

HIGH COURT

OF

RIVERS STATE

PRACTICE DIRECTIONS

NO. 2 OF 2013

HIGH COURT OF RIVERS STATE PRACTICE DIRECTIONS 2013

These practice directions are made pursuant to section 274 of the Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999.

1. APPLICABILITY

- (a) The practice directions shall, save to the extent and as may otherwise be ordered by the Honourable the Chief Judge, apply to all cases before the High Court.
- (b) In respect of causes and matters already pending, the practice directions shall apply to every further step to be taken in respect of such causes and matters.

2. OBJECTIVES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- a. The purpose of these practice directions is to establish a system of case management that will provide for the fair, impartial, speedy and efficient administration of justice in criminal and civil cases. The directions made under these practice directions shall be construed and applied to eliminate unnecessary delay and expense for all parties involved in the justice system.
- b. The directions made under these practice directions shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to both criminal and civil cases and to the extent possible:
 - i. Ensure that at trials the parties focus on matters which are genuinely in issue;
 - ii. Minimize the time spent at trials dealing with interlocutory matters;
 - iii. Ensure that out of court settlement is explored before parties go into hearing;
 - iv. Ensure that hearings are not stalled by unpreparedness of the court, the parties or their counsel and that the case is fully ready for trial before hearing dates are fixed;
 - v. Minimize undue adjournment and delay.

