

131A. UNLAWFUL SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH CHILD

(1) For the purposes of this section, "offence of a sexual nature" means an offence defined by section 128, 129, 132, 134, 135, 188(1) and (2)(k), 192 or 192B.

(2) Any adult who maintains an unlawful relationship of a sexual nature with a child under the age of 16 years is guilty of a crime and is liable to imprisonment for 7 years.

(3) A person shall not be convicted of the crime defined by this section unless it is shown that the offender, as an adult, has, during the period in which it is alleged that he maintained the relationship in issue with the child, done an act defined to constitute an offence of a sexual nature in relation to the child on 3 or more occasions, and evidence of the doing of any such act shall be admissible and probative of the maintenance of the relationship notwithstanding that the evidence does not disclose the dates or the exact circumstances of those occasions.

(4) If in the course of the relationship of a sexual nature the offender has committed an offence of a sexual nature for which he is liable to imprisonment for 5 years or more or 14 years or less, the offender is liable in respect of maintaining the relationship to imprisonment for 14 years.

(5) If in the course of the relationship of a sexual nature the offender has committed an offence of a sexual nature for which he is liable to imprisonment for more than 14 years, the offender is liable in respect of maintaining the relationship to imprisonment for life.

(6) It is a defence to a charge of a crime defined by this section to prove that the accused person believed, on reasonable grounds, that the other person was of or above the age of 16 years.

(7) A person may be charged in one indictment with an offence defined by this section and with any other offence of a sexual nature alleged to have been committed by him in the course of the relationship in issue in the first-mentioned offence and he may be convicted of and punished for any or all of the offences so charged.

(8) Where the offender is sentenced to a term of imprisonment for the offence defined by this section and a term of imprisonment for an offence of a sexual nature, an order shall not be made directing that one of those sentences take effect from the expiration of deprivation of liberty for the other offence.

(9) An indictment for an offence against this section shall be signed by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

(10) Section 12 does not apply to the child with whom an act herein proscribed is done.