



Civil Partnership Act 2004

2004 CHAPTER 33

PART 2

CIVIL PARTNERSHIP: ENGLAND AND WALES

CHAPTER 1

REGISTRATION

The standard procedure

[^{F1}12 Power to shorten the waiting period

- (1) If the Registrar General, on an application being made to him, is satisfied that there are compelling reasons because of the exceptional circumstances of the case for shortening the period of [^{F2}28] days mentioned in section 11(b), he may shorten it to such period as he considers appropriate.
- (2) Regulations may make provision with respect to the making, and granting, of applications under subsection (1).
- (3) Regulations under subsection (2) may provide for—
 - (a) the power conferred by subsection (1) to be exercised by a registration authority on behalf of the Registrar General in such classes of case as are prescribed by the regulations;
 - (b) the making of an appeal to the Registrar General against a decision taken by a registration authority in accordance with regulations made by virtue of paragraph (a).

[If a proposed civil partnership is referred to the Secretary of State under section 12A—

- ^{F3}(4) (a) any application under subsection (1) is to be made to the Secretary of State; and
- (b) the power conferred by subsection (1) is exercisable by the Secretary of State.

Changes to legislation: Civil Partnership Act 2004, Section 12 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 09 May 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

- (5) If the Secretary of State grants an application made under subsection (1), the Secretary of State must give notice of the grant of the application to—
- (a) the applicant,
 - (b) the registration authority to which notice of the proposed civil partnership was given, and
 - (c) if different, the registration authority responsible for issuing the civil partnership schedule under section 14(1) in relation to the proposed civil partnership.
- (6) Regulations under subsection (2) do not apply to applications made to the Secretary of State in accordance with subsection (4).
- (7) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision with respect to the making, and granting, of applications made in accordance with subsection (4).
- (8) The Secretary of State must consult the Registrar General before making regulations under subsection (7).]]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Ss. 9-9F substituted for s. 9 (20.10.2014 for specified purposes, 1.3.2015 in so far as not already in force) by [Immigration Act 2014 \(c. 22\)](#), s. 75(3), [Sch. 4 para. 21](#) (with [Sch. 9 para. 66](#)); [S.I. 2014/2771](#), art. 3(e); [S.I. 2015/371](#), art. 2(1)(f)
- F2** Word in s. 12(1) substituted (20.10.2014 for specified purposes, 1.3.2015 in so far as not already in force) by [Immigration Act 2014 \(c. 22\)](#), s. 75(3), [Sch. 4 para. 23\(2\)](#) (with [Sch. 9 para. 66](#)); [S.I. 2014/2771](#), art. 3(e); [S.I. 2015/371](#), art. 2(1)(f)
- F3** S. 12(4)-(8) inserted (20.10.2014 for specified purposes, 1.3.2015 in so far as not already in force) by [Immigration Act 2014 \(c. 22\)](#), s. 75(3), [Sch. 4 para. 23\(3\)](#) (with [Sch. 9 para. 66](#)); [S.I. 2014/2771](#), art. 3(e); [S.I. 2015/371](#), art. 2(1)(f)

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 12 wholly in force at 5.12.2005; s. 12 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 263; s. 12(2) in force at 15.4.2005 by [S.I. 2005/1112](#), [art. 2](#), [Sch. 1](#); s. 12(1)(3) in force at 5.12.2005 insofar as not already in force by [S.I. 2005/3175](#), [art. 2\(1\)](#), [Sch. 1](#)

Changes to legislation:

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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\(2\)](#)