



Department
for Education

Launch date 12 February 2014
Respond by 26 March 2014
Ref: Department for Education

Court Orders Relating to Family Law

Court Orders Relating to Family Law

We are seeking views on revised statutory guidance to reflect legislative changes to public and private family law orders.

To Local Authorities, Social Work Practitioners, Lawyers, and Directors of Children's Services

Issued 12 February 2014

Enquiries To If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the consultation you can contact the Department on 0370 000 2288

e-mail: courtorders.consultation@education.gsi.gov.uk

Contact Details

If your enquiry is related to the DfE e-consultation website or the consultation process in general, you can contact the Ministerial and Public Communications Division by e-mail: consultation.unit@education.gsi.gov.uk or by telephone: 0370 000 2288 or via the Department's ['Contact Us'](#) page.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Children Act 1989 guidance and Regulations: Volume 1-court orders was first published in 1991 and last updated in 2008. It is being revised to reflect upcoming legislative changes as a result of the Children and Families Bill and changes in practice following the Family Justice Review.
- 1.2 In 2011, the Family Justice Review, Chaired by Sir David Norgrove found that the Family Justice system was characterised by delays and variable effectiveness across the different agencies. The legislative changes in the Children and Families Bill directly tackle these concerns, and to help make sure that the work of local authorities and the courts is aligned, the Department is producing a revised

version of Volume 1.

- 1.3 Revising the statutory guidance will ensure that practitioners understand the new provisions in the Children and Families Bill and supporting secondary legislation and have accurate guidance on how to carry out their legal responsibilities. This will help the successful implementation of the family justice measures in the Bill. Current guidance is no longer accurate and needs to be updated.

2 How To Respond

- 2.1 Consultation responses can be completed online at: www.education.gov.uk/consultations

or by emailing: courtorders.consultation@education.gsi.gov.uk or by downloading a response form which should be completed and sent to:

Patrick Towgood, Department for Education, Level 1, Sanctuary Buildings, 16-20 Great Smith Street, SW1P 3BT

3 Additional Copies

- 3.1 Additional copies are available electronically and can be downloaded from the Department for Education e-consultation website at: www.education.gov.uk/consultations

4 Plans for making results public

- 4.1 The results of the consultation and the Department's response will be published on the DfE e-consultation website in Spring 2014.