

*These notes refer to the Access to Justice Act 1999
(c.22) which received Royal Assent on 27th July 1999*

ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT 1999

EXPLANATORY NOTES

OVERVIEW

Magistrates and magistrates' courts (Part V - sections 74-97)

17. Part V of the Act contains a range of provisions relating to magistrates and magistrates' courts. It:
- provides for various changes to the organisation and management of magistrates' courts, and in particular establishes a single Magistrates' Courts Authority for Greater London;
 - unifies the provincial and metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrates into a single bench;
 - removes the requirement for magistrates to sit on cases committed to the Crown Court for sentence; and
 - extends and clarifies the powers of civilians to execute warrants - this is intended to enable this function to be transferred from the police to the magistrates' courts.