

# SUPREME COURT OF TASMANIA

## CIRCULAR TO PRACTITIONERS

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### **Criminal Procedure: New procedures for the disposition of indictable offences**

New processes for the disposition of indictable offences are scheduled to commence from 1 February 2008. The new procedures provide for:

- early file disclosure to defendants by police;
- early involvement of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions with respect to indictable matters committed to the Supreme Court, so that the charges will be settled without delay;
- preliminary proceedings for the taking of depositions to only occur by order of a Judge of the Supreme Court and to be conducted by Crown Counsel instead of police prosecutors; and,
- increased case management by the Supreme Court.

A guide to the new processes is available on the Supreme Court website:

[http://www.supremecourt.tas.gov.au/practice\\_and\\_procedure/criminal\\_rules](http://www.supremecourt.tas.gov.au/practice_and_procedure/criminal_rules).

The amending legislation associated with these new changes, *The Justices Amendment Act 2007* can be viewed prior to 1 February under that name by ticking the sessional search option from: <http://www.thelaw.tas.gov.au/index.w3p>. After commencement on 1 February the relevant amendments will be amalgamated into the *Justices Act 1959* and the *Criminal Code 1924*.

New Supreme Court Rules amending the *Criminal Rules 2006* associated with these new processes will be gazetted on 23 January 2008 and can be accessed from that date under the name *Criminal (Directions Hearing) Rules 2008*, ticking the sessional search option in <http://www.thelaw.tas.gov.au/index.w3p>. After commencement on 1 February the relevant amendments will be found in the *Criminal Rules 2006*.

Practice Direction 1 of 2008, dealing with these processes, is available from the Supreme Court website:  
[http://www.supremecourt.tas.gov.au/practice\\_and\\_procedure/practice\\_directions](http://www.supremecourt.tas.gov.au/practice_and_procedure/practice_directions).

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