

News story: Civil news: changes to streamline family work from 19 April 2019

We are simplifying certificated work processes in certain family cases following a pilot with providers and representative bodies.

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A new approach to certificated family work is being rolled out across England and Wales from 19 April 2019 following a successful pilot with providers.

The change is an example of partnership working between providers and our caseworkers. It means that legal aid certificates will in future be granted with a wider limitation on costs for most family proceedings.

Providers will be able to free up administrative time currently spent collating and submitting evidence before they can carry out their work.

What does this mean for my work?

Starting on 19 April 2019 applications for a set number of proceedings will be granted with a cost limitation of £25,000. These are all listed in the appropriate guidance. This change will reduce the need to submit a cost amendment in the future.

The evidence we currently ask to see upfront from providers for certificate amendments can be submitted when proceedings are concluded.

Why are you doing this?

This was a change suggested by providers at our process efficiency team (PET) working group. This group brings together caseworkers and providers to look at how we can work together more efficiently.

The change means we can:

- reduce the paper burden for providers
- give providers more time to act quickly for clients

- reduce the need for providers to contact us for further information

It also means that our caseworkers will have more time to spend on complex applications and providing a quality service.

What about existing cases?

Certificates with existing limitations will be amended in line with the new arrangements. This will apply for providers seeking amendments from 19 April 2019.

Further information

New guidance will be available on the [CCMS training website](#) from 23 April 2019

Digital.Assist@justice.gov.uk – to email enquiries about CCMS training

News story: Defence People Challenge Demonstration day and Phase 2 Launch

The purpose of the event is to showcase the developments made by suppliers in Phase 1 and encourage the forging of new relationships and collaborations with the possibility of maturing these innovative technologies during Phase 2 and beyond. This event will bring together the current suppliers from Phase 1 with experts and potential collaborators in people management, recruitment, retention and other development areas associated with the challenge. As part of this event, suppliers funded under Phase 1 will deliver a short presentation on the work they are undertaking.

To attend the event

To participate in this collaboration event please register by going to the [Eventbrite page](#). Please note that places for this event are limited and if the event is oversubscribed, we reserve the right to limit attendance if needed.

In Spring 2018, DASA launched Phase 1 of the [Defence People Innovation Challenge](#). Phase 1 was focused on the following 5 themes which are considered to offer the greatest scope for innovation and direct benefit to the management of people in the MOD:

- Challenge 1 – recruitment

- Challenge 2 – skills and training
- Challenge 3 – retention
- Challenge 4 – motivating the workforce
- Challenge 5 – rehabilitation within the workforce

Overall 7 bids were successful in Phase 1 with total funding of over 1 million awarded. Phase 2 of the competition will be launched at this event and will be open to existing suppliers and any new collaborators working with them.

If you have any queries, please do contact us at accelerator@dstl.gov.uk.

Press release: Digital court system saves enough paper to cover central park twice

- Digital Case System has saved more than 100 million sheets of paper
- Online system is used in all crown courts across England and Wales
- More than 500 tonnes of paper saved since 2015

What do 40 double decker buses, 55 African elephants and 300 cars have in common?

Remarkably, the weight of each group – almost 500,000 kilograms – reflects the amount of paper saved in last four years by a new digital system designed to improve court efficiency.

Used in all Crown Courts across England and Wales, the Digital Case System allows case material to be accessed, prepared and presented digitally by the judge, clerk, defence, prosecution and probation. Court users working digitally are then able to access, navigate and annotate identical pages of the same document. The system recently reached the milestone of 100 million sheets of paper saved. This has improved efficiency and collaboration while saving the criminal justice system and legal professionals valuable time and money in the process.

If every piece of paper saved by the Digital Case System was placed on top of one another it would reach a height of 33,500 feet – almost 5,000 feet higher than Mt. Everest. Placed next to one another, the paper trail would stretch

from Land's End to John O'Groats and back again 10 times.

Justice Minister Lucy Frazer said:

The Digital Case System is a great example of the benefit technology is bringing to our courts and tribunals. Not only has it saved a staggering amount of paper but it is making a real difference to legal professionals up and down the country every single day.

We will continue to use technology and digital ways of working to ensure our world-renowned justice system remains fit for the 21st century.

Before the Digital Case System was launched, court staff were printing thousands of pieces of paper every day, which would then have to be filed and distributed across the building before being taken to and from court.

Lord Chief Justice, the Right Honourable Lord Burnett of Maldon said:

The judges in our Crown Courts have been enthusiastic supporters of the use of Digital Case System. It has transformed the way in which criminal cases are conducted and improved immeasurably the administration of justice.

The Digital Case System is just one example of how technology and modern ways of working are making a difference to people across the country and improving the way we administer justice.

More than 35,000 applications for divorce have been made online since the system was launched in May 2018 with errors in applications cut from 40% to less than 1%. HMCTS' online civil money claims service has had almost 60,000 applications in the past year and claims now take, on average, 10 minutes to issue down from 15 days using the old, paper based service.

Notes to editors

1. A nightly report is generated within the Digital Case System to keep track of the number of pages saved each day.

[Press release: Digital court system](#)

saves enough paper to cover central park twice

HMCTS Digital Case System has saved more than 100 million sheets of paper.