

## SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES DRAFT DIRECTIONS

PLEASE RAISE THE POSSIBILITY OF A SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY AND FOLLOW THESE SUGGESTED DIRECTIONS AS YOU SEE FIT.

### **PREAMBLE, ALL CASES**

IN ALL SUSSEX CASES, SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES ARE AVAILABLE TO THE PARTIES. ALL ADVOCATES ARE REQUIRED TO FAMILIARISE THEMSELVES WITH THE PROTOCOLS AND TO CANVASS THE POSSIBILITY OF A SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE WITH THEIR CLIENTS DURING THE CASE.

### **PREAMBLE IN PRIVATE LAW CASES CONTINUES:**

THIS WILL BE FIRST CONSIDERED AT THE FHDRA AND EACH SUBSEQUENT HEARING. PARTIES WILL BE REMINDED ABOUT THE PILOT AT EACH HEARING.

### **PREAMBLE IN PUBLIC LAW CASES CONTINUES:**

THIS WILL ALWAYS BE CONSIDERED AT THE IRH, BUT CAN OCCUR SOONER IF ALL PARTIES CONSENT TO AN EARLY SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE. AT THE CMH, PARTIES SHOULD BE ALERTED TO THE FACT THAT THEY ARE LIKELY TO BE OFFERED A SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE AT THE IRH AND SHOULD BE GIVEN INFORMATION ABOUT THE PILOT AT THAT POINT. PARTIES WILL BE REMINDED ABOUT THE PILOT AT EACH HEARING.

## **DIRECTIONS. (DELETE AS APPROPRIATE)**

1. At this hearing the parties were invited to consider a settlement conference and had the protocol drawn to their attention.

### **Then, either:-**

2. The parties at the hearing read the Protocol and consented to a settlement conference. Consent forms signed by all parties have been filed.

### **In private law only:-**

3. The matter is listed at the Family Centre, Brighton, for a settlement conference on.....with a time estimate of 1 hour before..... at.....a.m., parties to attend at.....
4. The CAFCASS officer shall attend the settlement conference.
5. No party shall file any position statements prior to the settlement conference.

### **In public law only:-**

6. The matter is listed at the Family Centre, Brighton, for a FURTHER IRH / settlement conference on.....with a time estimate of 1 hour before..... at.....a.m., parties to attend at.....

## OR

7. The parties at the hearing read the Protocol, but did not consent today to a settlement conference
8. In the event that having considered the protocol the parties consent to a settlement conference following this hearing, they shall by 4.00 p.m on.....file their signed consent form together with a request for a settlement conference to be listed on a date prior to the final hearing date.

### Other points

1. Please do not give any directions for any party to file and serve position statements or case summaries specifically for a settlement conference. This defeats the purpose.
2. You may wish to consider directions appointing the children's solicitor in public law cases as settlement conference co-ordinator in cases where there are unrepresented parties such as potential special guardians, so that everyone attending has all the information they need in advance of the conference
3. Please do not refer to settlement conferences as "hearings"