

LSA Circular 05/22

14 February 2022

Dear Practitioner,

Introduction of a General Authority Pilot for the Deployment of Mediators in Legally Aided Non-Family Intra-Litigation Civil Proceedings

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This circular announces the introduction of a General Authority (GA) for the use of mediation to be funded for legally aided parties in non-family civil cases. Details of the [General Authority](#) are available on the '[Legislation and Guidance](#)' page of the Legal Services Agency NI (LSANI) website.
- 1.2 The GA was originally the subject of a Department of Justice consultation exercise in July 2021.
- 1.3 The GA applies to new work undertaken by mediators in legally aided non-family intra-litigation civil proceedings from 14 February 2022.

2. Submitting requests for Payment

- 2.1 LSANI have produced guidance to support practitioners who avail of the General Authority pilot. This [Guidance](#) is available within the '[Legislation and Guidance](#)' page of the Agency's website.
- 2.2 Practitioners should ensure that they submit the correct requests on LAMS and that they use the correct expense descriptors when utilising the General Authority pilot. Any requests incorrectly submitted will be withdrawn and practitioners will need to submit a fresh request.

3. Evaluation

- 3.1 To evaluate the success of mediation when the GA has been applied the Department request that the completed [evaluation forms](#) be uploaded to LAMS, as supporting documents. The conduct of parties during the mediation will not be a matter for the evaluation and will remain confidential.

Yours faithfully,



Paul Andrews
Chief Executive