

# NOTICE

ORDERS FOR JOINT SETTLEMENT MEETINGS  
IN PERSONAL INJURY ACTIONS WHERE THE CLAIM IS OVER £100,000.

MANCHESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY AND MANCHESTER COUNTY COURT

From 1<sup>st</sup> May 2004 in any case claiming damages for personal injury where the claim is for over £100,000 and the case is proceeding in the Manchester District Registry or Manchester County Court, Joint Settlement Meetings are to be encouraged and the above courts will be piloting a co-ordinated approach described below.

The parties should consider at an early stage whether a joint meeting between the parties to consider settlement (JSM) should take place and, if so, the appropriate timing of such a meeting. At any case management conference the court will normally ask the parties whether they have considered the above. If the parties take, or any party takes, the view that a JSM is not desirable they will probably be asked to give the reasons for that view.

At any case management conference the court will consider whether to order a JSM. If a JSM is ordered it is likely to be recommended that the Code of Best Practice drawn up by the Northern Circuit Working Party on Joint Meetings (“the Code”) should be followed. A standard form of draft order will be available and will be added to the Variable Standard Paragraph Directions now used in the Manchester District Registry and the Manchester County Court. The JSM itself is a confidential process.

Data is to be collected from the pilot scheme. Such data may provide guidance for the future use of JSMs by other courts. As a result parties will be required to return an Outcome Monitoring Report to the court after the JSM has taken place (or if no JSM takes place as ordered, after the date by which it was ordered to take place).

Copies of the Report of the Northern Circuit Working Party, the Code of Best Practice, the Outcome Monitoring Report and the variable direction will be available on the Northern Circuit website which is [www.northerncircuit.org.uk](http://www.northerncircuit.org.uk)

The Honourable Mr. Justice Leveson  
Presiding Judge of the Northern Circuit.

16<sup>th</sup> February 2004.