

Preface

This edition has seen further changes to the contributors. As a result of illness, District Judge Taylor has been required to step aside and, following my retirement from the full-time Bench, came the realisation that I would have to adopt a very much lower profile. With the constant changes in family law and practice and, in particular, those brought about by the introduction of the far-reaching provisions of the Family Procedure Rules 2010, it seemed to me that the resultant significant re-writing of large parts of the book demanded the close attention of colleagues who were more directly involved.

Helen Brooks, my original co-author, and Clive Buckley have continued with their invaluable work on the book, and have been joined by District Judge Richard Robinson of the Principal Registry of the Family Division who has made a major contribution. Yet again, we have received the vital support and assistance of District Judge Graham Maple.

It is my hope that as a result of the enormous amount of hard work which has gone into the creation of this fifth edition, together with the close involvement which Clive Buckley has had with the development of the new rules, this now significantly re-written book will prove to be of particular assistance to all those involved in family law.

The authors are delighted that Sir Nicholas Wall, President of the Family Division, has provided the Foreword to this edition. His kind words of support are greatly appreciated.

As always, the authors invite anyone who spots an error or who otherwise wishes to make any general observations about this edition or with regards to the next edition to please contact us.

Finally, it is with a tinge of sadness that I now step aside; however, I leave the future of the book in the most capable hands of the current authors. It has been a great privilege and pleasure to have worked so closely with Helen Brooks, who has an encyclopaedic knowledge of family law, which is greater than any other person I have known. In particular, her grasp and practical application of the various Rules I have, at times, found truly extraordinary. Without that knowledge and expertise it would not have been possible to create this book.

In closing, it is my hope that the many thousands of people who have purchased and, I trust, used it during the past twelve years will continue to derive benefit for many years to come.

District Judge Robert Blomfield TD

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