
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2005 No. 384

The Criminal Procedure Rules 2005

PART 3

CASE MANAGEMENT

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The scope of this Part

3.1. This Part applies to the management of each case in a magistrates' court and in the Crown Court (including an appeal to the Crown Court) until the conclusion of that case.

[Note. Rules that apply to procedure in the Court of Appeal are in Parts 65 to 73 of these Rules.]

The duty of the court

3.2.—(1) The court must further the overriding objective by actively managing the case.

(2) Active case management includes—

- (a) the early identification of the real issues;
- (b) the early identification of the needs of witnesses;
- (c) achieving certainty as to what must be done, by whom, and when, in particular by the early setting of a timetable for the progress of the case;
- (d) monitoring the progress of the case and compliance with directions;

- (e) ensuring that evidence, whether disputed or not, is presented in the shortest and clearest way;
 - (f) discouraging delay, dealing with as many aspects of the case as possible on the same occasion, and avoiding unnecessary hearings;
 - (g) encouraging the participants to co-operate in the progression of the case; and
 - (h) making use of technology.
- (3) The court must actively manage the case by giving any direction appropriate to the needs of that case as early as possible.

The duty of the parties

3.3. Each party must—

- (a) actively assist the court in fulfilling its duty under rule 3.2, without or if necessary with a direction; and
- (b) apply for a direction if needed to further the overriding objective.

Case progression officers and their duties

3.4.—(1) At the beginning of the case each party must, unless the court otherwise directs—

- (a) nominate an individual responsible for progressing that case; and
- (b) tell other parties and the court who he is and how to contact him.

(2) In fulfilling its duty under rule 3.2, the court must where appropriate—

- (a) nominate a court officer responsible for progressing the case; and
- (b) make sure the parties know who he is and how to contact him.

(3) In this Part a person nominated under this rule is called a case progression officer.

(4) A case progression officer must—

- (a) monitor compliance with directions;
- (b) make sure that the court is kept informed of events that may affect the progress of that case;
- (c) make sure that he can be contacted promptly about the case during ordinary business hours;
- (d) act promptly and reasonably in response to communications about the case; and
- (e) if he will be unavailable, appoint a substitute to fulfil his duties and inform the other case progression officers.

The court's case management powers

3.5.—(1) In fulfilling its duty under rule 3.2 the court may give any direction and take any step actively to manage a case unless that direction or step would be inconsistent with legislation, including these Rules.

(2) In particular, the court may—

- (a) nominate a judge, magistrate, justices' clerk or assistant to a justices' clerk to manage the case;
- (b) give a direction on its own initiative or on application by a party;
- (c) ask or allow a party to propose a direction;
- (d) for the purpose of giving directions, receive applications and representations by letter, by telephone or by any other means of electronic communication, and conduct a hearing by such means;

- (e) give a direction without a hearing;
- (f) fix, postpone, bring forward, extend or cancel a hearing;
- (g) shorten or extend (even after it has expired) a time limit fixed by a direction;
- (h) require that issues in the case should be determined separately, and decide in what order they will be determined; and
- (i) specify the consequences of failing to comply with a direction.

(3) A magistrates' court may give a direction that will apply in the Crown Court if the case is to continue there.

(4) The Crown Court may give a direction that will apply in a magistrates' court if the case is to continue there.

(5) Any power to give a direction under this Part includes a power to vary or revoke that direction.

[Note. Depending upon the nature of a case and the stage that it has reached, its progress may be affected by other Criminal Procedure Rules and by other legislation. The note at the end of this Part lists other rules and legislation that may apply.]

Application to vary a direction

3.6.—(1) A party may apply to vary a direction if—

- (a) the court gave it without a hearing;
- (b) the court gave it at a hearing in his absence; or
- (c) circumstances have changed.

(2) A party who applies to vary a direction must—

- (a) apply as soon as practicable after he becomes aware of the grounds for doing so; and
- (b) give as much notice to the other parties as the nature and urgency of his application permits.

Agreement to vary a time limit fixed by a direction

3.7.—(1) The parties may agree to vary a time limit fixed by a direction, but only if—

- (a) the variation will not—
 - (i) affect the date of any hearing that has been fixed, or
 - (ii) significantly affect the progress of the case in any other way;
- (b) the court has not prohibited variation by agreement; and
- (c) the court's case progression officer is promptly informed.

(2) The court's case progression officer must refer the agreement to the court if he doubts the condition in paragraph (1)(a) is satisfied.

Case preparation and progression

3.8.—(1) At every hearing, if a case cannot be concluded there and then the court must give directions so that it can be concluded at the next hearing or as soon as possible after that.

(2) At every hearing the court must, where relevant—

- (a) if the defendant is absent, decide whether to proceed nonetheless;
- (b) take the defendant's plea (unless already done) or if no plea can be taken then find out whether the defendant is likely to plead guilty or not guilty;

- (c) set, follow or revise a timetable for the progress of the case, which may include a timetable for any hearing including the trial or (in the Crown Court) the appeal;
- (d) in giving directions, ensure continuity in relation to the court and to the parties' representatives where that is appropriate and practicable; and
- (e) where a direction has not been complied with, find out why, identify who was responsible, and take appropriate action.

Readiness for trial or appeal

3.9.—(1) This rule applies to a party's preparation for trial or (in the Crown Court) appeal, and in this rule and rule 3.10 trial includes any hearing at which evidence will be introduced.

- (2) In fulfilling his duty under rule 3.3, each party must—
 - (a) comply with directions given by the court;
 - (b) take every reasonable step to make sure his witnesses will attend when they are needed;
 - (c) make appropriate arrangements to present any written or other material; and
 - (d) promptly inform the court and the other parties of anything that may—
 - (i) affect the date or duration of the trial or appeal, or
 - (ii) significantly affect the progress of the case in any other way.
- (3) The court may require a party to give a certificate of readiness.

Conduct of a trial or an appeal

3.10. In order to manage the trial or (in the Crown Court) appeal, the court may require a party to identify—

- (a) which witnesses he intends to give oral evidence;
- (b) the order in which he intends those witnesses to give their evidence;
- (c) whether he requires an order compelling the attendance of a witness;
- (d) what arrangements, if any, he proposes to facilitate the giving of evidence by a witness;
- (e) what arrangements, if any, he proposes to facilitate the participation of any other person, including the defendant;
- (f) what written evidence he intends to introduce;
- (g) what other material, if any, he intends to make available to the court in the presentation of the case;
- (h) whether he intends to raise any point of law that could affect the conduct of the trial or appeal; and
- (i) what timetable he proposes and expects to follow.

Case management forms and records

3.11.—(1) The case management forms set out in the Practice Direction must be used, and where there is no form then no specific formality is required.

- (2) The court must make available to the parties a record of directions given.

[Note. Case management may be affected by the following other rules and legislation:

Criminal Procedure Rules

Parts 10.4 and 27.2: reminders of right to object to written evidence being read at trial

Part 12.2: time for first appearance of accused sent for trial

Part 13: dismissal of charges sent or transferred to the Crown Court

Part 14: the indictment

Part 15: preparatory hearings in serious fraud and other complex or lengthy cases

Parts 21–26: the rules that deal with disclosure

Parts 27–36: the rules that deal with evidence

Part 37: summary trial

Part 38: trial of children and young persons

Part 39: trial on indictment

Regulations

Prosecution of Offences (Custody Time Limits) Regulations 1987(1)

Criminal Justice Act 1987 (Notice of Transfer) Regulations 1988(2)

Criminal Justice Act 1991 (Notice of Transfer) Regulations 1992(3)

Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 (Defence Disclosure Time Limits) Regulations 1997(4)

Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (Service of Prosecution Evidence) Regulations 2000(5)

Provisions of Acts of Parliament

Sections 5, 10 and 18, Magistrates' Courts Act 1980(6): powers to adjourn hearings

Sections 128 and 129, Magistrates' Courts Act 1980(7): remand in custody by magistrates' courts

Part 1, Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996(8): disclosure

Schedule 2, Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996(9): use of witness statements at trial

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- (1) [S.I. 1987/299](#).
(2) [S.I. 1988/1691](#).
(3) [S.I. 1992/1670](#), amended by [S.I. 1998/461](#).
(4) [S.I. 1997/684](#).
(5) [S.I. 2000/3305](#).
(6) [1980 c. 43](#); section 5 was amended by section 59 of, and paragraph 1(a) of Schedule 9 to, the Criminal Justice Act [1982 \(c. 48\)](#) and is repealed by paragraph 51 of Schedule 3 and Part 4 of Schedule 37 to the Criminal Justice Act [2003 \(c. 44\)](#) with effect from a date to be appointed; section 18 was amended by section 59 of, and paragraph 1 of Schedule 9 to, the Criminal Justice Act [1982 \(c. 48\)](#), section 68 of, and paragraph 6 of Schedule 8 to, the Criminal Justice Act [1991 \(c. 53\)](#) and section 49 of the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act [1996 \(c. 25\)](#), and is further amended by paragraphs 1 and 4 of Schedule 3 to the Criminal Justice Act [2003 \(c. 44\)](#) with effect from a date to be appointed.
(7) Section 128 was amended by section 59 to, and paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of Schedule 9 to, the Criminal Justice Act [1982 \(c. 48\)](#), section 48 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act [1984 \(c. 60\)](#), section 170(1) of, and paragraphs 65 and 69 of Schedule 15 to, the Criminal Justice Act [1988 \(c. 33\)](#), section 125(3) of, and paragraph 25 of Schedule 18 to, the Courts and Legal Services Act [1990 \(c. 41\)](#), sections 49, 52 and 80 of, and Schedule 5 to, the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act [1996 \(c. 25\)](#) and paragraph 75 of Schedule 9 to the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act [2000 \(c. 6\)](#), and is further amended by paragraph 51 of Schedule 3 and Part 4 of Schedule 37 to the Criminal Justice Act [2003 \(c. 44\)](#) with effect from a date to be appointed; section 129 is amended by paragraph 51 of Schedule 3 to the Criminal Justice Act [2003 \(c. 44\)](#) with effect from a date to be appointed.
(8) [1996 c. 25](#).
(9) Schedule 2 was amended by section 109(1) of, and paragraph 380 of Schedule 8 to, the Courts Act [2003 \(c. 39\)](#) and is repealed by paragraph 66 of Schedule 3 and Part 4 of Schedule 37 to the Criminal Justice Act [2003 \(c. 44\)](#).

Section 2, Administration of Justice (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1933(10): procedural conditions for trial in the Crown Court

Section 6, Magistrates' Courts Act 1980(11): committal for trial

Section 4, Criminal Justice Act 1987(12): section 53, Criminal Justice Act 1991(13): section 51, Crime and Disorder Act 1998(14): other procedures by which a case reaches the Crown Court

Section 7, Criminal Justice Act 1987(15); Parts III and IV, Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996: pre-trial and preparatory hearings in the Crown Court

Section 9, Criminal Justice Act 1967(16): proof by written witness statement]

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- (10) 1933 c. 36; section 2 was amended by section 56(4) of, and Part IV of Schedule 11 to, the Courts Act 1971 (c. 23), section 152(1) of, and Schedule 5 to, the Supreme Court Act 1981 (c. 54), section 31(6) of, and Schedule 2 to, the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985 (c. 23), section 15 of, and paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 to, the Criminal Justice Act 1987 (c. 38), section 170(1) of, and paragraph 10 of Schedule 15 to, the Criminal Justice Act 1988 (c. 33), paragraph 8 of Schedule 6 to the Criminal Justice Act 1991 (c. 53), Schedule 1 to the Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1993, paragraph 17 of Schedule 1 to the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 (c. 25), section 119 of, and paragraph 5 of Schedule 8 to, the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (c. 37), paragraph 34 of Schedule 3 and Part 4 of Schedule 37 to the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c. 44) and article 3 of, and paragraph 1 of the Schedule to, S.I. 2004/2035.
 - (11) Section 6 was amended by section 170(1) of, and paragraphs 65 and 66 of Schedule 15 to, the Criminal Justice Act 1988 (c. 33), section 68 of, and paragraph 6(1)(a) of Schedule 8 to, the Criminal Justice Act 1991 (c. 53), paragraph 4 of Schedule 1 to the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 (c. 25), paragraphs 95 and 96 of Schedule 13 to the Access to Justice Act 1999 (c. 22) and section 109(1) of, and paragraph 202 of Schedule 8 to, the Courts Act 2003 (c. 39), and is repealed by paragraph 51 of Schedule 3 and Part 4 of Schedule 37 to the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c. 44) with effect from a date to be appointed.
 - (12) 1987 c. 38; section 4 was amended by section 144 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 (c. 33), section 45 of, and paragraph 22 of Schedule 5 to, the Legal Aid Act 1988 (c. 34), paragraph 29 of Schedule 9 to the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (c. 33), paragraph 65 of Schedule 8 to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (c. 37) and paragraphs 38 and 39 of Schedule 4 to the Access to Justice Act 1999 (c. 22), and is repealed by paragraph 58 of Schedule 3 and Part 4 of Schedule 37 to the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c. 44) with effect from a date to be appointed.
 - (13) 1991 c. 53; section 53 was amended by paragraph 49 of Schedule 9 to the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (c. 33), paragraph 93 of Schedule 8 to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (c. 37), paragraph 47 of Schedule 4 to the Access to Justice Act 1999 (c. 22) and is repealed by Part 4 of Schedule 37 to the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c. 44) with effect from a date to be appointed.
 - (14) 1998 c. 37; section 51 is substituted by paragraphs 15 and 18 of Schedule 3 to the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c. 44) with effect from a date to be appointed.
 - (15) Section 7 was amended by section 168(1) of, and paragraph 30 of Schedule 9 to, the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (c. 33) and section 80 of, and paragraph 2 of Schedule 3 and Schedule 5 to, the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 (c. 25), and is further amended by sections 45 and 310 of, and paragraphs 52 and 53 of Schedule 36 to, the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c. 44) with effect from a date to be appointed.
 - (16) 1967 c. 80; section 9 was amended by the Children and Young Persons Act 1969 (c. 54), Schedule 5, paragraph 55, the Courts Act 1971 (c. 23), Schedule 8, Part 2, paragraph 49, the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (c. 33), Schedule 9, paragraph 6(1), the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 (c. 25) section 69(1) and S.I. 2001/1090. It is further amended by the Courts Act 2003 (c. 39), Schedule 4, paragraph 1 and the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c. 44), Schedule 3, Part 2, paragraph 43(1), (2) and Schedule 37, Part 4, with effect from dates to be appointed.