

## ACT OF SEDERUNT (SUMMARY CAUSE RULES) 2002 NO. 132

### CHAPTER 5 REGISTER OF SUMMARY CAUSES, SERVICE AND RETURN OF THE SUMMONS (Actions lodged on or after 4 April 2011)

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#### Register of Summary Causes

5.1. (1) The sheriff clerk shall keep a register of summary cause actions and incidental applications made in such actions, which shall be known as the Register of Summary Causes.

(2) There shall be entered in the Register of Summary Causes a note of all actions, together with a note of all minutes under rule 24.1(1) (recall of decree) and the entry for each action or minute must contain the following particulars where appropriate:-

- (a) the names, designations and addresses of the parties;
- (b) whether the parties were present or absent at any hearing, including an inspection, and the names of their representatives;
- (c) the nature of the action;
- (d) the amount of any claim;
- (e) the date of issue of the summons;
- (f) the method of service;
- (g) the return day;
- (h) the calling date;
- (i) whether a form of response was lodged and details of it;
- (j) the period of notice if shortened or extended in accordance with rule 4.5(3);
- (k) details of any minute by the pursuer regarding an application for a time to pay direction or time order, or minute by the pursuer requesting decree or other order;
- (l) details of any interlocutors issued;
- (m) details of the final decree and the date of it; and
- (n) details of any variation or recall of a decree.

- (3) There shall be entered in the Register of Summary Causes in the entry for the action to which they relate details of incidental applications including, where appropriate-
  - (a) whether parties are present or absent at the hearing of the application, and the names of their representatives;
  - (b) the nature of the application; and
  - (c) the interlocutor issued or order made.
- (4) The Register of Summary Causes must be-
  - (a) authenticated in some appropriate manner by the sheriff in respect of each day any order is made or application determined in an action; and
  - (b) open for inspection during normal business hours to all concerned without fee.
- (5) The Register of Summary Causes may be kept in electronic or documentary form.

### **Persons carrying on business under trading or descriptive name**

- 5.2.** (1) A person carrying on a business under a trading or descriptive name may sue or be sued in such trading or descriptive name alone.
- (2) An extract of-
- (a) a decree pronounced in an action; or
  - (b) a decree proceeding upon any deed, decree arbitral, bond, protest of a bill, promissory note or banker's note or upon any other obligation or document on which execution may proceed, recorded in the sheriff court books,
- against such person under such trading or descriptive name shall be a valid warrant for diligence against such person.
- (3) A summons, decree, charge or other document following upon such summons or decree in an action in which a person carrying on business under a trading or descriptive name sues or is sued in that name may be served-
- (a) at any place of business or office at which such business is carried on within the sheriffdom of the sheriff court in which the action is brought; or
  - (b) if there is no place of business within that sheriffdom, at any place where such business is carried on (including the place of business or office of the clerk or secretary of any company, corporation or association or firm).

### **Form of service and certificate thereof**

- 5.3.** (1) Subject to rule 5.5 (service where address of defender is unknown), a form of service in Form 11 must be enclosed with the defender's copy summons.
- (2) After service has been effected a certificate of execution of service in Form 12 must be prepared and signed by the person effecting service.
- (3) When service is by a sheriff officer, the certificate of execution of service must-
- (a) be signed by him; and

- (b) specify whether the service was personal or, if otherwise, the mode of service and the name of any person to whom the defender's copy summons was delivered.
- (4) If service is effected in accordance with rule 5.4(2), the certificate must also contain a statement of-
  - (a) the mode of service previously attempted; and
  - (b) the circumstances which prevented such service from being effected.

### **Service within Scotland by sheriff officer**

- 5.4.** (1) A sheriff officer may validly serve any summons, decree, charge or other document following upon such summons or decree issued in an action by-
- (a) personal service; or
  - (b) leaving it in the hands of-
    - (i) a resident at the person's dwelling place; or
    - (ii) an employee at the person's place of business.
- (2) If a sheriff officer has been unsuccessful in effecting service in accordance with paragraph (1), he may, after making diligent inquiries, serve the document-
- (a) by depositing it in the person's dwelling place or place of business by means of a letter box or by other lawful means; or
  - (b) by leaving it at that person's dwelling place or place of business in such a way that it is likely to come to the attention of that person.
- (3) Subject to the requirements of rule 6.1 (service of schedule of arrestment), if service is effected in accordance with paragraph (2), the sheriff officer must thereafter send by ordinary post to the address at which he thinks it most likely that the person may be found a letter containing a copy of the document.
- (4) In proceedings in or following on an action, it shall be necessary for any sheriff officer to be accompanied by a witness except where service, citation or intimation is to be made by post.
- (5) Where the firm which employs the sheriff officer has in its possession-
- (a) the document or a copy of it certified as correct by the pursuer's solicitor, the sheriff officer may serve the document upon the defender without having the document or certified copy in his possession (in which case he shall if required to do so by the person on whom service is executed and within a reasonable time of being so required, show the document or certified copy to the person); or
  - (b) a certified copy of the interlocutor pronounced allowing service of the document, the sheriff officer may serve the document without having in his possession the certified copy interlocutor if he has in his possession a facsimile copy of the certified copy interlocutor (which he shall show, if required, to the person on whom service is executed).
- (6) Where service is executed under paragraphs (1)(b) or (2), the document and the citation or notice of intimation, as the case may be, must be placed in an envelope bearing the notice "This envelope contains a citation

to or intimation from (*insert name of sheriff court*)" and sealed by the sheriff officer.

### **Service on persons whose address is unknown**

**5.5.** (A1) Subject to Rule 6.A7 this rule applies to service where the address of a person is not known.

- (1) If the defender's address is unknown to the pursuer and cannot reasonably be ascertained by him, the sheriff may grant warrant to serve the summons-
  - (a) by the publication of an advertisement in Form 13 in a newspaper circulating in the area of the defender's last known address;  
or
  - (b) by displaying on the walls of court a notice in Form 14.
- (2) Where a summons is served in accordance with paragraph (1), the period of notice, which must be fixed by the sheriff, shall run from the date of publication of the advertisement or display on the walls of court, as the case may be.
- (3) If service is to be effected under paragraph (1), the pursuer must lodge a service copy of the summons with the sheriff clerk.
- (4) The defender may uplift from the sheriff clerk the service copy of the summons lodged in accordance with paragraph (3).
- (5) If display on the walls of court is required under paragraph (1)(b), the pursuer must supply to the sheriff clerk for that purpose a completed copy of Form 14.
- (6) In every case where advertisement in a newspaper is required for the purpose of service, a copy of the newspaper containing said advertisement must be lodged with the sheriff clerk.
- (7) If service has been made under this rule and thereafter the defender's address becomes known, the sheriff may allow the summons to be amended and, if appropriate, grant warrant for re-service subject to such conditions as he thinks fit.

### **Service by post**

- 5.6.** (1) If it is competent to serve or intimate any document or to cite any person by recorded delivery, such service, intimation or citation, must be made by the first class recorded delivery service.
- (2) On the face of the envelope used for postal service under this rule, there must be written or printed a notice in Form 15.
- (3) The certificate of execution of postal service must have annexed to it any relevant postal receipt.

### **Service on persons outwith Scotland**

- 5.7.** (1) If any summons, decree, charge or other document following upon such summons or decree, or any charge or warrant, requires to be served outwith Scotland on any person, it must be served in accordance with this

rule.

- (2) If the person has a known home or place of business in-
  - (a) England and Wales, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man or the Channel Islands; or
  - (b) any country with which the United Kingdom does not have a convention providing for service of writs in that country,the document must be served either-
  - (i) by posting in Scotland a copy of the document in question in a registered letter addressed to the person at his residence or place of business; or
  - (ii) in accordance with the rules for personal service under the domestic law of the place in which the document is to be served.
- (3) Subject to paragraph (4), if the document requires to be served in a country which is a party to the Hague Convention on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extra-Judicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters dated 15th November 1965 or the European Convention on Jurisdiction and Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters as set out in Schedule 1 or 3C to the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982, it must be served-
  - (a) by a method prescribed by the internal law of the country where service is to be effected for the service of documents in domestic actions upon persons who are within its territory;
  - (b) by or through a British consular authority at the request of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs;
  - (c) by or through a central authority in the country where service is to be effected at the request of the Scottish Ministers;
  - (d) where the law of the country in which the person resides permits, by posting in Scotland a copy of the document in a registered letter addressed to the person at his residence; or
  - (e) where the law of the country in which service is to be effected permits, service by an *huissier*, other judicial officer or competent official of the country where service is to be made.
- (4) If the document requires to be served in a country to which the EC Service Regulation applies, service-
  - (a) may be effected by the methods prescribed in paragraph (3)(b) or (c) only in exceptional circumstances; and
  - (b) is effected only if the receiving agency has informed the person that acceptance of service may be refused on the ground that the document has not been translated in accordance with paragraph (12).
- (5) If the document requires to be served in a country with which the United Kingdom has a convention on the service of writs in that country other than the conventions specified in paragraph (3) or the regulation specified in paragraph (4), it must be served by one of the methods approved in the relevant convention.
- (6) Subject to paragraph (9), a document which requires to be posted in Scotland for the purposes of this rule must be posted by a solicitor or a sheriff officer, and the form of service and certificate of execution of service must be in Forms 11 and 12 respectively.

(7) On the face of the envelope used for postal service under this rule there must be written or printed a notice in Form 15.

(8) Where service is effected by a method specified in paragraph (3)(b) or (c), the pursuer must-

(a) send a copy of the summons and warrant for service with form of service attached, or other document, with a request for service to be effected by the method indicated in the request to the Scottish Ministers or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs; and

(b) lodge in process a certificate of execution of service signed by the authority which has effected service.

(9) If service is effected by the method specified in paragraph (3)(e), the pursuer must-

(a) send to the official in the country in which service is to be effected a copy of the summons and warrant for service, with citation attached, or other document, with a request for service to be effected by delivery to the defender or his residence; and

(b) lodge in process a certificate of execution of service by the official who has effected service.

(10) Where service is executed in accordance with paragraph (2)(b)(ii) or (3)(a) other than on another party in-

(a) the United Kingdom;

(b) the Isle of Man; or

(c) the Channel Islands,

the party executing service must lodge a certificate stating that the form of service employed is in accordance with the law of the place where the service was executed.

(11) A certificate lodged in accordance with paragraph (10) shall be given by a person who is conversant with the law of the country concerned and who-

(a) practises or has practised law in that country; or

(b) is a duly accredited representative of the government of that country.

(12) Every summons or document and every citation and notice on the face of the envelope referred to in paragraph (7) must be accompanied by a translation in

(a) an official language of the country in which service is to be executed; or

(b) in a country to which the EC Service Regulation applies, a language of the member state of transmission that is understood by the person on whom service is being executed.

(13) A translation referred to in paragraph (12) must be certified as a correct translation by the person making it and the certificate must contain the full name, address and qualifications of the translator and be lodged along with the execution of such service.

(14) In this rule "the EC Service Regulation" means Regulation (EC) No. 1393/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13th November

2007 on the service in the Member States of judicial and extrajudicial documents in civil or commercial matters (service of documents), and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No. 1348/2000, as amended from time to time.

### **Endorsation by sheriff clerk of defender's residence not necessary**

**5.8.** Any summons, decree, charge or other document following upon a summons or decree may be served, enforced or otherwise lawfully executed in Scotland without endorsation by a sheriff clerk and, if executed by a sheriff officer, may be so executed by a sheriff officer of the court which granted the summons, or by a sheriff officer of the sheriff court district in which it is to be executed.

### **Contents of envelope containing defender's copy summons**

**5.9.** Nothing must be included in the envelope containing a defender's copy summons except-

- (a) the copy summons;
- (b) a response or other notice in accordance with these Rules; and
- (c) any other document approved by the sheriff principal.

### **Re-service**

**5.10.** (1) If it appears to the sheriff that there has been any failure or irregularity in service upon a defender, the sheriff may order the pursuer to re-serve the summons on such conditions as he thinks fit.

(2) If re-service has been ordered in accordance with paragraph (1) or rule 5.5(7) the action shall proceed thereafter as if it were a new action.

### **Defender appearing barred from objecting to service**

**5.11.** (1) A person who appears in an action shall not be entitled to state any objection to the regularity of the execution of service or intimation on him and his appearance shall remedy any defect in such service or intimation.

(2) Nothing in paragraph (1) shall preclude a party pleading that the court has no jurisdiction.

### **Return of summons**

**5.12.** (1) If any appearance in court is required on the calling date in respect of any party-

- (a) the summons; and
- (b) the relevant certificate of execution of service,

shall be returned to the sheriff clerk not later than two days before the calling date.

(2) If no appearance by any party is required on the calling date, only the certificate of execution of service need be returned to the sheriff clerk, not later than two days before the calling date.

(3) If the pursuer fails to proceed in accordance with paragraph (1) or (2) as appropriate, the sheriff may dismiss the action.

