# UK Register of Expert Witnesses Expert Witnesses Year Book 2023

Dr Chris Pamplin, Editor UK Register of Expert Witnesses



UK Register of Expert Witnesses

Expert Witness

Year Book

2023

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UK Register of Expert Witnesses
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# **Rules in Civil Litigation**

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# Civil Procedure Rules Part 1 - Overriding objective

The following is taken from the 152nd update of the Civil Procedure Rules (CPR) dated December 2022.

Source: https://www.justice.gov.uk

# 1.1 The overriding objective

- These Rules are a procedural code with the overriding objective of enabling the court to deal with cases justly and at proportionate cost.
- (2) Dealing with a case justly and at proportionate cost includes, so far as is practicable –
  - (a) ensuring that the parties are on an equal footing and can participate fully in proceedings, and that parties and witnesses can give their best evidence;
  - (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;
  - (e) allotting to it an appropriate share of the court's resources, while taking into account the need to allot resources to other cases;
     and
  - (f) enforcing compliance with rules, practice directions and orders.

# 1.2 Application by the court of the overriding objective

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 subject to rules 76.2, 79.2 and 80.2, 82.2 and 88.2.

# 1.3 Duty of the parties

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

### 1.4 Court's duty to manage cases

- The court must further the overriding objective by actively managing cases.
- (2) Active case management includes
  - encouraging the parties to co-operate with each other in the conduct of the proceedings;
  - (b) identifying the issues at an early stage;

- 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 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;
- dealing with as many aspects of the case as it can on the same occasion;
- dealing with the case without the parties needing to attend at court:
- (k) making use of technology; and
- giving directions to ensure that the trial of a case proceeds quickly and efficiently.

## 1.5 The Welsh language

- (1) Nothing in the overriding objective undermines the principles provided by the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011(3) that the Welsh language has official status in Wales or by the Welsh Language Act 1993(4) that in any legal proceedings in Wales the Welsh language may be used by any person who desires to use it.
- (2) The parties are required to assist the court to put into effect the principles set out in paragraph (1)

# 1.6 Participation of vulnerable parties or witnesses

Practice Direction 1A makes provision for how the court is to give effect to the overriding objective in relation to vulnerable parties or witnesses.

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# Criminal Procedure Rules Part 1 – The overriding objective

The following is taken from the Criminal Procedure Rules 2020 dated October 2022.

Source: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rules-and-practice-directions-2020

# 1.1 The overriding objective

- The overriding objective of this procedural code is that criminal cases be dealt with justly.
- (2) Dealing with a criminal case justly includes -
  - (a) acquitting the innocent and convicting the guilty;
  - (b) treating all participants with politeness and respect:
  - (c) dealing with the prosecution and the defence fairly;
  - (d) recognising the rights of a defendant, particularly those under Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights;
  - (e) respecting the interests of witnesses, victims and jurors and keeping them informed of the progress of the case;
  - (f) dealing with the case efficiently and expeditiously;
  - (g) ensuring that appropriate information is available to the court when bail and sentence are considered; and
  - (h) dealing with the case in ways that take into account -
    - (i) the gravity of the offence alleged,
    - (ii) the complexity of what is in issue,
    - (iii) the severity of the consequences for the defendant and others affected, and
    - (iv) the needs of other cases.

# 1.2 The duty of the participants in a criminal case

- (1) Each participant, in the conduct of each case, must
  - (a) prepare and conduct the case in accordance with the overriding objective;
  - (b) comply with these Rules, practice directions and directions made by the court; and
  - (c) at once inform the court and all parties of any significant failure (whether or not that participant is responsible for that failure) to take any procedural step required by these Rules, any practice direction or any direction of the court. A failure is significant if it might hinder the court in furthering the overriding objective.
- (2) Anyone involved in any way with a criminal case is a participant in its conduct for the purposes of this rule.

# 3

# **Rules in Family Litigation**

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# Control of expert evidence in children proceedings

Children and Families Act 2014 Part 2 Section 13

Source: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/6/section/13

Dated: 2014

- A person may not without the permission of the court instruct a person to provide expert evidence for use in children proceedings.
- (2) Where in contravention of subsection (1) a person is instructed to provide expert evidence, evidence resulting from the instructions is inadmissible in children proceedings unless the court rules that it is admissible.
- (3) A person may not without the permission of the court cause a child to be medically or psychiatrically examined or otherwise assessed for the purposes of the provision of expert evidence in children proceedings.
- (4) Where in contravention of subsection (3) a child is medically or psychiatrically examined or otherwise assessed, evidence resulting from the examination or other assessment is inadmissible in children proceedings unless the court rules that it is admissible.
- (5) In children proceedings, a person may not without the permission of the court put expert evidence (in any form) before the court.
- (6) The court may give permission as mentioned in subsection (1), (3) or (5) only if the court is of the opinion that the expert evidence is necessary to assist the court to resolve the proceedings justly.
- (7) When deciding whether to give permission as mentioned in subsection (1), (3) or (5) the court is to have regard in particular to
  - (a) any impact which giving permission would be likely to have on the welfare of the children concerned, including in the case of permission as mentioned in subsection (3) any impact which any examination or other assessment would be likely to have on the welfare of the child who would be examined or otherwise assessed
  - (b) the issues to which the expert evidence would relate
  - (c) the questions which the court would require the expert to answer
  - (d) what other expert evidence is available (whether obtained before or after the start of proceedings)
  - (e) whether evidence could be given by another person on the matters on which the expert would give evidence
  - (f) the impact which giving permission would be likely to have on the timetable for, and duration and conduct of, the proceedings
  - (g) the cost of the expert evidence and
  - (h) any matters prescribed by Family Procedure Rules.



# **Court Rules – General**

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# Statements of truth

Source: https://www.justice.gov.uk

### Civil

Reports written for cases covered by the Civil Procedure Rules

Date introduced: 1 October 2009 (CPR Update 50) Date updated: 1 October 2020 (CPR Update 124) Relevant rules: CPR 35 PD3.2.9, CPR 35 PD3.3

All that the CPR *require* is a statement embodying the declarations in CPR PD3.2.9 and the mandatory wording of the Statement of Truth in CPR PD3.3. The following three paragraphs achieve this.

I understand that my overriding duty is to the court and I have complied with that duty. I am aware of the requirements of CPR Part 35, its practice direction and the CJC Guidance for the instruction of experts in civil claims.

I confirm that I have made clear which facts and matters referred to in this report are within my own knowledge and which are not. Those that are within my own knowledge I confirm to be true. The opinions I have expressed represent my true and complete professional opinions on the matters to which they refer.

I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.

CPR Part 22 deals with statements of truth. CPR 32.14 sets out the consequences of verifying a document containing a false statement without an honest belief in its truth.

## **Family**

Reports written for cases covered by the Family Procedure Rules

Date introduced: 30 January 2013 Relevant rules: FPR PD25B 9.1

The Family Practice Direction requires four declarations [PD25B 9.1(i)] and the mandatory wording of a Statement of Truth [9.1(j)]. The following two paragraphs achieve this.

I am aware of the requirements of FPR Part 25 and associated practice directions, I understand that my overriding duty is to the court and I have complied with, and will continue to comply with, that duty. I have no conflict of interest of any kind.

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# **Miscellaneous**

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# GMC guidelines: Acting as a witness in legal proceedings (2013)

Source: https://www.gmc-uk.org/ethical-guidance/ethical-guidance-for-

doctors/acting-as-a-witness

Dated: April 2013

- 1 In Good Medical Practice<sup>1</sup> we say:
  - 11. You must be familiar with guidelines and developments that affect your work.
  - 12. You must keep up to date with, and follow, the law, our guidance and other regulations relevant to your work.
  - 14. You must recognise and work within the limits of your competence.
  - 72. You must be honest and trustworthy when giving evidence to courts or tribunals. You must make sure that any evidence you give or documents you write or sign are not false or misleading.
    - (a) You must take reasonable steps to check the information.
    - (b) You must not deliberately leave out relevant information.
  - 73. You must cooperate with formal inquiries and complaints procedures and must offer all relevant information while following the guidance in *Confidentiality*.
  - 74. You must make clear the limits of your competence and knowledge when giving evidence or acting as a witness.
- In this guidance, we explain how doctors can put these principles into practice when acting as a professional witness or as an expert witness. If you give evidence as a witness of fact in a non-professional capacity (for example, as a witness to a traffic accident) you must follow the guidance in paragraph 72 of Good Medical Practice. Serious or persistent failure to follow this guidance will put your registration at risk.

### **Duties of all witnesses**

- 3 Doctors play an important role in the justice system by contributing evidence both as expert witnesses and as witnesses of fact.
- Whether you are acting as a witness of fact or an expert witness, you have a duty to the court<sup>2</sup> and this overrides any obligation to the person who is instructing or paying you.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> General Medical Council [2013] Good Medical Practice. GMC, London, UK.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Also tribunals and other public inquiries such as coroners' inquests.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Civil Procedure Rules, Rule 35.3, Criminal Procedure Rules, Rule 19.2, Family Procedure Rules, Rule 25.3, Children's Hearings (Scotland) Rules 1996, Act of Adjournal (Criminal Procedure Rules) 1996, Criminal Justice (Evidence) (Northern Ireland) Order 2004.



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# Courts in England & Wales

Source: https://courttribunalfinder.service.gov.uk

Dated: December 2022

### **Aberystwyth Justice Centre**

Y Lanfa, Trefechan, Aberystwyth, SY23 1AS

Enquiries: 01970 621250 County Court location code: 102 Magistrates' Court location code: 3110

### **Administrative Court**

Administrative Court Office, The Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, WC2A 2LL

Enquiries: 020 7947 6655

### **Admiralty & Commercial Court**

Rolls Building, 7 Rolls Buildings, Fetter Lane, London, EC4A 1NL

Enquiries: 020 7947 7357

## Agricultural Land & Drainage – First-tier Tribunal (Property Chamber)

1st Floor, Piccadilly Exchange, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester, M1 4AH

Enquiries: 0161 237 9491

### **Aldershot Justice Centre**

The Court House, Civic Centre, Wellington Avenue, Aldershot, GU11 1NY

Enquiries: 01252 796819 County Court: 01252 796800 Crown Court location code: 1305 County Court location code: 104

### **Amersham Law Courts**

King George V Road, Amersham, HP6 5AJ

Enquiries: 01296 434401 Crown Court location code: 401

### **Ashford Tribunal Hearing Centre**

1st Floor, Ashford House, County Square Shopping Centre, Ashford, TN23 1YB

Enquiries: 020 8667 9131

### **Avon & Somerset Enforcement Department**

HMCTS, Central Accounts Department, PO Box 480, Weston-Super-Mare, BS23 9BE

Enquiries: 01633 645112

### **Aylesbury Crown Court**

Walton Street, Aylesbury, HP21 7FT

Enquiries: 01296 434401 Crown Court location code: 401

# **Bankruptcy Court (High Court)**

Rolls Building, 7 Rolls Buildings, Fetter Lane, London, EC4A 1NL

Enquiries: 020 7947 6102

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# Year-to-view

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2 9 16 23 30 <b>S</b> 1 8	3 10 17 24 31 M 2 9	4 11 18 25 Cotto T 3 10	5 12 19 26 <b>ber</b> W 4 11	6 13 20 27 202 T 5 12	7 14 21 28 <b>3</b> <b>F</b> 6 13	1 8 15 22 29 <b>S</b> 7 14 21	6 13 20 27 <b>S</b>	7 14 21 28 No M	1 1 8 15 22 29 <b>Ver</b> T 7 14	9 16 23 30 1 8 15	T 3 10 17 24 31  r 20 T 2 9 16	F 4 11 18 25 F 3 10 17	5 12 19 26 <b>S</b> 4 11 18	1 1 1 2	3 10 17 224 S	M  4 11 18 25  De M  4 11	5 12 19 26 <b>Exercent</b> T	6 13 20 27 mbe W	7 14 21 28 7 14 14	1 8 15 22 29 1 1 8 15	2 9 16 23 30 <b>S</b> 2 9



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