

CHAPTER 12A

LAY SUPPORT FOR PARTY LITIGANTS

Lay Support

12.A.1.—(1) At any time during proceedings a party litigant may apply to the court for permission to have a named individual assist the litigant in the conduct of the proceedings by sitting beside or behind (as the litigant chooses) the litigant at hearings in court or in chambers and doing such of the following for the litigant as he or she requires—

- (a) providing moral support;
- (b) helping to manage the court documents and other papers;
- (c) taking notes of the proceedings;
- (d) quietly advising on—
 - (i) points of law and procedure;
 - (ii) issues which the litigant might wish to raise with the court;
 - (iii) questions which the litigant might wish to ask the witness.

(2) It is a condition of such permission that the named individual does not receive from the litigant, whether directly or indirectly, any remuneration for his or her assistance.

(3) The court may refuse an application under paragraph (1) only if—

- (a) it is of the opinion that the named individual is an unsuitable person to act in that capacity (whether generally or in the proceedings concerned); or
- (b) it is of the opinion that it would be contrary to the efficient administration of justice to grant it.

(4) An application under paragraph (1) is to be made by motion and accompanied by a document, signed by the litigant and the named individual, in Form 12.A-A.

(5) Permission granted under paragraph (1) endures until the proceedings finish or it is withdrawn under paragraph (6); but it is not effective during any period when the litigant is represented.

(6) The court may, of its own accord or on the motion of a party to the proceedings, withdraw permission granted under paragraph (1); but it must first be of the opinion that it would be contrary to the efficient administration of justice for the permission to continue.

(7) Where permission has been granted under paragraph (1), the litigant may—

- (a) show the named individual any document (including a court document); or
- (b) impart to the named individual any information, which is in his or her possession in connection with the proceedings without being taken to contravene any prohibition or restriction on the disclosure of the document or the information; but the named individual is then to be taken to be subject to any such prohibition or restriction as if he or she were the litigant.

(8) Any expenses incurred by the litigant as a result of the support of an individual under paragraph (1) are not recoverable expenses in the proceedings.