

FAMILY LAW COURTS in UK - part 1

The various types of matters the Family Court handles:

- parental disputes over the upbringing of children
 - local authority intervention to protect children
 - decrees relating to divorce
 - financial support for children after divorce or relationship breakdown
 - some aspects of domestic violence
 - adoption

Family matters are dealt with in the Family Division of the High Court, by district judges in County Courts and in Family Proceedings Courts, which are specialist Magistrates' Courts. Magistrates undergo specialist training before they sit in Family Proceedings Courts, where procedures are very different from the criminal courts.

There are two types of cases concerning children: public and private law.

Public law

Public law cases are brought by local authorities or an authorised person (currently only the NSPCC) and include matters such as:

- care orders, which give parental responsibility for the child concerned to the local authority applying for the order
 - supervision orders, which place the child under the supervision of their local authority
 - emergency protection orders, which are used to ensure the immediate safety of a child by taking them to a place of safety, or by preventing their removal from a place of safety

Public law cases must start in the Family Proceedings Courts. They may be transferred to the County Courts if it will minimise delay or enable the case to be consolidated with other family proceedings, or where the matter is exceptionally grave, complex or important.

Private Law

Private law cases are brought by private individuals, generally in connection with divorce or the parents' separation.

Order types include:

- parental responsibility
 - financial applications
 - special guardianship orders, which give a special guardian legal responsibility without removing legal responsibility from the birth parents
 - orders under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989, which can be used to settle where a child lives, parental contact and responsibility and other specific disputes. Orders can also be made over "prohibited steps" – for example, preventing a parent from moving a child to another country

Adoption

An adoption order made by a court removes the rights, duties and obligations of the natural parents or guardian and gives them to the adoptive parents. On adoption the child becomes, for virtually all purposes in law, the child of its adoptive parents.

Marriage matters

Family Courts can end a marriage in two ways – by a decree absolute of divorce, which ends a valid marriage, or by a decree of nullity, which finds that the marriage was not valid in the first place.

Bibliography:

Family Law Courts [online] [dostęp 04.08.2016], dostępne w Internecie:

www.judiciary.gov.uk/you-and-the-judiciary/going-to-court/family-law-courts/

Collins English Dictionary 2012 Digital Edition, W. Collins Sons and Co.

I. Match the terms with the definitions:

1 a decree	A the valid marriage ends
2 adoption	B matters brought by local authorities or NSPCC
3 care orders	C National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
4 private law cases	D a judicial decision in a litigated case
5 absolute divorce	E under the legal age of full responsibility, under 18 years old
6 emergency protection orders	F a person that has the powers and responsibilities of a parent concerning the child's support, care, education, health, welfare.
7 a decree of nullity	G the marriage was not valid
8 public law cases	H they give parental responsibility for a child to the local authority
9 prohibited steps	I matters connected with divorce or separation
10 a minor	J the legal process by which the parent/child relationship is created between persons not related by blood
11 a guardian	K acts that could not be taken by a parent in meeting their parental responsibility for a child
12 NSPCC	L they ensure the immediate safety of a child

II. Complete the sentences with the terms:

prohibited, parental, natural, guardian, prevent, violence, valid, alimony, consolidated, proceedings, adoptive, supervision, guardianship, emergency protection

1. A child can be placed under the _____ of a local authority.
2. Public law cases can be _____ with other family proceedings.
3. Family Courts can issue orders over _____ steps, preventing specific actions.
4. On adoption the child becomes the child of _____ parents.
5. Family Courts can find that the marriage was not ...
6. Some orders settle _____ contacts, place of residence of a child, disputes.
7. An adoption order removes the rights and obligations of the
parents.
8. Special _____ orders do not remove parental legal responsibility.
9. Specialist Magistrates' Courts are called Family _____ Courts.
10. Under orders children are taken to a safe place.
11. An officer of the court appointed to protect interests of minors is a
12. Some court orders _____ a child to be moved abroad.
13. Financial support for children after divorce is called
14. Family courts handle parental disputes concerning upbringing of children and some cases
of domestic

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Mgr Anita Krok