

## **DISTRICT JUDGE (Civil)**

and

## **DISTRICT JUDGE (Principal Registry of the Family Division)**

and

## **DISTRICT JUDGE (Court of Protection)**

### **Job Description**

#### **PURPOSE OF OFFICE**

1. The purpose of judicial office is to administer justice in accordance with the laws of England and Wales.
2. District Judges swear the judicial oath (or affirm) that they will well and truly serve our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth the Second in the Office of a District Judge (or District Judge of the Principal Registry of the family Division) and do right to all manner of people after the laws and usages of this Realm without fear or favour, affection or ill will.

#### **MAIN ACTIVITIES**

3. The activities of a District Judge include hearings in open court, hearings in the judge's chambers and making decisions on paper:
  - Ensuring that parties, whether represented or not, are enabled to have their cases presented and considered as fully and fairly as possible;
  - In civil cases, actively managing defended claims to trial, applying the overriding objective of the Civil Procedure Rules 1998, which is to enable the Court to deal with cases justly;
  - Preparing for trials or hearings including reading and assimilating case papers before the hearing commences;
  - Deciding issues of fact, law and procedure which may arise during the management of a case and at a trial or hearing;
  - Giving reasoned judgments;
  - Controlling (in accordance with the relevant law and High Court or county court procedure) the manner in which all cases are conducted with a view to ensuring that parties, whether represented or not, are enabled to have their cases presented and considered as fully and fairly as possible;
  - Promoting in each case the most expeditious dispatch of business compatible with the interests of justice;
  - Maintaining the authority and dignity of the Court at all times.

(In family cases, most hearings take place in chambers, where a more informal approach is normally adopted and a District Judge takes a more direct role in eliciting the facts and issues from the parties).

#### **Applications in the course of proceedings**

- Hearing interim applications where appropriate, ensuring that directions are given to prepare cases for trial or final hearing in order that the issues between the parties are

identified, relevant documents and witness evidence disclosed and the appropriate expert evidence obtained;

- Hearing applications in respect of the enforcement of judgments;
- Assessing the amount of costs claimed by parties and their legal representative;
- Granting interim relief where appropriate;

### **Applications in the course of proceedings (PRFD)**

- Hearing interlocutory applications, making orders providing for the filing of evidence and for the disclosure of relevant documents and otherwise giving directions with a view to identifying the issues between the parties and preparing cases for hearing;
- Hearing ex parte and urgent applications and granting interim relief where appropriate. Conducting conciliation hearing in children cases;
- Conducting first appointments and Financial Dispute Resolution hearings in ancillary relief applications;
- Dealing with applications made out of court hours under the Urgent Business arrangements;
- Although they have power to undertake detailed assessments of substantial bills of costs in family proceedings, review detailed assessments and sit as assessors on reviews of detailed assessments by High Court Judges, this work is now generally undertaken by the Costs Judges in the Supreme Court Costs Office. District Judges make summary assessments;
- Advising Judges of the High Court and the county courts and Justices' Clerks from time to time in respect of practice and procedure in family proceedings.

### **Applications in the course of proceedings (CoP)**

- make judicial decisions relating to the property and financial affairs and personal welfare (including health) of persons who lack capacity.
- hear contentious matters, including disputes as to capacity, disputes as to whether a deputy should be appointed and, if so, whom, and disputes over residence, contact, care and treatment
- hear applications for the execution of wills or codicils for persons who lack testamentary capacity, or for orders for the settlement or gift of any property of such a person.
- give directions in the conduct of litigation on behalf of protected parties in other courts.
- make decisions on the appointment of new trustees under the Trustee Act 1925, sections 36(9) and 54.
- make declarations as to whether or not someone has the capacity to make a particular decision.
- make declarations as to the lawfulness or otherwise of any act done, or yet to be done, in relation to a person.
- make single, one-off orders; for example, an order authorising the execution of a statutory will, or an order for the sale of a house and the investment of the net proceeds of sale.
- appoint a deputy to make decisions in relation to the matter(s) in which a person lacks the capacity to make a decision
- resolve various issues involving lasting powers of attorney and enduring powers of attorney.
- make a declaration as to whether an advance decision to refuse treatment exists, is valid, or is applicable to a particular treatment.
- exercise an appellate jurisdiction in Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards cases, to instruct a Court of Protection Visitor to visit persons who lack capacity and report to the court, and to give directions arising from such reports.
- attend meetings from time to time with court users.

- Case management
- Enforcement

### **Determining applications on paper**

A substantial proportion of a District Judge's work consists of determining applications (including consent orders, requests for enforcement of judgments, petitions for divorce and arrangements for children, detailed assessment of costs and in civil cases dealing with the allocation and management of defended claims) by consideration of the papers and by applying the law to the facts of the case.

### **Judgment**

- Deciding cases by finding facts, applying the relevant law to them and giving a reasoned judgment;
- Determining contested and uncontested applications and other issues by consideration of the papers and evidence presented at any hearing and making findings of fact, applying the relevant law and, where appropriate, giving a reasoned judgment;
- Assessing and awarding costs and, in civil cases, damages, deciding the amount and manner of payment;
- In the county court, making possession orders and hearing applications to suspend warrants of possession.
- Making orders relating to property and maintenance, including orders in respect of property adjustment, lump sums maintenance and pension sharing or attachment and otherwise as may be appropriate in the particular case;;
- Making orders about residence of and contact with children and other orders relating to children as may be appropriate in the particular case;
- Deciding applications for injunctions in both family and civil proceedings;
- Supervising the wording of the judgments and orders of the court.

## **OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Keeping abreast of legal developments**

- a. This entails a substantial amount of reading not directly connected with the cases which they are trying.
- b. District Judges are required to attend Judicial Studies Board refresher seminars and other circuit-based training events and seminars as appropriate.

### **Other Judicial and Public Duties**

4. Some District Judges may from time to time undertake a variety of other judicial and public duties, for example:
  - Acting as members or tutors of the Judicial Studies Board and, in the county court, overseeing the training of, appraising, and acting as mentor to, Deputy District Judges;
  - In the case of Nominated Care District Judges undertaking tuition responsibilities for circuit-based Children Act training and providing Children Act training for magistrates;
  - Attending Family Court Business and Family Court Forums;
  - Liaising with Family Proceedings Courts;
  - Serving on various advisory committees and other bodies;
  - Sitting on, and in some cases chairing, Court User Committees;
  - Sitting as members of Rules Committees;
  - Using IT effectively and training other judges in the use of IT.

- Some District Judges may hold other judicial office as Recorders or sit as chairmen of tribunals or other bodies;
- District Judges are invited to comment from time to time on proposed changes in family law and procedure or to participate in committees or working parties on issues relating to family justice;

## **JURISDICTION**

### ***District judges (Civil)***

5. District Judges sit throughout England and Wales at approximately 215 county courts and 150 District Registries of the High Court. District Judges will be assigned to a particular circuit and may sit at any of the county courts on that circuit. Sitting arrangements, which are determined by the Circuit Administrator in consultation with the Presiding Judges, may vary from time to time depending on the needs of the particular circuit.
6. District Judges finally dispose of over 80% of all contested civil litigation in England and Wales. Not all county courts and District Registries have identical jurisdictions. All District Judges exercise a civil jurisdiction; virtually all also exercise a family jurisdiction. About 80% exercise a county court insolvency jurisdiction and about 90% have some High Court jurisdiction although only about 25% exercise the full High Court Chancery jurisdiction. About 60% are Nominated Care District Judges dealing with Children Act work at Care Centres; many of the remaining district judges exercise a private law Children Act jurisdiction.
7. The jurisdiction of a District Judge (Civil) is summarised in Annex A.

### **District judges of the Principal Registry of the Family Division**

8. District Judges of the Principal Registry of the Family Division are appointed by the Lord Chancellor and are officers of the Supreme Court within the meaning of Section 88 of the Supreme Court Act 1981. They sit at the Principal Registry, First Avenue House, High Holborn, London WC1, and are under the day-to-day control of the Senior District Judge of the Family Division, who is responsible for the allocation of their work and the regularity of their sittings.
9. District Judges of the Principal Registry exercise High Court jurisdiction and also county court jurisdiction because the Principal Registry, as well as being part of the High Court, is designated as a divorce county court and civil partnership proceedings county court and a care centre, family hearing centre, adoption centre and intercountry adoption centre. The jurisdiction extends over the whole range of family law, the two main categories being financial and property adjustment issues and issues relating to the care and upbringing of children.
10. The jurisdiction of a District Judge of the PRFD is summarised in Annex B.

## **ANNEX A**

### **NOTE ON THE JURISDICTION OF A DISTRICT JUDGE (CIVIL)**

The jurisdiction of the county courts is entirely statutory and covers almost the whole field of civil and family law. The general jurisdiction in civil law is mostly concurrent with that of the High Court.

A number of statutes confer exclusive jurisdiction on the county courts. These cover important areas of work of the county courts, for example, virtually all cases under the Consumer Credit Act, actions by mortgage lenders for possession and actions by landlords under the Rent Acts and the Housing Acts 1985, 1988 and 1996.

Since 1 July 1991 the concurrent jurisdiction has been substantially increased by orders made under the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990. In common law cases (basically tort, including personal injuries, debt and other breaches of contract) there is no monetary limit on the jurisdiction of the county courts.

In equity proceedings, the monetary limit is currently £30,000. In cases involving land, county courts have jurisdiction where the rateable value at 31 March 1990 did not exceed £1,000 or £15,000 in Greater London. All possession proceedings involving residential premises are brought in the county court and almost all are heard by District Judges. The county courts have unlimited jurisdiction in applications under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975, Section 146 and Section 147 of the Law of Property Act 1925 and under Section 13 of the Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996. In Companies Act cases the jurisdiction covers cases where the total paid up share capital of the company is less than £120,000.

In family law, the jurisdiction is similarly divided either by statute or practice direction. In some matters, such as adoption, the county courts have concurrent jurisdiction with the High Court. In other matters, county courts have exclusive jurisdiction, eg virtually all proceedings for dissolution of marriage and judicial separation.

The county courts share jurisdiction with the High Court and the Family Proceedings Court in applications under the Children Act 1989, the work being dealt with at the appropriate level pursuant to allocation directions. In the county courts, where such applications relate to public law cases such as care and supervision orders, they are heard by designated Circuit Judges sitting at Care Centres and directions in such matters are generally dealt with by Nominated Care District Judges sitting at the Care Centres.

### **Jurisdiction of the District Judge (Civil)**

This can conveniently be considered (for the purposes of this note only) under four main headings viz: (a) the general jurisdiction of the county courts, (b) special jurisdiction of the county courts, (c) county court family jurisdiction and (d) High Court jurisdiction.

#### **(a) General Jurisdiction of the County Courts**

In the county courts, District Judges have a concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit bench to try a case allocated to the fast track (claims exceeding £5000 but not exceeding £15,000). When trying such cases, they have all the powers of the Court, including those relating to injunctions and specific performance, but with only limited powers to deal with contempt of court. When assessing damages, the jurisdiction of the District Judge is unlimited. The overwhelming majority of small claims hearings are before District Judges.

With the permission of their Designated Civil Judge, they may also try cases allocated to the multi track in the county courts.

They deal with most aspects of case management and interim matters. This includes allocating cases to the appropriate Track.

They are required finally to dispose of a case either by giving summary judgment, or by striking out a statement of case where a case lacks a real prospect of success or reasonable grounds for being advanced.

They have power to order interim payments on account of damages claimed by one party against another.

District Judges hear most actions for possession and also related anti-social behaviour injunctions. They have unlimited jurisdiction over any money claim which is included in a possession action. Many possession actions involve the exercise of a judicial discretion in deciding whether a possession order should be made and, if so, the terms, if any, upon which the enforcement of the order should be suspended. Accelerated possession proceedings are dealt with on paper. District Judges also deal with applications to suspend warrants of possession.

In claims allocated to the small claims track there are restrictions on the costs which may be awarded and parties are encouraged to conduct their own case. District Judges assist litigants and utilise flexible and informal procedures.

In relation to costs, District Judges exercise all the powers of a Costs Judge of the Supreme Court in deciding, without any monetary limit, the reasonableness of the sums claimed for costs in actions where an order is made in the county courts for payment of costs by one party to another.

In substantial cases where a party is publicly funded and the claim for costs is for more than £2,500, District Judges are effectively the sole judges of the proper amount which the solicitor and barrister are entitled to receive.

At the conclusion of interim hearings and trials lasting no more than a day, District Judges will conduct a summary assessment of costs.

They also have jurisdiction to determine the reasonableness of costs charged by a solicitor to his or her own client in respect of litigation.

They decide most questions arising from the enforcement of county court judgements. These include disputed applications to suspend possession warrants and warrants of execution; applications for charging orders and for the sale of property subject to a charging order; applications for third party debt orders and any related hardship orders; attachment of earnings orders made by the court staff, where the order is disputed and all applications to enforce maintenance payments by attachment of earnings.

Where damages are recovered by a child or patient, the District Judges are responsible for approving the terms of any settlement of the proceedings. They also decide how the money is to be invested or dealt with for the benefit of that person, for example by approving the terms of a private trust, by the use of the various forms of investment available through the Court Funds Office, or by immediate payment out.

District Judges have the power to make and enforce injunctive orders (whether at an interim or a full hearing) under Part IV of the Family Law Act 1996, the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, and Sections 153A-D of the Housing Act 1996. Within their financial limits, under the ordinary civil procedure, District Judges may make civil injunctive orders. Under Section 3 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, District Judges can grant damages and/or an injunction against a defendant's course of conduct which amounts to harassment. If an anti-harassment injunction issued by a county court is breached, District Judges have the power to issue a warrant for the arrest of the defendant.

## **(b) Special Jurisdiction of the County Courts**

In addition to the general jurisdiction, about 80% of county courts have jurisdiction in insolvency and the District Judges sitting at these courts exercise all the power of the Bankruptcy Registrars of the Supreme Court in dealing with personal insolvency including the power to make Bankruptcy Restriction Orders.

District Judges also have power to deal with winding up of companies within the limit mentioned previously.

These powers include the power to order the arrest of individuals and company officers in default and the power to disqualify company directors from office for up to ten years.

## **(c) County Court Family jurisdiction**

The Children Act 1989, implemented in October 1991, allocated new responsibilities to District Judges in family proceedings. All District Judges at county courts with divorce jurisdiction have jurisdiction in private law family matters. This includes divorce (see below) and giving directions for a range of orders (Section 8 orders) concerning the child's upbringing, both after divorce and in free-standing applications. They can also make uncontested Section 8 orders and have restricted power to make interim orders for residence and contact in cases where either residence or the principle of contact is opposed; or may vary a Section 8 order when a family assistance order is in force. They set the timetable and exercise the control of the Court over such applications.

Nominated Care District Judges have wide jurisdiction in public law matters (excluding final hearings); this includes reviewing refusals by Family Proceedings Courts to transfer cases to county courts or the High Court; making Emergency Protection Orders for children at risk; and making unopposed orders for care and supervision. They have a power to make opposed interim care and supervision orders.

Nominated Care District Judges have full jurisdiction to hear private law applications under the Children Act 1989, eg applications for residence, or contact with a child, prohibited steps orders, specific issue orders and orders for parental responsibility whether opposed or not. Since 2002, a number of District Judges have been ticketed to exercise the same private law Children Act 1989 jurisdiction as that of NCDJs.

Under the special procedure which applies to undefended divorce cases, District Judges have to consider the petition and affidavit in support, certify whether a decree may be granted and pronounce it in open court. They also have to consider the arrangements for any minor children of the family, either by consideration of the documentary evidence as to the arrangements or by hearing from the parties at an appointment.

District Judges have unlimited jurisdiction to deal with all questions relating to property and spousal maintenance pending and after divorce. The Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 confers the widest possible discretion upon the Court to adjust both the income and capital (including pension rights) of the parties to a divorce. Applications for financial provision are finally determined by the District Judge. These applications are an important part of the work undertaken by District Judges. Hearings can run over several days and the value of the property in dispute can be substantial.

Within financial applications District Judges also have power to grant injunctions restraining parties from disposing of matrimonial assets and to set aside transactions undertaken to defeat a claim for financial relief.

Under Part IV of the Family Law Act 1996, District Judges have the power to make and enforce non-molestation orders to protect victims of domestic abuse, and occupation orders where a property is (or has been) the home or intended home of the parties. Occupation orders can contain a range of different terms depending on whether the applicant and respondent are each entitled to occupy the property under an existing property right, and whether they are spouses (or former spouses) or cohabitants (or former cohabitants).

Orders can include declarations as to the applicant's occupation rights and orders that the respondent leaves the property.

District Judges hear claims under the Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996 to decide the respective interests in property of former co-habitants, and under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975 for provision out of the estate of a deceased person.

#### **(d) High Court Jurisdiction**

Except in those matters expressly reserved to the county courts or to special Tribunals, the High Court exercises an unlimited jurisdiction in all civil matters. With the exception of a very few matters, which rarely arise in practice, any High Court action may be begun in a District Registry, proceeding to trial either in London or at one of the other trial centres where High Court proceedings are dealt with.

The jurisdiction of the District Judge of a District Registry of a High Court in claims proceedings in the Queen's Bench Division are the same as those of a Master of the Queen's Bench. These include all interim applications (except those reserved to a judge of the High Court mainly relating to injunctions) such as applications for summary judgment, striking out claims or statements of case, setting aside default judgments, amendments to statements of case, disclosure, case management directions and the hearing of the assessment of damages.

In addition, they have power to hear applications to extend the time limits for commencement of proceedings under the Limitation Act.

As part of their case management function, they are responsible for reviewing the action in order to determine whether it is of sufficient importance to remain in the High Court or should be transferred down to the county courts.

A few District Registries in the largest conurbations have full Chancery jurisdiction and District Judges at these centres exercise all the powers of a Chancery Master of the High Court in London.

In relation to costs, District Judges exercise all the powers of a Costs Judge of the Supreme Court in all cases proceeding in the District Registry and over any costs charged by a solicitor to his or her own client.

With the coming into force of the Children Act 1989, the wardship jurisdiction has substantially reduced although it remains available in appropriate cases. District Judges hear the first appointment, giving all necessary directions to enable the case to proceed to trial, and are responsible for ensuring that it is tried without any unnecessary delay. They also have the power to deal with interim care and control in such proceedings. In emergencies, they may make substantive orders.

## ANNEX B

### NOTE ON THE JURISDICTION OF A DISTRICT JUDGE OF THE PRINCIPAL REGISTRY OF THE FAMILY DIVISION

The jurisdiction extends over the whole range of family law, as follows, the two main categories being financial and property adjustment issues and issues relating to the care and upbringing of children:

#### **Financial and property issues**

The District Judges of the Principal Registry of the Family Division have unlimited jurisdiction to determine financial and property issues arising in matrimonial and civil partnership proceedings and in other financial applications ( for example applications under Schedule 1 to the Children Act 1989). The applications may involve substantial assets and complex issues of fact and law and may take several days to hear.

The District Judges hear and determine applications also for:

Provision for family and dependants from estates under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependants) Act 1975;

Declarations as to property rights under section 17 of the Married Women's Property Act 1882;

Orders under s14 of the Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996;

Injunctions to preserve or restrain dealings in property pending or following applications for ancillary relief;

Injunctions and orders within the Family Law Act 1996, Parts 4, including powers of enforcement;

Provision in cases of failure to provide reasonable maintenance;

Alteration of maintenance agreements, during the lifetime of parties or after the death of one party.

#### **Applications under the Children Act 1989 and**

District judges of the Principal Registry have jurisdiction in a wide range of proceedings concerning the care and upbringing of children, including proceedings under the Children Act 1989 and the Adoption and Children Act 2002 and applications under the inherent jurisdiction of the High Court, including wardship.

Proceedings under the Children Act 1989 are broadly divided between "public law" and "private law" applications, public law applications being those made under Parts IV and V of the Act ("Care and Supervision" and "Protection of Children"), and private law applications being those made under Parts I and II - ie all other applications for orders relating to a child. Cases brought under the Children Act 1989 are allocated to District Judges of the Principal Registry under the Family Proceedings (Allocation to Judiciary) Directions 1999..

**Public law:** The Principal Registry is the care centre for London and is additionally a care centre for all areas of England and Wales. The District Judges hear and determine public law applications at county court level, exercising the same jurisdiction as nominated Care Circuit Judges. Although some applications are commenced in the Principal Registry, the majority have

been transferred from Family Proceedings Courts because of the gravity or complexity of the case or for other reasons within the Children (Allocation of Proceedings) Order 1991. These applications are often strenuously contested and hearings extend over a number of days. District Judges review refusals by Family Proceedings Courts to transfer public law applications to the Principal Registry. In relation to High Court public law proceedings, the District Judges deal with interlocutory applications.

**Private law:** The District Judges of the Principal Registry have power to hear and determine all private law applications at both High Court and county court level, but in High Court proceedings they deal only with interlocutory applications. Virtually all applications for residence and contact are the subject of conciliation hearings before District Judges. Final contested hearings are also dealt with by District Judges.

In all applications, whether under the Children Act 1989 or otherwise, the District Judges exercise court control by: setting timetables and by determining applications for leave to make applications, to be joined as parties to the proceedings, to instruct experts, to permit a child to be medically examined or otherwise assessed, and applications for disclosure of documents within the proceedings or to non-parties. The District Judges also have jurisdiction to grant injunctions for the protection of children in public and private law proceedings.

In any family proceedings, whether under the Children Act 1989 or otherwise, the District Judges may direct a Children and Family Reporter or local authority to enquire into a child's circumstances, and (in the latter case) to consider whether an application for a care or supervision order should be made, or they may make an interim care order.

### **Adoption and other matters**

The District Judges of the Principal Registry deal with interlocutory applications in all adoption applications in the High Court and also at county court level. They conduct interlocutory and final hearings in proceedings at county court level under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (primarily applications for placement orders or adoption orders), including intercountry adoption cases.

The District Judges have power to join defendants, dispense with service or extend time for acknowledging service or to transfer proceedings in relation to applications under the Child Abduction and Custody Act 1985

The District Judges of the Principal Registry spend about half their time on applications relating to children.

### **Matrimonial and Civil Partnership Proceedings**

The District Judges of the Principal Registry have interlocutory jurisdiction in all matrimonial and civil partnership proceedings pending in the Registry, whether High Court or county court. Pre-trial reviews of all defended petitions are conducted by District Judges, where parties are encouraged to avoid costly and distressing litigation by sensible compromise.

Under the special procedure for undefended divorce, dissolution or judicial separation, the District Judges, after consideration of the petition and affidavit in support, certify whether the party is entitled to the decree or order sought. Decrees and conditional orders are pronounced by District Judges in open court. As part of the procedure, the District Judges consider the arrangements for the children of the family and, inter alia, may direct inquiries into the circumstances of a child by a Children and Family Reporter or a local authority.

## **Applications as to status and other applications**

The District Judges have interlocutory jurisdiction in applications for declarations as to status under the Family Law Act 1989, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 and the Child Support Act 1991 and may determine applications under the Marriage Act 1949 for the consent of the court to the marriage of a minor.

## **Inherent jurisdiction of the High Court**

The District Judges of the Principal Registry of the Family Division deal with interlocutory and uncontested applications under the inherent jurisdiction of the High Court and with proceedings concerning wards of court..

## **Probate**

The Principal Registry is also the principal probate registry and the repository for wills in safe custody. The District Judges determine applications arising under the Non Contentious Probate Rules, for example, disputes as to entitlement to a grant of representation, questions as to the execution and validity of wills, and applications to swear death.

## **Enforcement**

The District Judges of the Principal Registry have jurisdiction in all forms of enforcement of orders made in proceedings pending in or transferred to the Principal Registry except bankruptcy.

In any matrimonial proceedings in the Principal Registry at county court level, the District Judges have powers to impose penalties or to commit for contempt under sections 14, 55 and 118 of the County Courts Act 1984. In proceedings under the Family Law Act 1996, Part IV, they have power to deal with committal proceedings for the breach of an order.

## **Assessment of Costs**

Apart from making summary assessments, work under this heading is now undertaken by Costs Judges in the Supreme Court Costs Office. It should be noted however that the District Judges of the Principal Registry have power to undertake detailed assessments of larger bills of costs in High Court and county court family proceedings in the Principal Registry, in Divisional Court and Court of Appeal proceedings and (when transferred) in county courts and District Registries. They also may determine appeals by way of review from costs officers and sit as assessors in reviews of detailed assessments by Judges of the Family Division.

## **Appeals**

The District Judges deal with applications to withdraw or dismiss by consent appeals under the Domestic Proceedings and Magistrates Court Act 1978 and under the Children Act 1989, and may also deal with applications under the latter Act to amend the grounds of appeal.