

2005 No. 144

FAMILY PROCEEDINGS

SUPREME COURT

COUNTY COURTS

**The Family Proceedings (Amendment) Rules
(Northern Ireland) 2005**

Made - - - - - 17th March 2005

Coming into operation 18th April 2005

To be laid before Parliament

We, the Family Proceedings Rules Committee, in exercise of the powers conferred on us by Article 12 of the Family Law (Northern Ireland) Order 1993(a) hereby with the concurrence of the Lord Chancellor, make the following Rules:

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) These Rules may be cited as the Family Proceedings (Amendment) Rules (Northern Ireland) 2005 and shall come into operation on 18th April 2005.

(2) In these Rules “the principal Rules” means the Family Proceedings Rules (Northern Ireland) 1996(b).

Amendment of the Principal Rules

2. The Principal Rules shall be amended as follows:

(a) in rule 1.3 for the definition of “Master” there shall be substituted the following definition –

“ “Master” means

(a) in relation to proceedings in the High Court, the Master (High Court) or the Master (Care and Protection) as the case may be; and

(b) in relation to proceedings in a county court a district judge;”;

(b) in rule 4.17 after paragraph (6) add the following new paragraph –

“(7) The court may hold a directions appointment by telephone or by using any other method of direct oral communication.”.

(a) S.I. 1993/1576 (N.I. 6)

(b) S.R. 1996 No. 322

Dated 15th March 2005

Brian Kerr
Patrick Markey
John Gillen
R. McLaughlin

Signed by the authority of the Lord Chancellor

I concur

Baroness Ashton of Upholland
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs

Dated 17th March 2005

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Rules)

These Rules amend the Family Proceedings Rules (Northern Ireland) 1996 to: –

- amend the definition of Master so that in relation to proceedings in the High Court it means Master (High Court) rather than Master (Probate and Matrimonial); and
- enable the court to hold a directions appointment by telephone or by using any other method of direct oral communication.

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