
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1998 No. 3132

The Civil Procedure Rules 1998

Part 25

INTERIM REMEDIES

Contents of this Part

Orders for interim remedies	Rule 25.1
Time when an order for an interim remedy may be made	Rule 25.2
How to apply for an interim remedy	Rule 25.3
Application for an interim remedy where there is no related claim	Rule 25.4
Inspection of property before commencement or against a non-party	Rule 25.5
Interim payments—general procedure	Rule 25.6
Interim payments—conditions to be satisfied and matters to be taken into account	Rule 25.7
Powers of court where it has made an order for interim payment	Rule 25.8
Restriction on disclosure of an interim payment	Rule 25.9
Interim injunction to cease if claim stayed	Rule 25.10

Orders for interim remedies

25.1.—(1) The court may grant the following interim remedies—

- (a) an interim injunction^(GL);
- (b) an interim declaration;
- (c) an order—
 - (i) for the detention, custody or preservation of relevant property;
 - (ii) for the inspection of relevant property;
 - (iii) for the taking of a sample of relevant property;
 - (iv) for the carrying out of an experiment on or with relevant property;
 - (v) for the sale of relevant property which is of a perishable nature or which for any other good reason it is desirable to sell quickly; and

- (vi) for the payment of income from relevant property until a claim is decided;
- (d) an order authorising a person to enter any land or building in the possession of a party to the proceedings for the purposes of carrying out an order under sub-paragraph (c);
- (e) an order under section 4 of the Torts (Interference with Goods) Act 1977⁽¹⁾ to deliver up goods;
- (f) an order (referred to as a “freezing injunction^(GL)”)—
 - (i) restraining a party from removing from the jurisdiction assets located there; or
 - (ii) restraining a party from dealing with any assets whether located within the jurisdiction or not;
- (g) an order directing a party to provide information about the location of relevant property or assets or to provide information about relevant property or assets which are or may be the subject of an application for a freezing injunction^(GL);
- (h) an order (referred to as a “search order”) under section 7 of the Civil Procedure Act 1997⁽²⁾ (order requiring a party to admit another party to premises for the purpose of preserving evidence etc.);
- (i) an order under section 33 of the Supreme Court Act 1981⁽³⁾ or section 52 of the County Courts Act 1984⁽⁴⁾ (order for disclosure of documents or inspection of property before a claim has been made);
- (j) an order under section 34 of the Supreme Court Act 1981⁽⁵⁾ or section 53 of the County Courts Act 1984⁽⁶⁾ (order in certain proceedings for disclosure of documents or inspection of property against a non-party);
- (k) an order (referred to as an order for interim payment) under rule 25.6 for payment by a defendant on account of any damages, debt or other sum (except costs) which the court may hold the defendant liable to pay;
- (l) an order for a specified fund to be paid into court or otherwise secured, where there is a dispute over a party’s right to the fund;
- (m) an order permitting a party seeking to recover personal property to pay money into court pending the outcome of the proceedings and directing that, if he does so, the property shall be given up to him; and
- (n) an order directing a party to prepare and file accounts relating to the dispute.

(Rule 34.2 provides for the court to issue a witness summons requiring a witness to produce documents to the court at the hearing or on such date as the court may direct)

(2) In paragraph (1)(c) and (g), “relevant property” means property (including land) which is the subject of a claim or as to which any question may arise on a claim.

(3) The fact that a particular kind of interim remedy is not listed in paragraph (1) does not affect any power that the court may have to grant that remedy.

(4) The court may grant an interim remedy whether or not there has been a claim for a final remedy of that kind.

(1) 1977 c. 32; section 4 was amended by the Supreme Court Act 1981 (c. 54), section 152(1), Schedule 5; by the County Courts Act 1984 (c. 28), section 148(1), Schedule 2, Part V, paragraph 64 and by S.I. 1980/397 (NI3).

(2) 1997 c. 12.

(3) 1981 c. 54. Section 33 was amended by S.I. 1998/ 2940.

(4) 1984 c. 28. Section 52 was amended by the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41), Schedule 18, paragraph 43 and by S.I. 1998/2940.

(5) 1981 c. 54. Section 34 was amended by S.I. 1998/ 2940.

(6) 1984 c. 28. Section 53 was amended by the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41), Schedule 18, paragraph 44 and by S.I. 1998/2940.

Time when an order for an interim remedy may be made

25.2.—(1) An order for an interim remedy may be made at any time, including—

- (a) before proceedings are started; and
- (b) after judgment has been given.

(Rule 7.2 provides that proceedings are started when the court issues a claim form)

(2) However—

- (a) paragraph (1) is subject to any rule, practice direction or other enactment which provides otherwise;
- (b) the court may grant an interim remedy before a claim has been made only if—
 - (i) the matter is urgent; or
 - (ii) it is otherwise desirable to do so in the interests of justice; and
- (c) unless the court otherwise orders, a defendant may not apply for any of the orders listed in rule 25.1(1) before he has filed either an acknowledgement of service or a defence.

(Part 10 provides for filing an acknowledgment of service and Part 15 for filing a defence)

(3) Where the court grants an interim remedy before a claim has been commenced, it may give directions requiring a claim to be commenced.

(4) In particular, the court need not direct that a claim be commenced where the application is made under section 33 of the Supreme Court Act 1981 or section 52 of the County Courts Act 1984 (order for disclosure, inspection etc. before commencement of a claim).

How to apply for an interim remedy

25.3.—(1) The court may grant an interim remedy on an application made without notice if it appears to the court that there are good reasons for not giving notice.

(2) An application for an interim remedy must be supported by evidence, unless the court orders otherwise.

(3) If the applicant makes an application without giving notice, the evidence in support of the application must state the reasons why notice has not been given.

(Part 3 lists general powers of the court)

(Part 23 contains general rules about making an application)

Application for an interim remedy where there is no related claim

25.4.—(1) This rule applies where a party wishes to apply for an interim remedy but—

- (a) the remedy is sought in relation to proceedings which are taking place, or will take place, outside the jurisdiction; or
- (b) the application is made under section 33 of the Supreme Court Act 1981 or section 52 of the County Courts Act 1984 (order for disclosure, inspection etc. before commencement) before a claim has been commenced.

(2) An application under this rule must be made in accordance with the general rules about applications contained in Part 23.

(The following provisions are also relevant—

- Rule 25.5 (inspection of property before commencement or against a non-party)
- Rule 31.16 (orders for disclosure of documents before proceedings start)

- Rule 31.17 (orders for disclosure of documents against a person not a party))

Inspection of property before commencement or against a non-party

25.5.—(1) This rule applies where a person makes an application under—

- (a) section 33(1) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 or section 52(1) of the County Courts Act 1984 (inspection etc. of property before commencement);
- (b) section 34(3) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 or section 53(3) of the County Courts Act 1984 (inspection etc. of property against a non-party).

(2) The evidence in support of such an application must show, if practicable by reference to any statement of case prepared in relation to the proceedings or anticipated proceedings, that the property—

- (a) is or may become the subject matter of such proceedings; or
- (b) is relevant to the issues that will arise in relation to such proceedings.

(3) A copy of the application notice and a copy of the evidence in support must be served on—

- (a) the person against whom the order is sought; and
- (b) in relation to an application under section 34(3) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 or section 53(3) of the County Courts Act 1984, every party to the proceedings other than the applicant.

Interim payments—general procedure

25.6.—(1) The claimant may not apply for an order for an interim payment before the end of the period for filing an acknowledgement of service applicable to the defendant against whom the application is made.

(Rule 10.3 sets out the period for filing an acknowledgement of service)

(Rule 25.1(1)(k) defines an interim payment)

25.6.—(2) The claimant may make more than one application for an order for an interim payment.

(3) A copy of an application notice for an order for an interim payment must—

- (a) be served at least 14 days before the hearing of the application; and
- (b) be supported by evidence.

(4) If the respondent to an application for an order for an interim payment wishes to rely on written evidence at the hearing, he must—

- (a) file the written evidence; and
- (b) serve copies on every other party to the application,

at least 7 days before the hearing of the application.

(5) If the applicant wishes to rely on written evidence in reply, he must—

- (a) file the written evidence; and
 - (b) serve a copy on the respondent,
- at least 3 days before the hearing of the application.

(6) This rule does not require written evidence—

- (a) to be filed if it has already been filed; or
- (b) to be served on a party on whom it has already been served.

(7) The court may order an interim payment in one sum or in instalments.

(Part 23 contains general rules about applications)

Interim payments—conditions to be satisfied and matters to be taken into account

25.7.—(1) The court may make an order for an interim payment only if—

- (a) the defendant against whom the order is sought has admitted liability to pay damages or some other sum of money to the claimant;
- (b) the claimant has obtained judgment against that defendant for damages to be assessed or for a sum of money (other than costs) to be assessed;
- (c) except where paragraph (3) applies, it is satisfied that, if the claim went to trial, the claimant would obtain judgment for a substantial amount of money (other than costs) against the defendant from whom he is seeking an order for an interim payment; or
- (d) the following conditions are satisfied—
 - (i) the claimant is seeking an order for possession of land (whether or not any other order is also sought); and
 - (ii) the court is satisfied that, if the case went to trial, the defendant would be held liable (even if the claim for possession fails) to pay the claimant a sum of money for the defendant's occupation and use of the land while the claim for possession was pending.

(2) In addition, in a claim for personal injuries the court may make an order for an interim payment of damages only if—

- (a) the defendant is insured in respect of the claim;
- (b) the defendant's liability will be met by—
 - (i) an insurer under section 151 of the Road Traffic Act 1988(7); or
 - (ii) an insurer acting under the Motor Insurers Bureau Agreement, or the Motor Insurers Bureau where it is acting itself; or
- (c) the defendant is a public body.

(3) In a claim for personal injuries where there are two or more defendants, the court may make an order for the interim payment of damages against any defendant if—

- (a) it is satisfied that, if the claim went to trial, the claimant would obtain judgment for substantial damages against at least one of the defendants (even if the court has not yet determined which of them is liable); and
- (b) paragraph (2) is satisfied in relation to each of the defendants.

(4) The court must not order an interim payment of more than a reasonable proportion of the likely amount of the final judgment.

(5) The court must take into account—

- (a) contributory negligence; and
- (b) any relevant set-off or counterclaim.

Powers of court where it has made an order for interim payment

25.8.—(1) Where a defendant has been ordered to make an interim payment, or has in fact made an interim payment (whether voluntarily or under an order), the court may make an order to adjust the interim payment.

(2) The court may in particular—

(7) 1988 c. 52. Section 151 was amended by the Road Traffic Act 1991 (c. 40), section 83, Schedule 8.

- (a) order all or part of the interim payment to be repaid;
 - (b) vary or discharge the order for the interim payment;
 - (c) order a defendant to reimburse, either wholly or partly, another defendant who has made an interim payment.
- (3) The court may make an order under paragraph (2)(c) only if—
- (a) the defendant to be reimbursed made the interim payment in relation to a claim in respect of which he has made a claim against the other defendant for a contribution^(GL), indemnity^(GL) or other remedy; and
 - (b) where the claim or part to which the interim payment relates has not been discontinued or disposed of, the circumstances are such that the court could make an order for interim payment under rule 25.7.
- (4) The court may make an order under this rule without an application by any party if it makes the order when it disposes of the claim or any part of it.
- (5) Where—
- (a) a defendant has made an interim payment; and
 - (b) the amount of the payment is more than his total liability under the final judgment or order,
- the court may award him interest on the overpaid amount from the date when he made the interim payment.

Restriction on disclosure of an interim payment

25.9 The fact that a defendant has made an interim payment, whether voluntarily or by court order, shall not be disclosed to the trial judge until all questions of liability and the amount of money to be awarded have been decided unless the defendant agrees.

Interim injunction to cease if claim is stayed

25.10 If—

- (a) the court has granted an interim injunction^(GL); and
- (b) the claim is stayed^(GL) other than by agreement between the parties, the interim injunction^(GL) shall be set aside^(GL) unless the court orders that it should continue to have effect even though the claim is stayed.