

Dear Legal Aid Group Member,

Upon the commencement of the 2018 Civil Contract (and the 7-day bridging contract for those who the LAA have to get the 2018 contract to in time), attached is a list of the following forms (and accompanying checklists) and guidance documents have been updated and will be published online as a result of the 2018 Standard Civil Contracts, going live with effect from 1 September 2018.

You will note that the Costs Assessment Guidance has also been changed. After the (short) consultation process in which the ACL LAG participated, new paragraphs 2.61 and 2.63 have been added with allowances for time to prepare the means assessment and also times for CCMS tasks, most of which are the lower end of allowances that were sought by us.

An addition to paragraph 3.31, (reasonableness and proportionality of client travel expenses to attend court), has been made which acknowledges that under the Family Procedure Rule 27.3, the parties governed by the FPR must attend any hearing or directions appointment which they have been notified of, unless the court directs otherwise.

With the omission of Points of Principle from the 2018 contract, these have been removed from the Costs Assessment Guidance for the 2018 Contract, but the policies that were given in any quoted PoPs have remained.

Not referred to on the list but also amended on the website are the Civil Finance Electronic Handbook and the Escape Cases Electronic Handbook.

Regards,

Paul Seddon – ACL Legal Aid Group Executive Committee Member - Policy



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