

## 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).

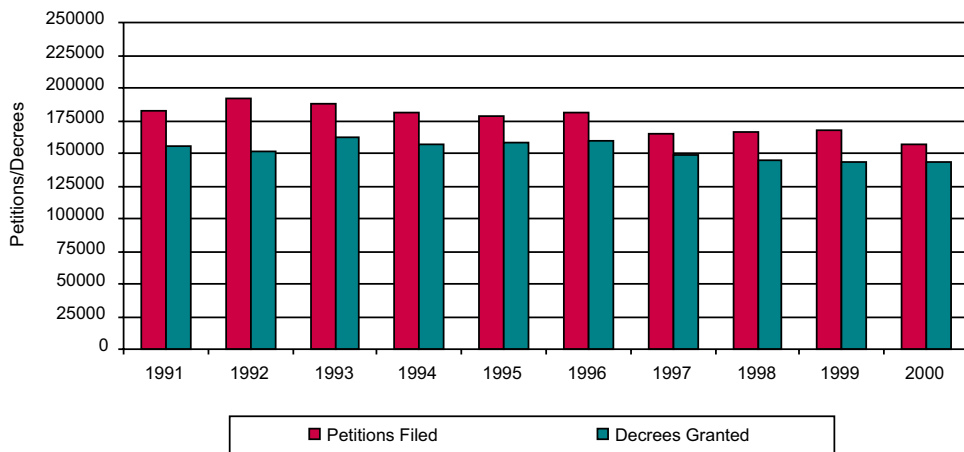
Most matters affecting children are dealt with under the Children Act 1989 in all three levels of courts.

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

During 2000-

- Children Act applications in public law cases rose by 11% (Table 5.1)
- the number of residence orders made in private law proceedings rose by 21%, contact orders made also rose by 10% (Table 5.3)
- adoption orders rose by 12% to 4,438 (Table 5.4)
- 157,809 petitions were filed for divorce, a fall of nearly 3% (Table 5.6)

**Dissolution of Marriage:**  
Petitions Filed and Decrees Granted, 1991 - 2000



## 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 district judges (magistrates' courts) 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 district judges (magistrates' courts) 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

**lay magistrates and district judges (magistrates' courts)** 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 2000, a total of 22,000 public law applications were made (an 11% increase over 1999) and 95,407 private law applications (an increase of nearly 6%).

**Table 5.1**  
**Public and private law applications<sup>1</sup> made in each tier of court by circuit, 2000**

	Public Law				Private Law			
	FPC <sup>2</sup>	CC	HC	Total	FPC <sup>2</sup>	CC	HC	Total
<b>Circuit</b>								
Midland & Oxford	4,018	1,333	24	5,375	8,368	13,296	19	21,683
North Eastern	2,571	1,252	12	3,835	4,367	10,293	17	14,677
Northern	2,015	1,385	33	3,433	3,959	8,575	29	12,563
South Eastern:								
London	2,289	-	-	2,289	2,547	4,146	-	6,693
Provinces	1,947	898	7	2,852	1,943	16,135	4	18,082
PRFD	-	293	55	348	-	2,535	189	2,724
Wales & Chester	1,205	460	7	1,672	1,866	5,296	22	7,184
Western	1,612	560	24	2,196	2,213	9,576	12	11,801
<b>England &amp; Wales</b>	<b>15,657</b>	<b>6,181</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>25,263</b>	<b>69,852</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>95,407</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 2000, a total of 79,681 section 8 orders were made in private law, a 14% increase from 1999.

**Table 5.2**  
**Disposal of selected applications in public law in all tiers of court<sup>1</sup>, 2000**

Nature of application	Applications withdrawn	Orders refused	Orders of no order	Orders made
Care	459	26	177	6,298
Contact with a child in care	176	106	66	978
Discharge of care	83	35	5	811
Refusal of care-contact	102	33	21	1,399
Emergency protection order	197	54	5	2,232
Secure accommodation	121	8	10	784
Supervision	74	1	12	1,326
Supervision order-discharge	9	-	-	34
Section 8:				
Residence	117	37	7	1,365
Contact	81	16	31	1,177
Prohibited steps	4	1	-	227
Specific issue	3	3	-	79

<sup>1</sup> Contains imputed data

**Table 5.3**  
**Disposal of selected applications in private law in all tiers of court<sup>1</sup>, 2000**

Nature of application	Applications withdrawn	Orders refused	Orders of no order	Orders made
Parental responsibility	1,725	511	227	7,786
Section 8:				
Residence	3,078	491	941	25,809
Contact	5,419	1,276	2,067	46,070
Prohibited steps	580	115	185	5,345
Specific issue	386	91	118	2,457

<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 2000, 4,438 orders for adoption were made (12% more than in 1999). Of these, 35% (1,551) were made to step-parents, 4% less than in 1999 (where 1,614 of the 3,962 orders were to step parents).

**Table 5.4**  
**Adoption of children: Summary of proceedings, 2000**

Nature of proceedings	Family proceedings courts <sup>1</sup>	County courts	High Court	Total
Applications:				
by step-parents	884	978	17	1,879
by others	953	2,052	112	3,117
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,837</b>	<b>3,030</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>4,996</b>
Orders made:				
to step-parents	691	852	8	1,551
to others	858	1,948	81	2,887
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,549</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>4,438</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 2000, petitions for divorce fell nearly 3% to 157,809 (162,137 in 1999). Petitions filed for nullity fell 18% to 452 while petitions for judicial separation fell by 232 to 650. Divorce decrees nisi rose slightly to 143,729, although the number of decrees absolute fell over 3% to 136,410. Separation decrees granted fell over 22% to 540 (696 in 1999).

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

	1938	1958	1968	1978	1988	1990	1998	1999 <sup>1</sup>	2000
<b>Dissolution of marriage:</b>									
Petitions filed	9,970	25,584	54,036	162,450	182,804	191,615	165,870	162,137	157,809
Decrees nisi	7,621	23,456	47,959	151,533	154,788	157,344	144,231	143,446	143,729
Decrees absolute	6,092	22,195	45,036	142,726	152,139	155,239	141,543	141,333	136,410
<b>Nullity of marriage:</b>									
Petitions filed	263	655	971	1,117	604	665	505	549	452
Decrees nisi	170	496	819	959	389	430	281	495	274
Decrees absolute	158	459	758	941	494	467	267	458	318
<b>Judicial separation:</b>									
Petitions filed	71	158	233	2,611	2,925	2,900	916	882	650
Decrees granted	25	88	105	1,228	1,917	1,794	519	696	540

<sup>1</sup> Revised since last publication

**Table 5.6**  
**Matrimonial suits: Petitions filed and decrees granted by circuit, 2000**

Circuit	Petitions filed			Decrees nisi made		
	Divorce	Nullity	Judicial separation	Divorce	Nullity	Judicial separation <sup>1</sup>
Midland & Oxford	30,629	52	64	28,737	63	28
North Eastern	22,509	28	128	20,857	20	182
Northern	16,843	22	66	16,417	17	96
South Eastern:						
London	8,390	88	37	6,681	68	32
Provinces	37,427	63	143	34,662	37	89
PRFD	9,199	80	83	6,049	40	60
Wales & Chester	10,200	14	53	9,458	10	14
Western	22,612	105	76	20,868	19	39
<b>England &amp; Wales</b>	<b>157,809</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>143,729</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>540</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 2000, 8,025 maintenance orders in respect of children were made in the county courts (7,562 in 1999) and 30,546 lump sum and property orders. There were also-

- (a) 2,664 orders for maintenance pending suit (these are interim orders made before the divorce is finalised)
- (b) 4,562 orders made for a fixed term (ie to cease on a certain date)
- (c) 3,196 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, 2000**

**Nature of proceedings**

Periodical payments:	
Orders made for maintenance pending suit	2,664
For spouse -	
Applications dismissed	8,810
Orders made for fixed term	4,562
Orders made pending further order	3,196
For child -	
Orders made	8,025
Lump sum and property -	
Orders made	30,546
Ancillary relief orders above made by consent	47,179

## 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 2000, 1,070 applications to have maintenance orders registered in magistrates' courts were granted in the county courts, 19% less than in 1999. In addition, 156 attachment of earnings orders were made (206 in 1999).

**Table 5.8**  
**Matrimonial suits: Enforcement proceedings in the county courts, 2000**

**Nature of enforcement proceedings**

Attachment of earnings orders on maintenance orders:	
Applications made	733
Orders made <sup>1</sup>	156
Registration of maintenance orders in magistrates' courts:	
Orders made	1,070

<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, 2000**

	magistrates court	County court	High Court	Total
<b>Nature of proceedings</b>				
<b>Non-molestation orders</b>				
Applications received ex-parte	168	10,075	27	10,270
Applications received on notice	251	5,196	17	5,464
Order with power of arrest attached	253	14,621	47	14,921
Order without power of arrest attached	23	3,341	8	3,372
<b>Occupation orders</b>				
Applications received ex-parte	60	6,434	17	6,511
Applications received on notice	104	3,670	10	3,784
Order with power of arrest attached	53	7,659	16	7,728
Order without power of arrest attached	10	1,993	5	2,008
Number of cases where undertakings accepted	64	5,330	8	5,402
<b>Warrants of arrest</b>				
Applications made	6	171	-	177
Warrants issued	4	113	-	117
<b>Remands</b>				
Into custody	10	279	1	290
On bail	20	609	1	630
For medical report	3	25	-	28

## Probate

Whenever it is necessary to administer the estate of someone who has died (whether that person left a will or not) a grant of probate or administration is almost always required. Although executors named in a will can begin their duties at once, it is only when a grant is obtained that the estate can be distributed. The issue of a grant of probate or administration is the green light for asset holders to release the accounts they are holding to the person named as executor or administrator.

If the validity of a will is questioned, the Chancery Division of the High Court (see chapter 2) deals with the matter: the Family Division deals with all non-contentious (i.e. undisputed) matters in the Principal Registry or at any of the 11 District Probate Registries in England and Wales.

In 2000 there were 264,397 grants of representation issued (262,001 in 1999) with 30% being personal applications. In 75% of cases a grant of probate was issued, the remaining applications being for administration.

2000 saw the commencement of the Probate Records Centre run by PFI partner Hays Information Management. This is a nationwide system capable of being accessed at all main Registries and most sub-Registries and enables a copy of any grant or will proved since 1858 to be provided within one hour. The system was an immediate success and has had an almost negligible number of problems during the last year. Since its commencement in February it has supplied 78,309 copies, all within the various times.

Another development during the year has been the increasing use of the Internet to provide copy forms and leaflets. During 2001, not only will all Probate leaflets become available but also it will be possible to fill in the forms prior to their being downloaded, which will produce a clearer document and save time for the applicant.

**Table 5.10**  
**High Court Family Division-Probate: Grants in non-contentious proceedings issued, re-sealed and revoked, 2000**

Nature of application	On personal application	On application by solicitors	Total
<b>Probates:</b>			
Principal Registry	9,096	4,630	13,726
District probate registries <sup>1</sup>	44,668	139,605	184,273
<b>Letters of Administration with will annexed:</b>			
Principal Registry	737	377	1,114
District probate registries <sup>1</sup>	3,652	7,522	11,174
<b>Letters of Administration:</b>			
Principal Registry	3,292	1,941	5,233
District Probate Registries <sup>1</sup>	18,728	30,149	48,877
<b>Total</b>	<b>80,173</b>	<b>184,224</b>	<b>264,397</b>
Grants revoked	..	..	251
Grants re-sealed	..	..	544
Standing searches	..	..	1,229

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