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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**2012 No. 1726**

**The Criminal Procedure Rules 2012**

**PART 1**

**THE OVERRIDING OBJECTIVE**

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**The overriding objective**

- 1.1.**—(1) The overriding objective of this new code is that criminal cases be dealt with justly.
- (2) Dealing with a criminal case justly includes—
- (a) acquitting the innocent and convicting the guilty;
  - (b) dealing with the prosecution and the defence fairly;
  - (c) recognising the rights of a defendant, particularly those under Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights;
  - (d) respecting the interests of witnesses, victims and jurors and keeping them informed of the progress of the case;
  - (e) dealing with the case efficiently and expeditiously;
  - (f) ensuring that appropriate information is available to the court when bail and sentence are considered; and
  - (g) dealing with the case in ways that take into account—
    - (i) the gravity of the offence alleged,
    - (ii) the complexity of what is in issue,
    - (iii) the severity of the consequences for the defendant and others affected, and
    - (iv) the needs of other cases.

**The duty of the participants in a criminal case**

- 1.2.**—(1) Each participant, in the conduct of each case, must—
- (a) prepare and conduct the case in accordance with the overriding objective;
  - (b) comply with these Rules, practice directions and directions made by the court; and
  - (c) at once inform the court and all parties of any significant failure (whether or not that participant is responsible for that failure) to take any procedural step required by these

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Rules, any practice direction or any direction of the court. A failure is significant if it might hinder the court in furthering the overriding objective.

(2) Anyone involved in any way with a criminal case is a participant in its conduct for the purposes of this rule.

**The application by the court of the overriding objective**

**1.3.** The court must further the overriding objective in particular when—

- (a) exercising any power given to it by legislation (including these Rules);
- (b) applying any practice direction; or
- (c) interpreting any rule or practice direction.