

Note to Greater Manchester Family Court Users

Covid 19 Crisis

The Family Court HMCTS staff are considerably depleted in number and are unable to process the administration of the Court's work at anything like a normal rate. Considerable arrears are building.

The Court and the Staff must prioritise work necessary to protect the vulnerable from physical and serious emotional harm. All other work must wait for now.

Judges and Legal advisers gatekeep and triage new cases but correspondence and applications are processed first by the staff.

Our staff are not qualified or reasonably to be expected to recognise which work needs to be prioritised.

It is essential therefore that you do not attach the description "urgent" to any correspondence or application unless it needs to be dealt urgently to protect the vulnerable from harm. If you do assert something is urgent in that sense a short sentence explaining why so that a member of staff can understand it will be necessary.

HHJ Sarah Singleton QC

DFJ Greater Manchester

Lorraine Edgar

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