**Overview of updates to *Family Law* 12e**

Roiya Hodgson, October 2021

**Chapter 1: Family Law Practice and the First Interview**

* In chapter 1, the Jurisdiction and Judgments (Family) (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, SI 2019/519, provides changes further to the end of the Implementation Period following Brexit.

**Chapter 2: Funding**

* Chapter 2 has seen updates to key card amounts and removal of mortgage/charge limit of £100,000 when assessing eligibility for legal aid.

**Chapter 3: Alternative Dispute Resolution in Family Law**

* Chapter 3 has seen updates to information regarding the £500 mediation voucher scheme.

**Chapter 6: Divorce**

* Chapter 6’s updates contain confirmation that The Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 received Royal Assent on 25 June 2020 and will have a commencement date of 6 April 2022.

**Chapter 8: Jurisdiction**

* Chapter 8 confirms that the Council Regulation (EC) No 2201/2003 ceases to have effect in UK law after IP completion day.
* And the Jurisdiction and Judgments (Family) (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, SI 2019/519 provides alternative regulations.

**Chapter 9: Procedure for a Matrimonial Order**

* Chapter 9’s updates note that from 13th September 2021, legal representatives must process divorce applications using the digital online service rather than using the paper D8 form.
* Also notes that civil partnership dissolutions, nullity and judicial separation petitions will continue to be made on paper only.

**Chapter 11: Money and Property**

* Chapter 11 confirms that The Divorce (Financial Provision) Bill had its first reading in the House of Lords on 19 July 2021. The Bill proposes amendments to MCA 1973 to make provision in connection with financial settlements following divorce.

**Chapter 14: Procedure for Financial Orders**

* Chapter 14 has seen updates due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Most of the Financial Remedy Court hearings have to take place remotely and continue to do so at the time of writing (October 2021).

**Chapter 18: Child Support**

* Chapter 18 has a few minor updates relating to child support proposals.

**Chapter 20: Taxation in Family Law**

* Chapter 20 outlines some changes to SDLT (Stamp Duty Land Tax) rates.

**Chapter 21: Welfare Benefits**

* Chapter 21 includes some updates to welfare benefit figures.

**Chapter 27: Private Children Law Procedure**

* Chapter 27 confirms that the Family Court (Composition and Distribution of Business) (Amendment) Rules 2021, SI 2021/505 (SI 2021/505) came into force on 24 May 2021. SI 2021/505 amends the Family Court (Composition and Distribution of Business) Rules 2014, SI 2014/840.
* Also contains information regarding the recently published CAFCASS Domestic Abuse Learning and Improvement Plan.

**Chapter 28: Child Abduction**

* Chapter 28 confirms that the [Council Regulation (EC) No 2201/2003](https://www.lexisnexis.com/uk/lexispsl/family/document/412012/61KD-BPK3-GXFD-84JJ-00000-00/linkHandler.faces?psldocinfo=Family_monthly_highlights_December_2020&linkInfo=F%23GB%23UK_EULEG%23num%2532003R2201_title%25&A=0.27510533770679924&bct=A&risb=&service=citation&langcountry=GB) of 27 November 2003 (Brussels II bis, also known as Brussels IIa) ceases to have effect in UK law after IP completion day, subject to certain specific exemptions and rules for proceedings issued prior to IP completion day.

**Chapter 33: Domestic Abuse**

* Chapter 33 confirms that legislation was reintroduced in March 2020 as the Domestic Abuse Bill 2019-21, and received royal assent on 29 April 2021.
* It also covers *M v D* [2021] EWHC 1351 (Fam), [2021] All ER (D) 86 (May). Recent case law dealt with a relationship where the respondent was the stepson of the appellant’s sister (i.e., the appellant’s step-nephew).