**Chapter 27: Private Children Law Procedure**

* Chapter 27 confirms that the Family Court (Composition and Distribution of Business) (Amendment) Rules 2021, SI 2021/505 (SI 2021/505) came into force on 24 May 2021. SI 2021/505 amends the Family Court (Composition and Distribution of Business) Rules 2014, SI 2014/840.
* Also contains information regarding the recently published CAFCASS Domestic Abuse Learning and Improvement Plan.

**27.5.7 Gatekeeping and Allocation**

An application will be considered by gatekeepers (usually a nominated legal adviser and/or district judge) who will allocate it according to the principles found in the Allocation and Gatekeeping for Proceedings under Part II of the Children Act 1989 (Private Law Proceedings) and the Family Court (Composition and Distribution of Business) Rules 2014, amended by the Family Court (Composition and Distribution of Business) (Amendment) Rules 2021, which came into force on 24 May 2021 together with the Allocation Schedule. The gatekeepers will consider:

* the need to make the most efficient and effective use of the local judicial resources that is appropriate, given the nature and type of application;
* the need to avoid delay;
* the need for judicial continuity;
* the location of the parties/any relevant child;
* complexity.

**27.6 Allegations of Harm**

CAFCASS has recently published a Domestic Abuse Learning and Improvement Plan. This plan was developed by CAFCASS’ Learning and Improvement Board which was established in September 2020. Its aim is to improve CAFCASS’ work with children and families who have experienced domestic abuse.