

# Charities Act 2011 c. 25

## s. 1 Meaning of "charity"



Law In Force

### Version 1 of 1

14 March 2012 - Present

### Subjects

Charities

### Keywords

Charities; Statutory definition

### 1 Meaning of "charity"

- (1) For the purposes of the law of England and Wales, "*charity*" means an institution which—
  - (a) is established for charitable purposes only, and
  - (b) falls to be subject to the control of the High Court in the exercise of its jurisdiction with respect to charities.
- (2) The definition of "*charity*" in subsection (1) does not apply for the purposes of an enactment if a different definition of that term applies for those purposes by virtue of that or any other enactment.

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# Charities Act 2011 c. 25

## s. 2 Meaning of "charitable purpose"



Law In Force

### Version 1 of 1

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### Subjects

Charities

### Keywords

Charitable purposes; Public benefit; Statutory definition

### 2 Meaning of "*charitable purpose*"

- (1) For the purposes of the law of England and Wales, a charitable purpose is a purpose which—
  - (a) falls within [section 3\(1\)](#), and
  - (b) is for the public benefit (see [section 4](#)).
- (2) Any reference in any enactment or document (in whatever terms)—
  - (a) to charitable purposes, or
  - (b) to institutions having purposes that are charitable under the law relating to charities in England and Wales,is to be read in accordance with subsection (1).
- (3) Subsection (2) does not apply where the context otherwise requires.
- (4) This section is subject to [section 11](#) (which makes special provision for [Chapter 2](#) of this Part onwards).

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# Charities Act 2011 c. 25

## s. 3 Descriptions of purposes



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### Subjects

Charities

### Keywords

Advancement of education; Advancement of religion; Benefit to community; Charitable purposes; Relief of poverty

### 3 Descriptions of purposes

- (1) A purpose falls within this subsection if it falls within any of the following descriptions of purposes—
- (a) the prevention or relief of poverty;
  - (b) the advancement of education;
  - (c) the advancement of religion;
  - (d) the advancement of health or the saving of lives;
  - (e) the advancement of citizenship or community development;
  - (f) the advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science;
  - (g) the advancement of amateur sport;
  - (h) the advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation or the promotion of religious or racial harmony or equality and diversity;
  - (i) the advancement of environmental protection or improvement;
  - (j) the relief of those in need because of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage;
  - (k) the advancement of animal welfare;
  - (l) the promotion of the efficiency of the armed forces of the Crown or of the efficiency of the police, fire and rescue services or ambulance services;
  - (m) any other purposes—
    - (i) that are not within paragraphs (a) to (l) but are recognised as charitable purposes by virtue of [section 5](#) (recreational and similar trusts, etc.) or under the old law,
    - (ii) that may reasonably be regarded as analogous to, or within the spirit of, any purposes falling within any of paragraphs (a) to (l) or sub-paragraph (i), or

(iii) that may reasonably be regarded as analogous to, or within the spirit of, any purposes which have been recognised, under the law relating to charities in England and Wales, as falling within sub-paragraph (ii) or this sub-paragraph.

(2) In subsection (1)—

(a) in paragraph (c), “*religion*” includes—

(i) a religion which involves belief in more than one god, and

(ii) a religion which does not involve belief in a god,

(b) in paragraph (d), “*the advancement of health*” includes the prevention or relief of sickness, disease or human suffering,

(c) paragraph (e) includes—

(i) rural or urban regeneration, and

(ii) the promotion of civic responsibility, volunteering, the voluntary sector or the effectiveness or efficiency of charities,

(d) in paragraph (g), “*sport*” means sports or games which promote health by involving physical or mental skill or exertion,

(e) paragraph (j) includes relief given by the provision of accommodation or care to the persons mentioned in that paragraph, and

(f) in paragraph (l), “*fire and rescue services*” means services provided by fire and rescue authorities under [Part 2](#) of the [Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004](#).

(3) Where any of the terms used in any of paragraphs (a) to (l) of subsection (1), or in subsection (2), has a particular meaning under the law relating to charities in England and Wales, the term is to be taken as having the same meaning where it appears in that provision.

(4) In subsection (1)(m)(i), “*the old law*” means the law relating to charities in England and Wales as in force immediately before 1 April 2008.

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# Charities Act 2011 c. 25

## s. 4 The public benefit requirement



Law In Force

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### Subjects

Charities

### Keywords

Charitable purposes; Interpretation; Public benefit

### 4 The public benefit requirement

- (1) In this Act “*the public benefit requirement*” means the requirement in [section 2\(1\)\(b\)](#) that a purpose falling within [section 3\(1\)](#) must be for the public benefit if it is to be a charitable purpose.
- (2) In determining whether the public benefit requirement is satisfied in relation to any purpose falling within [section 3\(1\)](#), it is not to be presumed that a purpose of a particular description is for the public benefit.
- (3) In this Chapter any reference to the public benefit is a reference to the public benefit as that term is understood for the purposes of the law relating to charities in England and Wales.
- (4) Subsection (3) is subject to subsection (2).

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