

UK Register of Expert Witnesses
Expert Witness
Year Book
2025

Dr Chris Pamplin, Editor
UK Register of Expert Witnesses



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**Expert Witness
Year Book
2025**

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UK Register of Expert Witnesses



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Tailored to the needs of expert witnesses, the key points of the insurance for your expert witness work are:

- protects you against your **legal liability for losses** suffered as a result of any negligent advice you give or errors you make
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Details overleaf

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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 178th update of the Civil Procedure Rules (CPR) dated December 2024.

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

1.1 The overriding objective

- (1) 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) promoting or using alternative dispute resolution; and
 - (g) 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

- (1) The court must further the overriding objective by actively managing cases.
- (2) Active case management includes –
 - (a) encouraging the parties to co-operate with each other in the conduct of the proceedings;

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Rules in Criminal Litigation

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Criminal Procedure Rules Part 1 – The overriding objective

The following is taken from the Criminal Procedure Rules 2020 dated October 2023 with updates as of 7 October 2024.

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

1.1 The overriding objective

- (1) 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.

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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

- (1) 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.

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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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GMC guidelines

Providing witness statements or expert evidence as part of legal proceedings (2024)

Source: <https://www.gmc-uk.org/professional-standards/the-professional-standards/providing-witness-statements-or-expert-evidence-as-part-of-legal-proceedings>

Dated: December 2024

- 1 *Good medical practice* sets out the principles, values, and standards of care and professional behaviour expected of all medical professionals registered with us. The standards of good practice apply to doctors, physician associates and anaesthesia associates (collectively referred to as medical professionals and whom we address directly as 'you' throughout the guidance). As with all our professional standards, this guidance applies to all our registrants to the extent it is relevant to the individual's practice. *Providing witness statements and expert evidence in legal proceedings* builds on *Good medical practice* to provide more detail on our expectations of medical professionals in this area.
- 2 The professional standards describe good practice, and not every departure from them will be considered serious. You must use your professional judgement to apply the standards to your day-to-day practice. If you do this, act in good faith and in the interests of patients, you will be able to explain and justify your decisions and actions. We say more about professional judgement, and how the professional standards relate to our fitness to practise processes, appraisal and revalidation, at the beginning of *Good medical practice*.

Introduction

- 3 Medical professionals play an important role in the justice system and other legal proceedings by providing factual, honest accounts of events and objective and impartial advice if giving an expert opinion on matters within their competence and experience.
- 4 The quality and reliability of witness evidence and expert medical opinion can make a significant difference to the fairness of the decisions and outcomes of proceedings.
- 5 It's clear from a number of high-profile court and tribunal cases that, where significant concerns arise about the quality of expert evidence, this may affect public confidence in expert opinion.¹ It is essential that medical professionals acting as expert witnesses maintain high standards, given the potential for justice not to be correctly served.

¹ *Expert Evidence in Criminal Proceedings in England and Wales* by the Law Commission. *Gross negligence manslaughter in healthcare – an independent report* by Professor Sir Norman Williams.

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Courts in England & Wales

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/find-court-tribunal>

Dated: January 2025

Aberystwyth Justice Centre

Y Lanfa, Trefechan, Aberystwyth, SY23 1AS

Enquiries: 01970 621250

County Court location code: 102

Magistrates' Court location code: 3253

Administrative Court

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

Enquiries: 020 7947 6000

Admiralty & Commercial Court

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

Enquiries: 020 7947 7357 & 7156

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: 0300 123 5577

Magistrates' Court: 0330 808 4407

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: 0300 123 9252

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

January 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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February 2025						
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March 2025						
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April 2025							
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May 2025							
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June 2025						
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July 2025						
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August 2025						
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31						

September 2025						
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October 2025						
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November 2025						
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December 2025						
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