

Dear Legal Aid Group Member

A couple of updates:

FAS Forms (HMCTS Form EX506)

At the Process Efficiently Team meeting earlier this month, the Rob Damiao of the Finance Team confirmed that use of FAS Forms for in-person hearings are official being discontinued and replaced by recitals in Court Order. This has taken some time to achieve because these forms are owned by HMCTS and so a joint decision with them was needed.

Updated guidance for judges setting out standard form of wording etc. has been drafted and we have given feedback on this. We have asked the LAA to let us have a copy of the final version when it is issued to the judiciary. The standard form wording will not be mandatory but is recommended, because of course uniformity will help to avoid rejects and delays etc.

The LAA have started to update their checklists and if you are subscribed to the email notifications you will have seen some of these at the beginning of the month. The LAA Learning website has already been updated and they will update the Electronic Finance Handbook, as well as the Costs Assessment Guidance (which will need prior consultation with the relevant representative bodies).

Rob said that the LAA will be accepting Court Orders that are coming in instead of the FAS Form (EX506).

Deprivation of liberty guidance

Guidance on legal aid applications for DoLs, e.g. when these are related proceedings under care certificates and when separate certificates are required, has been uploaded to onto the LAA training website:

<https://legalalearning.justice.gov.uk/totara/dashboard/index.php?id=51>

The link to the actual guide is here:

https://legalalearning.justice.gov.uk/pluginfile.php/2071/mod_resource/content/1/Care%20Secure%20Accomm%20and%20DoL%20%28RD%20pdf%29.pdf

Kind regards,

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ACL Operations are upgrading back-office systems from 2nd to 5th December – there may be a period of downtime during this period where emails will not be delivered.

A 'bounce-back' notification will be received for un-deliverable emails, please resend on 6th December. Apologies for any inconvenience this causes.

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