

# CHILD LAW

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## **Child Law**

# Preface

In the preface of my book *The Law Relating to Children*, published in 1973, I referred to the 'growing and sustained attention which the last decade or so [had] given to the protection of the interests and welfare of children'. In so doing I neither expected, nor tried, to anticipate many of the profound changes in child law which have occurred over the past 15 years. I do not attempt here to rehearse the list of them: they will be self-evident throughout the succeeding pages. Suffice it to say that they have led me to attempt a wider and deeper treatment of the subject, though I have retained historical material which appeared in the earlier publication because, it seems to me, in a rapidly changing area of law it is desirable to retain a sense of historical continuity. The detailed format of some of the chapters has also been retained, but I have sought to emphasise the enormous increase in the intervention by government agencies in child law by a principal division of the subject into 'The Child and the Individual' and 'The Child and the State'. However, this is a line which can only be drawn with a broad brush, as the subject of wardship, in particular, amply demonstrates.

I owe an immense debt to two colleagues: my son, Mr Vaughan Bevan of the Faculty of Law of the University of Sheffield and Mr Martin Parry of the Law School of the University of Hull. I am indebted to both for reading almost all the chapters in draft, for drawing my attention to omissions and infelicities and for offering many other helpful suggestions for improvement of the text. Additionally, to the former I am particularly grateful for his enormous assistance over the preparation of Chapters 2, 11, 14, 15 and, most especially, Chapter 16; and to the latter for allowing me to use freely materials which appeared in our joint authorship of the Children Act 1975 and for suffering innumerable incursions into his office for consultation. I also wish to thank Mr Ken Lidstone, also of the Sheffield Law Faculty, for his close scrutiny of Chapters 12 and 13, and Mr Donald Blakey for reading most of the proofs. Convention requires me to record formally their total exculpation from any errors which may appear in the final product.

For the preparation in typewritten form of that product I thank my former secretary, Mrs Joan Wilson, who was assisted by Miss Helen Forrester. I am grateful to the President and Governing Body of Wolfson College, Cambridge, for a Visiting Fellowship which enabled me to make the delay in completion of the book less unconscionable than it might otherwise have been, and to my publishers for their continued, unflinching courtesy and assistance. My heaviest debt, however, is to my wife for her

inestimable patience and support in what has certainly been a protracted period.

I have tried to state the law as at 1 October 1988, but the indefinite postponement of Part II of the Family Law Reform Act 1987 meant last minute amendments at proof stage, especially of Chapter 2. Reference is also made to a few decisions reported since that date, and I have been able to incorporate those relevant provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 which subsequently came into force.

H K Bevan

*October 1988*

# Table of statutes

	PARA		PARA
Abduction (1557) . . . . .	1.08, 4.03, 10.28, 10.34	Administration of Justice Act 1982 (45 <i>Statutes</i> 676)	
s 3 . . . . .	4.03	s 2(b) . . . . .	1.44
Abduction of women (1487) . . . . .	10.28	18 . . . . .	4.08
Abortion Act 1967 (12 <i>Statutes</i> 414) . . . . .	1.29, 9.08, 9.10, 9.11, 9.21, 9.22, 9.23, 9.24, 9.26	Administration of Justice (Appeals) Act 1934 (11 <i>Statutes</i> 578)	
s 1 . . . . .	1.29, 9.12	s 1 . . . . .	3.77
(1)(a) . . . . .	9.12, 9.13, 9.23	Adoption Act 1958 (6 <i>Statutes</i> 119) . . .	5.03, 5.05, 7.14
(b) . . . . .	9.12	s 7(1)(b) . . . . .	5.12
(3) . . . . .	9.19	20(5) . . . . .	5.99
(4) . . . . .	9.19, 9.20	34A . . . . .	6.29
4(1), (2) . . . . .	9.20	36(2) . . . . .	16.93
5(1) . . . . .	9.26	43 . . . . .	7.14, 7.35
(2) . . . . .	9.12	50 . . . . .	2.18
Accessories and Abettors Act 1861 (12 <i>Statutes</i> 91)		(3) . . . . .	2.18
s 8 . . . . .	12.40	Adoption Act 1960 (6 <i>Statutes</i> 152) . . .	5.03, 5.05
Administration of Estates Act 1925 (17 <i>Statutes</i> 257) . . . . .	1.53, 16.77	Adoption Act 1964 (6 <i>Statutes</i> 176) . . .	5.03, 5.05
s 46(1) . . . . .	15.34	Adoption Act 1968 (6 <i>Statutes</i> 204) . . .	5.03, 5.05, 5.104
47 . . . . .	2.44	Adoption Act 1976 (6 <i>Statutes</i> 441) . . .	5.05, 5.07, 5.13, 5.19, 5.20, 5.58, 5.79, 5.99, 5.100, 7.04, 14.44
Administration of Justice Act 1960 (11 <i>Statutes</i> 174)		s 1 . . . . .	5.06, 5.07
s 12(1)(a) . . . . .	8.45	(2) . . . . .	5.06
(3), (4) . . . . .	8.45	(4) . . . . .	5.06, 5.14
13 . . . . .	8.75	2 . . . . .	5.07
(3) . . . . .	8.75	3 . . . . .	5.08
Administration of Justice Act 1964 (26 <i>Statutes</i> 496)		(1) . . . . .	5.08
s 12 . . . . .	12.69	(2) . . . . .	5.09
Administration of Justice Act 1969 (11 <i>Statutes</i> 608)		(3)–(5) . . . . .	5.08
s 12 . . . . .	3.77	(6) . . . . .	5.09
Administration of Justice Act 1970 (4 <i>Statutes</i> 691; 11 <i>Statutes</i> 615) . . . .	16.72	(7) . . . . .	5.10
s 1(2) . . . . .	8.02	4 . . . . .	5.11
41 . . . . .	13.25	(1)–(3) . . . . .	5.10
Sch 1 . . . . .	4.12, 8.02	5 . . . . .	5.11
Sch 8 para 12 . . . . .	6.65	(1), (2) . . . . .	5.09
Sch 9 . . . . .	13.25	(3)–(5) . . . . .	5.10
		s 6 . . . . .	3.03, 3.05, 3.11, 5.11, 5.12, 5.15, 5.18, 5.25, 5.47, 5.48, 5.53, 5.54,

	PARA
<i>Adoption Act 1976 — contd</i>	
s 6 ( <i>contd</i> )	5.59, 5.66, 5.87, 5.93, 5.94, 6.86, 15.64
7	5.11, 5.18, 5.91
8	5.11
(1), (2)	5.11
11	5.64
(1), (2)	5.63
(3)	5.56, 5.63
(5)	5.64
12	16.05, 16.06
(1)	5.22, 5.60, 5.110
(2)	5.33, 5.110
(3)	5.33
(a)(i), (ii)	5.110
(b)	5.111
(4)	5.33, 5.111
(5)	5.60, 5.106, 6.48
(6)	5.94
(7)	5.60
13	5.66, 6.91
(1)	5.61, 6.04
(2)	5.61
(3)	5.62
14	5.86, 6.89
(1)	5.54, 6.03
(2)	5.53, 5.107
(3)	5.58, 5.59, 5.76, 6.85
15	6.89
(1)	5.54, 6.03
(b)	5.55, 5.56
(2)	5.53
(3)	5.56, 5.57, 6.92
(4)	5.58, 5.59, 5.76, 6.85
16	4.34, 5.20, 5.23, 5.108, 6.85
(1)	1.51, 1.62
(b)	4.02, 5.24, 5.36
(i)	5.21
(ii)	5.23
(2)	1.51, 5.23, 5.31, 5.34, 15.08
(a), (c)–(f)	5.56
(3)	5.108
(4)	5.21
17	5.50, 5.53, 5.104, 5.107
(1)	5.107
(2)	5.106
(3)–(5)	5.107
(6)	5.108, 6.85
(7)	5.108
(8)	5.107
18	4.21, 5.17, 5.32, 5.33, 5.34, 5.35, 5.36, 5.37, 5.38, 5.39, 5.42, 5.43, 5.45, 5.46, 5.47, 5.49, 5.50, 5.69, 5.70, 5.71, 5.72, 5.73, 5.77, 5.80, 5.86, 6.41, 15.33

	PARA
<i>Adoption Act 1976 — contd</i>	
s 18(1)	5.34, 5.36
(a), (b)	5.34
(2)	5.34
(a), (b)	5.34
(3)	5.35
(4)	5.36
(5)	5.33, 6.93
(6)	5.44
(7)	5.19, 5.43
(8)	5.43
19(1)–(4)	5.45
20(1)	5.46, 5.47
(2)	5.47
(3)	5.49
(a)–(c)	5.49
(4), (5)	5.48, 6.51
21	5.17, 5.70
22	5.70, 5.71, 6.91
(1)	5.66
(2)	5.64, 5.66
(3)	5.66
(b)	5.64
24(1)	5.75, 6.51
(2)	2.18, 5.64, 5.95
25	5.97
(1), (2)	5.101
26	5.64, 5.67, 5.101, 15.57
(1)	5.101
(a)	8.66
(b)	8.61, 15.89
(2), (3)	5.101
27	5.81, 5.83, 5.84, 5.85, 5.86
(1)	5.80, 5.101
(2)	5.80
(3)	5.83
28	5.81, 5.83, 5.84, 5.85, 5.86, 6.29, 15.50
(1)	5.81, 5.82
(2)	5.81, 5.86
(4)	5.82
(5), (6)	5.81
(7)	5.83
29	5.50, 5.86
(1), (2)	5.84
(3), (4)	5.85
30(3)	5.101
31(3)	16.93
32	7.20
(1)	5.67, 7.20
(4)	5.67
33(1), (2)	5.67
34	7.14, 7.35, 12.78
(1), (2)	5.68
(3), (4)	5.68, 15.59
35(1)	5.67
36(1)(a), (b)	5.67
(c)	5.68

	PARA		PARA
Adoption Act 1976 — <i>contd</i>		Attachment of Earnings Act 1971 — <i>contd</i>	
s 36(2) . . . . .	5.67, 5.68	s 24 . . . . .	16.73
37(1) . . . . .	5.67, 14.44	25(3) . . . . .	16.73
(2)–(4) . . . . .	5.68	Sch 1 . . . . .	16.73
39(1), (2) . . . . .	5.109	para 12 . . . . .	6.65
(4) . . . . .	5.90, 5.111	Sch 3 Pt I para 3 . . . . .	16.73
(6) . . . . .	5.109	Bail Act 1976 (12 <i>Statutes</i> 709) . . . . .	12.43
44 . . . . .	2.21	s 4 . . . . .	12.119
47(1), (2) . . . . .	5.112	7 . . . . .	12.41
48 . . . . .	5.112	Sch 1 . . . . .	12.119
50 . . . . .	5.98	Bankruptcy Act 1914 . . . . .	16.88
(5) . . . . .	5.99	Benefit of Clergy (1575) . . . . .	10.22
51 . . . . .	5.99	Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act 1963 (5 <i>Statutes</i> 24) . . . . .	10.11
(2) . . . . .	5.100	s 21, 22 . . . . .	10.11
(3), (6) . . . . .	5.99	Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953 (37 <i>Statutes</i> 322) . . . . .	2.33
52 . . . . .	5.113	s 2 . . . . .	2.33
53(1) . . . . .	5.113	10 . . . . .	2.30, 2.33
55 . . . . .	5.50, 6.41, 15.33, 15.43, 15.98	10A . . . . .	2.33
57 . . . . .	2.18, 5.65, 5.95	14 . . . . .	2.31
(1) . . . . .	2.18	14A . . . . .	2.33
(2) . . . . .	5.64, 5.95	Board of Education Act 1899 . . . . .	11.17
(3) . . . . .	2.18, 5.96	British Nationality Act 1948 (31 <i>Statutes</i> 10) . . . . .	2.42
(3A), (4)–(10) . . . . .	5.96	British Nationality Act 1981 (31 <i>Statutes</i> 112) . . . . .	2.42
58 . . . . .	5.65	s 1(1), (4) . . . . .	2.42
(1), (2) . . . . .	7.13	2(1) (b) . . . . .	2.42
58A . . . . .	5.10	3(3), (5) . . . . .	2.42
62 . . . . .	5.50	14 . . . . .	2.42
(2)–(7) . . . . .	5.50	47(1) . . . . .	2.31
64(a), (b) . . . . .	5.51	50(2)–(4), (9) . . . . .	2.42
65 . . . . .	5.41	Sch 1 . . . . .	2.49
(2) . . . . .	5.38, 5.74	Cable and Broadcasting Act 1984 (45 <i>Statutes</i> 362)	
71(2) . . . . .	5.108	Sch 5 . . . . .	11.71
72(1) . . . . .	1.62, 5.06, 5.15, 5.22, 5.57, 5.60, 5.75, 5.106, 6.02, 7.03	Child Abduction Act 1984 (12 <i>Statutes</i> 933) . . . . .	1.18, 3.91, 3.96, 3.99, 3.103, 3.105, 3.106, 3.123, 6.36, 6.78, 15.102
(1A) . . . . .	5.22	s 1 . . . . .	1.18, 3.92, 3.95, 3.97, 3.98, 3.99, 3.102, 3.103, 3.104
Sch 1 . . . . .	5.98	(1) . . . . .	6.36
para 4 . . . . .	5.98	(2) . . . . .	3.98, 6.36
Sch 3 para 1(1) . . . . .	5.101	(3) . . . . .	3.99, 6.36
Adoption of Children Act 1926 . . . . .	5.02, 5.03	(5) . . . . .	3.99, 3.100, 6.36
Adoption of Children Act 1949 (6 <i>Statutes</i> 97) . . . . .	5.03	(6) . . . . .	3.100
s 1(1) . . . . .	5.03	(7)(a), (b) . . . . .	3.98
Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act 1939 . . . . .	5.03	(8) . . . . .	3.101
Affiliation Proceedings Act 1957 (6 <i>Statutes</i> 106) . . . . .	2.48, 16.69	2 . . . . .	3.92, 3.94, 3.95, 3.97, 3.98, 3.100, 3.102, 3.103, 3.104, 10.27, 10.29, 10.32, 10.34, 10.37
s 1, 2 . . . . .	16.69	(1) . . . . .	3.93
4(1) . . . . .	2.34, 16.69	(2) . . . . .	3.96
Apprentices Act 1814 . . . . .	11.68	3(a), (b) . . . . .	3.93
Attachment of Earnings Act 1971 (22 <i>Statutes</i> 302) . . . . .	16.73		
s 1 . . . . .	13.23		
3(3), (5) . . . . .	16.73		
6(5) . . . . .	16.73		
(b) . . . . .	16.73		
(6) . . . . .	16.73		
7, 14, 15 . . . . .	16.74		

	PARA		PARA
Child Abduction Act 1984 — <i>contd</i>		Child Abduction and Custody Act 1985	
s 4(1), (2).....	3.102	— <i>contd</i>	
5.....	3.90	Sch 2 art 5(4).....	3.120
11(5)(a).....	3.92	9.....	3.118
Schedule.....	3.101	(3).....	3.118
para 3.....	6.36	10.....	3.118
Child Abduction and Custody Act		(1)(b).....	3.115, 3.118
1985.....	3.23, 3.39, 3.62, 3.108, 3.115, 3.126, 5.101, 6.50	11.....	3.121
s 3(1)(a).....	3.110	12.....	3.119
(2).....	3.126	13.....	3.116
(4)(a).....	3.110	15.....	3.118
6.....	3.112, 3.126	26.....	3.115
8.....	3.112	Sch 3.....	3.129
9.....	3.126	para 1(1).....	3.23, 3.39, 3.62
10.....	3.110	(a).....	8.62
11.....	3.114	(g).....	6.50
14.....	3.115	2.....	8.76
16.....	3.23, 3.39, 3.62, 3.127, 5.101, 6.50, 8.62, 8.76, 15.43	Child Benefit Act 1975	
(4).....	3.128	s 1.....	16.107
17, 18.....	3.129	Sch 2.....	16.107
19.....	3.127	Child Care Act 1980 (6 <i>Statutes</i>	
20.....	3.129	527).....	1.54, 3.63, 6.41, 6.75, 7.19, 7.30, 8.12, 8.64, 9.45, 9.95, 11.01, 13.21, 15.34, 15.38, 15.67, 15.74, 15.100, 15.108, 15.110, 15.112, 15.117, 15.135
(2).....	3.129	s 1.....	7.30, 14.06, 14.32, 15.04, 15.06, 15.07, 15.08, 15.09, 15.13, 15.28, 15.42, 15.64, 15.132
21.....	3.118	(1).....	15.100
22(3).....	3.116	2.....	2.40, 3.57, 3.109, 5.68, 5.70, 6.05, 6.07, 6.20, 6.41, 6.52, 7.16, 8.61, 11.16, 12.98, 14.15, 14.32, 14.41, 14.46, 15.08, 15.09, 15.13, 15.14, 15.15, 15.17, 15.29, 15.30, 15.35, 15.36, 15.37, 15.39, 15.46, 15.57, 15.58, 15.59, 15.62, 15.64, 15.78, 15.89, 15.98, 15.100, 15.102, 15.104, 15.109, 15.110, 15.113, 15.114, 16.90
23(1).....	3.116	(1).....	15.13
(2).....	3.119	(a).....	15.08, 15.15
24 <sub>A</sub> .....	3.126	(b).....	15.08, 15.18
25(1).....	3.23, 3.39, 3.62, 3.129, 6.50, 8.62, 8.76	(c).....	15.08
(2).....	3.23, 3.39, 3.62, 6.50, 8.62, 8.76	(2).....	13.72, 15.13, 15.29
27(1).....	3.23, 3.39, 3.62, 3.129, 6.50, 8.62, 8.76	(3).....	11.16, 15.13, 15.29, 15.30, 15.37, 15.46, 15.64, 15.89, 15.100
Sch 1.....	3.108	(b).....	15.99
art 3, 4.....	3.109	(4).....	15.12
5.....	3.109, 3.113	3.....	1.56, 1.60, 2.40, 3.53, 3.109, 3.116, 4.37, 5.22, 5.28, 5.49, 5.70, 5.110, 6.07, 6.08, 6.20, 6.30,
7(d).....	3.112		
(e).....	3.111		
(f).....	3.110		
8.....	3.109, 3.111		
9.....	3.111, 3.112		
10–13.....	3.112		
15–17, 19.....	3.112		
21.....	3.113		
24.....	3.111		
26.....	3.114		
31.....	3.108		
Sch 2.....	3.115		
art 1.....	3.115		
(c).....	3.116		
(d).....	3.115		
4(1)–(3).....	3.116		
(4).....	3.117		
5(1), (2).....	3.117		

	PARA
Child Care Act 1980 — <i>contd</i>	
s 3 ( <i>contd</i> )	6.41, 7.14, 7.35, 11.16, 12.98, 14.08, 14.25, 15.14, 15.17, 15.21, 15.22, 15.26, 15.28, 15.29, 15.30, 15.35, 15.36, 15.37, 15.42, 15.44, 15.46, 15.48, 15.50, 15.57, 15.63, 15.76, 15.89, 15.90, 15.100, 15.102, 15.103, 15.104, 15.106, 15.111, 15.114, 15.115, 15.118, 15.120, 15.128, 15.132, 16.94
(1)	15.33, 15.36
(a)	1.62, 15.15, 15.36
(b)	15.16, 15.33, 15.36
(iv)	15.26
(c), (d)	15.33, 15.36
(2), (3)	15.38
(4), (5)	15.39
(6)	3.03, 15.39
(a), (b)	15.39
(c)	15.114
(7)	15.38
(8)	15.17
(9)	15.27
(10)	5.22, 6.41, 15.16, 15.38
4(2)	15.33, 15.48, 16.94
(3)	11.16, 15.33, 15.99
5(1)	15.43
(2)	6.41, 15.43, 15.46
(a)	5.110
(c)	4.13
(3)	15.40, 15.43, 15.44
(4)	1.60, 4.37, 6.37, 15.44, 15.45
6	15.41, 15.45, 15.117
7(1)	15.41, 15.41
(2)	15.41, 15.45
8	15.114
(1)	15.35
(2)	15.11, 15.37, 15.90
(3)	15.11
9	15.100
10	5.70
(1)	15.48, 15.55
(2)	15.48
(3)	11.16, 15.48, 15.99
(4)	15.48
(5)	5.22, 15.48
11	15.101
(2)	15.101
12	15.100
Pt IA (ss 12A–12G)	15.89, 15.114
s 12A	3.22, 8.62, 15.90, 15.133
(1)	15.89
(2)	8.62, 15.89
12B	3.22, 8.62, 15.90
(1)–(3)	15.90

	PARA
Child Care Act 1980 — <i>contd</i>	
s 35B(4), (5)	15.91
12C	3.22, 8.62, 15.90
(1)–(3)	15.92
(5)	15.95, 15.123
12D	3.22, 8.62, 15.90
(1), (2)	15.93
12E	3.22, 8.62, 15.90, 15.93
(3), (4)	15.93
12F	3.22, 8.62, 15.90
(1)	3.02, 15.92
(2)–(4)	15.94
12G	3.22, 8.62, 15.86
13	15.29, 15.90, 15.103
(1), (2)	15.29, 15.30, 15.102
(3)	15.102
(4), (5)	15.29
14	15.76, 15.103, 15.104
15	15.104, 15.105
(3)	15.30
16	12.41, 15.105
(1)–(3)	15.105
Pt III (ss 17–30)	15.63
s 18	3.57, 8.61, 15.32, 15.44, 15.66
(1)	3.05, 15.29, 15.64, 15.65, 15.72, 15.97, 15.100, 15.106, 15.107, 15.114
(2)	15.76, 15.97
(3)	15.64
19	15.64
20	15.106
21	3.57, 8.61
(1)	7.19, 15.66, 15.76
(a)	7.20
(b)	15.73
(c)	15.74
(2)	15.54, 15.64, 15.76, 15.100
21A	8.64, 15.77, 15.78
(1)	15.80
(2)	15.77
(3)	15.83
(4)	15.82
(5), (6)	15.83
22	3.57, 7.20, 8.61
22A	8.61
23	8.61, 15.97
24	6.41, 15.90, 15.98
(3), (4), (4A), (5)	15.98
25(1)	15.99
26	15.100
27	6.96
(1), (2)	15.109
28(1)–(3)	15.109
29	15.109
31(1), (2)	15.67
(3)–(5)	15.68
35(1)	15.68
(3)(a), (b)	15.68

	PARA		PARA
Child Care Act 1980 — <i>contd</i>		Child Care Act 1980 — <i>contd</i>	
s 35(4) .....	15.68	s 87(1) .....	7.03, 14.63, 15.11, 15.13, 15.90, 15.112
36(2), (3) .....	15.68	(1A) .....	15.90
37, 38 .....	15.68	Sch 4 para 8 .....	5.22, 5.67
40 .....	15.70	Sch 5 .....	15.109
41 .....	15.58	para 40 .....	15.61
42 .....	15.69	Child stealing (1814) .....	3.91
(5) .....	15.69	Children Act 1908 .....	7.02, 9.04, 13.02, 13.74
43, 43A .....	15.70	s 58 .....	14.01
45 .....	4.25, 6.64, 16.90, 16.95	(4) .....	13.38, 14.01
(1) .....	1.54, 15.48	(5), (6) .....	14.01
(1A), (2) .....	16.90	59 .....	14.01
(3) .....	16.93	60 .....	13.38
46 .....	16.91	99 .....	13.20
(2)(a) .....	16.91	102 .....	13.74
(4) .....	16.90	111(1) .....	12.03, 12.78
47 .....	1.54	Children Act 1948 .....	7.02, 13.21, 15.02, 15.03, 15.04, 15.45
48(2) .....	16.91	s 1 .....	9.45
49, 50 .....	2.48, 16.69, 16.90	(3) .....	15.30
51(1) .....	16.92	2 .....	7.14, 7.35, 14.08, 15.89
53 .....	16.90	13 .....	7.19
56 .....	15.74	Children Act 1958 .....	7.02, 7.14
57 .....	15.74	Children Act 1972 (6 <i>Statutes</i> 327)	
(4) .....	15.74	s 1 .....	11.77
(6) .....	15.58	Children Act 1975 (6 <i>Statutes</i> 355) .....	1.11, 1.18, 1.46, 1.57, 1.65, 2.40, 3.21, 3.33, 3.98, 5.03, 5.05, 5.12, 5.99, 6.07, 6.48, 6.49, 6.56, 6.71, 6.75, 7.01, 7.02, 11.01, 14.75, 15.15, 15.34, 15.62, 15.90, 15.112
57A–57D, 59 .....	15.74	s 1 .....	14.36
61(1) .....	7.20	3 .....	5.12, 5.25, 5.59
62 .....	15.114	8 .....	16.05, 16.06
(3) .....	15.114	10(3) .....	5.58, 5.59, 5.76
63 .....	15.113	11(4) .....	5.58, 5.59, 5.76
64 .....	1.73, 4.13, 5.22, 5.49, 5.70, 6.07, 15.90, 15.114, 15.115	12(2) .....	15.08
(1) .....	12.55, 15.27	17(1)(b) .....	6.07, 15.89
(3), (4) .....	15.114	24 .....	5.104
(6) .....	5.22, 15.114	26(1) .....	5.99
(8) .....	15.114	Pt II (ss 33–46) ...	6.01, 6.02, 6.18, 6.19, 6.20, 6.50, 6.55, 6.61, 6.74, 6.94
64A .....	15.114	s 33 .....	3.20, 3.22, 3.36, 3.88, 6.14, 6.31, 6.57, 6.62, 6.68, 6.85, 6.86, 6.91, 6.92, 8.35
65 .....	6.07, 15.90, 15.115	(1) .....	3.15, 3.15A, 6.03
(1), (2) .....	15.115	(2) .....	6.03
66(1) .....	15.115	(3) .....	2.17, 6.02, 6.09, 6.10, 6.11, 8.53
(2) .....	15.114	(a) .....	6.44
(3) .....	15.115	(b) .....	6.02
67(1)–(4) .....	15.115	(c) .....	6.29
68 .....	15.114		
69(1)–(3) .....	15.109		
72 .....	15.67, 15.79, 15.108, 15.109		
73(1) .....	14.35, 15.67		
(2) .....	14.35		
74 .....	5.67, 7.07, 15.70, 15.74, 15.81		
(3) .....	15.70		
75 .....	5.67, 7.07, 15.70		
(3) .....	14.44		
80 .....	15.73		
82 .....	15.68		
84 .....	15.102		

Children Act 1975 — <i>contd</i>	PARA	Children Act 1975 — <i>contd</i>	PARA
s 33(4)	6.13, 6.92	s 36(7)	6.60
(5)	5.59, 6.11, 6.12	37	3.15, 6.15, 6.85, 6.86, 6.89, 6.91, 6.93, 6.95
(6)	6.08	(1)	6.86, 6.88, 6.89, 6.91, 6.92, 6.93
(7)	6.06	(2)	6.89, 6.90, 6.91, 6.92, 6.93
(8)	6.44	(3)	3.20
(a)	6.12, 6.88	(4)	3.20, 6.91
(9)	3.02, 6.03, 6.32, 6.51, 6.55	(6)	6.92
(9A)	6.02, 6.13, 6.52	38	1.67, 6.58
34	6.58, 6.61, 6.65, 6.66, 6.68, 6.69, 6.76, 6.79, 6.81	39	6.60, 6.67, 6.69, 6.75
(1)	6.82	(1)	6.28, 6.60, 6.91
(a)	6.62	(2)	6.60
(b)	6.64, 6.65, 6.69	40	3.20, 6.23, 6.27, 6.28, 6.60, 6.67, 6.75, 6.91, 6.95, 6.96
(c)	6.64, 6.65	(1), (2)	6.23
(d)	6.68	(3)	6.24
(e)	6.68, 6.71, 6.72	(d)	6.67
(2)	6.62, 6.64, 6.68	(4)	6.60
(4)	15.57	41	6.06, 6.29, 6.31, 6.32
(5)	3.15, 3.22, 3.57, 6.07, 6.73, 6.74, 6.76, 6.77, 6.83, 8.61, 8.66	(1)	6.29
(a)	6.77	(2)	6.30
(c)	6.75	(4)	6.29
(6)	6.96	42(1), (2)	6.32, 6.34
34A	6.61, 6.69	(3)–(5)	6.33
(1)	6.65	43	6.79
(2)	6.64	(1), (2)	6.79
(3)	6.65	(3)	6.65, 6.79
(a)	6.65	43A	6.78, 6.82
34B	6.61, 6.76	(1), (1A), (2), (3)	6.78
(1)	6.65	44(1)	2.17, 6.40
(2)	6.65, 6.69	(2)	2.17, 6.40, 6.55, 6.58
(3)	6.70	46(1), (2)	6.80
35	6.69, 6.84	(3)	6.80, 6.84
(1)	6.51, 6.52	(4)	6.80
(2)	6.51	56	15.29
(3), (4), (4A)	6.69	64	14.59, 15.51
(5)	6.70	69	12.121
(6)	6.47, 6.70	85	15.34
(7)–(10), (10A)	6.69	(1)	1.11, 1.17, 1.19, 4.23, 6.64, 14.39
(11)	6.81	(2)	1.68, 2.15, 6.58, 11.05
35A	6.61, 6.69, 6.84	(3)	1.66, 15.36
(1), (2)	6.65	(4)	1.73, 4.46
(3), (4)	6.69	(5), (6)	1.73
(5)	6.65, 6.69	(7)	1.66, 2.40
(6)	6.69	86	1.59, 1.60, 1.63, 3.99, 4.17, 4.23, 4.31, 6.36, 6.64
36	6.55, 6.56, 6.58, 6.60, 6.84, 15.57	87	7.01, 11.19
(1)	6.55	(1)	1.65, 14.39
(2)	6.50, 6.55, 6.83, 15.89	(2)	1.65
(3)	6.55	(3)	1.65, 5.62, 5.80, 11.29, 14.39
(a)	6.07, 6.50, 6.83, 15.89	88	15.113
(4)	6.60	89	15.34
(5)	6.55, 6.71		
(5A)	6.71		
(6)	3.57, 6.55		

	PARA		PARA
Children Act 1975 — <i>contd</i>		Children and Young Persons Act 1933	
s 90(1) . . . . .	3.73, 3.74	— <i>contd</i>	
(2) . . . . .	3.70	s 5 . . . . .	9.69
93(2) . . . . .	2.33	7 . . . . .	9.70, 9.73
95 . . . . .	7.06	(2) . . . . .	9.72
100 . . . . .	6.32, 6.53	(3) . . . . .	9.73
(2), (7) . . . . .	6.15	(5) . . . . .	9.71
101 . . . . .	5.103	9 . . . . .	10.12
(1), (2), (4) . . . . .	6.84	10 . . . . .	11.31, 11.34, 14.18
102 . . . . .	6.22	(1) . . . . .	11.31
104 . . . . .	4.43	(1A) . . . . .	11.34
107(1) . . . . .	4.31, 6.23, 6.47, 7.03	11 . . . . .	9.60
108(1)(a) . . . . .	6.76, 9.57	(3) . . . . .	9.62
(b) . . . . .	6.74, 9.57	12 (1), (2) . . . . .	9.62
Sch 1 . . . . .	16.78	17 . . . . .	1.65, 4.24, 9.48, 9.51, 9.54, 16.04
Sch 3 . . . . .	6.84	18 . . . . .	11.70
para 1 . . . . .	9.57	(1)(a) . . . . .	11.77
7 . . . . .	1.49, 1.60, 6.37	(b)–(f) . . . . .	11.77, 11.78
8 . . . . .	5.112	(2), (3) . . . . .	11.77
9 . . . . .	1.49	20(1), (2) . . . . .	11.81
67 . . . . .	14.11	21(1) . . . . .	11.77, 11.81
70 . . . . .	5.110	(2) . . . . .	11.77
71 . . . . .	15.106	(3) . . . . .	11.81
73(2)(b) . . . . .	6.65	23 . . . . .	11.75, 11.76
75(3)(b) . . . . .	3.18, 3.26	(1) . . . . .	7.16
76(b) . . . . .	6.65	24 . . . . .	11.75
78 . . . . .	3.55	(1) . . . . .	11.76
80 . . . . .	6.76	25 . . . . .	11.75, 11.79
(2) . . . . .	3.24	26(1) . . . . .	11.76
81 . . . . .	3.70	28 . . . . .	11.76, 11.78
Sch 4 . . . . .	6.74, 9.57	30 . . . . .	11.75
Pt I . . . . .	7.38	31 . . . . .	10.02, 12.67, 12.78, 12.79
Pt III . . . . .	9.34	34 . . . . .	12.54, 12.55, 12.88, 14.69
Children and Young Persons Act		(1) . . . . .	12.87, 12.98, 14.69
1932 . . . . .	7.02, 9.04, 12.04, 14.02	(2)–(11) . . . . .	12.54, 12.89
Children and Young Persons Act 1933		36 . . . . .	10.04
(6 <i>Statutes</i> 17) . . . . .	1.20, 7.01, 7.14, 9.04, 10.02, 10.06, 10.12, 11.70, 11.76, 11.79, 12.13, 12.68, 12.81, 14.54, 15.01, 15.02, 15.04	37(1) . . . . .	10.51
s 1 . . . . .	1.41, 2.40, 5.29, 9.32, 9.33, 9.34, 9.39, 9.40, 9.41, 9.43, 9.44, 9.45, 9.46, 9.47, 9.48, 9.50, 9.53, 9.54, 9.56, 9.57, 9.58, 9.59, 9.60, 9.81, 10.52, 15.08, 16.04	38(1) . . . . .	10.47
(1) . . . . .	1.26, 1.65, 4.24, 9.34, 9.35, 9.36, 9.37	39 . . . . .	10.06, 12.85
(a), (b) . . . . .	9.57	40 . . . . .	5.82, 7.07, 10.38, 14.44, 14.46, 14.47, 15.30, 15.70, 15.78, 15.114
(2)(a) . . . . .	1.26, 4.24, 9.39, 9.54	(2)–(5) . . . . .	14.45
(b) . . . . .	9.40	41 . . . . .	10.53
(3)(a) . . . . .	9.41	42, 43 . . . . .	10.53, 10.54, 10.62
(b) . . . . .	9.40	44 . . . . .	15.45
(7) . . . . .	1.23, 9.55, 11.56	(1) . . . . .	3.03, 12.87, 12.96, 12.104, 13.107, 13.117, 14.73, 14.106, 15.45, 15.53
3 . . . . .	10.44, 14.13	45 . . . . .	12.14, 12.69, 12.70, 12.73
4 . . . . .	10.12	46(1) . . . . .	12.14, 12.17, 12.33
		proviso (a) . . . . .	12.18
		(b) . . . . .	12.19
		(c) . . . . .	12.32
		(1A) . . . . .	12.33, 12.96
		(2) . . . . .	12.115
		47(1) . . . . .	12.77

	PARA
Children and Young Persons Act 1933	
— <i>contd</i>	
s 47(2)	12.78, 12.81, 12.83, 12.90, 14.70
(d)	12.86
48(1)	12.13, 12.30, 12.31, 12.32
(2)	12.13, 13.11
(3)	12.125
(a)	12.117
(4)	12.77
49	10.06, 12.83, 12.84, 12.85
(1), (2)	12.83
50	12.05
53	13.31, 13.104, 15.79
(1)	13.02, 13.07, 13.97, 13.100, 13.103, 13.118
(2)	12.14, 12.26, 13.77, 13.98, 13.99, 13.100, 13.101, 13.102, 13.103, 13.118
55	13.20, 13.21, 13.22
(1A)	13.36
(2)–(4)	13.20
56(1)	12.20, 12.22, 12.24, 12.91
(2)(a)	12.22
(3)	12.22
59(1)	12.104
61	14.02
62	13.38, 13.39
98	9.56, 11.79
99(1)	12.29, 12.30, 14.49
106(2)(a)	12.23
107(1)	7.16, 9.48, 10.19, 10.34, 10.38, 11.69, 11.75, 12.43, 12.55, 12.87, 12.99, 13.21, 14.16, 14.35, 14.57, 15.51
Sch 1	7.07, 7.14, 7.35, 9.59 10.53, 14.44
Sch 2	12.69, 12.74
Pt I	12.70
Pt II para 14	12.69
15	12.74
Children and Young Persons Act 1963	
(6 Statutes 158)	10.02, 11.70, 11.76, 11.79, 12.98, 14.14, 15.02, 15.07
s 1	15.04, 15.05, 15.06, 15.07
(2)	15.07
(5)	15.05
2	14.02, 14.05, 14.23
(1)	14.28
3(1)	14.27, 14.28
(2), (3)	14.27
5	13.38
(3)	13.39

	PARA
Children and Young Persons Act 1963	
— <i>contd</i>	
s 16	12.05
(1)	12.05
(2)	12.10
17(2)	12.78
18(a), (b)	12.19
23(1), (3)–(5)	14.46
26	14.06, 14.82
28	12.102
29(1)	12.27, 14.49
32	9.70
35	11.81
(2)	11.81
37	11.75, 11.76, 11.79
(1)–(3)	11.71
(4), (7)	11.72
38(1), (2)	11.73
39	11.74
40	11.76
(2)	11.76
41	11.75
(2), (3)	11.75
42	11.75
44(1)	11.71
56	9.56
57	12.83, 12.85
(2)	12.85
64	12.20
(1)	10.12
Sch 1	13.38
Sch 2	12.74
Sch 3	11.77, 14.44
para 1	9.34
3	10.12
5	11.75
14(1)	12.20
Sch 5	9.34
Children and Young Persons Act 1969	
(6 Statutes 227)	3.58, 5.49, 6.07, 6.20, 7.02, 7.14, 7.19, 7.30, 12.13, 12.21, 12.35, 12.68, 12.75, 13.03, 13.23, 13.75, 14.03, 14.54, 15.47, 15.57, 15.63, 15.64, 15.67, 15.100, 15.109, 15.111, 15.117
s 1	5.28, 6.45, 6.48, 9.07, 9.74, 10.46, 10.49, 11.34, 12.27, 13.62, 14.02, 14.04, 14.06, 14.17, 14.18, 14.20, 14.23, 14.27, 14.31, 14.36, 14.37, 14.41, 14.42, 14.57, 14.69, 14.70, 14.73, 14.90, 14.91, 14.94, 14.95, 14.96, 14.98, 14.101, 14.106, 14.107, 14.108, 14.114, 15.30, 15.119
(1)	14.26, 14.30

	PARA
Children and Young Persons Act 1969	
— <i>contd</i>	
s1(2)	14.22, 14.59, 14.73, 14.107, 15.52
(a)	14.05, 14.06, 14.08, 14.19, 14.23, 14.36, 14.44, 14.59, 14.88
(b)	14.10, 14.36, 14.42, 14.44, 14.52, 14.88
(bb)	13.08, 14.36, 14.42, 14.44
(c)	14.36, 14.44
(d)	14.36
(e)	11.34, 14.17, 14.18, 14.26, 14.36, 14.59, 14.91, 14.101, 14.109
(f)	14.19
(3)	14.102, 14.107
(a)	14.69, 14.109
(b)	13.38, 14.110
(c)	15.47
(4)	14.108
(5)(a)	14.109
(c)	6.48, 14.13, 14.50, 15.46, 15.50
(6)	14.04, 14.26
2(1)	14.30
(2)	14.32
(3)	14.31
(4), (5)	13.59, 14.34
(6)	14.81
(7)	14.09
(8)	14.26
(b)	14.18
(9)	14.69
(10)	14.95, 14.98
(b)	14.100
(11)	14.51
(12)	14.114
(13)	13.13, 14.109
(14)	12.27, 14.49
3(1)	14.20, 14.90
(a)–(c)	14.20
(2)	14.20, 14.26
(3)	14.20, 14.90
(4)	14.20
(5)	14.51
(6), (6A)	14.108
(7), (8)	14.108, 14.114
4	12.120, 14.02
5	12.35, 14.02
(8)	12.34, 12.105
(9)	12.34
6(1)	12.14, 12.28
7(1)	13.75
(2)	13.38
(3)	13.26, 13.75
(5), (6)	13.75

	PARA
Children and Young Persons Act 1969	
— <i>contd</i>	
s7(7)	13.13, 13.41, 13.69, 14.21
(a)	13.70, 15.47
(b)	13.38
(7A)	13.70
(b)	15.52
(8)	12.21
7A	13.70
9	12.105
(1)	12.105, 14.91
(2)	12.105, 14.53, 14.91
10	10.06, 12.83
(1)(b)	12.84, 12.85
(c)	12.83
(2)	12.84, 12.85
11	13.39
12	13.44, 13.47, 13.48, 13.50, 13.53, 13.60, 13.61, 13.62, 13.64
(2)	13.51, 13.52, 13.56, 13.66
(3)	13.51
(3c)	13.53
(a)	13.55
12A	13.44, 13.56, 13.60, 13.61, 13.62, 13.64
(1), (2)	13.50
(3)	13.53, 13.66
(a)	13.54, 13.55
(b)	13.57
(c)	13.58
(5)	13.54
(6), (7)	13.55
(8)–(13)	13.57
12B	13.44, 13.60, 13.61, 13.62, 13.64
(1)	13.45, 13.55
(2)	13.45
12C	13.44, 13.53, 13.60, 13.61, 13.62, 13.64
12D	13.44, 13.54
13(1), (3)	13.40
14	13.43
14A	14.44
15(1)	13.59, 13.60, 13.64, 13.67 15.47
(2)	13.64, 13.67
(2A)	13.27, 13.67
(3)	13.64
(4)	13.27, 13.67
(4A)–(4D)	13.67
(5)	13.63
16(1)–(3)	13.59
(4)(a)	13.59
(b)	13.60
(5)	13.61
(6)(a)	13.62, 14.110

	PARA
Children and Young Persons Act 1969	
— <i>contd</i>	
s 16(6)(b), (c) .....	13.63
(7) .....	13.63
(8) .....	13.65
(9) .....	13.60
(10) .....	13.27
(11) .....	13.60, 13.64, 13.67
17 .....	13.41
18(1) .....	13.41
(2)(a) .....	13.39, 13.40, 13.60
(b) .....	13.43, 13.60, 13.61, 13.66
(4) .....	13.56
19 .....	13.47, 13.48
(1) .....	13.49, 13.50
(2), (5)–(7), (9)–(11) .....	13.49
(12) .....	13.52, 13.54
(13), (14) .....	13.54
(15) .....	13.49
20(1) .....	14.95, 14.96, 15.47
(b) .....	14.34
(2)(a) .....	15.47
(2A) .....	15.47
(3) .....	15.49
(a) .....	15.108
20A .....	13.72
(7) .....	13.72
21(1) .....	15.49
(2) .....	14.110, 15.51, 15.52, 15.53
(3)(a), (b) .....	15.54
(4) .....	15.54
(5) .....	14.116
(6) .....	15.51
21A .....	5.110, 6.41, 15.50
22(1), (2) .....	14.34, 14.97
(3) .....	14.96
(4) .....	15.54, 15.76
(5), (6) .....	14.101
23 .....	12.121, 15.80, 15.82
(1) .....	12.120, 15.55, 15.78, 15.89, 15.105
(2) .....	12.120, 13.82
(3), (5) .....	12.120
25(4) .....	15.79
27(4) .....	15.106
28 .....	5.82
(1) .....	14.35, 14.36, 14.38, 14.39, 14.41, 14.43
(c) .....	11.75
(2) .....	9.87, 12.39, 12.41, 14.42, 14.43, 14.44
(3) .....	14.38, 14.42
(4), (5) .....	14.42
(6) .....	14.41, 14.42, 14.96
29 .....	12.28, 12.43, 12.89
30 .....	13.103
(1), (2) .....	13.103

	PARA
Children and Young Persons Act 1969	
— <i>contd</i>	
s 32 .....	12.41
32A .....	10.61, 14.71, 14.72, 14.75, 14.101, 14.114
(1) .....	14.57, 14.59, 14.60, 14.61, 14.62, 14.73, 14.74, 14.76, 14.79, 14.80, 14.81, 14.87, 14.96, 15.51
(2) .....	15.51
(4) .....	14.61, 15.51
(4A) .....	14.71, 15.51
32B .....	14.75
(1) .....	15.51
32C .....	14.73
(3) .....	14.73
34(1)(a) .....	13.39
(c) .....	12.120
(2) .....	12.34, 14.31
(3) .....	12.105, 14.91
64 .....	12.22, 15.73
70(1) .....	13.39, 14.16, 14.22, 15.47
(1A), (1B) .....	14.16
(2) .....	13.59, 14.42, 15.51, 15.54
72(3) .....	10.38, 12.20, 12.27, 12.33, 14.35, 14.49
(4) .....	12.27, 14.49, 14.106
Sch 3 para 14 (2) .....	12.22
Sch 4 para 6 .....	13.26
Sch 5 para 2 .....	11.34
4 .....	12.33
6 .....	12.20
12(2) .....	10.38, 14.35
13 .....	11.34, 14.18
23 .....	13.26
47 .....	14.27
48 .....	14.46
49 .....	12.27, 14.49
53 .....	12.83
Sch 6 .....	12.27, 12.104, 13.117, 14.46, 14.49, 14.106
Children and Young Persons (Amend- ment) Act 1952 (6 <i>Statutes</i> 105)	
s 1 .....	14.02
8 .....	9.60
Sch 1 .....	9.60
Children and Young Persons (Amend- ment) Act 1986 .....	
s 2(1) .....	10.61, 14.54
s 2(1) .....	14.114
3 .....	10.61
(1) .....	14.71
(2) .....	14.73
(3) .....	14.71, 14.72
4(2) .....	14.80