
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1998 No. 3132

The Civil Procedure Rules 1998

PART 1

OVERRIDING OBJECTIVE

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The overriding objective

1.1.—(1) These Rules are a new procedural code with the overriding objective of enabling 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—
 - (i) to the amount of money involved;
 - (ii) to the importance of the case;
 - (iii) to the complexity of the issues; and
 - (iv) to 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.

Application by the court of the overriding objective

- 1.2** 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.

Duty of the parties

- 1.3** The parties are required to help the court to further the overriding objective.

Court's duty to manage cases

- 1.4.—**(1) The court must further the overriding objective by actively managing cases.
- (2) Active case management includes —
- (a) encouraging the parties to co-operate with each other in the conduct of the proceedings;
 - (b) identifying the issues at an early stage;
 - (c) deciding promptly which issues need full investigation and trial and accordingly disposing summarily of the others;
 - (d) deciding the order in which issues are to be resolved;
 - (e) encouraging the parties to use an alternative dispute resolution^(GL) procedure if the court considers that appropriate and facilitating the use of such procedure;
 - (f) helping the parties to settle the whole or part of the case;
 - (g) fixing timetables or otherwise controlling the progress of the case;
 - (h) considering whether the likely benefits of taking a particular step justify the cost of taking it;
 - (i) dealing with as many aspects of the case as it can on the same occasion;
 - (j) dealing with the case without the parties needing to attend at court;
 - (k) making use of technology; and
 - (l) giving directions to ensure that the trial of a case proceeds quickly and efficiently.