

Registered Intermediaries in Civil and Family Proceedings

Consultation Response Template

**Response Template for Consultation –**

**Registered Intermediaries in Civil and Family Courts**

**Registered Intermediaries help ensure citizens can properly participate in proceedings by advising those working in the system how best to communicate with them so they understand and can respond to what is being asked. Registered Intermediary Support has been available to defendants and witnesses involved in criminal proceedings for a number years and the Department of Justice thinks there may be value in also making the support available vulnerable citizens involved in civil and family cases. The Department would welcome vies on the questions below to help develop policy on the extension of support and how a scheme could operate to bets effect.**

1. **Do you agree Registered Intermediary support should be available in the civil and family courts?**

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**2. Do you agree any Registered Intermediary support in the civil and family courts should be provided on the same basis as in the criminal courts, for the purpose of giving evidence by those who are under 18, suffer a mental disorder, impairment of intelligence or social functioning or who have a physical disability or disorder?**

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**3. Do you agree Registered Intermediary support should be available on the same basis as in the criminal courts, that is, restricted to circumstances where it will improve the completeness, coherence and accuracy of evidence given in court?**

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1. **Do you agree any Registered Intermediary support should be restricted to parties rather than be made available to parties and witnesses in civil and family proceedings?**

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1. **Are there any case types which you consider are not suitable for Registered Intermediary involvement or in relation to which Registered Intermediary support should be prioritised?**

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1. **Do you agree any Registered Intermediary support should be available both on foot of an application and of the courts own motion?**

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1. **Do you have any views on qualifications or experience of Registered Intermediaries who may be deployed in the civil and family courts?**

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1. **Do you agree any Registered Intermediary provision in the civil and family courts should be delivered in the same way as the current criminal scheme rather than developing a two strand system as in England and Wales?**

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1. **Are there any issues you think need to be considered in advance of the rollout of any permanent Registered Intermediary scheme in the civil and family courts?**

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1. **Do you have any experiences of the giving of evidence that may help inform policy development?**

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Please return your completed response to: eajdconsultations@justice-ni.gov.uk

Thank you for your interest in our consultation.