

INFANT APPROVALS

Dear Practitioner,

Due to the ongoing Public Health crisis concerning Covid-19, there is a need to reduce attendance at Court to a minimum whilst, in so far as is possible, enabling matters to be dealt with.

The arrangements for Infant Approval hearings in Birkenhead are being varied with effect from 26 March 2020. The arrangements will last, in the first instance, until 1 June 2020. This is to enable the hearing to proceed remotely. For the avoidance of doubt, these steps are to be considered “a hearing” for the purpose of costs.

The Claimant’s solicitor will need to file at Court, electronically, the following documents:

1. The medical report;
2. The Claimant’s Litigation Friend’s witness statement;
3. Counsel’s Advice;
4. Confirmation from the Defendant as to the final offer and the position on costs;
5. A certified copy of the Birth Certificate; and
6. **IN A SEPARATE PDF**, a signed copy of the C320

The judge will then, insofar as is possible, approve the award and complete the relevant paperwork without attendance of the parties.

There should also be details included within the e-mail of a representative of the Claimant who can be contacted at the time of the hearing as is necessary.

In any case where the award cannot be approved, further listing directions will be given.

This memo is being distributed to the Claimants’ Legal Representatives in all up-coming lists. It is their responsibility to forward this memo to a representative of the Defendant.

Of course, should either party have representations at the hearing, they are free to do so but they will need to be made in writing.