

NOTICEBOARD

Supreme Court of the Northern Territory Practice Direction No 1 of 2000: Criminal trials

With a view to ensuring the orderly and expeditious discharge of the business of the court by increasing the opportunity for judicial management of the preparation for criminal trials, it is directed that:

- once a trial date has been allocated the Sheriff will notify the Judge before whom the trial is to take place;
- the Judge may call the parties together at any time upon reasonable notice and conduct a conference at which the parties attend in person or by telephone or video link, for any purpose connected with the conduct of the trial;
- the parties shall attend at that conference and the Judge may make such orders as the Judge thinks fit in relation to disposing of applications to trial and in the conduct of the trial;
- parties means the Director of Public Prosecutions, the legal representative of the accused, or if unrepresented, the accused.
- this Practice Direction applies as well to all cases presently set down for trial.

Federal courts and tribunals biennial fees increase

Pursuant to various regulations, the fees payable in federal courts and tribunals will increase from 1 July 2000.

The Attorney General's Department will publish a notice in the *Government Notices Gazette* setting out the new fees payable.

Copyright Issues

The Copyright Agency Limited will present a free seminar on the recent changes in the Copyright Act.

The seminar will be held on Friday 2 June at the Atrium Novotel, Darwin Law isn. Contact info@copyright.com.au or telephone 02 9394 7600

Supreme Court of the Northern Territory Practice Direction No 2 of 2000: Criminal trials as backups to civil trials in Alice Springs

With a view to ensuring the orderly and expeditious discharge of the business of the court in an attempt to make use of court time which might otherwise be lost when civil trials in Alice Springs do not proceed, and there being no other civil trial to fill the time made available, the following procedure has been agreed upon by interested parties and is directed to be implemented as from 1 May 2000.

- a callover of all civil and criminal matter in the list for hearing at Alice Springs will take place at or near the end of each criminal sitting in Alice Springs by the Judge then present;
- before the callover the Director of Public Prosecutions and representatives of the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service and the Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission will seek to identify criminal trials suitable to be listed as backups for the civil sittings to commence not less than seven weeks from that date;
- the presiding Judge will list any suitable criminal trial as a backup to a civil trial, but not for the first week of the civil sittings. It is anticipated that Justices Appeals and pleas will be listed during the first week, and if time is available, elsewhere during the sittings as time permits.
- approximately one week before the commencement of the civil sittings the Judge who is to preside will conduct a conference by video link in which the calendar for the sittings will be reviewed and the backups confirmed or vacated as appropriate.

Supreme Court of the Northern Territory Practice Direction No 3 of 2000: General rules of procedure in criminal proceedings — pre-trial conference

With a view to ensuring the orderly and expeditious discharge of the business of the court, and to minimise cost and inconvenience in relation to the conduct of a pre-trial conference, it is directed that:

- the Director of Public Prosecutions and the accused's legal representative, or, if the accused is unrepresented, the accused shall, not less than 24 hours prior to the time fixed for the pre-trial conference, deliver to the criminal registrar who is to conduct the conference, by leaving it at the criminal registrar's office or by post or facsimile transmission, a document in the form of Schedule 2 to the Rules, upon which answers to the questions have been written;
- the form shall be signed by the Director or the accused's legal representative or the accused as the case may be;
- a copy of the completed and signed form shall also be delivered to the other party in person or by post or facsimile transmission prior to the time fixed for the pre-trial conference;
- forms for this purpose will be available from all criminal registrars. The Director and legal representatives may make copies for their purposes, but for the sake of consistency, a copy must be made of the form provided;
- any notice required to be given by the Director under r81A.16(2)(c) shall be in writing, signed by the Director and delivered to the criminal registrar with the Schedule 2 form.