



Ministry  
of Justice

**FAMILY PROCEDURE RULE COMMITTEE  
10 JUNE 2024 - PAPER 5  
PRIORITIES TABLE**

*Latest Update: 10.06.2024*

	Title	Rules and PD	Status / Updates	Next Due at Committee	Policy Lead
<b>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</b>					
1.	Private Law Demand Reduction (Early Resolution).	Various.	Update to be provided at the June meeting.	June 2024.	Private Family Law Early Resolution Team.
2.	Parental Responsibility and Child Arrangements following imprisonment for murder of the other parent.	TBC.	Measures relating to automatic suspension of parental responsibility in cases where one parent has killed the other have received Royal Assent. Criminal Justice Bill was not included, so the provisions that would have expanded the measure to cover cases of child rape will not become law at this point. Officials	June 2024.	Private Family Law Reform Team.

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			planning implementation of the measures including timeline for commencement. Committee will continue to receive updates on any potential changes to FPRs and PDs.		
3.	Delegating powers to High Court Staff.		New PD2D came into force on the 17 April 2024.	N/A	FPRC Secretariat Team.
4.	Standing Item: Domestic Abuse Act Implementation				
	4a. Cross Examination Provisions (Qualified Legal Representatives).		Substantive update provided at the May meeting on training for QLRs and increased rates of pay. Periodic update to be provided in November.	November 2024.	Domestic Abuse Policy Team.
	4b. Domestic Abuse Protection Orders.	TBC.	The Family Pilot Practice Direction (update no.4) came into force 9 May 2024 and has been published. A decision on the date of the DAPN/DAPO pilot launch will be made. Update on pilot launch to be provided to the Committee in October.	October 2024.	Domestic Abuse Policy Team.
	4c. Service of Orders at refuges / confidentiality of refuge addresses.	TBC.	Draft rule and PD provisions approved in February 2024 meeting. SI on hold to address operational strategies required for implementation with an update to be provided at the June meeting. Rule amendment to be laid in Parliament following the election.	June 2024.	Private Family Law Reform Team.

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<b>Tier 2: Substantive Items: Pieces of work that are being actively progressed by the Committee.</b>					
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.
6.	Fast Track Procedure – financial remedy applications.	TBC.	The most recent working group meeting took place on 13th May, with the group considering an initial working draft of the Practice Direction, outstanding issues to be resolved and the naming of the pilot. A substantive update will be provided in the June meeting.	June 2024.	CTJU.
7.	Modernisation of PD27A.	PD27A.	Revised draft submitted to Working Group late May 2024. Update to be provided at the June meeting.	June 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.	Progress is dependent on Home Office engagement, so the timeline is uncertain.	TBC.	FPRC Secretariat Team/ Home Office.

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10.	Forms Working Group (standing forms update with table of work).	Forms.	Forms WG last met on 15 March.	Standing Item.	FPRC Secretariat Team.
11.	Permission to Appeal	Rule 30.3 and PD30A.	Draft rule amendments re PTA on TWM cases were agreed in the May meeting. Proposals in relation to lay justices are due in the June meeting. Workstream likely to be largely complete by July 2024.	June 2024.	FPRC Secretariat Team.
12.	Police Disclosure Orders in private law proceedings.	TBC.	Update to be provided at June meeting. Workstrand remaining open pending Mrs Justice Knowles's work on draft private law order.	June 2024.	FPRC Secretariat Team.
13.	Case Management and Intimate Images.	TBC.	Substantive update will be provided in October.	October 2024.	FPRC Secretariat Team.
14.	Voice of the Child.	TBC.	This item is led by Mrs Justice Knowles. Mrs Justice Knowles provided an update in May 2024 and may wish to give updates to subsequent meetings periodically.	TBC.	Private Family Law Reform Team.
15.	Private law reform pilots – review of Child Arrangement Programme – including PD36Z (investigative approach) and PD36ZE (local modifications).	PD36Z.	Throughout 2024 we will continue to investigate the impacts of PD36ZE. An update will be provided to the Committee in June on the models in use under PD36ZE.	June 2024.	Private Family Law Reform Team.
16.	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.

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17.	Police Notification Pilot.	PD36ZA	This item was last discussed in December 2023. Committee agreed to extend pilot until February 2025.	TBC.	Domestic Abuse Team.
18.	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. An update will be provided to the Committee in July or October.	July 2024.	Courts and Tribunal Joint Unit and DfE.
19.	Disclosure of Respondent's contact details.		Draft rule amendments approved at May 2024 meeting. To be included in next FPR amending SI.	TBC.	Private Family Law Team.
20.	Review of Practice Direction 12G.	PD12G.	An item on Disclosure to Police (Contempt of Court PD and committal proceedings, EBK v DLO 2023) was triaged in May and the Committee agreed that item should be added to the wider review of PD12G and moved to Tier 2.	TBC.	Public Family Law Team.
<b>Tier 3: Work with timings listed as TBC or with longer timescales.</b>					
21.	Declaration of parentage following adoption order: H v An Adoption Agency.	TBC.	Item was triaged in May with agreement it should be in Tier 3.	TBC.	DfE adoption policy and MoJ FPRC Secretariat Team.

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22.	Re G & H		Item was triaged in May with agreement it should be in Tier 3.	TBC.	Public Family Law Team.
23.	Relationship between rules, PDs and guidance.	TBC.	Item was triaged in May with agreement it should remain in Tier 3.	TBC.	FPRC Secretariat Team.
24.	Review of PD12J (domestic abuse).	PD12J.	Committee agreed in May 2024 that updates are no longer required until March 2025 unless any substantive issues need to be raised.	N/A.	Private Family Law Reform Team.
25.	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.
26.	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.
27.	Opposite sex civil partnerships Implementation: consequential amendments to the FPR 2010.	TBC.	GEO aim to lay the regulations in Autumn 2024, subject to ministerial decision. To confirm with GEO when this will return to the Committee.	TBC.	GEO.

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28.	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.
29.	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.
30.	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.
31.	Disclosure of electronic records	CPR r31.17 and PD31B	This was triaged in May and the Committee agreed it should remain at Tier 3.	TBC.	FPRC Secretariat Team.
32.	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	June 2024.	FPRC Secretariat Team.

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			with the Committee at the June meeting or at a later date.		
33.	Justice Legal Advisers Powers		Practice Direction enabling Justice Legal Advisers to (in certain circumstances) accept undertakings and make Parental Responsibility orders was included in PD Update No. 5 of 2024. Officials will now develop proposals for powers for trainee legal advisers and powers in public law cases.	October 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
<b>Action required mid 2024</b>					
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 included in PD Update No. 5 of 2024.	June 2024	See entry in main table.  Main reforms came into force 29 April 2024. New PAPs come into force 31 May 2024.
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.	Update to June 2024 meeting, substantive item to July 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 final draft of new PD41G at May meeting which will take effect from 1 June 2024.	TBC.	TBC.
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. 5 of 2024. Expires 31 December 2024.	October/ November 2024 - Prior to expiry date.	End of 2024 (if replaced by permanent PD) –

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	Subject	PD	Status	Timing of PD Update/ next due at Committee	Timescale for end of Work strand
			In future, will need to be extended, or replaced with permanent PD under Part 41 FPR.		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
<b>Action required – late 2024 / early 2025</b>					
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

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	Subject	PD	Status	Timing of PD Update/ next due at Committee	Timescale for end of Work strand
A12	Justices' Legal Advisers	PD2C	See entry in main table	Substantive update in October 2024	Mid/late 2024 (depending on agreed next steps)
<b>To return for review</b>					
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
<b>Timings to be confirmed</b>					
A15	Tracing through Government Departments	PD6C	New PD put in place January 2023. Further details may be added in due course	TBC	TBC
A16	Experts	PD25B	Name of governing body for social workers requires updating	TBC	TBC