Table of Amendments to the 2024 Standard Civil Contract (20th December 2024)

The tables below set out amendments that have been made to the 2024 Standard Civil Contract documents. The Legal Aid Agency has consulted with the Consultative Bodies about these amendments as required by the contract.

Changes coming into effect to the 2024 Standard Civil Contract Specification: Housing and Debt Category Specific Rules

The table below sets out changes that have been made to the 2024 Standard Civil Contract Specification: Housing and Debt Category Specific Rules. These amendments have been consulted on and will come into effect on Monday 27th January 2025.

Paragraph Number	Current Provision	Amended Provision
10.5	Where a Supervisor has not conducted a mortgage arrears possession cases in the past 12 months they must demonstrate how they have maintained their knowledge of mortgage possession cases.	Where a Supervisor has not conducted a mortgage arrears possession cases in the past 12 months they must demonstrate how they have maintained their knowledge of mortgage possession cases.
10.6	Where a Supervisor has not conducted a representation in a disrepair case in the past 12 months they must demonstrate how they have maintained their knowledge of housing disrepair litigation.	Where a Supervisor has not conducted a-representation in a disrepair case in the past 12 months they must demonstrate how they have maintained their knowledge of housing disrepair litigation.
10.12	Legal Help given in relation to homelessness must be provided on a specific legal issue or issues and should cover practical matters such as identifying accommodation agencies or making a referral to them.	Legal Help given in relation to homelessness must be provided on a specific legal issue or issues and should not cover practical matters such as identifying accommodation agencies or making a referral to them.
10.18	"Session" means a period in which the relevant court is in session hearing possession cases.	"Session" means a period in which the relevant court room is in session hearing possession cases.
10.39	You may open an Early Legal Advice Matter where a potential Client seeks advice in relation to those matters described in Paragraph 10.34 and provides written evidence of risk of possession proceedings and loss of their home which may include:	You may open an Early Legal Advice Matter where a potential Client seeks advice in relation to those matters described in Paragraph 10.34 and provides written evidence of risk of possession proceedings; and loss of their home or illegal eviction which may include:

- (a) letter or notice from a landlord (which may include a family member) where an informal licence exists;
- (b) notice to quit from a landlord where a renting arrangement lacks security of tenure;
- (c) letter before action as required by the Rent Arrears Pre-Action Protocol For Possession Claims by Social Landlords or the PreAction Protocol For Possession Claims based on Home Purchase Plan Arrears in Respect of Residential Property;
- (d) notice seeking possession served by a landlord under section 83, 83Z or 107D of the Housing Act 1985 or sections 8 or 21 of the Housing Act 1988;
- (e) notice seeking possession served by a landlord under section 128 of the Housing Act 1996; or
- (f) letter from the court notifying the Client that possession proceedings have been issued.

- (a) Letter or notice to quit from a landlord (which may include a family member) where an informal licence exists or a renting arrangement lacks security of tenure;
- (b) notice to quit from a landlord where a renting arrangement lacks security of tenure;
- (c) letter before action as required by the Rent Arrears Pre-Action Protocol For Possession Claims by Social Landlords or the PreAction Protocol For Possession Claims based on Home Purchase Plan Arrears in Respect of Residential Property;
- (db) letter before action or a notice seeking possession served by a landlord under section 83, 83Z or 107D of the Housing Act 1985; or sections 8 or 21 of the Housing Act 1988; or section 128 of the Housing Act 1996; or
- (e) notice seeking possession served by a landlord under section 128 of the Housing Act 1996;
- (fc) letter from the court notifying the Client that possession proceedings have been issued;-
- (d) A written tenancy or license agreement confirming the Client's right to legally occupy their home (from the point at which occupation commenced); or

(e) evidence to suggest that the Client had a right to legally
occupy their home (from the point at which occupation commenced), including but not limited to:
(i) texts/emails between the Client and the landlord;
(ii) bank statements, rent receipts or bank transfers demonstrating rental payments being made by the Client or by someone else on their behalf;
(iii) utility and council tax bills addressed to the Client at the property in question; or
(iv) third party accounts which suggest the Client is a legal occupier; and
you must be satisfied that the Client's evidence sufficiently confirms their legal occupancy status from the point at which their occupancy commenced;
(f) a record of events that the individual believes constitute an illegal eviction (written, audio or photographic), including but not limited to:(i) a record of events taken by you during initial
instructions, such as communications between the Client and the landlord (e.g. emails, social media messages, text messages). This includes photographic, video or audio evidence of harassment by or on behalf of the landlord;
(ii) a contemporaneous diary kept by the Client detailing the events; or
(iii) evidence of a complaint to the police or a local authority about the illegal eviction.

10.40	Evidence referred to in Paragraph 10.39 is not exhaustive and other written evidence may be appropriate.	Evidence referred to in Paragraph 10.39 is not exhaustive and other written evidence may be appropriate. Written evidence must be provided where such has been produced.
10.41	A copy of the written evidence, referred to in Paragraphs 10.39 and 10.40 must be retained on the Client's file.	A copy of the written evidence, written or in any other form where applicable, referred to in Paragraphs 10.39 and 10.40 must be retained on the Client's file.
10.43	Early Legal Advice may continue following a review hearing but is not available following the first substantive possession hearing and you must not provide further Early Legal Advice beyond this point.	Early Legal Advice may cannot continue following a review hearing but is not available following the first substantive possession hearing and you must not provide further Early Legal Advice beyond this point to be provided if the court does any of the following at the first listed hearing: 1. makes an outright possession order 2. dismisses the possession claim 3. makes directions for the future conduct of the proceedings. If a listed hearing is adjourned (one or more times) then that listed hearing will not be classed as the first substantive possession hearing and Early Legal Advice may continue to be provided. In the case of illegal evictions, Early Legal Advice can continue until you consider that no further work can be carried out under Legal Help.
10.48	Where the amount of any Claim in respect of Early Legal Advice as calculated in the basis of Hourly Rates exceeds the Escape Fee threshold as specified in the Remuneration Regulations you may	Where the amount of any Claim in respect of Early Legal Advice as calculated ion the basis of Hourly Rates exceeds the Escape Fee threshold as specified in the Remuneration

	apply for the Claim to be treated as an Escape Fee Case pursuant to Paragraphs 4.13 to 4.20.	Regulations you may apply for the Claim to be treated as an Escape Fee Case pursuant to Paragraphs 4.13 to 4.20.
10.67	There are no additional payments for travel or waiting or similar. No additional payments will be made other than for disbursements incurred in representing a Client at a remote hearing.	There are no additional payments for travel or waiting or similar. No additional payments will be made other than for disbursements incurred in representing a Client at a remote hearing. For the avoidance of doubt, you may incur disbursements for interpretation services immediately prior to and immediately after an in-person or remote hearing, in accordance with Paragraphs 2.47 to 2.51 and 4.24 to 4.31, but not beyond the day of the hearing.
10.68	Where you are available to represent Clients at a Session and you represent no or one Clients you may submit a Claim equivalent to representing two Clients.	Where you are available to represent Clients at a Session and you represent no or one Clients you may submit a Claim equivalent to representing two Clients.
10.75	Monitoring reports showing details of Clients assisted must be completed fully and returned to us by you within 10 days after the end of each month. Payments are triggered by our receipt of fully completed monthly monitoring reports on or before their respective due date. If you fail to provide any report to us by its due date, your payment will be delayed until after we have received it.	10.75 Where: (a) In-Court Duty Scheme Matters; or (b) Early Legal Advice Matters opened under a Previous Contract
		are to be Claimed under the Contract, Memonitoring reports showing details of Clients assisted must be completed fully and returned to us by you within 10 days after the end of each month. Payments are triggered by our receipt of fully completed monthly monitoring reports on or before their respective due date. If you fail to provide any report to us by its due date, your payment will be delayed until after we

	have received it. Early Legal Advice Matters opened under
	this Contract must be Claimed in accordance with
	provisions set out in Section 4.

Changes coming into effect to the 2024 Standard Civil Contract and supporting supervision guidance documents

Please note that the tables below sets out changes that have been made to the relevant 2024 Standard Civil Contract Specification (Category Specific Rules) and the Guidance on Civil Supervisor Requirements For the 2024 Standard Civil Contract (December 2024). These amendments have been consulted on and will come into effect on Monday 30th December 2024.

The Guidance on Civil Supervisor Requirements For the 2024 Standard Civil Contract (September 2023)		
Paragraph Number	Current Provision	Amended Provision
24	New paragraph inserted under "Case Involvement"	24. Supervisors may use the same case example in the
	heading.	same sub-category of the Supervisor Declaration Form
		to demonstrate legal competence through the breadth
		of work undertaken in the course of their casework.

2024 Standard Civil Contract: Community Care Specification (Section 11)		
Paragraph Number	Current Provision	Amended Provision
11.3	The Supervisor must maintain a portfolio (including case name and reference) of cases to demonstrate compliance with Paragraphs 11.1 and 11.2. The same case file can be used to demonstrate compliance with Paragraphs 11.1 and 11.2.	The Supervisor must maintain a portfolio (including case name and reference) of cases to demonstrate compliance with Paragraphs 11.1 and 11.2. The same case file can be used to demonstrate compliance with Paragraphs 11.1 and 11.2.
2024 Standard Civil Contra	ct: Welfare Benefits Specification (Section 12)	
Paragraph Number	Current Provision	Amended Provision
12.3	The Supervisor must maintain a portfolio (including case name and reference) of cases to demonstrate compliance with Paragraphs 12.1 and 12.2. The same case file can be	The Supervisor must maintain a portfolio (including case name and reference) of cases to demonstrate compliance with Paragraphs 12.1 and 12.2. The same

	used to demonstrate compliance with Paragraphs 12.1 and	case file can be used to demonstrate compliance with
	12.2.	Paragraphs 12.1 and 12.2.
2024 Standard Civil Contra	act: Claims Against Public Authorities Specification (Section 13)	
Paragraph Number	Current Provision	Amended Provision
13.4	The Supervisor must maintain a portfolio (including case	The Supervisor must maintain a portfolio (including case
	name and reference) of cases to demonstrate compliance	name and reference) of cases to demonstrate
	with Paragraphs 13.2 and 13.3. The same case file can be	compliance with Paragraphs 13.2 and 13.3. The same
	used to demonstrate compliance with Paragraphs 13.2 and	case file can be used to demonstrate compliance with
	13.3.	Paragraphs 13.2 and 13.3.
13.9	The Supervisor must maintain a portfolio (including case	The Supervisor must maintain a portfolio (including case
	name and reference) of cases to demonstrate compliance	name and reference) of cases to demonstrate
	with Paragraphs 13.7 and 13.8. The same case file can be	compliance with Paragraphs 13.7 and 13.8. The same
	used to demonstrate compliance with Paragraphs 13.7 and	case file can be used to demonstrate compliance with
	13.8.	Paragraphs 13.7 and 13.8.
2024 Standard Civil Contra	nct: Public Law Specification (Section 14)	
Paragraph Number	Current Provision	Amended Provision
14.3	The Supervisor must maintain a portfolio (including case	The Supervisor must maintain a portfolio (including case
	name and reference) of cases to demonstrate compliance	name and reference) of cases to demonstrate
	with Paragraphs 14.1 and 14.2. The same case file can be	compliance with Paragraphs 14.1 and 14.2. The same
	used to demonstrate compliance with Paragraphs 14.1 and	case file can be used to demonstrate compliance with
	14.2.	Paragraphs 14.1 and 14.2.
2024 Standard Civil Contra	act: Discrimination Specification (Section 17)	
Paragraph Number	Current Provision	Amended Provision
17.11	The Supervisor must maintain a portfolio (including case	The Supervisor must maintain a portfolio (including case
	name and reference) of cases to demonstrate compliance	name and reference) of cases to demonstrate
	with Paragraph 17.9 and 17.10. The same case file can be	compliance with Paragraph 17.9 and 17.10. The same
	used to demonstrate compliance with Paragraphs 17.9 and	case file can be used to demonstrate compliance with
	17.10.	Paragraphs 17.9 and 17.10.

Changes coming into effect to support the Domestic Abuse Protection Notice (DAPN) and Domestic Abuse Protection Order (DAPO) Pilot

Please note that the table below sets out changes that have been made to the 2024 Standard Civil Contract Specification and the Category Definition 2024 to support the implementation of the DAPN and DAPO pilot. These amendments have been consulted on and will come into effect in 4 weeks from the date of this notice. Providers may undertake work with regards to DAPO and DAPN after pilot go-live date in the relevant pilot areas in accordance with The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (Legal Aid: Family and Domestic Abuse) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Order 2023 and The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (Legal Aid: Domestic Abuse) (Amendment) Order 2024.

Category Definition 2024

Paragraph Number	Current Provision	Amended Provision
Paragraph 18	Work falling within the Crime Category is generally	New sub-paragraph inserted.
Minor Civil/Criminal overlaps	excluded from any civil Category, but there are some minor	
	exceptions:	Work falling within the Crime Category is generally
		excluded from any civil Category, but there are some
	(a) Enforcement proceedings in the magistrates court	minor exceptions:
	arising out of the breach of an order of that court made in	
	family proceedings where there is a risk of imprisonment	(a) Enforcement proceedings in the magistrates court
	also fall within the Family Category;	arising out of the breach of an order of that court made
		in family proceedings where there is a risk of
	(b) Civil proceedings in the magistrates' court arising out of	imprisonment also fall within the Family Category;
	the breach of a financial order of that court where there is	
	a risk of imprisonment also fall within the Debt Category;	(b) Civil proceedings in the magistrates' court arising out
		of the breach of a financial order of that court where
	(c) Proceedings against a child for a Sexual Harm	there is a risk of imprisonment also fall within the Debt
	Prevention Order and any associated Parenting Order, and	Category;
	for a Parenting Order made on the conviction of a child	
	where the parent cannot be reasonably represented by the	(c) Proceedings against a child for a Sexual Harm
	child's solicitor also fall within the Family Category; and,	Prevention Order and any associated Parenting Order,
		and for a Parenting Order made on the conviction of a
	(d) Committal applications for civil contempt of court	child where the parent cannot be reasonably
	arising out of proceedings described in Part 1 of Schedule 1	represented by the child's solicitor also fall within the
	also fall under the civil Category of Law covering the	Family Category; and,
	underlying proceedings, or where the underlying	

	proceedings do not fall within a Category of Law, are classified as Miscellaneous Work.	(d) Committal applications for civil contempt of court arising out of proceedings described in Part 1 of Schedule 1 also fall under the civil Category of Law covering the underlying proceedings, or where the underlying proceedings do not fall within a Category of Law, are classified as Miscellaneous Work. (e) Civil legal services provided under the DAPO Pilot Scheme, while falling under this Contract, may be provided also by criminal practitioners under the 2022 Standard Crime Contract.
Paragraph 33 Family	Legal Help and all proceedings in relation to: (a) orders under section 25 of the Children Act 1989 (as	New sub-paragraph inserted. Legal Help and all proceedings in relation to:
	described in subparagraph 1(1)(a) of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act);	(a) orders under section 25 of the Children Act 1989 (as described in subparagraph 1(1)(a) of Part 1 of Schedule 1
	(b) orders under Part 4 and Part 5 of the Children Act 1989 Act (as described in subparagraphs 1(1)(b) and 1(1)(c) of	to the Act);
	Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act);	(b) orders under Part 4 and Part 5 of the Children Act 1989 Act (as described in subparagraphs 1(1)(b) and
	(c) approval by a court under paragraph 19 of Schedule 2 to the Children Act 1989 Act (as described in	1(1)(c) of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act);
	subparagraphs 1(1)(d) of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act);	(c) approval by a court under paragraph 19 of Schedule 2 to the Children Act 1989 Act (as described in
	(d) parenting orders under sections 8 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as described in subparagraphs 1(1)(e) of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act);	subparagraphs 1(1)(d) of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act);
	(e) child safety orders under section 11 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as described in subparagraphs 1(1)(f) of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act);	(d) parenting orders under sections 8 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as described in subparagraphs 1(1)(e) of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act);

- (f) applications under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (as described in subparagraphs 1(1)(g) to 1(1)(j) of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act);
- (g) orders under an enactment made as an alternative to an order mentioned in subparagraphs (a) to (f) above (as described in subparagraph 1(2) of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act);
- (h) orders under an enactment made in proceedings heard together with proceedings relating to an order mentioned in subparagraphs (a) to (f) above (as described in subparagraph 1(2) of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act);
- (i) the inherent jurisdiction of the High Court in relation to children (as described in paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act);
- (j) the orders and requirements listed in subparagraph 10(1) of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act in relation to unlawful removal or potential unlawful removal of children from the United Kingdom;
- (k) the orders and applications listed in subparagraph 10(2) of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act in relation to the return of children unlawfully removed to a place in the United Kingdom;
- (I) home rights, occupation orders and non-molestation orders under Part 4 of the Family Law Act 1996 (as described in paragraph 11(1) of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act);

- (e) child safety orders under section 11 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as described in subparagraphs 1(1)(f) of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act);
- (f) applications under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (as described in subparagraphs 1(1)(g) to 1(1)(j) of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act);
- (g) orders under an enactment made as an alternative to an order mentioned in subparagraphs (a) to (f) above (as described in subparagraph 1(2) of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act);
- (h) orders under an enactment made in proceedings heard together with proceedings relating to an order mentioned in subparagraphs (a) to (f) above (as described in subparagraph 1(2) of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act);
- (i) the inherent jurisdiction of the High Court in relation to children (as described in paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act);
- (j) the orders and requirements listed in subparagraph 10(1) of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act in relation to unlawful removal or potential unlawful removal of children from the United Kingdom;
- (k) the orders and applications listed in subparagraph 10(2) of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act in relation to the return of children unlawfully removed to a place in the United Kingdom;

- (m) injunctions following assault, battery and false imprisonment in circumstances arising out of a family relationship (as described in paragraph 11(2)(a) of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act);
- (n) the protection of an adult in proceedings under the inherent jurisdiction of the High Court in circumstances arising out of a family relationship (as described in paragraph 11(2)(b) of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act);
- (o) the mediation of family disputes (as described in subparagraph 14(2) of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act);
- (p) services provided to a child under paragraph 15 of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act in relation to family proceedings where the child:
 - i. is, or proposes to be, the applicant or respondent;
 - ii. is made a party to the proceedings by a court under rule 16.2 of the Family Procedure Rules; or
 - iii. is a party to the proceedings and is conducting, or proposing to conduct, the proceedings themselves in accordance with rule 16.6 of the Family Procedure Rules;
- (q) female genital mutilation protection orders under paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 to the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as described in paragraph 15A of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act);

- (I) home rights, occupation orders and non-molestation orders under Part 4 of the Family Law Act 1996 (as described in paragraph 11(1) of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act);
- (m) injunctions following assault, battery and false imprisonment in circumstances arising out of a family relationship (as described in paragraph 11(2)(a) of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act);
- (n) the protection of an adult in proceedings under the inherent jurisdiction of the High Court in circumstances arising out of a family relationship (as described in paragraph 11(2)(b) of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act);
- (o) the mediation of family disputes (as described in subparagraph 14(2) of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act);
- (p) services provided to a child under paragraph 15 of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act in relation to family proceedings where the child:
 - i. is, or proposes to be, the applicant or respondent;
 - ii. is made a party to the proceedings by a court under rule 16.2 of the Family Procedure Rules; or
 - iii. is a party to the proceedings and is conducting, or proposing to conduct, the proceedings themselves in accordance with rule 16.6 of the Family Procedure Rules;

- (r) forced marriage protection orders under Part 4A of the Family Law Act 1996 (as described in paragraph 16 of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act);
- (s) the following EU and international agreements concerning children (as described in paragraph 17 of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act):
- i. an application made to the Lord Chancellor under the 1980 European Convention on Child Custody for the recognition or enforcement in England and Wales of a decision relating to the custody of a child;
- ii. an application made to the Lord Chancellor under the 1980 Hague Convention in respect of a child who is, or is believed to be, in England and Wales;
- iii. the recognition or enforcement of a judgment in England and Wales in accordance with Article 21, 28, 41, 42 or 48 of the 2003 Brussels Regulation.
- (t) the following EU and international agreements in relation to an application for the recognition or enforcement in England and Wales of a maintenance order (as described in paragraph 18 of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act):
 - i. the 1968 Brussels Convention;
 - ii. the 1973 Hague Convention;
 - iii. the 1989 Lugano Convention;

- (q) female genital mutilation protection orders under paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 to the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as described in paragraph 15A of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act);
- (r) forced marriage protection orders under Part 4A of the Family Law Act 1996 (as described in paragraph 16 of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act);
- (s) the following EU and international agreements concerning children (as described in paragraph 17 of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act):
- i. an application made to the Lord Chancellor under the 1980 European Convention on Child Custody for the recognition or enforcement in England and Wales of a decision relating to the custody of a child;
- ii. an application made to the Lord Chancellor under the 1980 Hague Convention in respect of a child who is, or is believed to be, in England and Wales;
- iii. the recognition or enforcement of a judgment in England and Wales in accordance with Article 21, 28, 41, 42 or 48 of the 2003 Brussels Regulation.
- (t) the following EU and international agreements in relation to an application for the recognition or enforcement in England and Wales of a maintenance order (as described in paragraph 18 of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act):

	iv. the 2000 Brussels Regulation;	i. the 1968 Brussels Convention;
	v. the 2007 Lugano Convention;	ii. the 1973 Hague Convention;
	vi. the EU Maintenance Regulation;	iii. the 1989 Lugano Convention;
	vii. the 2007 Hague Convention;	iv. the 2000 Brussels Regulation;
	(u) Proceedings under section 3, 3A, 5 or 5A of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 (as described in	v. the 2007 Lugano Convention;
	paragraph 37 of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act) arising out of a family relationship.	vi. the EU Maintenance Regulation;
	of a family relationship.	vii. the 2007 Hague Convention;
		(u) Proceedings under section 3, 3A, 5 or 5A of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 (as described in paragraph 37 of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act) arising out of a family relationship.
		(v) applications and orders under Part 3 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (as described in subparagraph 11(1A) of part 1, Schedule 1 to the Act);
Paragraph 50A Miscellaneous work	New paragraph	Civil legal services provided under the DAPO Pilot Scheme constitute Miscellaneous Work with the distinct set of rules set out in Section 17 applicable to them.

2024 Standard Civil Contract: Specification

A new specification titled "the DAPO Pilot Scheme Specification (Section 19)" has been incorporated into the 2024 Standard Civil Contract. The specification will support work undertaken via civil legal aid for the forthcoming DAPN and DAPOs pilot. NB. This specification will come into effect at the point that the DAPN/DAPOs pilot goes live. The DAPO Pilot Scheme Specification (Section 19) can be downloaded by clicking on the following link: Standard civil contract 2024 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)