

London or to the prescribed officers in the District Registries.

25. A person desirous of being so admitted as a poor person shall make an application in the form set forth in the Appendix hereto (which may be cited as Form No. 1 J of Appendix K to the Rules of the Supreme Court, 1883), stating his means and the names of the parties or of any proposed parties to such proceedings and the nature of the applicant's case, and giving the names and addresses of two persons to whom reference can be made.

Such application shall be made:—

- (a) in matters proceeding or intended to proceed in London to the prescribed officer in London;
- (b) in matters proceeding or intended to proceed in a District Registry to the District Registrar.

26. The application shall be referred for enquiry to one or more solicitors or counsel willing to act in the matter, whether named in the list to be kept pursuant to Rule 24 (1) or not, who shall report to the Court through the prescribed officer whether and upon what terms the applicant ought to be admitted as a poor person. For the purpose of their report the reporters may make such enquiries as they think fit as to the means and the position of the applicant and as to the merits of the case, and may require the attendance of the applicant, and shall, where possible, personally see the applicant, and may hear any other person, and may require facts to be proved by affidavit or statutory declaration, and in making their report they shall have regard to the probable cost of the litigation in relation to the matter in dispute, and shall state that they have personally interviewed the applicant, or shall give their reasons for not having done so. The report and any documents or information obtained for the purposes of the report shall be treated as confidential, and shall not be shown or disclosed to the parties or either of them, nor (except to such extent and upon such conditions as may be directed by the prescribed officer) shall such report or any of the said documents or information be shown or disclosed to any counsel or any solicitor for either of the parties. In matrimonial causes the report shall be open to inspection by the King's Proctor.

27. In matrimonial causes the applicant shall be required by the reporter to swear an affidavit [make a statutory declaration] in accordance with form No. 1 J (1), being the second form set forth in the Appendix hereto (which may be cited as Form No. 1 J (1) of Appendix K to the Rules of the Supreme Court, 1883).

Form No. 1 J (1) shall be forwarded to the reporter by the prescribed officer when sending the papers to him for report. The reporter shall have power to administer the oath for this purpose, and no fee shall be charged for taking such oath.

28. Upon the production of the report mentioned in Rule 26 the Court or Judge may, in their or his discretion, and upon such terms, if any, as the Court or Judge may think fit,

make an order admitting the applicant to take or defend or be a party to legal proceedings as a poor person, and the prescribed officer shall assign to the applicant a solicitor and counsel willing to act in the matter (whether named in the list kept pursuant to Rule 24 (2) or not) to assist him in the conduct of the proceedings. The prescribed officer may also assign to the applicant a solicitor or solicitors in London or elsewhere willing to act as agent for or to assist the first-named solicitor, and he may also assign additional counsel who may be willing to assist the poor person. No solicitor or counsel who shall have reported on the case shall be so assigned, nor shall any co-partner or clerk or employee of a solicitor who shall have so reported be so assigned. No such solicitor or counsel and no such co-partner or clerk or employee shall act for any other party to the litigation.

29. No person who is outside the jurisdiction of the Court shall be admitted to take or defend or be a party to any legal proceedings as a poor person without the direction of a Judge in person.

30. The Court or a Judge, in considering whether a person shall be admitted as a poor person under these Rules, shall have regard to such statutory provisions as confer on Inferior Courts concurrent jurisdiction with the High Court, and especially to the provisions of section 1 and section 2 of the County Courts Act, 1919.

31. The Court or a Judge may at any time (and whether or not any application be made by any person for such purpose) discharge any order made under these Rules whereby a person has been admitted to take or defend or be a party to any legal proceedings as a poor person.

31A. There shall be no appeal against an order refusing to admit a person to take or defend or be a party to any legal proceedings as a poor person without leave of the Court or a Judge.

31B. (1) No person admitted to take or defend or be a party to any legal proceedings as a poor person, nor any solicitor or counsel assigned to such poor person under these Rules shall discontinue, settle or compromise such proceedings without the leave of the Court or a Judge.

(2) It shall not be lawful for any person admitted to take or defend or be a party to any legal proceedings as a poor person to discharge any solicitor or counsel assigned under Rule 28 without leave of the Court or a Judge.

(3) A solicitor or counsel assigned under Rule 28 shall not be at liberty to discontinue his assistance unless he satisfies the prescribed officer or the Court or a Judge that he has some reasonable ground for so discontinuing.

31c. Every solicitor assigned under Rule 28 (hereinafter referred to as the conducting solicitor) shall send a report annually to the prescribed officer in the prescribed form showing the progress and result of all cases assigned to him for conduct.

31d. Should the conducting solicitor discover at any time that the applicant is possessed of means beyond those disclosed by him to the reporter he shall report the matter at once to the prescribed officer.

31e. When a person is applying or is admitted to take or defend or be a party to any