activity.
- (4) It is a defence for a person charged with an offence under subsection (1) to prove—
  - (a) that he reasonably thought that it was necessary for him to engage in the activity for the purpose of preventing harm to a child or vulnerable adult (as the case may be),
  - (b) that he reasonably thought that there was no other person who could engage in the activity for that purpose, and
  - (c) that he engaged in the activity for no longer than was necessary for that purpose.
- (5) For the purposes of this section, Schedule 4 is modified as follows—
  - (a) in paragraph 1, sub-paragraphs (1)(b) and (2)(a) must be disregarded;
  - <sup>F2</sup>(b) .....
  - <sup>F2</sup>(c) .....

**Changes to legislation:** Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, Section 7 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 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](#)

- (6) In relation to an offence committed before [<sup>F3</sup>2 May 2022], the reference in subsection (2)(b) to [<sup>F4</sup>the general limit in a magistrates' court] must be taken to be a reference to six months.

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 7(2)(b) substituted (7.2.2023 at 12.00 p.m.) by [The Judicial Review and Courts Act 2022 \(Magistrates' Court Sentencing Powers\) Regulations 2023](#) (S.I. 2023/149), regs. 1(2), 2(1), **Sch. Pt. 1**
- F2** S. 7(5)(b)(c) repealed (10.9.2012 immediately after the coming into force of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (Miscellaneous Amendments) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2157)) by [Protection of Freedoms Act 2012](#) (c. 9), s. 120, Sch. 9 para. 47, **Sch. 10 Pt. 5** (with s. 97); S.I. 2012/2234, art. 2(aa)(bb)(ii)
- F3** Words in s. 7(6) substituted (28.4.2022) by [The Criminal Justice Act 2003 \(Commencement No. 33\) and Sentencing Act 2020 \(Commencement No. 2\) Regulations 2022](#) (S.I. 2022/500), regs. 1(2), **5(1), Sch. Pt. 1**
- F4** Words in s. 7(6) substituted (7.2.2023 at 12.00 p.m.) by [The Judicial Review and Courts Act 2022 \(Magistrates' Court Sentencing Powers\) Regulations 2023](#) (S.I. 2023/149), regs. 1(2), 2(1), **Sch. Pt. 1**

#### Commencement Information

- I1** S. 7 in force at 12.10.2009 by [S.I. 2009/2611](#), art. 2, **Sch.**

### Changes to legislation:

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, Section 7 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 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.

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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. 6(8A)(8B) inserted by [2008 c. 14 Sch. 14 para. 8](#)
- s. 6(8A) word omitted by [S.I. 2016/413 reg. 253\(a\)\(i\)](#) (This amendment comes into force on the day that the amendment to s. 6 of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (c. 47) made by para. 8 of Sch. 14 to the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (c. 14) comes into force)
- s. 6(8A) words inserted by [S.I. 2016/413 reg. 253\(a\)\(ii\)](#) (This amendment comes into force on the day that the amendment to s. 6 of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (c. 47) made by para. 8 of Sch. 14 to the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (c. 14) comes into force)
- s. 13(1A) inserted by [2009 c. 26 s. 82\(2\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Ss. 82-87 repealed (10.9.2012) without ever being in force by 2012 c. 9, s. 120, Sch. 10 Pt. 5; S.I. 2012/2234, art. 2(bb))
- s. 13(3A) inserted by [2009 c. 26 s. 82\(4\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Ss. 82-87 repealed (10.9.2012) without ever being in force by 2012 c. 9, s. 120, Sch. 10 Pt. 5; S.I. 2012/2234, art. 2(bb))
- s. 13(6) inserted by [2009 c. 26 s. 82\(6\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Ss. 82-87 repealed (10.9.2012) without ever being in force by 2012 c. 9, s. 120, Sch. 10 Pt. 5; S.I. 2012/2234, art. 2(bb))
- s. 13(11) substituted by [2009 c. 26 s. 82\(7\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Ss. 82-87 repealed (10.9.2012) without ever being in force by 2012 c. 9, s. 120, Sch. 10 Pt. 5; S.I. 2012/2234, art. 2(bb))
- s. 30(2)(aa)(ab) inserted by [2009 c. 26 s. 85\(2\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Ss. 82-87 repealed (10.9.2012) without ever being in force by 2012 c. 9, s. 120, Sch. 10 Pt. 5; S.I. 2012/2234, art. 2(bb))
- s. 30(6A)(6B) inserted by [2009 c. 26 s. 85\(6\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Ss. 82-87 repealed (10.9.2012) without ever being in force by 2012 c. 9, s. 120, Sch. 10 Pt. 5; S.I. 2012/2234, art. 2(bb))
- s. 30A30B substituted for s. 30-32 by [2012 c. 9 s. 72\(1\)](#)
- s. 32(3)(aa) inserted by [2009 c. 26 s. 86\(2\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Ss. 82-87 repealed (10.9.2012) without ever being in force by 2012 c. 9, s. 120, Sch. 10 Pt. 5; S.I. 2012/2234, art. 2(bb))
- s. 33(3A)-(3D) inserted by [2012 c. 9 s. 72\(2\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 34A-34C inserted by [2009 c. 26 s. 87\(2\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Ss. 82-87 repealed (10.9.2012) without ever being in force by 2012 c. 9, s. 120, Sch. 10 Pt. 5; S.I. 2012/2234, art. 2(bb))
- s. 34ZA inserted by [2012 c. 9 s. 73](#)
- s. 41(4A)-(4C) inserted by [S.I. 2009/1182 Sch. 5 para. 9\(2\)\(a\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. It comes into force on the coming into force of s. 44(1) of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (c. 47). S. 44(1) was repealed without ever being in force on 10.9.2012 by 2012 c. 9, s. 75(6), Sch. 10 Pt. 5; S.I. 2012/2234, art. 2)
- s. 48(2A) inserted by [2012 c. 9 s. 76\(3\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 49(2A) inserted by [2012 c. 9 s. 76\(4\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 56(3)(fa) inserted by [2012 c. 9 Sch. 9 para. 68\(4\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 3 para. 5A inserted by [2012 c. 9 s. 74\(1\)](#)
- Sch. 3 para. 11A inserted by [2012 c. 9 s. 74\(3\)](#)

– Sch. 4 para. 1(9B)(ia) inserted by [2022 asc 1 Sch. 4 para. 21\(2\)](#)