

COURT OF SESSION

PRACTICE NOTE

No. 1 of 2011

Reporters in Family Proceedings

Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007

1. In terms of rule 49.20 (RCS) the court has the discretion to appoint a reporter (usually an officer of the court) to obtain the views of a child in family proceedings; this can be facilitated by the reporter meeting with the child alone.
2. In terms of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007, the relevant provisions of which are now in force, an individual to whom section 92 (1) applies is barred from undertaking this type of work (a “barred individual”).
3. Where a person is contacted by a clerk of court for the purpose of ascertaining whether that person is available to accept appointment as a reporter, he or she must, if a barred individual, inform the clerk accordingly.
4. It is not expected that any person whom the court is minded to appoint will be a barred individual but, in the unlikely event that that should occur, that person must take the steps indicated in paragraph 3 above.

A. C. HAMILTON

Lord President

Edinburgh

2 March 2011