

Sections 9 - 11

The family for Council tax support purposes

## 9.0 Membership of a family

- 9.1 Within the support scheme adopted by the Council 'family' means;
- a. a married or unmarried couple ;
  - b. married or unmarried couple and a member of the same household for whom one of them is or both are responsible and who is a child or a young person;
  - c. two people of the same sex who are civil partners of each other and are members of the same household (with or without children);
  - d. two people of the same sex who are not civil partners of each other but are living together as if they were civil partners (with or without children),
  - e. and for the purposes of sub-paragraph (d) two people of the same sex are to be regarded as living together as if they were civil partners if, but only if, they would be regarded as living together as husband and wife were they instead two people of the opposite sex;
  - f. except in prescribed circumstances, a person who is not a member of a married or unmarried couple and a member of the same household for whom that person is responsible and who is a child or a young person;

For the purposes of the scheme a child is further defined as a 'child or young person'

A 'child' means a person under the age of 16 and a 'Young Person' is someone aged 16 or over but under 20 and who satisfies other conditions. These conditions are:

- they are aged 16, have left 'relevant education' or training, and 31 August following the sixteenth birthday has not yet been passed;
- they are aged 16 or 17, have left education or training, are registered for work, education or training, are not in remunerative work and are still within their 'extension period';
- they are on a course of full-time non-advanced education, or are doing 'approved training', and they began that education or training before reaching the age of 19;
- they have finished a course of full-time non-advanced education, but are enrolled on another such course (other than one provided as a result of their employment);
- they have left 'relevant education' or 'approved training' but have not yet passed their 'terminal date'.

- 9.2 Paragraph 9.1 the definition of child or young person shall not apply to a person who is;
- a. on income support ;
  - b. an income-based jobseeker 's allowance or an income-related employment and support allowance; or has an award of Universal Credit; or

- 
- c. a person to whom section 6 of the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 (exclusion from benefits) applies.
- 9.3 The definition also includes a child or young person in respect of whom there is an entitlement to child benefit but only for the period that Child Benefit is payable
- 10.1 Circumstances in which a person is to be treated as responsible (or not responsible) for a child or young person.
- 10.21 Subject to the following paragraphs a person shall be treated as responsible for a child or young person who is normally living with him and this includes a child or young person to whom paragraph 9.3 applies
- 10.3 Where a child or young person spends equal amounts of time in different households, or where there is a question as to which household he is living in, the child or young person shall be treated for the purposes of paragraph 9.1 as normally living with;
- a. the person who is receiving child benefit in respect of him; or
  - b. if there is no such person;
    - i. where only one claim for child benefit has been made in respect of him, the person who made that claim; or
    - ii. in any other case the person who has the primary responsibility for him.
- 10.4 For the purposes of this scheme a child or young person shall be the responsibility of only one person in any support week and any person other than the one treated as responsible for the child or young person under this section shall be treated as not so responsible.
- 11.1 Circumstances in which a child or young person is to be treated as being or not being a member of the household
- 11.2 Subject to paragraphs 11.3 and 11.4, the applicant and any partner and, where the applicant or his partner is treated as responsible by virtue of section 10 (circumstances in which a person is to be treated as responsible or not responsible for a child or young person) for a child or young person, that child or young person and any child of that child or young person, shall be treated as members of the same household notwithstanding that any of them is temporarily absent from that household.
- 11.3 A child or young person shall not be treated as a member of the applicant's household where he is;
- a. placed with the applicant or his partner by a local authority under section 23(2)(a) of the Children Act 1989 or by a voluntary organization under section 59(1)(a) of that Act, or in Scotland boarded out with the applicant or his partner under a relevant

enactment; or

- b. placed, or in Scotland boarded out, with the applicant or his partner prior to adoption; or
- c. placed for adoption with the applicant or his partner in accordance with the Adoption and Children Act 2002 or the Adoption Agencies (Scotland) Regulations 2009.

11.4 Subject to paragraph 11.5, paragraph 11.2 shall not apply to a child or young person who is not living with the applicant and he-

- a. is being looked after by, or in Scotland is in the care of, a local authority under a relevant enactment; or
- b. has been placed, or in Scotland boarded out, with a person other than the applicant prior to adoption; or
- c. has been placed for adoption in accordance with the Adoption and Children Act 2002 or the Adoption Agencies (Scotland) Regulations 2009; or in accordance with an adoption allowance scheme made under section 71 of the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007 (adoption allowances schemes).

11.5 The authority shall treat a child or young person to whom paragraph 11.3 a) applies as being a member of the applicant's household in any support week where;

- a. that child or young person lives with the applicant for part or all of that support week; and
- b. the authority considers that it is responsible to do so taking into account the nature and frequency of that child's or young person's visits.

11.6 In this paragraph 'relevant enactment' means the Army Act 1955, the Air Force Act 1955, the Naval Discipline Act 1957, the Matrimonial Proceedings (Children) Act 1958, the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, the Family Law Reform Act 1969, the Children and Young Persons Act 1969, the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973, the Children Act 1975, the Domestic Proceedings and Magistrates' Courts Act 1978, the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 1978, the Family Law Act 1986, the Children Act 1989, the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 and the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012.