
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1991 No. 1677 (L.21)

FAMILY PROCEEDINGS

The Children (Allocation of Proceedings) Order 1991

Made - - - - 20th June 1991

Laid before Parliament 1st August 1991

Coming into force - - 14th October 1991

The Lord Chancellor, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by section 92(9) and (10) of, and Part I of Schedule 11 to, the Children Act 1989⁽¹⁾, and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, hereby makes the following Order:—

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Children (Allocation of Proceedings) Order 1991 and shall come into force on 14th October 1991.

(2) In this Order, unless the context otherwise requires—
“child”—

- (a) means, subject to sub-paragraph (b), a person under the age of 18 with respect to whom proceedings are brought, and
- (b) where the proceedings are under Schedule 1, also includes a person who has reached the age of 18;

“London commission area” has the meaning assigned to it by section 2(1) of the Justices of the Peace Act 1979⁽²⁾;

“petty sessions area” has the meaning assigned to it by section 4 of the Justices of the Peace Act 1979⁽³⁾;and

“the Act” means the Children Act 1989, and a section, Part or Schedule referred to by number alone means the section, Part or Schedule so numbered in that Act.

Classes of county court

2. For the purposes of this Order there shall be the following classes of county court:

(1) 1989 c. 41.

(2) 1979 c. 55.

(3) Section 4 was amended by the Local Government Act 1985 (c. 51), section 12.

- (a) divorce county courts, being those courts designated for the time being as divorce county courts by an order under section 33 of the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act 1984(4);
- (b) family hearing centres, being those courts set out in Schedule 1 to this Order;
- (c) care centres, being those courts set out in column (ii) of Schedule 2 to this Order.

COMMENCEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS

Proceedings to be commenced in magistrates' court

3.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3) and to article 4, proceedings under any of the following provisions shall be commenced in a magistrates' court:

- (a) section 25 (use of accommodation for restricting liberty);
- (b) section 31 (care and supervision orders);
- (c) section 33(7) (leave to change name of or remove from United Kingdom child in care);
- (d) section 34 (parental contact);
- (e) section 36 (education supervision orders);
- (f) section 43 (child assessment orders);
- (g) section 44 (emergency protection orders);
- (h) section 45 (duration of emergency protection orders etc.);
- (i) section 46(7) (application for emergency protection order by police officer);
- (j) section 48 (powers to assist discovery of children etc.);
- (k) section 50 (recovery orders);
- (l) section 75 (protection of children in an emergency);
- (m) section 77(6) (appeal against steps taken under section 77(1));
- (n) section 102 (powers of constable to assist etc.);
- (o) paragraph 19 of Schedule 2 (approval of arrangements to assist child to live abroad);
- (p) paragraph 23 of Schedule 2 (contribution orders);
- (q) paragraph 8 of Schedule 8 (certain appeals);
- (r) section 21 of the Adoption Act 1976(5).

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) and subject to paragraph (3), proceedings of a kind set out in sub-paragraph (b), (e), (f), (g), (i) or (j) of paragraph (1), and which arise out of an investigation directed, by the High Court or a county court, under section 37(1), shall be commenced—

- (a) in the court which directs the investigation, where that court is the High Court or a care centre, or
- (b) in such care centre as the court which directs the investigation may order.

(3) Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (2), proceedings of a kind set out in subparagraph (a) to (k), (n) or (o) of paragraph (1) shall be made to a court in which are pending other proceedings, in respect of the same child, which are also of a kind set out in those sub-paragraphs.

(4) 1984 c. 42.

(5) 1976 c. 36; a new section 21 was substituted by paragraph 9 of Schedule 10 to the Children Act 1989 (c. 41).

Application to extend, vary or discharge order

4.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), proceedings under the Act, or under the Adoption Act 1976—

- (a) to extend, vary or discharge an order, or
- (b) the determination of which may have the effect of varying or discharging an order,

shall be made to the court which made the order.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), an application for an order under section 8 which would have the effect of varying or discharging an order made, by a county court, in accordance with section 10(1) (b) shall be made to a divorce county court.

(3) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), an application to extend, vary or discharge an order made, by a county court, under section 38, or for an order which would have the effect of extending, varying or discharging such an order, shall be made to a care centre.

(4) A court may transfer proceedings made in accordance with paragraph (1) to any other court in accordance with the provisions of articles 5 to 13.

TRANSFER OF PROCEEDINGS

Disapplication of enactments about transfer

5. Sections 38 and 39 of the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act 1984⁽⁴⁾ shall not apply to proceedings under the Act or under the Adoption Act 1976.

Transfer from one magistrates' court to another

6. A magistrates' court (the “transferring court”) shall transfer proceedings under the Act or under the Adoption Act 1976 to another magistrates' court (the “receiving court”) where—

- (a) having regard to the principle set out in section 1(2), the transferring court considers that the transfer is in the interests of the child—
 - (i) because it is likely significantly to accelerate the determination of the proceedings,
 - (ii) because it would be appropriate for those proceedings to be heard together with other family proceedings which are pending in the receiving court, or
 - (iii) for some other reason, and
- (b) the receiving court, by its justices' clerk (as defined by rule 1(2) of the Family Proceedings Courts (Children Act 1989) Rules 1991⁽⁶⁾), consents to the transfer.

Transfer from magistrates' court to county court by magistrates' court

7.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (2), (3) and (4) and to articles 15 to 18, a magistrates' court may, upon application by a party or of its own motion, transfer to a county court proceedings of any of the kinds mentioned in article 3(1) where it considers it in the interests of the child to do so having regard, first, to the principle set out in section 1(2) and, secondly, to the following questions:

- (a) whether the proceedings are exceptionally grave, important or complex, in particular—
 - (i) because of complicated or conflicting evidence about the risks involved to the child's physical or moral well-being or about other matters relating to the welfare of the child;
 - (ii) because of the number of parties;

(4) 1984 c. 42.
(6) S.I.1991/1395.

- (iii) because of a conflict with the law of another jurisdiction;
- (iv) because of some novel and difficult point of law; or
- (v) because of some question of general public interest;
- (b) whether it would be appropriate for those proceedings to be heard together with other family proceedings which are pending in another court; and
- (c) whether transfer is likely significantly to accelerate the determination of the proceedings, where—
 - (i) no other method of doing so, including transfer to another magistrates' court, is appropriate, and
 - (ii) delay would seriously prejudice the interests of the child who is the subject of the proceedings.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), proceedings of the kind mentioned in subparagraph (g) to (j), (1), (m), (p) or (q) of article 3(1) shall not be transferred from a magistrates' court.

(3) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), proceedings of the kind mentioned in subparagraph (a) or (n) of article 3(1) shall only be transferred from a magistrates' court to a county court in order to be heard together with other family proceedings which arise out of the same circumstances as gave rise to the proceedings to be transferred and which are pending in another court.

(4) Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (3), proceedings of the kind mentioned in article 3(1) (a) shall not be transferred from a magistrates' court which is not a family proceedings court within the meaning of section 92(1).

8. Subject to articles 15 to 18, a magistrates' court may transfer to a county court proceedings under the Act or under the Adoption Act 1976, being proceedings to which article 7 does not apply, where, having regard to the principle set out in section 1(2), it considers that in the interests of the child the proceedings can be dealt with more appropriately in that county court.

Transfer from magistrates' court following refusal of magistrates' court to transfer

9.—(1) Where a magistrates' court refuses to transfer proceedings under article 7, a party to those proceedings may apply to the care centre listed in column (ii) of Schedule 2 to this Order against the entry in column (i) for the petty sessions area or London commission area in which the magistrates' court is situated for an order under paragraph (2).

(2) Upon hearing an application under paragraph (1) the court may transfer the proceedings to itself where, having regard to the principle set out in section 1(2) and the questions set out in article 7(1)(a) to (c), it considers it in the interests of the child to do so.

(3) Upon hearing an application under paragraph (1) the court may transfer the proceedings to the High Court where, having regard to the principle set out in section 1(2), it considers—

- (a) that the proceedings are appropriate for determination in the High Court, and
- (b) that such determination would be in the interests of the child.

Transfer from one county court to another

10. Subject to articles 15 to 17, a county court (the “transferring court”) shall transfer proceedings under the Act or under the Adoption Act 1976 to another county court (the “receiving court”) where—

- (a) the transferring court, having regard to the principle set out in section 1(2), considers the transfer to be in the interests of the child, and
- (b) the receiving court is—

- (i) of the same class or classes, within the meaning of article 2, as the transferring court, or
- (ii) to be presided over by a judge or district judge who is specified by directions under section 9 of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990⁽⁷⁾ for the same purposes as the judge or district judge presiding over the transferring court.

Transfer from county court to magistrates' court by county court

11. A county court may transfer to a magistrates' court before trial proceedings which were transferred under article 7(1) where the county court, having regard to the principle set out in section 1(2) and the interests of the child, considers that the criterion cited by the magistrates' court as the reason for transfer—

- (a) in the case of the criterion in article 7(1)(a), does not apply,
- (b) in the case of the criterion in article 7(1)(b), no longer applies, because the proceedings with which the transferred proceedings were to be heard have been determined,
- (c) in the case of the criterion in article 7(1)(c), no longer applies.

Transfer from county court to High Court by county court

12. A county court may transfer proceedings under the Act or the Adoption Act 1976 to the High Court where, having regard to the principle set out in section 1(2), it considers—

- (a) that the proceedings are appropriate for determination in the High Court, and
- (b) that such determination would be in the interests of the child.

Transfer from High Court to county court

13. Subject to articles 15, 16 and 18, the High Court may transfer to a county court proceedings under the Act or the Adoption Act 1976 where, having regard to the principle set out in section 1(2), it considers that the proceedings are appropriate for determination in such a court and that such determination would be in the interests of the child.

ALLOCATION OF PROCEEDINGS TO PARTICULAR COUNTY COURTS

Commencement

14. Subject to articles 18, 19 and 20 and to rule 2.40 of the Family Proceedings Rules 1991⁽⁸⁾ (Application under Part I or II of the Children Act 1989 where matrimonial cause is pending), an application under the Act or under the Adoption Act 1976 which is to be commenced in a county court shall be commenced in a divorce county court.

Proceedings under Part I or II or Schedule 1

15.—(2) Subject to paragraph (3), where an application under Part I or II or Schedule 1 is to be transferred from a magistrates' court to a county court, it shall be transferred to a divorce county court.

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), where an application under Part I or II or Schedule 1, other than an application for an order under section 8, is to be transferred from the High Court to a county court, it shall be transferred to a divorce county court.

⁽⁷⁾ 1990 c. 41.

⁽⁸⁾ S.I. 1991/1247.

(3) Where an application under Part I or II or Schedule 1, other than an application for an order under section 8, is to be transferred to a county court for the purpose of consolidation with other proceedings, it shall be transferred to the court in which those other proceedings are pending.

Orders under section 8 of the Children Act 1989

16.—(1) An application for an order under section 8 in a divorce county court, which is not also a family hearing centre, shall, if the court is notified that the application will be opposed, be transferred for trial to a family hearing centre.

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), where an application for an order under section 8 is to be transferred from the High Court to a county court it shall be transferred to a family hearing centre.

(3) Where an application for an order under section 8 is to be transferred to a county court for the purpose of consolidation with other proceedings, it may be transferred to the court in which those other proceedings are pending whether or not it is a family hearing centre; but paragraph (1) shall apply to the application following the transfer.

Application for adoption or freeing for adoption

17.—(1) Subject to article 22, proceedings in a divorce county court, which is not also a family hearing centre, under section 12 or 18 of the Adoption Act 1976⁽⁹⁾ shall, if the court is notified that the proceedings will be opposed, be transferred for trial to a family hearing centre.

(2) Where proceedings under the Adoption Act 1976 are to be transferred from a magistrates' court to a county court, they shall be transferred to a divorce county court.

Applications under Part III, IV or V

18.—(1) An application under Part III, IV or V, if it is to be commenced in a county court, shall be commenced in a care centre.

(2) An application under Part III, IV or V which is to be transferred from the High Court to a county court shall be transferred to a care centre.

(3) An application under Part III, IV or V which is to be transferred from a magistrates' court to a county court shall be transferred to the care centre listed against the entry in column (i) of Schedule 2 to this Order for the petty sessions area or London commission area in which the relevant magistrates' court is situated.

Principal Registry of the Family Division

19. The principal registry of the Family Division of the High Court shall be treated, for the purposes of this Order, as if it were a divorce county court, a family hearing centre and a care centre listed against every entry in column (i) of Schedule 2 to this Order (in addition to the entries against which it is actually listed).

Lambeth and Woolwich County Courts

20. Notwithstanding articles 14, 16 and 17, an application for an order under section 8 or under the Adoption Act 1976 may be commenced and tried in Lambeth County Court or in Woolwich County Court.

(9) 1976 c. 36.

MISCELLANEOUS

Contravention of provision of this Order

21. Where proceedings are commenced or transferred in contravention of a provision of this Order, the contravention shall not have the effect of making the proceedings invalid; and no appeal shall lie against the determination of proceedings on the basis of such contravention alone.

Transitional provision – proceedings under Adoption Act 1976

22. Proceedings under the Adoption Act 1976 which are commenced in a county court prior to the coming into force of this Order may, notwithstanding article 17(1), remain in that court for trial.

20th June 1991

Mackay of Clashfern, C.

SCHEDULE 1

Article-2

FAMILY HEARING CENTRES

Midland and Oxford Circuit

Birmingham County Court
Coventry County Court
Derby County Court
Leicester County Court
Lincoln County Court
Mansfield County Court
Northampton County Court
Nottingham County Court
Oxford County Court
Peterborough County Court
Stafford County Court
Stoke-on-Trent County Court
Telford County Court
Walsall County Court
Wolverhampton County Court
Worcester County Court

Northern Circuit

Blackburn County Court
Bolton County Court
Carlisle County Court
Lancaster County Court
Liverpool County Court
Manchester County Court
Stockport County Court

North Eastern Circuit

Barnsley County Court
Bradford County Court
Darlington County Court
Dewsbury County Court
Doncaster County Court
Durham County Court
Halifax County Court
Harrogate County Court
Huddersfield County Court

Keighley County Court
Kingston-upon-Tyne County Court
Leeds County Court
Newcastle-upon-Tyne County Court
Pontefract County Court
Rotherham County Court
Scarborough County Court
Sheffield County Court
Skipton County Court
Sunderland County Court
Teesside County Court
Wakefield County Court
York County Court

South Eastern Circuit

Brighton County Court
Bow County Court
Brentford County Court
Bromley County Court
Cambridge County Court
Canterbury County Court
Chelmsford County Court
Chichester County Court
Colchester and Clacton County Court
Croydon County Court
Edmonton County Court
Guildford County Court
Hitchin County Court
Ilford County Court
Ipswich County Court
Kingston-upon-Thames County Court
Luton County Court
Maidstone County Court
Medway County Court
Milton Keynes County Court
Norwich County Court
Reading County Court
Romford County Court
Slough County Court
Southend County Court

Wandsworth County Court

Watford County Court

Willesden County Court

Wales and Chester Circuit

Aberystwyth County Court

Caernarfon County Court

Cardiff County Court

Carmarthen County Court

Chester County Court

Crewe County Court

Haverfordwest County Court

Llangefni County Court

Macclesfield County Court

Merthyr Tydfil County Court

Newport (Gwent) County Court

Rhyl County Court

Swansea County Court

Warrington County Court

Welshpool and Newtown County Court

Wrexham County Court

Western Circuit

Basingstoke County Court

Bournemouth County Court

Bristol County Court

Exeter County Court

Gloucester County Court

Plymouth County Court

Portsmouth County Court

Southampton County Court

Swindon County Court

Taunton County Court

Truro County Court

SCHEDULE 2

Article 2

CARE CENTRES

(i) Petty Sessions Areas	(ii) Care Centres
	Midland and Oxford Circuit
Abingdon	Oxford County Court
Aldridge and Brownhills	Wolverhampton County Court
Alfreton and Belper	Derby County Court
Ashby-De-La-Zouch	Leicester County Court
Atherstone and Coleshill	Coventry County Court
Barton-on-Humber	Lincoln County Court
Bewdley and Stourport	Worcester County Court
Bicester	Oxford County Court
Birmingham	Birmingham County Court
Boston	Lincoln County Court
Bourne and Stamford	Lincoln County Court
Bridgnorth	Telford County Court
Brigg	Lincoln County Court
Bromsgrove	Worcester County Court
Burton-upon-Trent	Stoke-on-Trent County Court
Caistor	Lincoln County Court
Cannock	Wolverhampton County Court
Cambridge	Peterborough County Court
Cheadle	Stoke-on-Trent County Court
Chesterfield	Derby County Court
City of Hereford	Worcester County Court
Congleton	Stoke-on-Trent County Court
Corby	Northampton County Court
Coventry	Coventry County Court
Crewe and Nantwich	Stoke-on-Trent County Court
Daventry	Northampton County Court
Derby and South Derbyshire	Derby County Court
Didcot and Wantage	Oxford County Court
Drayton	Telford County Court
Dudley	Wolverhampton County Court

(i) Petty Sessions Areas	(ii) Care Centres
East Retford	Nottingham County Court
East Oxfordshire	Oxford County Court
Eccleshall	Stoke-on-Trent County Court
Elloes	Lincoln County Court
Ely	Peterborough County Court
Epworth and Goole	Lincoln County Court
Gainsborough	Lincoln County Court
Glossop	Derby County Court
Grantham	Lincoln County Court
Grimsby and Cleethorpes	Lincoln County Court
Halesowen	Wolverhampton County Court
Henley	Oxford County Court
High Peak	Derby County Court
Huntingdon	Peterborough County Court
Ilkeston	Derby County Court
Kettering	Northampton County Court
Kidderminster	Worcester County Court
Leek	Stoke-on-Trent County Court
Leicester (City)	Leicester County Court
Leicester (County)	Leicester County Court
Lichfield	Stoke-on-Trent County Court
Lincoln District	Lincoln County Court
Loughborough	Leicester County Court
Louth	Lincoln County Court
Ludlow	Telford County Court
Lutterworth	Leicester County Court
Malvern Hills	Worcester County Court
Mansfield	Nottingham County Court
Market Bosworth	Leicester County Court
Market Harborough	Leicester County Court
Market Rasen	Lincoln County Court
Melton and Belvoir	Leicester County Court
Mid-Warwickshire	Coventry County Court
Mid-Worcestershire	Worcester County Court

(i) Petty Sessions Areas	(ii) Care Centres
Newark and Southwell	Nottingham County Court
Newcastle-under-Lyme	Stoke-on-Trent County Court
Newmarket	Peterborough County Court or Ipswich County Court
Northampton	Northampton County Court
North Herefordshire	Worcester County Court
North Oxfordshire and Chipping Norton	Oxford County Court
North Witchford	Peterborough County Court
Nottingham	Nottingham County Court
Nuneaton	Coventry County Court
Oswestry	Telford County Court
Oxford	Oxford County Court
Peterborough	Peterborough County Court
Pirehill North	Stoke-on-Trent County Court
Redditch	Worcester County Court
Rugby	Coventry County Court
Rugeley	Wolverhampton County Court
Rutland	Leicester County Court
Scunthorpe	Lincoln County Court
Seisdon	Wolverhampton County Court
Sleaford	Lincoln County Court
Shrewsbury	Telford County Court
Solihull	Birmingham County Court
South Herefordshire	Worcester County Court
South Warwickshire	Coventry County Court
Spilsby and Skegness	Lincoln County Court
Stoke-on-Trent	Stoke-on-Trent County Court
Stone	Stoke-on-Trent County Court
Stourbridge	Wolverhampton County Court
Sutton Coldfield	Birmingham County Court
Tamworth	Stoke-on-Trent County Court
Telford	Telford County Court
Toseland	Peterborough County Court
Towcester	Northampton County Court

(i) Petty Sessions Areas	(ii) Care Centres
Uttoxeter	Stoke-on-Trent County Court
Vale of Evesham	Worcester County Court
Warley	Wolverhampton County Court
Walsall	Wolverhampton County Court
Wellingborough	Northampton County Court
West Bromwich	Wolverhampton County Court
West Derbyshire	Derby County Court
Wisbech	Peterborough County Court
Witney	Oxford County Court
Wolds	Lincoln County Court
Wolverhampton	Wolverhampton County Court
Woodstock	Oxford County Court
Worcester City	Worcester County Court
Worksop	Nottingham County Court
	Northern Circuit
Appleby	Carlisle County Court
Ashton-under-Lyne	Manchester County Court
Barrow with Bootle	Lancaster County Court
Blackburn	Blackburn County Court
Blackpool	Lancaster County Court
Bolton	Manchester County Court
Burnley	Blackburn County Court
Bury	Manchester County Court
Carlisle	Carlisle County Court
Chorley	Blackburn County Court
Darwen	Blackburn County Court
Eccles	Manchester County Court
Fylde	Lancaster County Court
Hyndburn	Blackburn County Court
Kendal and Lonsdale	Lancaster County Court
Keswick	Carlisle County Court
Knowsley	Liverpool County Court
Lancaster	Lancaster County Court
Leigh	Manchester County Court

(i) Petty Sessions Areas	(ii) Care Centres
Liverpool	Liverpool County Court
Manchester	Manchester County Court
Middleton and Heywood	Manchester County Court
North Lonsdale	Lancaster County Court
North Sefton	Liverpool County Court
Oldham	Manchester County Court
Ormskirk	Liverpool County Court
Pendle	Blackburn County Court
Penrith and Alston	Carlisle County Court
Preston	Blackburn County Court
Ribble Valley	Blackburn County Court
Rochdale	Manchester County Court
Rossendale	Blackburn County Court
St Helens	Liverpool County Court
Salford	Manchester County Court
South Lakes	Lancaster County Court
South Ribble	Blackburn County Court
South Sefton	Liverpool County Court
South Tameside	Manchester County Court
Stockport	Manchester County Court
Trafford	Manchester County Court
West Allerdale	Carlisle County Court
Whitehaven	Carlisle County Court
Wigan	Liverpool County Court
Wigton	Carlisle County Court
Wirral	Liverpool County Court
Wyre	Lancaster County Court
	North Eastern Circuit
Bainton Beacon	Kingston-upon-Hull County Court
Barnsley	Sheffield County Court
Batley and Dewsbury	Leeds County Court
Berwick-upon-Tweed	Newcastle-upon-Tyne County Court
Beverley	Kingston-upon-Hull County Court
Blyth Valley	Newcastle-upon-Tyne County Court

(i) Petty Sessions Areas	(ii) Care Centres
Bradford	Leeds County Court
Brighouse	Leeds County Court
Calder	Leeds County Court
Chester-le-Street	Newcastle-upon-Tyne County Court
Claro	York County Court
Coquettale	Newcastle-upon-Tyne County Court
Darlington	Teesside County Court
Derwentside	Newcastle-upon-Tyne County Court
Dickering	Kingston-upon-Hull County Court
Doncaster	Sheffield County Court
Durham	Newcastle-upon-Tyne County Court
Easington	Sunderland County Court
Easingwold	York County Court
Gateshead	Newcastle-upon-Tyne County Court
Hartlepool	Teesside County Court
Holme Beacon	Kingston-upon-Hull County Court
Houghton-le-Spring	Sunderland County Court
Howdenshire	Kingston-upon-Hull County Court
Huddersfield	Leeds County Court
Keighley	Leeds County Court
Kingston-upon-Hull	Kingston-upon-Hull County Court
Langbaugh East	Teesside County Court
Leeds	Leeds County Court
Middle Holderness	Kingston-upon-Hull County Court
Morley	Leeds County Court
Morpeth Ward	Newcastle-upon-Tyne County Court
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	Newcastle-upon-Tyne County Court
Northallerton	Teesside County Court
North Holderness	Kingston-upon-Hull County Court
North Tyneside	Newcastle-upon-Tyne County Court
Pontefract	Leeds County Court
Pudsey and Otley	Leeds County Court
Richmond	Teesside County Court
Ripon Liberty	York County Court

(i) Petty Sessions Areas	(ii) Care Centres
Rotherham	Sheffield County Court
Ryedale	York County Court
Scarborough	York County Court
Sedgefield	Newcastle-upon-Tyne County Court
Selby	York County Court
Sheffield	Sheffield County Court
Skyrack and Wetherby	Leeds County Court
South Holderness	Kingston-upon-Hull County Court
South Hunsley Beacon	Kingston-upon-Hull County Court
South Tyneside	Sunderland County Court
Staincliffe	Leeds County Court
Sunderland	Sunderland County Court
Teesdale and Wear Valley	Newcastle-upon-Tyne County Court
Teesside	Teesside County Court
Todmorden	Leeds County Court
Tynedale	Newcastle-upon-Tyne Court
Wakefield	Leeds County Court
Wansbeck	Newcastle-upon-Tyne County Court
Whitby Strand	Teesside County Court
Wilton Beacon	Kingston-upon-Hull County Court
York	York County Court
	South Eastern Circuit
Amphill	Luton County Court
Arundel	Brighton County Court
Ashford and Tenterden	Medway County Court
Aylesbury	Milton Keynes County Court
Barnet	Principal Registry of the Family Division
Barking and Dagenham	Principal Registry of the Family Division
Basildon	Chelmsford County Court
Battle and Rye	Brighton County Court
Beccles	Ipswich County Court
Bedford	Luton County Court
Bexhill	Brighton County Court
Bexley	Principal Registry of the Family Division

(i) Petty Sessions Areas	(ii) Care Centres
Biggleswade	Luton County Court
Bishop's Stortford	Watford County Court
Brent	Principal Registry of the Family Division
Brentwood	Chelmsford County Court
Brighton	Brighton County Court
Bromley	Principal Registry of the Family Division
Buckingham	Milton Keynes County Court
Burnham	Milton Keynes County Court
Cambridge	Peterborough County Court
Canterbury and St Augustine	Medway County Court
Chelmsford	Chelmsford County Court
Chertsey	Guildford County Court
Cheshunt	Watford County Court
Chichester and District	Brighton County Court
Chiltern	Milton Keynes County Court
Colchester	Chelmsford County Court
Crawley	Brighton County Court
Cromer	Norwich County Court
Crowborough	Brighton County Court
Croydon	Principal Registry of the Family Division
Dacorum	Watford County Court
Dartford	Medway County Court
Diss	Norwich County Court
Dorking	Guildford County Court
Dover and East Kent	Medway County Court
Downham Market	Norwich County Court
Dunmow	Chelmsford County Court
Dunstable	Luton County Court
Ealing	Principal Registry of the Family Division
Eastbourne	Brighton County Court
East Dereham	Norwich County Court
Ely	Peterborough County Court
Enfield	Principal Registry of the Family Division
Epping and Ongar	Chelmsford County Court

(i) Petty Sessions Areas	(ii) Care Centres
Epsom	Guildford County Court
Esher and Walton	Guildford County Court
Fakenham	Norwich County Court
Farnham	Guildford County Court
Faversham and Sittingbourne	Medway County Court
Felixstowe	Ipswich County Court
Folkestone and Hythe	Medway County Court
The Forest	Reading County Court
Freshwell and South Hinckford	Chelmsford County Court
Godstone	Guildford County Court
Guildford	Guildford County Court
Gravesham	Medway County Court
Great Yarmouth	Norwich County Court
Hailsham	Brighton County Court
Halstead and Hedingham	Chelmsford County Court
Harlow	Chelmsford County Court
Harrow Gore	Principal Registry of the Family Division
Haringey	Principal Registry of the Family Division
Harwich	Chelmsford County Court
Hastings	Brighton County Court
Havering	Principal Registry of the Family Division
Hertford and Ware	Watford County Court
Hillingdon	Principal Registry of the Family Division
Horsham	Brighton County Court
Hounslow	Principal Registry of the Family Division
Hove	Brighton County Court
Hunstanton	Norwich County Court
Huntingdon	Peterborough County Court
Ipswich	Ipswich County Court.
King's Lynn	Norwich County Court
Kingston-upon-Thames	Principal Registry of the Family Division
Leighton Buzzard	Luton County Court
Lewes	Brighton County Court
Lowestoft	Ipswich County Court

(i) Petty Sessions Areas	(ii) Care Centres
Luton	Luton County Court
Maidenhead	Reading County Court
Maidstone	Medway County Court
Maldon and Witham	Chelmsford County Court
Margate	Medway County Court
Medway	Medway County Court
Merton	Principal Registry of the Family Division
Mid-Hertfordshire	Watford County Court
Mid-Sussex	Brighton County Court
Mildenhall	Ipswich County Court
Milton Keynes	Milton Keynes County Court
Newham	Principal Registry of the Family Division
Newmarket	Ipswich County Court or Peterborough County Court
North Hertfordshire	Watford County Court
North Walsham	Norwich County Court
North Witchford	Peterborough County Court
Norwich	Norwich County Court
Peterborough	Peterborough County Court
Ramsgate	Medway County Court
Reading and Sonning	Reading County Court
Redbridge	Principal Registry of the Family Division
Reigate	Guildford County Court
Richmond-upon-Thames	Principal Registry of the Family Division
Risbridge	Ipswich County Court
Rochford and Southend-on-Sea	Chelmsford County Court
Saffron Walden	Chelmsford County Court
St Albans	Watford County Court
St Edmundsbury	Ipswich County Court
Saxmundham	Ipswich County Court
Sevenoaks	Medway County Court
Slough	Reading County Court
South Mimms	Watford County Court
Staines and Sunbury	Guildford County Court

(i) Petty Sessions Areas	(ii) Care Centres
Stevenage	Watford County Court
Steyning	Brighton County Court
Stow	Ipswich County Court
Sudbury and Cosford	Ipswich County Court
Sutton	Principal Registry of the Family Division
Swaffham	Norwich County Court
Tendring	Chelmsford County Court
Thetford	Norwich County Court
Thurrock	Chelmsford County Court
Tonbridge and Malling	Medway County Court
Toseland	Peterborough County Court
Tunbridge Wells and Cranbrook	Medway County Court
Waltham Forest	Principal Registry of the Family Division
Watford	Watford County Court
West Berkshire	Reading County Court
Windsor	Reading County Court
Wisbech	Peterborough County Court
Woking	Guildford County Court
Woodbridge	Ipswich County Court
Worthing	Brighton County Court
Wycombe	Milton Keynes County Court
Wymondham	Norwich County Court
	Wales and Chester Circuit
Ardudwy-is-Artro	Caernarfon/Llangefni County Court
Ardudwy-uwch-Artro	Caernarfon/Llangefni County Court
Bangor	Caernarfon/Llangefni County Court
Bedwellty	Newport (Gwent) County Court
Berwyn	Rhyl County Court
Brecon	Merthyr Tydfil County Court
Caernarfon and Gwyrfai	Caernarfon/Llangefni County Court
Cardiff	Cardiff County Court
Carmarthen North	Swansea County Court
Carmarthen South	Swansea County Court
Ceredigion Ganol	Swansea County Court

(i) Petty Sessions Areas	(ii) Care Centres
Chester	Chester County Court
Cleddau	Swansea County Court
Colwyn	Rhyl County Court
Congleton	Stoke-on-Trent County Court
Conwy and Llandudno	Caernarfon/Llangefni County Court
Crewe and Nantwich	Stoke-on-Trent County Court
Cynon Valley	Merthyr Tydfil County Court
De Ceredigion	Swansea County Court
Dinefwr	Swansea County Court
Dyffryn Clwyd	Rhyl County Court
East Gwent	Newport (Gwent) County Court
Eifionydd	Caernarfon/Llangefni County Court
Ellesmere Port and Neston	Chester County Court
Estimaner	Caernarfon/Llangefni County Court
Flint	Rhyl County Court
Gogledd Ceredigion	Swansea County Court
Gogledd Preseli	Swansea County Court
Halton	Warrington County Court
Hawarden	Rhyl County Court
Llandrindod Wells	Merthyr Tydfil County Court
Llanelli	Swansea County Court
Lliw Valley	Swansea County Court
Lower Rhymney Valley	Cardiff County Court
Macclesfield	Warrington County Court
Machynlleth	Merthyr Tydfil County Court
Merthyr Tydfil	Merthyr Tydfil County Court
Miskin	Merthyr Tydfil County Court
Mold	Rhyl County Court
Nant Conwy	Caernarfon/Llangefni County Court
Neath	Swansea County Court
Newcastle and Ogmore	Cardiff County Court
Newport	Newport (Gwent) County Court
Newton	Merthyr Tydfil County Court
North Anglesey	Caernarfon/Llangefni County Court

(i) Petty Sessions Areas	(ii) Care Centres
Penllyn	Caernarfon/Llangefni County Court
Port Talbot	Swansea County Court
Pwllheli	Caernarfon/Llangefni County Court
Rhuddlan	Rhyl County Court
South Anglesey	Caernarfon/Llangefni County Court
South Pembrokeshire	Swansea County Court
Swansea	Swansea County Court
Talybont	Caernarfon/Llangefni County Court
Upper Rhymney Valley	Merthyr Tydfil County Court
Vale of Glamorgan	Cardiff County Court
Vale Royal	Chester County Court
Warrington	Warrington County Court
Welshpool	Merthyr Tydfil County Court
Wrexham Maelor	Rhyl County Court
Ystradgynlais	Swansea County Court
	Western Circuit
Alton	Portsmouth County Court
Andover	Portsmouth County Court
Axminster	Taunton County Court
Barnstaple	Taunton County Court
Basingstoke	Portsmouth County Court
Bath and Wansdyke	Bristol County Court
Bideford and Great Torrington	Taunton County Court
Blandford and Sturminster	Bournemouth County Court
Bodmin	Truro County Court
Bournemouth	Bournemouth County Court
Bristol	Bristol County Court
Bridport	Bournemouth County Court
Cheltenham	Bristol County Court
Christchurch	Bournemouth County Court
Cirencester, Fairford and Tetbury	Bristol County Court
Cullompton	Taunton County Court
Dorchester	Bournemouth County Court
Droxford	Portsmouth County Court

(i) Petty Sessions Areas	(ii) Care Centres
Dunheved and Stratton	Truro County Court
Eastleigh	Portsmouth County Court
East Penwith	Truro County Court
East Powder	Truro County Court
Exeter	Plymouth County Court
Exmouth	Plymouth County Court
Falmouth and Kerrier	Truro County Court
Fareham	Portsmouth County Court
Forest of Dean	Bristol County Court
Gloucester	Bristol County Court
Gosport	Portsmouth County Court
Havant	Portsmouth County Court
Honiton	Taunton County Court
Hythe	Bournemouth County Court
Isle of Wight	Portsmouth County Court
Isles of Scilly	Truro County Court
Kennet	Bristol County Court
Kingsbridge	Plymouth County Court
Long Ashton	Bristol County Court
Lymington	Bournemouth County Court
Mendip	Taunton County Court
North Avon	Bristol County Court
North Cotswold	Bristol County Court
North Wiltshire	Bristol County Court
Odiham	Portsmouth County Court
Okehampton	Plymouth County Court
Penwith	Truro County Court
Petersfield	Portsmouth County Court
Plymouth	Plymouth County Court
Plympton	Plymouth County Court
Portsmouth	Portsmouth County Court
Poole	Bournemouth County Court
Pydar	Truro County Court
Ringwood	Bournemouth County Court

(i) Petty Sessions Areas	(ii) Care Centres
Romsey	Bournemouth County Court
Salisbury	Bournemouth County Court
Sedgemoor	Taunton County Court
Shaftesbury	Bournemouth County Court
Sherborne	Bournemouth County Court
Southampton	Portsmouth County Court
South East Cornwall	Plymouth County Court
South Gloucestershire	Bristol County Court
South Molton	Taunton County Court
South Somerset	Taunton County Court
Swindon	Bristol County Court
Taunton Deane	Taunton County Court
Tavistock	Plymouth County Court
Teignbridge	Plymouth County Court
Tewkesbury	Bristol County Court
Tiverton	Taunton County Court
Torbay	Plymouth County Court
Totnes	Plymouth County Court
Totton and New Forest	Bournemouth County Court
Truro and South Powder	Truro County Court
Wareham and Swanage	Bournemouth County Court
West Somerset	Taunton County Court
Weston-Super-Mare	Bristol County Court
West Wiltshire	Bristol County Court
Weymouth and Portland	Bournemouth County Court
Wimborne	Bournemouth County Court
Winchester	Portsmouth County Court
Wonford	Plymouth County Court
(i) London Commission Area	(ii) Care Centre
Inner London Area and City of London	Principal Registry of the Family Division

Status: *This is the original version (as it was originally made). UK
Statutory Instruments are not carried in their revised form on this site.*

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

This Order provides for the allocation of certain proceedings concerning children between the High Court, the county courts and the magistrates' courts.

Article 3 prescribes certain proceedings which must be commenced in a magistrates' court.

Article 4 prescribes the court in which are to be brought applications to vary, extend or discharge orders.

Articles 5 to 13 regulate transfer between different courts and categories of court.

Articles 14 to 20, and Schedules 1 and 2, deal with the distribution of business amongst the county courts, and provide for the Principal Registry of the Family Division to be treated as a county court.