

BOOK REVIEW

THE FAMILY COURT PRACTICE 2015 "THE RED BOOK"

Editor in-Chief: Lord Wilson of Culworth

ISBN: 978 1 78473 070 3 (hardback) 978 1 78473 071 0 (ePDF)

FAMILY LAW AN IMPRINT OF JORDAN PUBLISHING LIMITED

www.familylaw.co.uk

THE ESSENTIAL MATERIALS PRACTITIONERS NEED TO PRACTICE IN THE FAMILY COURT

An appreciation by Phillip Taylor MBE and Elizabeth Taylor of Richmond Green Chambers

Familiarly known as '*The Red Book*,' *The Family Court Practice*, with its annual updates, has remained reassuringly authoritative and reliable since it was first published in 1993 – a time frame in which civil procedure for family work has undergone considerable change. Scarcely a family lawyer or family court judge is ever without it - and it has now entered the realm of the tried and true, having established itself as the definitive reference on family proceedings at every level of court... and it is the book you always see in court.

Published by the *Family Law* imprint of *Jordan Publishing Limited* in Bristol, this latest edition reflects, as you would expect, the continuing disquiet concerning the diminution, or often the entire elimination of legal aid, with its attendant problems. These include the bottlenecks and delays in court resulting from the proliferation of litigants in person and the almost fifty per cent increase in the time taken to complete court hearings. But it is precisely in trying times like these that practitioners like you will continue to rely on the trusty *Red Book* to provide the essential materials you need to practice in the Family Court.

And there is much that is new in this new edition, too much to enumerate here, but if you don't have this edition to hand, you will miss a lot: new procedural guides, for example and the latest amendments to the Family Procedure Rules, including the latest rules on habeas corpus – as topical and relevant as ever. The latest amendments to the Civil Procedure Rules also include the new Part 87 (Application for Writ of Habeas Corpus).

The editors have also included now for this edition detailed coverage of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 as amended by the introduction of the recent 2015 Serious Crime Act. The inclusion of this date is interesting in view of the 2015 legislation in Canada aptly entitled 'Zero Tolerance for Barbaric Cultural Practices Act' ("Zero Tolerance Act") which is long overdue. Also new in the *Red Book* are the updated notes on the new offence of breaching a Forced Marriage Protection Order and other developments, including same-sex parenting and reporting restrictions.

For the benefit of the time-pressed practitioner, this volume of over 3,300 pages (yes, it remains very heavy) contains a copious amount of research resources, including tables of statutes, statutory instruments, cases and practice directions and CPR, FPR and Supreme Court Practice Directions (PDs).

The book's constituent six parts consist of procedural guides, statutes, procedure rules, practice guidance, European material and more besides, with accompanying commentary throughout and an extensive index. Also check out the resources online (enquire about the 14-day free trial) and the additional benefits of the eBook facility.

It is small wonder then that the *Red Book* has emerged as the standard and ultimate work of reference on family law and is therefore regarded as an essential purchase for the family law practitioner.

The publication date is cited as at May 2015.