

Changes to Family Court Rules 2002 – effective 1 September 2017

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On 1 September 2017, a number of changes to the Family Court Rules 2002 came into effect. The key changes are:

- Lawyers will be able to accept service of documents by any electronic means
- Persons authorised by the Secretary for Justice, an officer or employee of a corporation authorised by the secretary, or a Police employee authorised by the Commissioner of Police will also be able to accept service of documents
- A new example of substituted service has been added permitting a document to be brought to the notice of a person to be served using social media
- Service on a party who does not have a lawyer may be effected by sending the order or judgment to the party's last known electronic address
- Judges will be able to authenticate electronic documents
- A social worker is no longer able to be a party to a proceeding under the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 in their capacity as a social worker
- A proceeding on the without notice track will be able to be classified as a complex case so that it may be individually managed and a case management conference may be convened
- Following the making of an interim order on the without notice track, a judge may transfer a case to the standard track
- A judge may direct parties to attend family dispute resolution while a case is on the without notice track