



Ministry of Justice

FAMILY PROCEDURE RULE COMMITTEE 05 February 2024 - PAPER 6 PRIORITIES TABLE

Latest Update: 01.03.2024

	Title	Rules and PD	Status / Updates	Next Due at Committee	Policy Lead
Tier 1: These are areas of work the Government has committed to do, either through primary legislation or through work programmes such as HMCTS Reform, or that the Committee is progressing at pace					
1.	Private Law Demand Reduction (Early Resolution).	Various.	Provisions for Early Resolution proposals was laid in December 2023. MoJ continue to implement early resolution changes.	Substantive discussion: March 2024	Demand Reduction Team.
2.	Parental Responsibility and Child Arrangements following imprisonment for murder of the other parent.	TBC.	House of Commons Report Stage - Week Commencing 4 December 2023. Royal Assent - 2024. Implementation timeline and resource implication – to be advised.	March 2024.	Private Family Law Reform Team.

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3.	Delegating powers to High Court Staff		Amendment to r2.5 FPR included in the FP (Amendment No.2) 2023. Item to return to the Committee in March 2024.	March 2024.	FPRC Secretariat Team
4.	Standing Item: Domestic Abuse Act Implementation				
	3a. Cross Examination Provisions (Qualified Legal Representatives)		Update given at the February Meeting.	March 2024	Domestic Abuse Policy Team.
	3b. Domestic Abuse Protection Orders.	TBC.	Sign-off was given at December meeting, therefore, there will be no need to return with these products but periodic updates on DAPO implementation progress may be given to the Committee until the pilot launch, currently planned for w/c 27 May 2024. MoJ may share further pilot products with the Committee, if necessary, in the lead-up to launch – for example a specific guidance product is developed	N/A	Domestic Abuse Policy Team.
	3c. Service of Orders at refuges / confidentiality of refuge addresses.	TBC.	Draft rule and PD provisions were approved in the February 2024 meeting. Team to provide update to the Committee in March to include draft consequential amendments.	March 2024.	Private Family Law Reform Team.
5.	Substantive Items				

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	Web Updates (inaccuracies on Justice.gov.uk).	Various.	The secretariat seeks to action any errors as and when they are identified.	Standing Matter Arising.	FPRC Secretariat Team.
6.	Fast Track Procedure – financial remedy applications.	TBC.	Matter will return to the Committee in April 2024.	April 2024.	CTJU.
7.	Modernisation of PD27A.	PD27A.	PD amendments are hoped to be finalised later on in the year.	May 2024.	FPRC Secretariat Team.
Tier 2: Pieces of work that are being actively progressed by the Committee.					
8.	Deed Poll Name Changes.	PD3A amendments.	Item was noted as a matter arising at the February 2024 meeting. Item to return to the Committee in May or June.	May or June 2024	Civil Law Policy.
9.	Disclosure from Family Proceedings to Home Office and Immigration Tribunals.	TBC.	Home Office seeking counsel advice. Progress is dependent on Home Office engagement, so the timeline is uncertain.	TBC.	FPRC Secretariat Team/ Home Office.
10.	Forms Working Group (standing forms update with table of work).	Forms.	Forms WG last met on 25 January.	Standing Item.	FPRC Secretariat Team.
11.	Declaration of parentage following adoption order: H v An Adoption Agency.	TBC.	Draft PD to be considered at the April meeting. Workstream likely to be complete by Spring.	April 2024.	DfE adoption policy and MoJ FPRC Secretariat Team.
12.	Permission to Appeal	Rule 30.3 and PD30A.	PTA Working Group met on the 23 January 2024. Proposals to be considered at the March 2024 meeting.	March 2024.	FPRC Secretariat Team.

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13.	Police Disclosure Orders in private law proceedings.	TBC.	Substantive item to be considered by the Committee in April 2024. End date dependant on agreed next steps.	April 2024.	FPRC Secretariat Team.
14.	Case Management and Intimate Images.	TBC.	Intimate Images to FPRC in May or a later date subject to discussion by DA WG. The end date will depend on agreed next steps.	May 2024.	FPRC Secretariat Team.
15.	Voice of the Child.	TBC.	This item is led by Mrs Justice Knowles. Mrs Justice Knowles to provide update to the Committee on 4 December 2023 – and will probably wish to give updates to subsequent meetings, periodically.	April 2024.	Private Family Law Reform Team.
16.	Relationship between rules, PDs and guidance.	TBC	Item to return in April/May for FPRC to discuss. End date will depend on agreed next steps and the time involved in taking these.	April/May 2024.	FPRC Secretariat Team.
17.	Private law reform pilots – review of Child Arrangement Programme – including PD36Z (investigative approach) and PD36ZE (local modifications)	PD36Z.	The Courts and Tribunals Joint Unit will share the findings of their deep dive on PD36ZE at the beginning of December which will then inform the next steps of work on this. Further paper to be considered at Feb 24 meeting. Amendments agreed at Dec 23 and Feb 24 meetings to be included in PD Update No.1 of 2024	June 2024.	Private Family Law Reform Team.

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			Throughout 2024 we will continue to investigate the impacts of PD36ZE. We will return to the Committee in June 2024 to update them on the models in use under PD36ZE.		
18.	Mediation Vouchers (Pilot PD).	PD36V.	Current PD provision ends February 2025. End date of this workstream for the Committee depends on future decisions in MoJ about the scheme.	March 2024.	Family Justice System Improvement Team.
19.	Police Notification Pilot.	PD36ZA	This item was last discussed in December 2023. Item to return to the Committee in April.	April 2024.	Domestic Abuse Team.
20.	Joint MoJ and DfE Pilot for Expert and Readiness Checklists.	PD12A	Officials will confirm when the results of the Pilot will be reported to the Committee in due course.	April/May 2024.	Courts and Tribunal Joint Unit and DfE.
21.	Re G & H		Working Group to meet in April.	May 2024.	Public Family Law Team.
22.	Disclosure of Respondent's contact details.		Committee agreed to FPR changes. Officials to bring draft amendments to the April 2024 meeting.	April 2024.	Private Family Law Team.
Tier 3: Work with timings listed as TBC or with longer timescales.					
23.	Review of PD12J (domestic abuse).	PD12J.	Policy Team to provide update to the Committee in April 2024. End date depends on any agreed next steps.	April 2024.	Private Family Law Reform Team.

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24.	Single Lawyer Models.	TBC.	Item led by Mr Justice Peel/Single Lawyer Model Working Group. End date depends on any agreed next steps.	TBC.	Single Lawyer Model Working Group.
25.	Review of the overriding objective, to include consideration of amendments relating to vulnerable parties and witnesses (FJC Report).	Rule 1.1.	This workstream is not currently being progressed so an end date cannot be predicted.	TBC.	Public Family Law Policy Team.
26.	Opposite sex civil partnerships Implementation: consequential amendments to the FPR 2010.	TBC.	GEO aim to lay the regulations in Autumn 2024. To confirm with GEO when this will return to the Committee.	TBC.	GEO.
24.	Pension Sharing Orders.	TBC.	Item to return to the Committee in April 2024. End date depends on any agreed next steps	April 2024.	Marriage and Divorce Law Policy Team.
25.	Enforcement of Financial Remedy orders.	Rule and PD amendments	Committee to consider in April 2024. End date depends on any agreed next steps.	April 2024.	Marriage and Divorce Law Policy Team.

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26.	Review of Practice Direction 12G.	PD12G.	This workstream is not currently being progressed so an end date cannot be predicted.	TBC.	Public Family Law Team.
27.	Closed Material Proceedings		The Committee agreed for this item to be paused whilst amendments to CMP are being made in Civil. MoJ colleagues would also require cross-department agreement before amendments can be made	TBC.	FPRC Secretariat Team.
28.	Disclosure of electronic records	CPR r31.17 and PD31B	The PFD's Office released statement in October 2023. Item to return to the Committee in either April/May. End date depends on agreed next steps	May 2024.	FPRC Secretariat Team.
31.	Retained EU Law		Item to go to the Committee in April 2024.	April 2024.	Department for Business and Trade.
32.	Cape v Dring implications		FPRC members on CPR Working Group.	TBC	FPRC Secretariat Team.
33.	Justice Legal Advisers Powers		FPRC to consider at the April 2024 meeting.	April 2024.	Private Family Law Team.

Annex A: Pending PD changes

The table below sets out the various PD-related projects that are underway or pending.

Where an entry relates to a project in the main Table above, this is noted in the Status column below.

	Subject	PD	Status	Timing of PD Update/ next due at Committee	Timescale for end of Work strand
Action required early 2024					
A1	Demand reduction/ early resolution	Various (including PD3A MIAMs DV evidence provisions)	See main Table entry for demand reduction/ early resolution: provision made in PD Update No.6 of 2023. PD5A amendment re. new proforma required	April 2024	See entry in main table. 29 April 2024 (coming into force date)
A2	MIAMs	PD3A	See entry in main Table for Deed Polls	TBC	Uncertain
A3	Online (a) private law proceedings (b) Part 4 FLA 1996 proceedings (c) additional types of private law proceedings	PD36G and PD36ZD (pilots)	PD36G expires 31 March 2025. PD36ZD came into force 20 April 2022. Expires 31 March 2025	Awaiting confirmation from HMCTS of the timing and content of any further future IT releases, which will inform the timing of our bringing draft PD amendments to the Committee	To be confirmed – depends on HMCTS rollout

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				In any event, return in February 2025 prior to respective expiry dates	
A4	Bundles	PD27A/ various pilot PDs	<p>Modernisation to reflect increased use of electronic bundles. See item in main table.</p> <p>Amendments may also be needed to PD36N, PD36P, PD36ZD and PD41D.</p> <p>See entry in main Table</p>	March 2024: Matters Arising	
A5	Online placement applications	PD36P (pilot)	Pilot PD ends 31 March 2024	Future amendments dependent on any further developments to the online system, which will inform the timing of bringing draft PD amendments to the Committee	If pilot PD to be replaced with Part 41 permanent PD – paper to be put to March 2024 meeting
A6	Online divorce/ dissolution etc	PD36ZC (pilot)	Came into force 6 April 2022	April 2024, ahead of expiry date, with a view to making	End May 2024 (if permanent PD put in place), subject

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			Expires 31 May 2024 (extended in PD Update No.5 of 2023).	the pilot PD a permanent PD.	to future IT changes requiring PD amendments.
A7	Piloting of investigatory approach	PD36Z (annexes PD12B (Pilot))	PD expires various dates in 2025. See main Table entry for Private Law Reform		See main table
A8	Online contested financial remedy	PD36N (pilot)	Amended via PD Update No. 6 of 2023. Expires 30 June 2024, In future, will need to be extended, or replaced with permanent PD under Part 41 FPR	April/ May 2024 - Prior to expiry date.	June 2024 (if replaced by permanent PD) – or later if pilot PD extended further
Action required – early to mid 2024					
A10	Notification to police of Part 4 FLA orders	PD36ZA (pilot)	Came into force 28 February 2022. Expires 28 February 2025	Prior to expiry date. December 2024.	TBC depending on plans for the future of the notification system
A11	Temporary modifications	PD36ZE (pilot) came into force 1 April 2023 (replacing PD36Y)	PD36ZE expires 28 February 2025 See item for Private Law Reform in main table re. child arrangements programme (PD12B)		See entry in main table.

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			PD 36ZE provisions unrelated to PD12B will also need review.		
A12	Transparency	PD12I	Practice Direction 12I to be updated to reference the Press Association's Media Injunctions Alert Service	TBC	TBC.
A13	Justices' Legal Advisers	PD2C	Proposals for amendment from Committee member Feb 2023. Noted as a matter arising at the October meeting	MoJ to liaise with HMCTS and will return to the Committee late in late April 2024	Mid/late 2024 (depending on agreed next steps)
To return for review					
A14	Mediation vouchers	PD36V	See main table	Review ahead of expiry date of February 2025	See main table
A15	Enforcement	NEW Part 33 PD	Possible new PD to support simplified Part 33 FPR: see main table entry for enforcement	Review April 2024	See main table
Timings to be confirmed					
A16	DA Act 2021 implementation – various aspects	Various	See entry in main Table for Domestic Abuse Act 2021 implementation	Various	See main table.
A17	Tracing through Government Departments	PD6C	New PD put in place January 2023. Further details may be added in due course	TBC	TBC

	Subject	PD	Status	Timing of PD Update/ next due at Committee	Timescale for end of Work strand
A18	Experts	PD25B	Name of governing body for social workers requires updating.	TBC	TBC