

December 2015

Legal Aid News is your official regular communication from Legal Aid Services on all matters related to legal aid. *Legal Aid News* is generally published in the last week of every month.

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Family versus Civil Listing

Recent advice from our National Specialist Advisors has clarified a simple rule for family matters that may end up in the High Court.

All cases that can or do originate in the Family Court require only a family provider approval and will be listed as family cases in the legal aid system.

A family listing and provider approval will cover proceedings which:

- begin in the Family Court and are transferred by the Judge to the High Court; or
- are family proceedings commenced in the High Court (which is more unusual); or
- are appeals from Family Court proceedings.

We will no longer require a civil approval for such matters. However, legal aid lawyers with a civil approval can continue to act, on a case-by-case basis, on family matters that concern the estates of deceased persons, as this reflects common practice.

Matters under the Family Protection Act 1955 and the Law Reform (Testamentary Promises) Act 1949 will be referred to the Wellington office and managed under Complex Family Case Management, on the basis that these are rare cases and often complex.

Parole Applications

This is a reminder to all legal aid providers. When submitting a legal aid application for parole matters, please use **Form 1 - Application for Criminal legal aid Crown Prosecution**.

This form contains a specific section on parole proceedings and ensures Legal Aid Services receives the information required to assess the application.

Christmas Payments

The last date for direct credit payments for 2015 is 23 December, payments will resume on 6 January 2016.

New General Manager, Legal Aid Services

Jacquelyn Shannon has joined Legal Aid Services as General Manager.

Jacquelyn has worked in the Ministry for four years, most recently as General Manager, Collections.

As General Manager, Jacquelyn is delegated to carry out the role of the Secretary for Justice in decisions relating to the quality assurance of legal aid providers under the Legal Services Act 2011.

Thank You and Happy Holidays

We would like to thank you for all your work supporting legal aid services in 2015. We appreciate the time and effort that you put into providing high quality legal aid services for those most in need.

We hope you all have a happy and relaxing holiday period and look forward to working with you in 2016.

Queries?

If you have queries about any article in this newsletter, please contact legalaidnews@justice.govt.nz.

New Zealand Government