

**Jersey Law 26/1999**

**AGE OF MAJORITY (JERSEY) LAW 1999**

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**A LAW** to reduce the age of majority and to make provision incidental upon and supplemental thereto; sanctioned by Order of Her Majesty in Council of the

**21st day of JULY 1999**

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*(Registered on the 20th day of August 1999)*

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**STATES OF JERSEY**

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The 16th day of March 1999

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**THE STATES**, subject to the sanction of Her Most Excellent Majesty in Council, have adopted the following Law –

**ARTICLE 1**

**Interpretation**

(1) In this Law, “commencement date” means the date this Law comes into force.

(2) A reference in this Law to an enactment is a reference to that enactment as amended from time to time.

**ARTICLE 2**

**Reduction in the age of majority**

(1) As from the commencement date, a person shall attain full age on attaining the age of eighteen years instead of on attaining the age of twenty years.

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(2) A person who, before the commencement date, has attained the age of eighteen years, but not the age of twenty years, shall attain full age on the commencement date.

ARTICLE 3

**Construction of enactments and instruments**

(1) Article 2 of this Law applies for the purposes of any rule of law and, in the absence of a definition or of any indication of a contrary intention, for the construction of “full age”, “the age of majority”, “the age of legal capacity”, “infant”, “minor” and similar expressions (including such expressions rendered in the French language) in –

- (a) any enactment, whether passed or made before, on or after the commencement date; and
- (b) any deed, will or other instrument of whatever nature (not being an enactment) made on or after the commencement date.

(2) Notwithstanding any rule of law, a will or codicil executed before the commencement date shall not be treated for the purposes of this Article as made on or after the commencement date by reason only that the will or codicil is confirmed by a codicil executed on or after that date.

ARTICLE 4

**Tutelles**

(1) As from the commencement date, a tutelle shall cease to have effect upon the person subject to it attaining the age of majority.

(2) Where, before the commencement date, a person subject to a tutelle has attained the age of eighteen years, the tutelle shall cease to have effect upon the commencement date.

## ARTICLE 5

**Marriage of person under the age of majority**

For the avoidance of doubt, it is declared that the marriage of a person who has not attained the age of majority does not confer full legal capacity on him.

## ARTICLE 6

**Extension of powers under Children (Jersey) Law 1969<sup>1</sup>**

In the Children (Jersey) Law 1969 –

- (a) in the long title,<sup>2</sup> after the words “protection of children,” there shall be added the words “to enable support and assistance to be provided to certain young persons,”;
- (b) in Article 1,<sup>3</sup> in paragraph (1), after the definition of “voluntary home” there shall be added the following definition –
  - “ ‘young person’ means a person who has attained the age of majority but has not attained the age of twenty-one years;”;
- (c) at the end of the heading to Part X<sup>4</sup> there shall be added the words “AND ASSISTANCE FOR YOUNG PERSONS”;
- (d) at the end of Article 88<sup>4</sup> there shall be added the words “and the powers of the Committee in relation to young persons previously in its care”; and

<sup>1</sup> Volume 1968–1969, page 247, Volume 1970–1972, page 511, Volume 1973–1974, page 371, Volume 1979–1981, page 25, Volume 1986–1987, pages 20 and 173, Volume 1994–1995, pages 58 and 118, and Volume 1996–1997, pages 15 and 616.

<sup>2</sup> Volume 1968–1969, page 247.

<sup>3</sup> Volume 1968–1969, page 251.

<sup>4</sup> Volume 1968–1969, page 326.

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- (e) after Article 91<sup>5</sup> there shall be added the following Article

—

“ARTICLE 91A

**POWER TO ASSIST YOUNG PERSONS PREVIOUSLY  
IN CARE**

The Committee may provide support and assistance, in such manner as it thinks fit, to a young person who, before attaining the age of majority, was committed to or received into its care under this Law where it appears to the Committee to be desirable to do so, in the interests of the welfare of the young person.”.

ARTICLE 7

**Consequential amendments of other enactments and transitional  
arrangements**

(1) Part I of the Schedule to this Law shall have effect for the purpose of amending the enactments specified in it in the manner specified.

(2) Part II of the Schedule to this Law shall have effect for the purpose of making transitional arrangements.

ARTICLE 8

**Short title and commencement**

(1) This Law may be cited as the Age of Majority (Jersey) Law 1999.

(2) This Law shall come into force on such day as the States may by Act appoint.

<sup>5</sup> Volume 1968–1969, page 328.

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**G.H.C. COPPOCK**

*Greffier of the States.*

*SCHEDULE***CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS AND TRANSITIONAL  
ARRANGEMENTS****(Article 7)***PART I***CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS OF OTHER ENACTMENTS****(Article 7(1))****Loi (1925) étendant les droits de la femme mariée**

1. Article 4 of the Loi (1925) étendant les droits de la femme mariée<sup>6</sup> is hereby revoked.

**Adoption (Jersey) Law 1961**

2. In the Adoption (Jersey) Law 1961 –
- (a) in Article 1,<sup>7</sup> in paragraph (1), in the definition of “infant”, for the words “twenty years of age” there shall be substituted the words “the age of majority”; and
  - (b) in Article 23,<sup>8</sup> in paragraph (3), for the words “or on his attaining the age of eighteen years, whichever first occurs” there shall be substituted the words “or, if none is made, on his attaining the age of majority”.

**Marriage of Infants (Jersey) Law 1961**

3. In the Marriage of Infants (Jersey) Law 1961 –

<sup>6</sup> Tomes IV–VI, page 579.

<sup>7</sup> Volume 1961–1962, page 363.

<sup>8</sup> Volume 1961–1962, page 381.

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- (a) in Article 1,<sup>9</sup> in the definition of “infant”, for the words “the age of twenty years” there shall be substituted the words “the age of majority”;
- (b) in the heading to Article 2,<sup>9</sup> for the words “THE AGE OF TWENTY YEARS” there shall be substituted the words “THE AGE OF MAJORITY”.

**Children (Jersey) Law 1969**

4. In the Children (Jersey) Law 1969 –

- (a) in Article 1,<sup>10</sup> in paragraph (1), for the definition of “child” there shall be substituted the following definition –

“ ‘child’, where used without qualification and except in Articles 50 and 52 and Parts VI and XI of this Law, means a person under the age of majority;”;

- (b) in Article 28,<sup>11</sup> in sub-paragraph (d) of paragraph (1), after the words “not exceeding three years” there shall be inserted the words “and expiring on or before his attaining the age of majority”;
- (c) in Article 29,<sup>12</sup> in paragraph (1), the words “and he is under the age of eighteen years” shall be deleted;
- (d) in Article 30<sup>12</sup> –
  - (i) in paragraph (3), for the words “the age of twenty years” there shall be substituted the words “the age of majority”, and
  - (ii) in sub-paragraph (d) of paragraph (9), after the words “not exceeding three years” there shall be inserted the

<sup>9</sup> Volume 1961–1962, page 311.

<sup>10</sup> Volume 1968–1969, page 248.

<sup>11</sup> Volume 1968–1969, page 277, and Volume 1970–1972 page 511.

<sup>12</sup> Volume 1968–1969, page 279, and Volume 1970–1972, page 511.

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words “and expiring on or before his attaining the age of majority”;

- (e) in Article 53,<sup>13</sup> in paragraph (4), for the words “the age of twenty years” there shall be substituted the words “the age of majority”;
- (f) in Article 66,<sup>14</sup> in paragraph (b) for the words “the age of eighteen years” there shall be substituted the words “the age of majority”;
- (g) in Article 82,<sup>15</sup> in paragraph (2), for the words “the age of twenty years” there shall be substituted the words “the age of majority”; and
- (h) in Article 85,<sup>16</sup> in paragraph (1), for the words “the age of twenty years” there shall be substituted the words “the age of majority”.

**Consent to Medical Treatment (Jersey) Law 1973**

5. In Article 1 of the Consent to Treatment (Jersey) Law 1973,<sup>17</sup> in paragraph (1), for the words “twenty years of age” and the words “the age of twenty years” there shall be substituted the words “the age of majority”.

**Criminal Justice (Young Offenders) (Jersey) Law 1994**

6. In Article 1 of the Criminal Justice (Young Offenders) (Jersey) Law 1994,<sup>18</sup> in paragraph (1), in the definition of “guardian”, for the words “the age of twenty” there shall be substituted the words “the age of majority”.

<sup>13</sup> Volume 1968–1969, page 294, Volume 1979–1981, page 27, and Volume 1996–1997, page 16.

<sup>14</sup> Volume 1968–1969, page 306.

<sup>15</sup> Volume 1968–1969, page 319.

<sup>16</sup> Volume 1968–1969, page 325.

<sup>17</sup> Volume 1973–1974, page 189.

<sup>18</sup> Volume 1994–1995, page 35.



**PART II****TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS****(Article 7(2))****Adoption (Jersey) Law 1961<sup>19</sup>**

7.-(1) Where, immediately before the commencement date, there is in force an interim order in respect of a person to whom paragraph (2) of Article 2 of this Law applies, the interim order shall cease to have effect on the commencement date.

(2) Where, on the commencement date, there is in force an interim order in respect of a person under the age of majority but who will attain that age within the period for which the order has effect, the order shall be deemed to have been made for a period expiring on the date the person attains the age of majority.

(3) In this paragraph, “interim order” means an order made under Article 9 of the Adoption (Jersey) Law 1961.<sup>20</sup>

**Children (Jersey) Law 1969<sup>21</sup>**

8.-(1) Where, immediately before the commencement date, there is in force a supervision order or an interim order in respect of a person to whom paragraph (2) of Article 2 of this Law applies, the order shall cease to have effect on the commencement date.

(2) Where, on the commencement date, there is in force a supervision order or an interim order in respect of a person under the age of majority but who will attain that age within the period for which the order has effect, the order shall be deemed to have been made for a period expiring on the date the person attains the age of majority.

<sup>19</sup> Volume 1961–1962, page 363, Volume 1963–1965, pages 103 and 447, Volume 1968–1969, page 426, Volume 1994–1995, pages 118 and 353, and R & O 8859.

<sup>20</sup> Volume 1961–1962, page 370.

<sup>21</sup> Volume 1968–1969, page 247, Volume 1970–1972, page 511, Volume 1973–1974, page 371, Volume 1979–1981, page 25, Volume 1986–1987, pages 20 and 173, Volume 1994–1995, pages 58 and 118, and Volume 1996–1997, pages 15 and 616.

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(3) In this paragraph –

“supervision order” means an order made under sub-paragraph (d) of paragraph (1) of Article 28 or sub-paragraph (d) of paragraph (9) of Article 30 of the Children (Jersey) Law 1969;<sup>22</sup> and

“interim order” means an order made under paragraph (4) of Article 28 of that Law<sup>23</sup>.

<sup>22</sup> Volume 1968–1969, pages 278 and 281.

<sup>23</sup> Volume 1968–1969, page 278.