

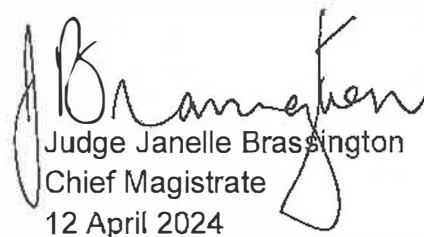
Magistrates Courts

Practice Direction No. 6 of 2024

Issued: 12 April 2024

Direct Access Briefs

1. This Practice Direction applies to a barrister who accepts instructions from a person other than a solicitor retained on behalf of a client (a “**direct access brief**”). This Practice Direction does not apply where a barrister accepts a brief from a “government legal officer” as defined in s.12 of the *Legal Profession Act 2007* (Qld).
2. A barrister who accepts a direct access brief must:
 - a. comply with the requirements of rule 24B of the *Barristers’ Conduct Rules*¹; and
 - b. prepare a document which:
 - i. sets out each of the matters the barrister is required to disclose under rule 24B of the *Barristers’ Conduct Rules*;
 - ii. includes the written acknowledgment, signed by the prospective client, referred to in rule 24B(b) of the *Barristers’ Conduct Rules*; and
 - iii. contains a certification, signed by the barrister, that they have informed the prospective client that any complaint about the barrister’s professional conduct may be made to the Legal Services Commission; and
 - c. when the proceeding to which the direct access brief relates is commenced; or, if the barrister is first retained after the proceedings commenced, at the time the next document is filed in the proceeding; and, in any event, before the barrister first appears in Court in relation to the matter:
 - i. file a copy of the document in the Registry; and
 - ii. deliver a copy of the document to the Chief Executive of the Bar Association of Queensland.
3. Practice Direction 20 of 2012 is repealed.


Judge Janelle Brassington
Chief Magistrate
12 April 2024

¹ The *Barristers’ Conduct Rules* are published on the Bar Association of Queensland’s website. Further information can be found at <https://qldbar.asn.au/baq-cms/regulation>.