

**30. Practice direction No 3 of 2005 - Sexual Assault Matters**

1. After committal, when a defendant first appears before the arraignment judge, the defendant should be arraigned. At this time the Sheriff will advise the judge of the first available plea or trial date, or date for recording the complainant's evidence, and the date will be allocated by the judge. The trial judge will then supervise the case management and list the matter for a pre-trial hearing.

If the matter is not ready to proceed to arraignment on the first arraignment date, an arraignment date will be set before a judge. If reasonably possible the new arraignment date will be within 14 days.

2. The first arraignment judge will be advised in writing on the arraignment list if an extension order under s 3A(4) of the *Sexual Offences (Evidence and Procedure) Act* is required.
3. The Deputy Sheriff is to maintain the Court calendar with any matters that require a further extension and will draw that requirement to the attention of the trial judge or the judge on arraignment.
4. Upon confirmation of a trial listing, associates are required to list a pre-trial hearing within 28 days to commence case management. The associate is required to notify the judge that an extension order may be required.

1 July 2005