

CDS Direct – Own Solicitor Notification of a Client’s Court Appearance Process Amendment (13 Oct 08)

From 21st April 2008, CDS Direct has provided advice for all telephone advice only matters – i.e. where a detainee has requested the duty or their own solicitor.

If the client requests that their own solicitor be notified to represent them in court, CDS Direct will notify the firm.

Original process

Under the original process, CDS Direct would notify the requested firm by fax with details of the court date/ time. In addition, where the court hearing was imminent and the client remained in custody, CDS Direct would also try and contact the firm by telephone using a number in the public domain.

Following feedback from firms and discussions with the Professional Bodies the process has been amended to ensure that as many firms as possible can be notified by telephone in these circumstances.

New process

If CDS Direct have been unable to speak to a firm in the above cases, they will refer the matter to the DSCC. The DSCC will then contact the own solicitor using the appropriate number they hold for that solicitor at that particular time.

This referral between CDS Direct and DSCC is currently a manual one but will be replaced by an electronic referral by the end of October 2008.

This new process has been trialled since the 24th July 2008 and will now be retained following successful evaluation. It ensures that firms will be contacted by telephone in addition to receiving a paper fax record.

If you have any queries about this or other CDS Direct procedures, please contact us on: solicitor.cdsfeedback@legalservices.gov.uk