SCOTTISH STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2026 No. 246

SHERIFF COURT

Act of Sederunt (Ordinary Cause Rules 1993 Amendment) (Judgments) 2026

Made - - - -	*26th August 2026*
Laid before the Scottish Parliament	*28th August 2026*
Coming into force	*30th September 2026*

In accordance with section 4 of the Scottish Civil Justice Council and Criminal Legal Assistance Act 2013(**a**), the Court of Session has approved draft rules submitted to it by the Scottish Civil Justice Council.

The Court of Session therefore makes this Act of Sederunt under the powers conferred by section 104(1) of the Courts Reform (Scotland) Act 2014(**b**) and all other powers enabling it to do so.

Citation and commencement, etc.

1.—(1) This Act of Sederunt may be cited as the Act of Sederunt (Ordinary Cause Rules 1993 Amendment) (Judgments) 2026.

(2) It comes into force on 30th September 2026.

(3) A certified copy is to be inserted in the Books of Sederunt.

Amendment of the Ordinary Cause Rules 1993

2.—(1) Chapter 12 (interlocutors)(**c**) of the Ordinary Cause Rules 1993 is amended in accordance with this paragraph.

(2) In each place where it occurs for "extempore" substitute "ex tempore".

(3) In rule 12.3(3) (ex tempore judgments) and 12.4(2)(b) (reserved judgments), after "note" insert "in Form O7ZA (form of judgment)".

(**a**) 2013 asp 3. Section 4 was amended by the Courts Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 18), schedule 5, paragraph 31(3) and by the Inquiries into Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths etc. (Scotland) Act 2016 (asp 2), schedule 1, paragraph 1(4).

(**b**) 2014 asp 18.

(**c**) Chapter 12 was amended by S.S.I. 2012/188. The Ordinary Cause Rules 1993 are in schedule 1 of the Sheriff Courts (Scotland) Act 1907 (c. 51). Schedule 1 was substituted by S.I. 1993/1956 and last amended by S.S.I. 2025/80.

(4) In Appendix 1 (forms)(**a**), after Form O7 (form of notice of intention to defend)(**b**) insert the form O7ZA (form of judgment) as set out in the schedule of this Act of Sederunt.

PAUL CULLEN
Lord President
I.P.D.

Edinburgh
26th August 2026

(**a**) Appendix 1 was substituted by S.I. 1993/1956 and last amended by S.S.I. 2025/80.
(**b**) Form O7 was amended by S.S.I. 2000/239.

SCHEDULE

Paragraph 2(4)

Rules 12.3(3) and 12.4(2)(b) **Form O7ZA**

Form of judgment

NOTE

SHERIFFDOM OF [*insert name of sheriffdom*] AT [*insert place of sheriff court*]

[*Citation*]

[*Court ref. no.*]

JUDGMENT OF SHERIFF [*name*]

in the cause

[*PURSUER'S DESIGNATION*]

Pursuer

against

[*DEFENDER'S DESIGNATION*]

Defender

Pursuer: [*Counsel*]; [*Solicitors*]

Defender: [*Counsel*]; [*Solicitors*]

[*Date of Issue*]

Introduction

(*A brief introduction, in numbered paragraphs, including the following information*:-

The nature of the case;

The parties involved;

The issue(s) to be decided;

Where appropriate, an overview of the route to be taken to decide the issue(s).)

Background

(*Set out briefly the background that has led to the dispute between the parties including any procedural history.*)

Summary of the Disputed Evidence

(*Set out a summary of relevant evidence led, to the extent it is necessary.*)

Findings in Fact

(*Set out findings in fact as established by the evidence led from the parties.*)

Findings in Fact and Law

(*Set out findings in fact and law as established by the evidence led from the parties.*)

Decision

(*Set out to the extent required to resolve the dispute:-*

The analysis of the evidence;

Assessment of credibility and reliability of witnesses;

Explanation of the application of the law to the facts found established.)

Interlocutor (Order of the Court)

(*State the terms of the sheriff's interlocutor.*)

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Act of Sederunt)

This Act of Sederunt amends Chapter 12 (interlocutors) of the Ordinary Cause Rules 1993 to make provision for the form of a note required under rules 12.3 or 12.4.

Paragraph 2(2) amends the spelling of "extempore" to "ex tempore" wherever it appears in Chapter 12.

Paragraph 2(3) amends rules 12.3 and 12.4 to require the use of new Form O7ZA (form of judgment) when the sheriff issues an ex tempore or reserved judgment.

Paragraph 2(4) prescribes new Form O7ZA.

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£6.40

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/ssi/2026/246

ISBN 978-0-11-106673-7

