



Jersey

CIVIL STATUS (ABOLITION OF LEGITIMACY ETC.) (JERSEY) LAW 2025

Official Consolidated Version

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Showing the law from 27 November 2025 to Current



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CIVIL STATUS (ABOLITION OF LEGITIMACY ETC.) (JERSEY) LAW 2025

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Jersey

CIVIL STATUS (ABOLITION OF LEGITIMACY ETC.) (JERSEY) LAW 2025

A **LAW** to abolish the status of illegitimacy, and for related purposes.

Adopted by the States

9 July 2025

Sanctioned by Order of His Majesty in Council

15 October 2025

Registered by the Royal Court

23 October 2025

Coming into force

in accordance with Article 8

Commencement [[see endnotes](#)]

1 Status of illegitimacy abolished

- (1) No person whose status is governed by the law of Jersey is illegitimate, and any rule of customary law to the contrary is abolished.
- (2) The fact that a person's parents are not or have not been married to each other is not relevant in –
 - (a) determining the person's legal status; or
 - (b) establishing the legal relationship between the person and another person.
- (3) No person may bring an action for –
 - (a) a declaration of legitimacy;
 - (b) a declaration of illegitimacy; or
 - (c) the determination of a question of legitimacy.
- (4) A reference in an enactment or legal document to a relative is to be read in accordance with this Article unless this Article is expressly disapplied.

2 ¹

3 Savings

- (1) Nothing in Article 1 –
 - (a) applies to the construction or effect of –
 - (i) an enactment passed or made before the commencement of Article 1;

- (ii) an Act or judgment of the Royal Court made before that commencement;
 - (iii) a trust established before that commencement; or
 - (iv) a document, other than a will, executed or a disposition made before that commencement; or
- (b) prevents a person from bringing an action in relation to that enactment, Act, judgment, trust or document for –
 - (i) a declaration of legitimacy;
 - (ii) a declaration of illegitimacy; or
 - (iii) a determination of a question of legitimacy.
- (2) This Law does not affect the succession of a person who died before the commencement of Article 1.
- (3) This Law –
 - (a) does not apply to a title, coat of arms, honour or dignity transmissible on the death of its holder;
 - (b) does not affect the *privilèges, amortissements and préciputs* that are by custom attached to certain houses and manors in Jersey;
 - (c) does not affect the succession to or devolution of anything described in subparagraphs (a) or (b); and
 - (d) does not prevent a person from bringing an action, in relation to that succession or devolution, for –
 - (i) a declaration of legitimacy;
 - (ii) a declaration of illegitimacy; or
 - (iii) a determination of a question of legitimacy.
- (3A) A person who, immediately before the commencement of this Law, had parental responsibility for a child continues to have parental responsibility despite the provisions of this Law.²
- (4) Article 5, 6 or 7 (as the case may be) of the [Legitimacy \(Jersey\) Law 1973](#) and the corresponding Rules in the [Legitimacy Rules 1974](#) apply to an action under paragraph (1)(b) or (3)(d) as that Law and those Rules had effect immediately before their repeal by this Law.
- (5) In this Article, “disposition” means a transfer of property by gift, sale or will.

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7 Regulations

The States may by Regulations make the amendments to any enactment that appear to the States to be necessary or convenient for the purposes of this Law, for transitional provisions or in consequence of any provision made by this Law.

8 Citation and commencement

This Law may be cited as the Civil Status (Abolition of Legitimacy Etc.) (Jersey) Law 2025 and comes into force as follows –

- (a) Article 5 comes into force 7 days after it is registered;
- (b) the remaining provisions come into force immediately after the Children and Civil Status (Consequential Amendments) (Jersey) Amendment Regulations 2025.

SCHEDULE⁶

ENDNOTES

Table of Legislation History

Legislation	Year and No	Commencement	°Projet No (where applicable)
Civil Status (Abolition of Legitimacy Etc.) (Jersey) Law 2025	L.16/2025	24 November 2025	P.44/2025
Children and Civil Status (Parental Responsibility) (Jersey) Amendment Regulations 2025	R&O.82/2025	27 November 2025	P.105/2025

°Projets available at statesassembly.gov.je

Table of Endnote References

¹ Article 2	<i>spent, omitted</i>
² Article 3(3A)	<i>inserted by R&O.82/2025</i>
³ Article 4	<i>spent, omitted</i>
⁴ Article 5	<i>spent, omitted</i>
⁵ Article 6	<i>spent, omitted</i>
⁶ Schedule	<i>spent, omitted</i>