



Ministry
of Justice

**FAMILY PROCEDURE RULE COMMITTEE
13 MAY 2024 - PAPER 5
PRIORITIES TABLE**

Latest Update: 13.05.2024

	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.	There is continued work on pre-action protocols. Update to be provided at the May meeting.	May 2024.	Private Family Law Early Resolution Team.
2.	Parental Responsibility and Child Arrangements following imprisonment for murder of the other parent.	TBC.	House of Commons Report Stage - Week Commencing 13 May 2024. Royal Assent - 2024. Implementation timeline and resource implication – to be advised.	May 2024.	Private Family Law Reform Team.
3.	Delegating powers to High Court Staff.		Update on proposed new PD was provided to Committee in March on discussions with Family Division Appeals Office, PFD	May 2024.	FPRC Secretariat Team.

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			Office and HMCTS. Rule provision to come into force 8 April 2024. HMCTS are considering the separate question of resourcing.		
4.	Standing Item: Domestic Abuse Act Implementation				
	4a. Cross Examination Provisions (Qualified Legal Representatives).		Substantive update to be provided to the Committee at the May meeting.	May 2024	Domestic Abuse Policy Team.
	4b. 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.
	4c. Service of Orders at refuges / confidentiality of refuge addresses.	TBC.	Draft rule and PD provisions were approved in the March 2024 meeting.	June 2024.	Private Family Law Reform Team.
Tier 2: Substantive Items: Pieces of work that are being actively progressed by the Committee.					
5.	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.

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6.	Fast Track Procedure – financial remedy applications.	TBC.	The most recent working group meeting took place on 15th January. Early discussions have started with evaluation teams to work out how the pilot will be evaluated. MoJ preparing for the next (third) working group meeting, which took place on 12th February. MoJ working towards a provisional start date of November 2024.	June 2024.	CTJU.
7.	Modernisation of PD27A.	PD27A.	Update will be provided to the Committee at the May 2024 meeting.	May 2024.	FPRC Secretariat Team.
8.	Deed Poll Name Changes.	PD3A amendments.	Timing uncertain as linked to Review on methodology on costing of court fees. Updates will be provided to FPRC when progress has been made. As soon as the review is completed advice will be provided to Ministers on fee reforms and to the Committee on implementation and timescales.	TBC.	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 15 March.	Standing Item.	FPRC Secretariat Team.

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11.	Declaration of parentage following adoption order: H v An Adoption Agency.	TBC.	Workstream likely to be complete by Spring.	May 2024.	DfE adoption policy and MoJ FPRC Secretariat Team.
12.	Permission to Appeal	Rule 30.3 and PD30A.	Draft rule amendments re PTA on TWM cases to be put to May meeting. Proposals in relation to lay justices to be put to June meeting. Workstream likely to be largely complete by late Spring 2024.	May 2024.	FPRC Secretariat Team.
13.	Police Disclosure Orders in private law proceedings.	TBC.	Police disclosure to return to the Committee in May with a proposal and next steps.	May 2024.	FPRC Secretariat Team.
14.	Case Management and Intimate Images.	TBC.	Intimate Images to FPRC to be confirmed. The end date will depend on agreed next steps.	TBC.	FPRC Secretariat Team.
15.	Voice of the Child.	TBC.	This item is led by Mrs Justice Knowles. Mrs Justice Knowles provided an update in December 2023 and will provide a further update in May 2024 – and may wish to give updates to subsequent meetings, periodically.	May 2024.	Private Family Law Reform Team.
16.	Relationship between rules, PDs and guidance.	TBC.	Outstanding item to be triaged. Update to be provided at the May meeting.	May 2024.	FPRC Secretariat Team.
17.	Private law reform pilots – review of Child Arrangement Programme – including	PD36Z.	Throughout 2024 MoJ will continue to investigate the impacts of PD36ZE. MoJ will return to the Committee in June 2024 to update	June 2024.	Private Family Law Reform Team.

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	PD36Z (investigative approach) and PD36ZE (local modifications).		them on the models in use under PD36ZE.		
18.	Mediation Vouchers (Pilot PD).	PD36V.	Current PD provision ends February 2025. MoJ to update the Committee on progress of the pilot at the November 2024 meeting.	November 2024.	Family Justice System Improvement Team.
19.	Police Notification Pilot.	PD36ZA	This item was last discussed in December 2023. Committee agreed to extend pilot until February 2025.	TBC.	Domestic Abuse Team.
20.	Joint MoJ and DfE Pilot for Expert and Readiness Checklists.	PD12A	We have received initial feedback from the pilot areas with plans to attend LFJBs for implementation support and feedback. The next milestone is the interim assessment through focus groups which is due to take place in June. MoJ to confirm specific date they will return to the Committee.	TBC.	Courts and Tribunal Joint Unit and DfE.
21.	Re G & H		Item subject to triaging and to be included in May triaging update.	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 May 2024 meeting	May 2024.	Private Family Law Team.
Tier 3: Work with timings listed as TBC or with longer timescales.					
23.	Review of PD12J (domestic abuse).	PD12J.	Matter Arising update to be provided at the May meeting.	May 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 by the Working Group.	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 was triaged in April with agreement it will be allocated to Tier 3. This will include responding to the recommendations made by the Pensions Advisory Group.	TBC.	Marriage and Divorce Law Policy Team.
25.	Enforcement of Financial Remedy orders.	Rule and PD amendments	Item was triaged in April with agreement it will be allocated to Tier 3. This will include reviewing Rule 33.4(3) following the Gladwell v Gladwell judgment (2019).	TBC.	Marriage and Divorce Law Policy Team.

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26.	Review of Practice Direction 12G.	PD12G.	Item is being considered within the item on Disclosure to the Police (EBK v DLO 2023) which is being triaged in May.	May 2024.	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	Item to be triaged at the May meeting.	May 2024.	FPRC Secretariat Team.
29.	Cape v Dring implications		The sub-committee have undergone a consultation from 19 February which closed on 8 April. They will be reviewing the responses and will provide a report to the CPRC at its May meeting. The report will be shared with the Committee at the June meeting or at a later date.	TBC	FPRC Secretariat Team.
30.	Justice Legal Advisers Powers		FPRC to consider at the May 2024 meeting making a temporary amendment to PD2C. MoJ are triaging further requests to the powers of trainee legal advisers.	May 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 was included in PD Update No.2 of 2024. PD amendments for new PAPs to be discussed in May meeting.	May 2024	See entry in main table. 29 April 2024 (coming into force date) plus ongoing work on new pre-action protocols.
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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	Subject	PD	Status	Timing of PD Update/ next due at Committee	Timescale for end of Work strand
				In any event, return in February 2025 prior to respective expiry dates	
A4	Bundles	PD27A/ various pilot PDs	Modernisation to reflect increased use of electronic bundles. See item in main table. Amendments may also be needed to PD36N, PD36P, PD36ZD and PD41D.	Substantive item to May 2024 meeting.	See entry in main table.
A5	Online divorce/ dissolution etc	PD36ZC (pilot)	Came into force 6 April 2022 Expires 31 May 2024 (extended in PD Update No.5 of 2023). Committee approved new permanent PD41G at April meeting. MoJ will return with final draft in May.	May 2024.	End May 2024, subject to future IT changes requiring PD amendments.
A6	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
A7	Online contested financial remedy	PD36N (pilot)	Amended via PD Update No. 6 of 2023. Expires 30 June 2024.	May 2024 - Prior to expiry date.	End of 2024 (if replaced by

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			In future, will need to be extended, or replaced with permanent PD under Part 41 FPR		permanent PD) – or later if pilot PD extended further.
A8	Protocol Police disclosure in public and private law proceedings	TBC	Proposal to flag existence of new protocol in PD	Paper to May 2024 meeting	May/June 2024
Action required – early to mid 2024					
A9	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.
A10	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). PD 36ZE provisions unrelated to PD12B will also need review.		See entry in main table.
A11	Transparency	PD12I	Practice Direction 12I to be updated to reference the Press Association's Media Injunctions Alert Service.	TBC	TBC

	Subject	PD	Status	Timing of PD Update/ next due at Committee	Timescale for end of Work strand
A12	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 in May 2024	Mid/late 2024 (depending on agreed next steps)
To return for review					
A13	Mediation vouchers	PD36V	See main table	Review ahead of expiry date of February 2025	See main table
A14	Enforcement	NEW Part 33 PD	Possible new PD to support simplified Part 33 FPR: see main table entry for enforcement	This item is triaged to Tier 3.	See main table
Timings to be confirmed					
A15	DA Act 2021 implementation – various aspects	Various	See entry in main table for Domestic Abuse Act 2021 implementation	Various	See main table.
A16	Tracing through Government Departments	PD6C	New PD put in place January 2023. Further details may be added in due course	TBC	TBC
A17	Experts	PD25B	Name of governing body for social workers requires updating.	TBC	TBC