

## PROTOCOL FOR DEALING WITH FINANCIAL REMEDY WORK IN THE LIGHT OF COVID 19.

The following, after consultation with the Designated Family Judges, is designed to give a framework to ensure that financial remedy work in the locality can continue at least at some level in the light of current unprecedented difficulties.

1. FDA's currently listed should remain so but be converted to telephone hearings.
2. Similarly, for FDA's to be listed for the foreseeable future.
3. Parties should be encouraged to use the accelerated written process for FDA's wherever possible (see the fourth schedule to the FRC good practice protocol). In practice, paper based disposals of FDA's have been with us for a long time and will continue.
4. FDR's that have already been listed for a date within the next 21 days should be adjourned. This will give parties/representatives some breathing space to take stock both in terms of practicalities and economics.
5. Cases with FDR listings per 4 above, should be given a telephone directions hearing FOD 21 days to provide an opportunity to discuss whether an individual case is ready to proceed to an FDR and, if so, how that is best achieved remotely.
6. Cases with FDR listings beyond 21 days shall retain those listings but such will be converted to telephone hearings per 5 above.
7. Private FDR's are to be encouraged but cannot be directed (other than by consent).
8. Cases that have a listed final hearing, should be given a telephone appointment as soon as possible to enable consideration to be given to whether a remote final hearing is possible (and, if so, for appropriate directions) or, if not, to adjourn.