

## Chapter 5

# Family Matters

Family matters are dealt with in the Family Division of the High Court, in county courts and, with the exception of divorce proceedings, in family proceedings courts (those parts of magistrates' courts having a family jurisdiction).

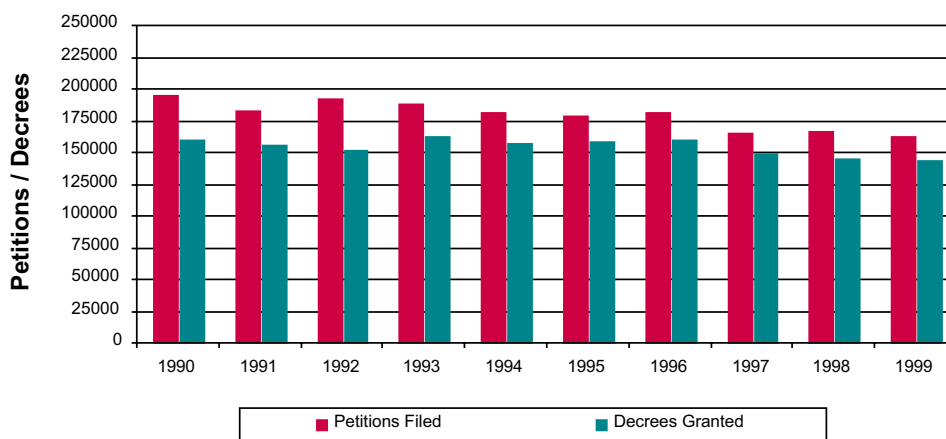
Most matters affecting children are dealt with under the Children Act 1989 in all three levels of courts.

Contentious probate matters are dealt with in the Chancery Division of the High Court (Chapter 2).

During 1999-

- Children Act applications in public law cases rose by 14% (Table 5.1)
- the number of residence orders made in private law proceedings fell by 30%, contact orders made also fell by 15% (Table 5.3)
- adoption orders fell by 18% to 3,962 (Table 5.4)
- 167,775 petitions were filed for divorce, an increase of 1% (Table 5.6)

**Dissolution of Marriage:**  
Petitions Filed and Decrees Granted, 1990 - 1999



## The Children Act 1989

### Courts' jurisdiction

The Children Act 1989, which was implemented in October 1991, established for the first time a concurrent family jurisdiction across all tiers of court, including the family proceedings courts.

#### County Courts

County courts were given four different types of jurisdiction-

- (i) non divorce county courts which have no family jurisdiction
- (ii) divorce county courts which can issue all private law family proceedings but contested matters are transferred to family hearing centres for trial
- (iii) family hearing centres which can issue and hear all private law family cases whether or not they are contested
- (iv) care centres which have full jurisdiction in private and public law matters

**Public law cases** are those usually brought by local authorities or the NSPCC and include matters such as care, supervision and emergency protection orders.

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

#### The High Court

The High Court has jurisdiction to hear all cases relating to children and exercises an exclusive jurisdiction in wardship. The High Court also hears appeals from family proceedings courts and cases transferred from the county courts or family proceedings courts. The Family Division of the High Court consists of the President and 17 High Court judges. High Court work is dealt with at the Principal Registry of the Family Division (PRFD) in London and in the provinces by those district registries which have divorce jurisdiction.

#### Family Proceedings Courts

Family proceedings courts' work is dealt with by lay magistrates and sometimes by stipendiary magistrates sitting with lay colleagues. The lay magistrates sitting at these courts are drawn from a specially selected family panel who have had to undertake special and ongoing training. The stipendiary magistrates are also specially trained. Family proceedings courts have full private and public law jurisdiction under the Act although they do not deal with divorce cases.

### Judges' and magistrates' jurisdiction

In order to hear proceedings under the Children Act 1989 in the county courts, judges must be specially nominated for family work by the Lord Chancellor. These judges receive special family work guidance. Circuit judges not so nominated may still hear matrimonial and domestic violence injunctions-

**district judges** can hear private law family work but have a limited jurisdiction (except in the PRFD where they have nominated care judge status in public law jurisdiction)

**nominated care district judges** have increased jurisdiction and can hear uncontested public law cases and contested private law cases

**circuit family judges** have full private law jurisdiction but do not deal with public law cases

**nominated care judges** have full public and private law jurisdiction

**designated family judges** also have full jurisdiction in public and private law: based at care centres, they also chair local Family Court Business Committees and Family Court Forums

**magistrates** (lay and stipendiary) hear cases in both public and private law

## Applications

Proceedings under the Children Act are started by application in the manner prescribed by The Family Proceedings Rules 1991 (for county courts and the High Court) and The Family Proceedings Courts (Children Act 1989) Rules 1991 (for family proceedings courts). Public law cases must start in the family proceedings court but may be transferred up to the county court-

- to minimise delay
- to consolidate with other family proceedings
- where the matter is exceptionally grave, complex or important

Private law cases can commence at any family proceedings court or county court. Cases can also be transferred laterally between courts.

During 1999, a total of 19,770 public law applications were made (a 14% increase over 1998) and 90,381 private law applications (a decrease of nearly 22%).

**Table 5.1**  
**Public and private law applications<sup>1</sup> made in each tier of court by circuit, 1999**

	Public Law				Private Law			
	FPC <sup>2</sup>	CC	HC	Total	FPC <sup>2</sup>	CC	HC	Total
<b>Circuit</b>								
Midland & Oxford	4,174	249	13	4,436	10,969	10,046	20	21,035
North Eastern	3,177	507	25	3,709	6,653	8,980	62	15,695
Northern	2,410	490	10	2,910	5,614	6,260	3	11,877
South Eastern:								
London	2,527	-	-	2,527	2,967	6,523	-	9,490
Provinces	1,966	295	2	2,263	2,585	3,441	43	6,069
PRFD	-	385	49	407	-	9,080	203	9,283
Wales & Chester	1,101	122	4	1,227	2,088	4,287	3	6,378
Western	1,681	602	8	2,291	2,242	8,280	32	10,554
<b>England &amp; Wales</b>	<b>17,036</b>	<b>2,623</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>19,770</b>	<b>33,118</b>	<b>56,897</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>90,381</b>

<sup>1</sup> Some inconsequential applications have been excluded

<sup>2</sup> Contains imputed data

**Disposal of applications**

There are four ways in which an application can be disposed of-

- (i) Withdrawn applications: can only be withdrawn by order of the court
- (ii) Order refused: in public law proceedings an order is refused if the grounds are not proved and the court has dismissed the application. In private law proceedings the court may refuse to make an order or make no order
- (iii) Order of no order: this is made if the court has applied the principle of non-intervention under section 1(5) of the Act. This provides that the court shall not make an order unless it considers that doing so would be better for the child than not making the order at all
- (iv) Order made

**Orders**

The Act provides a wide range of orders which can be made according to the child's best interests. Below are some typical orders.

**Care/Supervision Orders**

On an application from a local authority or authorised person (at present only the NSPCC), if the court is satisfied that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm and that the harm or likelihood of harm is attributable to (i) the care given to the child or the likelihood of the care not being what it would be reasonable to expect a parent to give a child; or (ii) where the child is beyond parental control, the court may make an order-

- (a) placing the child in the care of a designated local authority
- (b) putting the child under the supervision of a designated local authority or probation officer

No care or supervision order may be made in respect of a child who has reached the age of 17 (or 16 in the case of a child who is married). The effect of a care order is to impose a duty on the local authority to keep a child in care, have parental responsibility for the child and (subject to certain provisions under the Act), determine the extent to which a parent or guardian may meet his or her parental responsibility for the child. While a supervision order is in force, it is the duty of the supervisor to advise, assist and befriend the child and take the necessary action to give effect to the order including whether or not to apply for its variation or discharge.

**Emergency Protection Orders**

A court may make an emergency protection order if it is satisfied that there is reasonable cause to believe that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm if not removed to accommodation provided by the applicant or does not remain in the place he or she is presently living. Anyone, including a local authority, can apply for an emergency protection order if, for example, they believe that access to the child is being unreasonably refused.

### Exclusion Requirements

In October 1997, changes to the Children Act gave courts the power to order the exclusion of the suspected abuser from the child's home in cases where ill-treatment of a child is alleged, and either an Interim Care Order (ICO) or Emergency Protection Order (EPO) is made. (Previously, the child would usually have been removed.)

The court can add a power of arrest to the 'exclusion requirement'.

Where exclusion is ordered, there must be a person remaining in the property with the child. That person must agree to care for the child and consent to the exclusion requirement.

### Section 8 orders

Orders made under Section 8 of the Act are frequently sought for-

- residence (where the child should live)
- contact (whom the child sees)
- prohibited steps (to prevent an action being taken)
- specific issue (about a specific aspect of the child's upbringing)

It is always preferable that agreement between the parents about arrangements for the children be reached rather than an order having to be imposed. During 1999, a total of 69,954 section 8 orders were made in private law, a 20% decrease from 1998.

**Table 5.2**  
Disposal of selected applications in public law in all tiers of court<sup>1</sup>, 1999

Nature of application	Applications withdrawn	Orders refused	Orders of no order	Orders made
Care	288	28	95	4,124
Contact with a child in care	154	79	39	287
Discharge of care	70	14	10	494
Refusal of care-contact	62	15	8	768
Emergency protection order	122	34	78	1,516
Secure accommodation	76	5	2	676
Supervision	106	57	24	787
Supervision order-discharge	8	8	-	58
Section 8:				
Residence	72	28	5	929
Contact	48	19	9	796
Prohibited steps	9	2	-	213
Specific issue	8	-	-	56

<sup>1</sup> Contains imputed data

**Table 5.3**  
Disposal of selected applications in private law in all tiers of court<sup>1</sup>, 1999

Nature of application	Applications withdrawn	Orders refused	Orders of no order	Orders made
Parental responsibility	2,121	686	228	7,514
Section 8:				
Residence	4,093	619	1,116	21,286
Contact	7,210	1,752	2,600	41,862
Prohibited steps	651	140	256	4,770
Specific issue	443	101	137	2,036

<sup>1</sup> Contains imputed data

## 'The Voice of the Child'

### **Guardians ad litem**

The court will appoint a guardian ad litem for the child in specified proceedings (broadly, public law proceedings) unless satisfied that it does not need to do so in order to safeguard the child's interests. The role of the guardian ad litem includes ensuring that the court is fully informed of the relevant facts which relate to the child's welfare and that the wishes and feelings of the child are clearly established. The guardian ad litem service is currently made available through 54 panels in England and five in Wales, whose membership is drawn from social workers who may be self-employed or employees of a local authority, or employees of a voluntary organisation and probation officers.

In order to ensure proper legal representation for the child it is the duty of the guardian ad litem, or the court in the absence of such a guardian, to appoint a solicitor to act for the child when certain conditions are satisfied.

### **The Welfare Officer**

The welfare officer plays a very significant role in private law proceedings (a guardian ad litem cannot be appointed in such proceedings). He or she is responsible for providing the court with information about matters relating to the welfare of the child which enables the court to make decisions which are in the child's best interests. As part of that process the welfare officer has particular regard to the wishes and feelings of the child concerned. The welfare officer may also have a role to play in helping the parents or other adults closely concerned with the child to reach agreement about issues which are in dispute and thus avoid the need for a contested court hearing. National Standards for Probation Service Family Court Welfare Work came into effect on 1 January 1995.

## Other Child Matters

### **Wardship**

Wardship is where the court assumes responsibility for the welfare of a child and exercises parental responsibility. Only the High Court can order that the child be made or cease to be a ward of court. Under the Children Act, the use of wardship by local authorities is severely limited and leave to make an application for any exercise of the court's inherent jurisdiction must be granted by the High Court. The Act does not affect applications made by private individuals but the same result could generally be achieved by obtaining a prohibited steps order or a specific issue order under section 8. Care orders in respect of wards of court will bring that wardship to an end. Those wardships that had not been returned to the High Court for a further application by 14 October 1992, ie during the transitional period allowed for by the Children Act, were generally treated as discharged.

### **Adoption**

An adoption order made by a court extinguishes the rights, duties and obligations of the natural parents or guardian and vests them in the adopters. On adoption the child becomes for virtually all purposes in law the child of its adoptive parents and has the same rights of inheritance of property as any children born to the adoptive parents. Before issuing an adoption order the court must be satisfied that-

- (a) the adoptive parent(s) are suitable and consent to the adoption
- (b) the consent of the natural parent(s) has been obtained (after October 14 1991 it became necessary to obtain the consent of each parent or guardian with parental responsibility for the child)

The court may dispense with the natural parents' consent if, for example, the parent has persistently ill-treated the child or the court takes the view that the adoption order is in the child's best interests if the consent is being unreasonably withheld. The court's first consideration is to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child, taking into account the child's views (having regard to their age and understanding) and giving them due consideration.

During 1999, 3,962 orders for adoption were made (18% less than in 1998). Of these, 41% (1,614) were made to step-parents, almost 31% less than in 1998 (where 2,332 of the 4,675 orders were to step parents).

**Table 5.4**  
**Adoption of children: Summary of proceedings, 1999**

Nature of proceedings	Family proceedings courts <sup>1</sup>	County courts	High Court	Total
Applications:				
by step-parents	811	949	9	1,769
by others	706	1,801	131	2,638
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,517</b>	<b>2,750</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>4,407</b>
Orders made:				
to step-parents	690	921	3	1,614
to others	674	1,598	76	2,348
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,364</b>	<b>2,519</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>3,962</b>

<sup>1</sup> Contains imputed data

## Matrimonial Matters

### Divorce

There are two ways to dissolve a marriage. The most usual is a decree absolute of divorce which ends a valid marriage. But no petition may be made for divorce within the first year of marriage. The other is the decree of nullity which declares that the marriage itself is void ie no valid marriage ever existed or voidable (the marriage was valid unless annulled).

To obtain a decree of divorce the marriage must be proved to have broken down irretrievably. This must be done on proof of one or more of the following facts-

- (a) adultery
- (b) behaviour with which the petitioner cannot reasonably be expected to live
- (c) desertion of at least two years
- (d) two years separation where the respondent consents
- (e) five years separation without consent

## Nullity

A void marriage is one that is legally invalid because, for example-

- (a) either party was under age sixteen at the time of the marriage
- (b) either party was already married
- (c) the parties are prohibited from marrying, for example father and daughter

Examples of voidable marriages are those-

- (a) not consummated due to incapacity or wilful refusal (most nullities are on these grounds)
- (b) where one party was suffering from a venereal disease in a communicable form, or was pregnant by someone else at the time of marriage

## Judicial Separation

An alternative to divorce is a decree of judicial separation. This does not dissolve the marriage but absolves the parties from the obligation to live together. This procedure might, for instance, be used if religious beliefs forbid or discourage divorce.

## Procedure

The procedure is for one party (the petitioner) to petition for divorce, nullity or judicial separation. A district judge considers the evidence and, in divorce and nullity cases, if the grounds are proven, a decree nisi, which is a provisional measure, will be made. Six weeks later the petitioner can apply for a decree absolute, which is the final measure.

Alternatively the respondent (ie the other party) can apply a further three months later.

Only when the decree absolute has been issued by the court can either party remarry.

For judicial separation, a district judge considers the evidence and makes a (final) decree for judicial separation, there being no provisional stage. In most cases of divorce or separation all the proceedings are dealt with in the county court. However, if the case is of sufficient complexity, difficulty or gravity it can be transferred to the High Court. It is also usual for the High Court to hear cases when it is already dealing with proceedings between the couple, especially where the interests of children are involved, for instance, where children of the family might still be the subject of wardship proceedings.

Where the couple has children, the court has to be satisfied with the arrangements for their welfare. The arrangements have to be submitted in writing and will, if possible, have been agreed by both parents. However, both the petitioner in the divorce and the respondent may file alternative proposals. If the district judge is dissatisfied in any way with the arrangements made for the child (eg because of conflict in counter proposals issued by the parties) then the district judge may order the parents to appear in order to resolve the issues. At this appointment the district judge may, if the issues are uncontested, consider making a section 8 order. The Family Law Act 1996, which reforms the law relating to divorce, received Royal Assent in July 1996. The provisions of Part II of the Act relating to divorce and separation have not yet been brought into force.

During 1999, petitions for divorce rose 1% to 167,775 (165,870 in 1998). Petitions filed for nullity rose 9% to 549 and petitions for judicial separation rose to 2,446 (916 in 1998). Divorce decrees nisi fell 1% (to 143,106), as did the number of decrees absolute (to 140,837). Separation decrees granted increased by more than three times that of 1998 to 2,282 (519 in 1998).

**Table 5.5**  
**Matrimonial suits: Summary of proceedings in selected years since 1938**

	1938	1958	1968	1978	1988	1990	1997	1998	1999
<b>Dissolution of marriage:</b>									
Petitions filed	9,970	25,584	54,036	162,450	182,804	191,615	163,769	165,870	162,775
Decrees nisi	7,621	23,456	47,959	151,533	154,788	157,344	148,310	144,231	143,106
Decrees absolute	6,092	22,195	45,036	142,726	152,139	155,239	145,886	141,543	140,837
<b>Nullity of marriage:</b>									
Petitions filed	263	655	971	1,117	604	665	485	505	549
Decrees nisi	170	496	819	959	389	430	248	281	495
Decrees absolute	158	459	758	941	494	467	298	267	658
<b>Judicial separation:</b>									
Petitions filed	71	158	233	2,611	2,925	2,900	1,078	916	2,446
Decrees granted	25	88	105	1,228	1,917	1,794	589	519	2,282

**Table 5.6**  
**Matrimonial suits: Petitions filed and decrees granted by circuit, 1999**

Circuit	Petitions filed			Decrees nisi made		
	Divorce	Nullity	Judicial separation	Divorce	Nullity	Judicial separation <sup>1</sup>
Midland & Oxford	33,301	72	375	27,770	57	312
North Eastern	28,832	24	423	21,022	17	676
Northern	17,842	29	273	15,354	15	77
South Eastern:						
London	8,982	107	144	7,936	75	143
Provinces	37,716	102	470	33,531	109	657
PRFD	8,152	84	104	7,870	57	38
Wales & Chester	10,615	60	446	9,250	151	200
Western	22,335	71	211	20,373	14	179
<b>England &amp; Wales</b>	<b>167,775</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>2,446</b>	<b>143,106</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>2,282</b>

<sup>1</sup> Final decrees

## Maintenance

In many matrimonial cases no formal order for financial provision (ancillary relief) is sought by either party where there are no children to the marriage. It is more common for maintenance to be sought where there are children and the Children Act gave a wide range of powers to all tiers of court in this respect. Under the Child Support Act 1991, which came into force on 5 April 1993, the courts lost a substantial part of their jurisdiction to make orders for child maintenance (although they may still make orders for spousal maintenance). This work is instead being handled by the Child Support Agency and is being transferred from the courts to the Agency over a transitional period. Most new applications for maintenance arising after 5 April 1993 must be made to the Agency which is also gradually taking on all existing court orders and agreements where a party is receiving a prescribed benefit. Responsibility for existing orders and agreements for couples not on benefit was originally to be taken on by the agency during the year beginning 8 April 1996. However, this has been deferred indefinitely. The Agency operates its own collection and enforcement service for child maintenance assessments. It can make orders for maintenance to be deducted from earnings and can apply to magistrates' courts for a range of enforcement action. Orders for financial provision are not dependent upon divorce proceedings and may be made for children (these have also been affected by the Child Support Act).

During 1999, 7,562 maintenance orders in respect of children were made in the county courts (8,136 in 1998) and 31,334 lump sum and property orders. There were also-

- (a) 3,025 orders for maintenance pending suit (these are interim orders made before the divorce is finalised)
- (b) 4,678 orders made for a fixed term (ie to cease on a certain date)
- (c) 3,114 orders made pending a further order (payments under these orders continue until another order is made to the contrary)

**Table 5.7**  
**Matrimonial suits: Orders made for ancillary relief, under the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973, in the county courts, 1999**

**Nature of proceedings**

Periodical payments:	
Orders made for maintenance pending suit	3,025
For spouse -	
Applications dismissed	9,557
Orders made for fixed term	4,678
Orders made pending further order	3,114
For child -	
Orders made	7,562
Lump sum and property -	
Orders made	31,334
Ancillary relief orders above made by consent	45,388

### Enforcement of Maintenance

In some cases payments of maintenance are not made as ordered and action can be taken to enforce payment. This is usually done by using the enforcement procedures available in magistrates' courts. If the order was originally made in the county court, the person due to receive the money may apply to the county court to have the maintenance order registered in the magistrates' court for collection. Where the payer is employed, it is also possible to apply for an order from the county court for payments to be taken direct from the salary of the person due to pay. These are called attachment of earnings orders. Magistrates' courts can also make similar orders for deductions from pay. The final sanction used to make someone comply with certain civil orders (including matrimonial) is to order their committal to prison for contempt of court. Usually the threat of this is sufficient but occasionally it will result in arrest and imprisonment. These powers have been modified by the Child Support Act 1991 which transfers certain functions to the Child Support Agency, which has enhanced enforcement powers.

During 1999, 1,321 applications to have maintenance orders registered in magistrates' courts were granted in the county courts, 19% less than in 1998. In addition, 206 attachment of earnings orders were made (883 in 1998).

**Table 5.8**  
**Matrimonial suits: Enforcement proceedings in the county courts, 1999**

**Nature of enforcement proceedings**

Attachment of earnings orders on maintenance orders:	
Applications made	932
Orders made <sup>1</sup>	206
Registration of maintenance orders in magistrates' courts:	
Orders made	1,321

<sup>1</sup> Includes discharge orders

## Domestic Violence

Part IV of the Family Law Act provides single and unified domestic violence remedies in the magistrates' courts and the county courts. Two types of order can be granted: a non-molestation order, which can either prohibit particular behaviour or general molestation; and an occupation order, which can define or regulate rights of occupation of the home.

A range of people can apply to the court: spouses, cohabitants, ex-cohabitants, those who live or have lived in the same household other than by reason of one of them being the other's employee, tenant, lodger or boarder, certain relatives (e.g. parents, grandparents, in-laws, brothers, sisters), and those who have agreed to marry one another.

Where the court makes an order and it appears to the court that the respondent has used or threatened violence against the applicant or a relevant child, then the court *must* attach a power of arrest unless it is satisfied that the applicant or child will be adequately protected without such a power.

The court may also add an exclusion requirement to an emergency protection order or interim care order made under the Children Act 1989. This means a suspected abuser may be removed from the home, rather than the child, as was previously the case.

## Protection for Harassment Act 1997

New legislation was introduced in two stages to provide protection to victims of harassment. In June 1997, implementation of section 3(1) & (2) came into force. These allow civil proceedings to be taken against anyone pursuing a course of harassment and may result in the grant of injunction and/or an award of damages.

In September 1998, the remainder of Section 3 came into force. The effect of this in the civil courts was to make breach of a civil injunction enforceable by warrant of arrest.

**Table 5.9**  
**Family Law Act 1996 - part IV: Domestic Violence applications and orders,**  
**by tier of court, 1999**

	magistrates court	County court	High Court	Total
<b>Nature of proceedings</b>				
<b>Non-molestation orders</b>				
Applications received ex-parte	384	10,211	80	10,675
Applications received on notice	289	5,922	22	6,233
Order with power of arrest attached	532	14,542	93	15,167
Order without power of arrest attached	56	3,232	10	3,298
<b>Occupation orders</b>				
Applications received ex-parte	130	5,701	24	5,855
Applications received on notice	101	3,795	6	3,902
Order with power of arrest attached	130	6,152	26	6,308
Order without power of arrest attached	24	1,982	5	2,011
Number of cases where undertakings accepted	140	4,913	20	5,073
<b>Warrants of arrest</b>				
Applications made	8	213	7	228
Warrants issued	6	180	-	186
<b>Remands</b>				
Into custody	13	351	2	366
On bail	15	520	5	540
For medical report	1	85	-	86

## Probate

When someone who has made a will dies, the person (s) named as executor (s) will administer the dead person's estate. Although executors can begin their duties immediately the estate cannot normally be disposed of until a grant of probate is obtained. Probate is official acceptance that the will is valid and provides official sanction for the executor to obtain the assets and administer the estate. If the validity of the will is contested the matter is dealt with by the Chancery Division of the High Court (see Chapter 2). The Family Division only deals with non-contentious (undisputed) probate matters. Where there is no will or no named executor in a will, letters of administration (with will if there is one) are granted to a person (the administrator) to enable him or her to deal with the estate.

Uncontested probate matters can be issued and dealt with in the Principal Registry of the Family Division in London or any of the 11 District Probate Registries in England and Wales.

In 1999 there were 262,001 grants issued (257,455 in 1998) with 31% being dealt with as personal applications. In 75% of cases a grant of probate was issued, the remaining grants being of letters of administration.

1999 saw the major changes in the Probate Service of last year continuing. The Probate computer system was fully in place and facilitated both the operation of the grant issue system so far as staff were concerned and the general searches carried out by researchers. The system contains nearly 400,000 entries now and is proving its worth as a great improvement in customer service. Towards the end of last year, the probate records were transferred to Hays Information Management as a PFI partner to supply copies of all wills and grants since 1858. The records still remain within the custody of the Probate Service but the day-to-day storage and supplying of copies will now be undertaken on behalf of the Probate Service by Hays. The service should be fully operational in this year (2000). During 1999 there was a 37% reduction in the number of copies supplied of wills and grants. This was partly caused by the large increase the previous year following the publication of the will of the late Diana, Princess of Wales.

**Table 5.10**  
**High Court Family Division-Probate: Grants in non-contentious proceedings issued, re-sealed and revoked, 1999**

Nature of application	On personal application	On application by solicitors	Total
<b>Probates:</b>			
Principal Registry	9,223	4,810	14,033
District probate registries <sup>1</sup>	44,892	138,548	183,440
<b>Letters of Administration with will annexed:</b>			
Principal Registry	751	423	1,174
District probate registries <sup>1</sup>	3,728	7,062	10,790
<b>Letters of Administration:</b>			
Principal Registry	3,519	2,099	5,618
District Probate Registries <sup>1</sup>	18,359	28,407	46,946
<b>Total</b>	<b>80,472</b>	<b>181,349</b>	<b>262,001</b>
Grants revoked	..	..	211
Grants re-sealed	..	..	522
Standing searches	..	..	1,358

<sup>1</sup> The figures for individual registries are available on application to the Principal Probate Registry