

**SUPREME COURT OF THE
NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA**

**PRACTICE DIRECTION
No 1 of 2022**

CRIMINAL CALL-OVER REFORMS

1. The procedures for the allocation of trial dates in Practice Direction No 3 of 2016 will be subject to the following requirements and procedures for an initial period of 12 months from the date of this Practice Direction.
2. Where the accused is unable to indicate that the matter is to proceed by way of guilty plea, the matter will not be allocated trial dates until:
 - (a) an indictment has been filed;
 - (b) the matter has been allocated to the counsel who are briefed to conduct the trial both for the Crown and the accused;
 - (c) counsel briefed for the Crown has conducted a conference with the complainant or principal witness(es) as the case may be;
 - (d) counsel briefed for the accused has conducted a conference with the accused; and
 - (e) counsel briefed for the Crown and the accused have conferred directly to determine whether the matter is capable of resolution other than by way of trial.
3. In circumstances where the representatives of the Crown and the accused have not attended to those requirements by the time of the first appearance at the Criminal Call-over, the matter will be adjourned to a subsequent Criminal Call-over to allow those requirements to be met.
4. In the charge of a 'sexual offence' within the meaning of the *Sexual Offences (Evidence and Procedure) Act 1983* (NT), either party may make application at the Criminal Call-over for a pre-record of the complainant's evidence, or a *voir dire* on admissibility, which in an appropriate case may be listed before substantive trial dates are allocated.

Dated: 1 July 2022

**Hon Michael Grant
Chief Justice**