



Civil Procedure Act 1997

1997 CHAPTER 12

Rules and directions

[^{F15} Practice directions.

- (1) Practice directions may be given in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 2 to the Constitutional Reform Act 2005.
- (2) Practice directions given otherwise than under subsection (1) may not be given without the approval of—
 - (a) the Lord Chancellor, and
 - (b) the Lord Chief Justice.
- (3) Practice directions (whether given under subsection (1) or otherwise) may provide for any matter which, by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 1, may be provided for by Civil Procedure Rules.
- (4) The power to give practice directions under subsection (1) includes power—
 - (a) to vary or revoke directions given by any person;
 - (b) to give directions containing different provision for different cases (including different areas);
 - (c) to give directions containing provision for a specific court, for specific proceedings or for a specific jurisdiction.
- (5) Subsection (2)(a) does not apply to directions to the extent that they consist of guidance about any of the following—
 - (a) the application or interpretation of the law;
 - (b) the making of judicial decisions.
- (6) Subsection (2)(a) does not apply to directions to the extent that they consist of criteria for determining which judges may be allocated to hear particular categories of case; but the directions may, to that extent, be given only—
 - (a) after consulting the Lord Chancellor, and
 - (b) with the approval of the Lord Chief Justice.]

Changes to legislation: Civil Procedure Act 1997, Section 5 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 25 April 2024. 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](#)

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 5 substituted (3.4.2006) by [Constitutional Reform Act 2005 \(c. 4\)](#), ss. 13, 148(1), [Sch. 2 para. 6](#); [S.I. 2006/1014](#), [art. 2\(a\)](#), Sch. 1 para. 7

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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. 1(4) inserted by [2022 c. 35 Sch. 4 para. 2\(2\)](#)
- s. 3(3)(4) substituted by [2005 c. 4 Sch. 4 para. 265\(2\)](#) (This amendment is made to s. 3 as prospectively amended by 2003 c. 39, s. 85(2). Although it is in force at 3.4.2006 by S.I. 2006/1014, art. 2(a), Sch. 1 para. 11(v), it cannot be applied until the substitution of s. 3 has been brought into force)
- s. 3(5) words substituted by [2005 c. 4 Sch. 4 para. 265\(3\)](#) (This amendment is made to s. 3 as prospectively amended by 2003 c. 39, s. 85(2). Although it is in force at 3.4.2006 by S.I. 2006/1014, art. 2(a), Sch. 1 para. 11(v), it cannot be applied until the substitution of s. 3 has been brought into force)
- s. 3(6) words repealed by [2005 c. 4 Sch. 4 para. 265\(4\)Sch. 18 Pt. 2](#) (This amendment is made to s. 3 as prospectively amended by 2003 c. 39, s. 85(2). Although it is in force at 3.4.2006 by S.I. 2006/1014, art. 2(a), Sch. 1 paras. 11(v), 30(b), it cannot be applied until the substitution of s. 3 has been brought into force)
- s. 3(7) repealed by [2005 c. 4 Sch. 4 para. 265\(5\)Sch. 18 Pt. 2](#) (This amendment is made to s. 3 as prospectively amended by 2003 c. 39, s. 85(2). Although it is in force at 3.4.2006 by S.I. 2006/1014, art. 2(a), Sch. 1 paras. 11(v), 30(b), it cannot be applied until the substitution of s. 3 has been brought into force)
- s. 5(7) inserted by [2022 c. 35 Sch. 4 para. 2\(3\)](#)