



# Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022

## 2022 CHAPTER 28

An Act to make provision about the minimum age for marriage and civil partnership;  
and for connected purposes. [28th April 2022]

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

### *Marriage*

#### **1 Marriage: increase of minimum age to 18**

- (1) The Marriage Act 1949 is amended as follows.
- (2) In section 2 (marriages of persons under sixteen)—
  - (a) in the heading, for “sixteen” substitute “eighteen”;
  - (b) in the text, for “sixteen” substitute “eighteen”.
- (3) Omit section 3 (marriages of persons under eighteen).

#### **2 Offence of conduct relating to marriage of persons under 18**

- (1) Section 121 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (offence of forced marriage: England and Wales) is amended as follows.
- (2) After subsection (3) insert—

“(3A) A person commits an offence under the law of England and Wales if he or she carries out any conduct for the purpose of causing a child to enter into a marriage before the child’s eighteenth birthday (whether or not the conduct

---

*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted). This item of legislation is currently only available in its original format.*

---

amounts to violence, threats, any other form of coercion or deception, and whether or not it is carried out in England and Wales).”

(3) After subsection (5) insert—

“(5A) “Child” means a person under the age of 18 years.”

(4) In subsection (6)—

- (a) after “(1)” insert “or subsection (3A)”; and
- (b) for “that subsection” substitute “either of those subsections”.

(5) After subsection (7) insert—

“(7A) A person commits an offence under subsection (3A) only if—

- (a) the conduct is for the purpose of causing the child to enter into a marriage in England or Wales,
- (b) at the time of the conduct, the person or child is habitually resident in England and Wales, or
- (c) at the time of the conduct, the child is a United Kingdom national who—
  - (i) has been habitually resident in England and Wales, and
  - (ii) is not habitually resident or domiciled in Scotland or Northern Ireland.”

### *Civil partnership*

## **3 Civil partnership: increase of minimum age to 18**

- (1) The Civil Partnership Act 2004 is amended as follows.
- (2) In section 3 (eligibility), in subsection (1), in paragraph (c), for “16” substitute “18”.
- (3) Omit section 4 (parental etc. consent where proposed civil partner under 18).

## **4 Civil partnerships etc. registered outside England and Wales**

- (1) The Civil Partnership Act 2004 is amended as follows.
- (2) In section 54 (validity of civil partnerships registered outside England and Wales)—
  - (a) in subsection (1)—
    - (i) in paragraph (a), omit “and”;
    - (ii) after paragraph (a), insert—
      - “(aa) void, if the civil partnership was registered when—
        - (i) one of the two people was domiciled in England and Wales, and
        - (ii) one of the two people was under 18, and”;
  - (b) in subsection (2)—
    - (i) in paragraph (a), omit “and”;
    - (ii) after paragraph (a), insert—
      - “(aa) void, if the civil partnership was registered when—
        - (i) one of the two people was domiciled in England and Wales, and

---

*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted). This item of legislation is currently only available in its original format.*

---

- (ii) one of the two people was under 18, and”;
  - (c) in subsection (2A)—
    - (i) in paragraph (a), omit “and”;
    - (ii) after paragraph (a), insert—
      - “(aa) void, if the marriage was solemnised there when—
        - (i) one of the two people was domiciled in England and Wales, and
        - (ii) one of the two people was under 18, and”.
- (3) In section 217 (person domiciled in a part of the United Kingdom), in subsection (2), in paragraph (a), for “16” substitute “18”.

### *Final provisions*

## **5 Consequential amendments**

- (1) [The Schedule](#) to this Act contains minor and consequential amendments.
- (2) The Secretary of State may by regulations made by statutory instrument make provision that is consequential on any provision made by this Act.
- (3) Regulations under [this section](#)—
  - (a) may include transitional or saving provision;
  - (b) may amend, repeal or revoke any provision of or made under primary legislation.
- (4) The provision referred to in [subsection \(3\)\(b\)](#) does not include a provision of legislation passed or made after the end of the session of Parliament in which this Act is passed.
- (5) A statutory instrument containing regulations under [this section](#) that amend, repeal or revoke primary legislation may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.
- (6) Any other statutory instrument containing regulations under [this section](#) is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.
- (7) In [this section](#) “primary legislation” means—
  - (a) an Act;
  - (b) a Measure or Act of Senedd Cymru;
  - (c) an Act of the Scottish Parliament;
  - (d) Northern Ireland legislation.

## **6 Extent**

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales only, subject to [subsections \(2\)](#) and [\(3\)](#).
- (2) [Sections 4\(3\)](#) and [5 to 9](#) also extend to Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- (3) An amendment or repeal made by [the Schedule](#) has the same extent as the provision amended or repealed.