



JUDICATURE (NORTHERN IRELAND) ACT 1978

DIRECTION OF THE LADY CHIEF JUSTICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND

WHEREAS the Official Solicitor may be invited to act in proceedings in the county court or the High Court where a party is a person under a disability,

AND WHEREAS a magistrates' court has jurisdiction to deal with emergency protection order proceedings under the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 which are not capable of being transferred to the county court or the High Court,

AND WHEREAS a magistrates' court may consider it necessary to make an interim order in proceedings under the Family Homes and Domestic Violence (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 before transferring the proceedings to the county court or the High Court,

BY VIRTUE of the power invested in me by section 75(2)(b) of the Judicature (Northern Ireland) Act 1978, I hereby direct that -

- (a) in emergency protection order proceedings under Article 63 of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995;
- (b) in proceedings under the Family Homes and Domestic Violence (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 where the magistrates' court considers it necessary to make an interim order before transferring the proceedings to the county court or the High Court; or
- (c) after consultation with the Lady Chief Justice, or her nominee, in any other emergency or urgent proceedings under the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 or the Family Homes and Domestic Violence (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 where the proceedings cannot be transferred to the county court or the High Court or where the court considers it necessary to make an interim order before so transferring the proceedings,

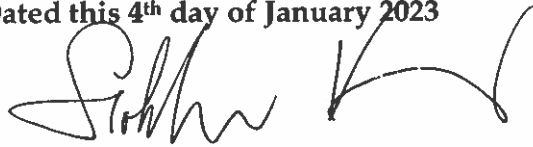
the Official Solicitor may act next friend or guardian in those proceedings if so invited by a magistrates' court which is satisfied on the available evidence, including but not limited to any medical evidence, that a party is a minor who is not capable of giving instructions directly or a person who, by reason of mental

disorder within the meaning of the Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, is incapable of managing and administering his property and affairs.

Consultation with the Lady Chief Justice under (c) above shall be on a case by case basis.

This Direction takes effect from 4th January 2023 and shall remain in operation until further notice.

Dated this 4th day of January 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. K.', written in a cursive style.

Lady Chief Justice of Northern Ireland