



Ministry of
JUSTICE

Family Justice Policy

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30 July 2012

Dear Colleague

**DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO FAMILY PROCEDURE RULES PART 25 AND PART 25A
PRACTICE DIRECTION ON EXPERTS**

I enclose a consultation paper relating to draft amendments to Part 25 of the Family Procedure Rules (Experts and Assessors) and the Practice Direction Part 25A concerning expert witnesses in the family courts.

The amendments have been developed following recommendations on expert witness evidence made by the Family Justice Review in its final report published in November 2011 (available from the Ministry of Justice website at www.justice.gov.uk/about/moj/independent-reviews/family-justice-review).

As explained further in the enclosed paper, we are seeking comments on some specific amendments that would affect private law financial remedy proceedings and other proceedings not relating to children.

We would welcome your comments on the amendments we have highlighted. Please could you send your comments to the following address by **5 pm on Thursday 20 September 2012**:

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Copies of the consultation paper have been sent to:

Family Law Bar Association
Resolution
Law Society
Association of Lawyers for Children
Chartered Institute of Legal Executives
Association of HM District Judges

Council of HM Circuit Judges
Council of HM District Judges (magistrates' courts)
Justices' Clerks' Society
The Magistrates' Association
Office of the Official Solicitor
Judicial College
Cafcass
CAFCASS CYMRU
Academy of Experts
Expert Witness Institute
Consortium of Expert Witnesses in the Family Courts
UK Register of Expert Witnesses
Family Justice Council

Please feel free to forward these papers to other people or to let me know of other people who should be sent a copy of the papers.

Please contact me if you require any further information about this consultation.

Yours sincerely

Joanne Willows
Family Justice Policy