STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2015 No. 1414

LEGAL AID AND ADVICE, ENGLAND AND WALES

The Civil Legal Aid (Merits Criteria) (Amendment) Regulations 2015

Approved by both Houses of Parliament

Made - - - -	*23rd June 2015*
Laid before Parliament	*25th June 2015*
Coming into force in accordance with regulation 1	

The Lord Chancellor, in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 11(1)(b) and 41(1)(a) and (b) and (2)(b) of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012(**1**) ("the Act"), makes the following Regulations.

In making these Regulations, in accordance with section 11(2) to (5) of the Act, the Lord Chancellor —

(a) has considered the circumstances in which it is appropriate to make civil legal services available under Part 1 of the Act and, in particular, the extent to which the criteria ought to reflect the factors set out in section 11(3) of the Act;

(b) has sought to secure that, in cases in which more than one form of civil legal service could be provided for an individual, the individual qualifies under Part 1 of the Act for the form of service which in all the circumstances is most appropriate having regard to the criteria; and

(c) is satisfied that the criteria reflect the principle that, in many disputes, mediation and other forms of dispute resolution are more appropriate than legal proceedings.

In accordance with section 41(8) of the Act, the Lord Chancellor considers that it is desirable for these Regulations to come into force without delay for the reasons given in the statement laid before Parliament with these Regulations.

Citation and commencement

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Civil Legal Aid (Merits Criteria) (Amendment) Regulations 2015.

(**1**) 2012 c. 10. Section 42(1) provides that in Part 1 of that Act, "regulations" mean regulations made by the Lord Chancellor (except in Schedule 6 to that Act).