

PRACTICE DIRECTION UPDATE No. 4 of 2025

The amendments to existing Practice Directions supplementing the Family Procedure Rules 2010 are made by the President of the Family Division under the powers delegated to him by the Lady Chief Justice under Schedule 2, Part 1, paragraph 2(2) of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005, and are approved by Minister Sackman KC, Minister of State, Ministry of Justice.

The provisions in this Practice Direction Update come into force as follows:

Provision	Coming into force date
Amendment to Practice Direction PD2C	29 September 2025
Amendment to Practice Direction 41G	29 September 2025

Signed:

_____ Date: 11 September 2025

Sir Andrew McFarlane, The President of the Family Division

Signed:

_____ Date: 14 September 2025

Minister Sackman KC, Minister of State, Ministry of Justice

PRACTICE DIRECTION 2C – JUSTICES’ LEGAL ADVISER

(1) In The Table, after the entry for “FPR rule 6.36” insert the following new row-

**PRACTICE DIRECTION 41G – PROCEEDING BY ELECTRONIC MEANS:
CERTAIN PROCEEDINGS FOR A MATRIMONIAL ORDER OR CIVIL
PARTNERSHIP ORDER (NEW LAW)**

(1) For paragraph 3.1 substitute-

'3.1 This practice direction enables an applicant or applicants jointly to, in the circumstances set out in this practice direction, take the following steps by electronic means via the online system-

(a) create and start certain types of application for a matrimonial order or civil partnership order;

(b) in respect of such an application-

(i) file documents;

(ii) in the case of joint applicants, file an acknowledgment of receipt;

(iii) indicate willingness to accept service of any documents relating to the application by email;

(iv) accept service of any documents relating to the application;

(v) serve any documents relating to the application (but not serve the application itself);

(vi) request that the application be served by a bailiff;

(vii) make an application for deemed service;

(viii) make an application for service by an alternative method or at an alternative place;

(ix) make an application for an order to dispense with service;

(x) make an application for the disclosure of addresses by Government Departments;

(xi) make an application for a conditional order; and

(xii) make an application for a final order (and give notice of such application where required);

(c) view an electronic record of the progress of the application.'

(2) Omit paragraph 4.5.

(3) After paragraph 9.3 insert

Service of the application for a Matrimonial Order or Civil Partnership Order in the jurisdiction

9A.1 An application may be made by the applicant using the online system, in a sole application, to make a without notice application to the court to —

- (a) request personal service of the application by bailiff delivering a copy of the application to the respondent where the address for service is in England and Wales;
- (b) apply for deemed service where no acknowledgment of service is filed;
- (c) apply for service by an alternative method or place before the document is served;
- (d) apply for an order to dispense with service; or
- (e) apply for the disclosure of the respondent's address by Government Departments.

9A.2 An application under paragraph 9A.1 must be completed according to the detailed guidance contained in the system before being submitted online.

9A.3 An application under paragraph 9A.1 must be set out why the applicant is seeking the order.

9A.4. Paragraphs 9A.5-9A.8 apply where an application is made under paragraph 9A.1 in relation to an application progressing on the online system.

9A.5 The court may deal with an application without a hearing in the first instance, if the court does not consider that a hearing would be appropriate.

9A. 6 Where service of the application has been effected or attempted by court bailiff following a request under paragraph 9A.1(a), the bailiff must file a certificate of service.

9A.7 Where an application is made under paragraph 9A.1(c) and it appears to the court that there is good reason to authorise service by a method or at a place not permitted by Part 6 FPR, the court may direct that service is effected by an alternative method or at an alternative place.

9A.8 A direction under paragraph 9A.7 must specify—

- (a) the method or place of service;

- (b) the date on which the application form is deemed served; and
- (c) the period for filing an acknowledgment of service or answer.