
STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2002 No. 255

County Court (Amendment) Rules (Northern Ireland) 2002

The overriding objective

11. Order 58 shall be amended as follows –

- (a) in the heading, for the word “Interpretation” there shall be substituted the words “Overriding objective, interpretation”; and
- (b) Rules 1 to 6 shall be re-numbered Rules 2 to 7 and the following new Rule 1 shall be inserted –

“The overriding objective

1.—(1) The overriding objective of these Rules is to enable the Court to deal with cases justly.

- (2) Dealing with a case justly includes, so far as is practicable –
 - (a) ensuring that the parties are on an equal footing;
 - (b) saving expense;
 - (c) dealing with the case in ways which are proportionate to –
 - (i) the amount of money involved;
 - (ii) the importance of the case;
 - (iii) the complexity of the issues; and
 - (iv) the financial position of each party;
 - (d) ensuring that it is dealt with expeditiously and fairly; and
 - (e) allotting to it an appropriate share of the Court’s resources, while taking into account the need to allot resources to other cases.
- (3) The Court must seek to give effect to the overriding objective when it –
 - (a) exercises any power given to it by the Rules; or
 - (b) interprets any Rule.”.