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**Minor Settlements Consultation Questionnaire**

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| **Court approval of minor settlements**  **(Compensation settlements reached where legal proceedings have not issued in respect of children for personal injuries)**  **A consultation** |

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| **Responding to the Consultation** |
| **Please use this questionnaire to tell us your views on the options.**  The closing date for receipt of responses is **5pm on Friday 24 September 2021**.  Please note that it is unlikely that responses to the consultation will be accepted after this date.  Please indicate clearly if you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation.  Please send your response by email to: AToJ.Consultation@justice-ni.gov.uk |

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| **Privacy Notice** |
| We intend to publish a summary of responses on our website on completion of the consultation process. Any contact details, which will identify a respondent as a private individual, will be removed prior to publication.  All information will be handled in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2018. Respondents should also be aware that the Department’s obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 may require that any responses, not subject to specific exemptions under that Act, be disclosed to other parties on request. |

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| **Consultee Details** | |
| **Please indicate if you are responding as**: (*please tick only one option*)  [ ] A member of the public  [ ] On behalf of an organisation  [ ] Other……………………………(*please specify*) | |
| **Please enter your details below**: | |
| **Full Name:** |  |
| **Title:** | [ ] **Mr** [ ] **Ms**  [ ] **Mrs** [ ] **Miss** [ ] **Dr**  *(please tick as appropriate)* |
| **Organisation:** *(if applicable)* |  |
| **Job Title:** *(if applicable)* |  |
| **Address, including Postcode:** |  |
| **Email Address:** |  |

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| **Question 1:**  **Should Government legislate to compel court approval of settlements of compensation for children in cases in which legal proceedings have not issued?**  **Please answer ‘yes’ or ‘no’, and give reasons.**  **If you answered ‘yes’, please go to Question 2 or to Question 3 if you answered ‘no’.** |
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| **Question 2 (to be completed if you answered ‘yes’ to Question 1):**  **2(a) Should legislation place a duty to obtain court approval (in cases in which legal proceedings have not issued) on one of the parties (a compensator or a parent) and invalidate compensation paid to a child without court approval?**  **Please give reasons, including which of the parties and why**. |
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| **2(b) How could or should such a duty be enforced?** |
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| **2(c) Should such legislation apply to all such settlements or only those above a financial threshold?**  **Please give reasons for your answer**. |
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| **2(d) If there were to be a financial threshold, at what level should it be set?** |
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| **2(e) Would a new paper-based procedure for seeking court approval for settlements below a threshold encourage more court approvals?**  **Should such a procedure be introduced?** |
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| **2(f) If you answered ‘yes’ to 2(e), what should be the parameters of such a procedure (e.g. should it be restricted to cases where liability is admitted, cases involving only certain types of injury, etc.)?** |
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| **Question 3 (to be completed if you answered ‘no’ to Question 1):**  **3(a) Are you content with the status quo, which includes voluntary regulation?** |
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| **3(b) Would a new paper-based procedure for lower-value settlements encourage greater uptake of voluntary court approval?**  **Should such a procedure be introduced?** |
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| **3(c) If you answered ‘yes’ to 3(b), what should be the parameters of such a procedure (e.g. should it be restricted to cases where liability is uncontested, cases involving only certain types of injury, etc.)?** |
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| **3(d) What other means of requiring or encouraging court approval of settlements of compensation to children arrived at outside court proceedings can you identify?** |
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| **Question 4:**  **Do you agree with the outcome of the screening exercises?**  **If not, please provide comments.** |
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| **Question 5:**  **Do you agree with the outcome of the initial regulatory impact assessment?**  **If not, please provide comments.** |
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| **Question 6:**  **Please provide any other comments you have in relation to this consultation.** |
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