



Courts and Legal Services Act 1990

1990 CHAPTER 41

PART I

PROCEDURE ETC. IN CIVIL COURTS

Allocation and transfer of business

1 Allocation of business between High Court^[F1], family court^[F2] and county court^[F2].

- (1) The Lord Chancellor may by order make provision—
- (a) conferring jurisdiction on the High Court in relation to proceedings in which ^[F3]the family court or ^[F4]the county court has jurisdiction;
 - (b) conferring jurisdiction on ^[F5]the family court or ^[F6]the county court in relation to proceedings in which the High Court has jurisdiction;
 - (c) allocating proceedings to the High Court ^[F7]or to the family court^[F6] or to ^[F6]the county court^[F6] ;
 - (d) specifying proceedings which may be commenced only in the High Court;
 - ^[F8](da) specifying proceedings which may be commenced only in the family court,]
 - (e) specifying proceedings which may be commenced only in ^[F9]the county court;
 - (f) specifying proceedings which may be taken only in the High Court;
 - ^[F10](fa) specifying proceedings which may be taken only in the family court;]
 - (g) specifying proceedings which may be taken only in ^[F11]the county court.

^[F12](1A) An order under subsection (1)(a) or (b) may be made only with the concurrence of the Lord Chief Justice.]

- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of section 120(2), any such order may differentiate between categories of proceedings by reference to such criteria as the Lord Chancellor sees fit to specify in the order.
- (3) The criteria so specified may, in particular, relate to—
- (a) the value of an action (as defined by the order);

Changes to legislation: Courts and Legal Services Act 1990, Section 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 May 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- (b) the nature of the proceedings;
- (c) the parties to the proceedings;
- [^{F13}(ca) any relationship between the proceedings and any other proceedings;]
- (d) the degree of complexity likely to be involved in any aspect of the proceedings; and
- (e) the importance of any question likely to be raised by, or in the course of, the proceedings.

^{F14}(4)

^{F14}(5)

^{F14}(6)

(7) Any such order may—

- (a) amend or repeal any provision falling within subsection (8) and relating to—
 - (i) the jurisdiction, practice or procedure of the [^{F15}Senior Courts] ; or
 - (ii) the jurisdiction, practice or procedure of [^{F16}the county court], [^{F17}or
 - (iii) the jurisdiction, practice or procedure of the family court,]
 so far as the Lord Chancellor considers it to be necessary, or expedient, in consequence of any provision made by the order; or
- (b) make such incidental or transitional provision as the Lord Chancellor considers necessary, or expedient, in consequence of any provision made by the order.

(8) A provision falls within this subsection if it is made by any enactment other than this Act or made under any enactment.

(9) Before making any such order the Lord Chancellor shall consult the Lord Chief Justice, the Master of the Rolls, [^{F18}the President of the Queen's Bench Division, the President of the Family Division, the Chancellor of the High Court] and the Senior Presiding Judge (appointed under section 72).

(10) No such order shall be made so as to confer jurisdiction on [^{F19}the family court or][^{F20}the county court] to hear any application for judicial review.

(11) For the purposes of this section the commencement of proceedings may include the making of any application in anticipation of any proceedings or in the course of any proceedings.

(12) ^{F21}

[^{F22}(13) The Lord Chief Justice may nominate a judicial office holder (as defined in section 109(4) of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005) to exercise his functions under this section.]

Textual Amendments

F1 Words in s. 1 in title inserted (22.4.2014) by [Crime and Courts Act 2013 \(c. 22\)](#), s. 61(3), [Sch. 10 para. 76\(6\)](#); S.I. 2014/954, [art. 2\(d\)](#) (with [art. 3](#)) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

F2 Words in s. 1 in title substituted (22.4.2014) by [Crime and Courts Act 2013 \(c. 22\)](#), s. 61(3), [Sch. 9 para. 32\(7\)](#); S.I. 2014/954, [art. 2\(c\)](#) (with [art. 3](#)) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

Changes to legislation: Courts and Legal Services Act 1990, Section 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 May 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- F3** Words in s. 1(1)(a) inserted (22.4.2014) by [Crime and Courts Act 2013 \(c. 22\)](#), s. 61(3), [Sch. 10 para. 76\(2\)\(a\)](#); S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(d) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)
- F4** Words in s. 1(1)(a) substituted (22.4.2014) by [Crime and Courts Act 2013 \(c. 22\)](#), s. 61(3), [Sch. 9 para. 32\(2\)](#); S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(c) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)
- F5** Words in s. 1(1)(b) inserted (22.4.2014) by [Crime and Courts Act 2013 \(c. 22\)](#), s. 61(3), [Sch. 10 para. 76\(2\)\(b\)](#); S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(d) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)
- F6** Words in s. 1(1)(b)(c) substituted (22.4.2014) by [Crime and Courts Act 2013 \(c. 22\)](#), s. 61(3), [Sch. 9 para. 32\(3\)](#); S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(c) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11); S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(c) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)
- F7** Words in s. 1(1)(c) inserted (22.4.2014) by [Crime and Courts Act 2013 \(c. 22\)](#), s. 61(3), [Sch. 10 para. 76\(2\)\(c\)](#); S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(d) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)
- F8** S. 1(1)(da) inserted (22.4.2014) by [Crime and Courts Act 2013 \(c. 22\)](#), s. 61(3), [Sch. 10 para. 76\(2\)\(d\)](#); S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(d) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)
- F9** Word in s. 1(1)(e) substituted (22.4.2014) by [Crime and Courts Act 2013 \(c. 22\)](#), s. 61(3), [Sch. 9 para. 32\(4\)](#); S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(c) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)
- F10** S. 1(1)(fa) inserted (22.4.2014) by [Crime and Courts Act 2013 \(c. 22\)](#), s. 61(3), [Sch. 10 para. 76\(2\)\(e\)](#); S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(d) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)
- F11** Word in s. 1(1)(g) substituted (22.4.2014) by [Crime and Courts Act 2013 \(c. 22\)](#), s. 61(3), [Sch. 9 para. 32\(4\)](#); S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(c) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)
- F12** S. 1(1A) inserted (3.4.2006) by [Constitutional Reform Act 2005 \(c. 4\)](#), ss. 15(1), 148, [Sch. 4 para. 212\(2\)](#); S.I. 2006/1014, art. 2(a), Sch. 1 para. 11
- F13** S. 1(3)(ca) inserted (22.4.2014) by [Crime and Courts Act 2013 \(c. 22\)](#), s. 61(3), [Sch. 10 para. 76\(3\)](#); S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(d) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)
- F14** S. 1(4)-(6) omitted (22.4.2014) by virtue of [Crime and Courts Act 2013 \(c. 22\)](#), s. 61(3), [Sch. 9 para. 32\(5\)](#); S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(c) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)
- F15** Words in s. 1 substituted (1.10.2009) by [Constitutional Reform Act 2005 \(c. 4\)](#), ss. 59, 148, [Sch. 11 para. 4](#); S.I. 2009/1604, art. 2(d)
- F16** Words in s. 1(7)(a)(ii) substituted (22.4.2014) by [Crime and Courts Act 2013 \(c. 22\)](#), s. 61(3), [Sch. 9 para. 32\(6\)](#); S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(c) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)
- F17** S. 1(7)(a)(iii) and word inserted (22.4.2014) by [Crime and Courts Act 2013 \(c. 22\)](#), s. 61(3), [Sch. 10 para. 76\(4\)](#); S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(d) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)
- F18** Words in s. 1(9) repealed (1.10.2005) by [Constitutional Reform Act 2005 \(c. 4\)](#), ss. 15(1), 148, [Sch. 4 para. 212\(3\)](#); S.I. 2005/2505, art. 2(c)
- F19** Words in s. 1(10) inserted (22.4.2014) by [Crime and Courts Act 2013 \(c. 22\)](#), s. 61(3), [Sch. 10 para. 76\(5\)](#); S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(d) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)
- F20** Words in s. 1(10) substituted (22.4.2014) by [Crime and Courts Act 2013 \(c. 22\)](#), s. 61(3), [Sch. 9 para. 32\(6\)](#); S.I. 2014/954, art. 2(c) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in S.I. 2014/956, arts. 3-11)

Changes to legislation: Courts and Legal Services Act 1990, Section 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 May 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- F21** S. 1(12) repealed (1.4.2005) by Courts Act 2003 (c. 39), ss. 109(1)(3), 110, Sch. 8 para. 348, **Sch. 10**; S.I. 2005/910, **art. 3(y)(aa)(bb)**
- F22** S. 1(13) inserted (3.4.2006) by Constitutional Reform Act 2005 (c. 4), ss. 15(1), 148, **Sch. 4 para. 212(4)**; S.I. 2006/1014, **art. 2(a)**, Sch. 1 para. 11

Changes to legislation:

Courts and Legal Services Act 1990, Section 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 May 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 58A(2)(fe) inserted by [2021 c. 17 s. 53](#)