

PRACTICE DIRECTION NUMBER 2 OF 2023
DISTRICT COURT OF QUEENSLAND

PRONUNCIATION OF NAMES AND PREFERRED FORMS OF ADDRESS

This Practice Direction applies to all proceedings in the District Court of Queensland.

1. Recognising that the correct pronunciation of names and use of preferred forms of address is a matter of respect, the District Court seeks to facilitate a simple process whereby legal practitioners and self-represented litigants can provide, and the Court can seek, guidance and clarification of these matters.

Responsibility of Legal Practitioners

2. Where reasonably practicable prior to any hearing, legal practitioners should consider whether any names associated with the matter may be difficult to pronounce and, if so, provide the Court with the correct phonetic pronunciation for those names. This includes but is not limited to counsel, solicitors, parties, witnesses, interpreters and entities.
3. Legal practitioners may also wish to provide the Court with information as to the appropriate gender pronouns and title of any party, witness or other participant in the hearing who wants that information to be provided.
4. The legal practitioner may provide such information by email to the associate to the judge hearing the matter, or in any written submission or on the [appearance slip](#) to be handed up in Court.
5. If appropriate, practitioners may provide guidance as to these matters when announcing appearances at the commencement of a hearing.

Self-Represented Litigants

6. Prior to a hearing, a self-represented litigant should, where possible, provide the Court with the correct pronunciation of their name. They may, if they wish to do so, inform the Court of their preferred gender pronoun and title (Mr, Mrs, Ms, Mx etc). This may be done by email to the associate to the judge hearing the matter, or in written submissions or by writing on the [appearance slip](#) handed up in court.
7. If appropriate, the self-represented litigant may provide guidance as to these matters when announcing appearances at the commencement of a hearing or appeal.

Clarification by the Court

8. Should the Court wish to clarify the correct pronunciation of any name or the appropriate form of address to be used before or during the proceedings, an associate may contact the parties through their legal representatives, or directly if the party is self-represented. A judge may also seek clarification during the proceedings.
9. Recognising that the purpose of this practice direction is a matter of respect, practitioners and parties should not expect the Court to adopt or use any form of address for a party that is not considered by the Court to be an appropriate form of address.



Brian Devereaux SC
Chief Judge
5 April 2023