

PRACTICE DIRECTION UPDATE No. 1 of 2026

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 Baroness Levitt KC, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice.

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

Provision	Coming into force date
Amendments to Practice Directions 27A, 36G, 36V, 36Z, 36ZD, 36ZH	The day after the date on which this Practice Direction Update is signed by the Minister
Amendments to Practice Direction 36ZI	1 April 2026

Signed:

_____ Date: 18 March 2026

Sir Andrew McFarlane, The President of the Family Division

Signed:

_____ Date: 23 March 2026

Baroness Levitt KC, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice

PRACTICE DIRECTION 27A – FAMILY PROCEEDINGS: COURT BUNDLES

(1) In paragraph 1.1, after “court bundles.” insert-

“A guide to this practice direction, for use by parties without legal representation can be found at <https://www.judiciary.uk/guidance-and-resources/preparing-court-bundles-for-family-proceedings-guide-for-litigants-in-person/> .”

(2) For paragraph 6.4 substitute-

“The person responsible for preparing the bundle must file a set of preliminary documents which includes each of the documents referred to at paragraph

6.6(a), (c), (d), (f) and (g). Each party must file their own version of the each of the preliminary documents referred to at paragraph 6.6(b) and (e).”.

(3) In paragraph 6.6-

(a) in sub-paragraph (a), after “proceedings” insert “(each party completes their own section of this form)”;

(b) in sub-paragraph (c) after “denoted” insert “(each party inserts figures into Form ES2)”;

(c) in sub-paragraph (d) after “an” insert “agreed”;

(d) in sub-paragraph (f) for “a list” substitute “an agreed list”;

(e) in sub-paragraph (g) for “a hearing template” substitute “an agreed hearing template”;

(f) in the first Note at the end of paragraph 6.6 for “the Efficiency Statement” substitute “the Financial Remedies Guide”; and

(g) after the first Note at the end of paragraph 6.6, insert-

“- See paragraph 6.9 in relation to documents which are to be agreed.”.

(4) In paragraph 6.9 for “The chronology and reading list” substitute “The chronology, reading list and hearing template”.

(5) For paragraph 7.5 substitute-

“The person responsible for preparing the bundle must file a set of preliminary documents which includes each of the documents referred to at paragraph 7.6 (b), (e), (f) and (g). Each party must file their own version of the each of the preliminary documents referred to at paragraph 7.6 (a),(c) and (d).”.

(6) In paragraph 7.6-

(a) in sub-paragraph (b) for “a statement” substitute “an agreed statement”;

(b) in sub-paragraph (e) after “an” insert “agreed”;

(c) in sub-paragraph (f) for “a list” substitute “an agreed list”;

(d) in sub-paragraph (g) for “a witness template” substitute “an agreed witness template”; and

(e) before “(Note” insert-

“(Note: see paragraph 7.7A in relation to documents to be agreed)”.

(7) After paragraph 7.7 insert-

“7.7A The statement of issues, chronology, reading list and witness template must, in the case of a final hearing, and shall so far as practicable in the case of any other hearing, each consist of a single document in a form agreed by all parties. Where the parties disagree as to the content, the fact of their

disagreement and their differing contentions must be set out at the appropriate places in the document.”.

- (8) After paragraph 7.8 insert-

“**7.8A** The person responsible for preparing the bundle must file a set of preliminary documents which includes each of the documents referred to at paragraph 7.10(b), (f), (g) and (h). Each party must file their own version of the each of the preliminary documents referred to at paragraph 7.10(a), (c), (d) and (e).”.

- (9) For paragraph 7.9 substitute-

“Usually, the applicant will take the lead in preparing the documents referred to at paragraph 7.10(b), (f), (g) and (h), being the documents to be agreed between parties. But if the applicant is a litigant in person, a represented party (if any) must take the lead in preparing those documents.”.

- (10) In paragraph 7.10-

(a) in sub-paragraph (a) omit “agreed”;

(b) before “(Note” insert-

“(Note: see paragraph 7.15 in relation to documents to be agreed.)

- (11) In paragraph 7.18, amend the sub-paragraphs after sub-paragraph (i) so that they are numbered (j) and (k) respectively.

- (12) In paragraph 8.1, in the bullet point relating to position statement, for “6.10 and 7.17” substitute “6.12(a) and 7.18(a)”.

PRACTICE DIRECTION 36G – PILOT SCHEME: PROCEDURE FOR USING AN ONLINE SYSTEM TO GENERATE APPLICATIONS IN CERTAIN PRIVATE LAW PROCEEDINGS RELATING TO CHILDREN

- (1) In paragraph 1.2(d) for “2026” substitute “2027”.

PRACTICE DIRECTION 36V – PILOT SCHEME: FAMILY MEDIATION VOUCHER SCHEME

- (1) In paragraph 1.2(b) for “2026” substitute “2029”.

PRACTICE DIRECTION 36Z – PILOT SCHEME: PRIVATE LAW REFORM: INVESTIGATIVE APPROACH

- (1) In paragraph 1.3(c), in each of paragraphs (i) to (vi) for “31 March 2026” substitute “31 March 2027”

PRACTICE DIRECTION 36ZD – PILOT SCHEME: ONLINE SYSTEM FOR CERTAIN PRIVATE LAW PROCEEDINGS RELATING TO CHILDREN, CERTAIN PROTECTIVE ORDERS AND CERTAIN APPEALS

- (1) In paragraph 1.2(e) for “2026” substitute “2027”.

PRACTICE DIRECTION 36ZH – PILOT SCHEME: EXPRESS FINANCIAL REMEDY PROCEDURE

- (1) For paragraph 1.3(e) substitute-

“(e) in the case of an application started -

(i) in a location specified in paragraph 1.5(a) to (zg), the application is filed in the period commencing 7 April 2025 and ending at the end of 2 April 2027;

(ii) in the location specified in paragraph 1.5(zh), the application is filed in the period commencing 8 April 2026 and ending at the end of 2 April 2027.

- (2) In paragraph 1.5 after sub-paragraph (zg) insert-

“(zh) Stockport”.

- (3) In paragraph 4.1, in the modification to rule 9.3(1), for “36Z[H]” substitute “36ZH”.

- (4) In paragraph 4.3, in the modification to insert rule 9.9B(3A)(a), for “36Z[H]” substitute “36ZH”.

- (5) In paragraph 5.1, in the modification to insert paragraph 1.2AA in Practice Direction 9A, for “36Z[H]” substitute “36ZH”.

PRACTICE DIRECTION 36ZI – PILOT SCHEME: NOTIFICATION TO THE POLICE WHEN CERTAIN ORDERS ARE MADE UNDER PART 4 OF THE FAMILY LAW ACT 1996

- (1) In paragraph 4.2, in the inserted rule 10.6A(2) for paragraph (c) substitute-

“(c) where known the address, email address and telephone number of the Applicant and, where known, the address, email address and telephone number of the Respondent, except where a party has given notice that their details not be revealed in accordance with rule 29.1(2);”.
