

## 18. Discharge of Defence Counsel During Trial

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### 18.1 Legislation

[Last reviewed: January 2025]

Nil.

### 18.2 Commentary

[Last reviewed: January 2025]

Nil.

### 18.3 Suggested Direction

[Last reviewed: January 2025]

**The Defendant was at first represented by a lawyer, [insert lawyer's name]. The Defendant is now representing [himself/herself].**

**The law permits a defendant in a criminal trial to be represented by a lawyer or to represent [himself/herself]. It also permits those modes of representation to be changed during the trial. That such a change has occurred is therefore a neutral event and is not evidence of anything relevant to your consideration of the case. You must not take it into account in discharging your role of deciding the case according to the evidence.**