

**Information Notice**  
**Practice Direction No 14 of 2024**  
**EXPERT EVIDENCE IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS (OTHER THAN SENTENCES)**

[Practice Direction No 14 of 2024](#) – Expert Evidence in Criminal Proceedings (Other than Sentences) – was issued today.

Its main purpose is to enhance the quality and reliability of expert evidence relied on by the prosecution and the accused in criminal trials and pre-trial hearings in the Supreme Court. It is also intended to encourage the early identification of disputed forensic issues and help focus the expert evidence on those issues.

The Practice Direction was developed by the court’s Forensic Evidence Working Group, comprising the Chief Forensic Pathologist, representatives of Forensic Science Queensland, Forensic Medicine Queensland and the Queensland Police Service, judges from both the Court of Appeal and Trial Division and legal practitioners from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Legal Aid Queensland, Queensland Law Society and Bar Association of Queensland.

It will commence in operation on **15 July 2024** and will apply to all criminal proceedings in the Supreme Court commenced by an indictment presented on or after that date (other than sentences).

The three-month lead-in period is intended to allow for all stakeholders to ready themselves for the implementation of the Practice Direction. The court will assist in this regard, including by convening education initiatives to help the profession understand its ramifications and practical application.

The operation of the Practice Direction will be reviewed by the Forensic Evidence Working Group twelve months after its commencement.

H Bowskill  
Chief Justice  
15 April 2024