



THE SUPREME COURT OF SEYCHELLES

PRACTICE DIRECTION No. 1 of 2017

**To: All Legal Practitioners
Judges and Magistrates
Attorney General
Master
Registrar**

In order to ensure the smooth and expedient running of the courts of Seychelles and in the public interest, I issue the following practice directive which is effective as of today:

1. All absences from the jurisdiction by legal practitioners have to be communicated to the Office of the Chief Justice.
2. Where a legal practitioner has accepted instructions from a client and cannot appear or act personally on behalf of his client for any particular reason including illness or absence from the jurisdiction, he/she is required pursuant to Rule 8 of the Legal Practitioner's Act (Professional Conduct) Rules 2013 to brief another legal practitioner to appear on behalf of his/ her client.
3. With immediate effect civil or criminal cases will not be adjourned merely on the ground that Counsel is absent.
4. Where Counsel default appearance in Court, in criminal cases, accused persons will be asked to seek alternative Counsel; and civil cases will either be listed for ex-parte hearing or dismissed for want of appearance.

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read 'Mathilda Twomey', written over a horizontal line.

**Dr. Mathilda Twomey
Chief Justice
Dated 20 June 2017.**