

A Day in the Life of a HMCTS Bailiff

Most mornings involve preparing various tasks in an office environment, or remotely, to effectively execute warrants and effect the service of court orders on behalf of judgement creditors. As a County Court Bailiff, I start each day by making sure I have all the necessary paperwork and equipment with me to effectively target judgement debtors and defaulters, or effect the service of other court orders/documents required throughout the day.

I check activate my lone worker device, make sure my phone is charged and I have all the personal protective equipment (PPE) I need, such as heavy boots, body armour and identifiable HMCTS jacket. During the pandemic I have extra PPE to make sure I am carrying: face masks, goggles and hand sanitiser.

Sometimes I start at 7:30am, and finish early and sometimes I do a split day where I have a longer lunch break but then work later into the evening to maximise my effectiveness in finding people at home before or after they leave for work.

The day then usually revolves around various other tasks and orders, these can include evictions/repossessions of property on behalf of landlords, housing associations and/or mortgage lenders, removal of travellers from illegal encampments or trespass on private land and less commonly, committals to prison. In the main, I deal with the execution of Warrants of Control which may include levying on, or even removing goods and the service of Personal Court Orders on behalf of judgement claimants. Repossessions and the execution/service of County Court Judgements and court orders are the most common work for a County Court Bailiff, however, there will be occasions where bailiff service has been granted by a judge and it is our responsibility to then effect service of the following:

- Divorce petitions
- Non-Molestation orders
- Foreign Court papers
- Notices of Eviction/Repossession
- Child/Family orders

Days and times of activities can vary upon client instruction requirement or request: for example, if a business doesn't open until 9 am to attend before it is open logically would make no sense, therefore planning and preparation is key to the successful execution of a task.

Daily enforcement duties can be very demanding. Debtors are not usually very pleased to have a bailiff seeking to make them pay or do something they have been avoiding or evading.

Occasionally judgement debtors can become violent towards the bailiff and the enforcement process. In such instances the Police, who have a duty to protect a bailiff in the course of their duty, are called and more often than not the situation is de-escalated and the matter resolved, resulting in successful enforcement being completed.

Online Event

Join our online event on Wednesday 9 June 2021 at 13.15 to hear more about the role of Bailiff in HMCTS and have the opportunity to ask any questions regarding the role itself or the application process. Bailiff Managers will form part of our panel on the day.

Register in advance for the event at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hmcts-bailiff-recruitment-tickets-156629618405>