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Title:

Practice Direction

Case Planning and Judicial Management of Civil and Family Actions

Summary:

This Practice Direction sets out the procedure for requesting judicial management in civil and family cases, other than a proceeding commenced under the *Class Proceedings Act* or an insolvency proceeding.

Direction:

Case planning and judicial management of cases

1. The extent to which a case will require judicial management will be assessed on a case by case basis by a judge or master at a case planning conference.

Procedure for requesting assignment of trial judge at case planning conference

2. A party or counsel wishing to make a request for the early assignment of a trial judge must do so in Form 19 / Form F19.2, as appropriate, and at the case planning conference, and must provide an explanation to the case planning judge or master of the specific reasons why the early assignment of a trial judge is warranted.
3. Where the case planning judge or master is satisfied that the early assignment of a trial judge is warranted, the case planning judge or master may request that the Chief Justice direct the early assignment of a trial judge in the action.

Procedure where Chief Justice directs early assignment of trial judge

4. Where the Chief Justice directs the early assignment of a trial judge:
 - a. The assigned judge will preside at the trial unless unavailable or disqualified

- b. The assigned judge may conduct all further case planning conferences
- c. The assigned judge may hear applications as directed by the assigned judge.

Removal of action from judicial assignment

- 5. Where the assigned judge is of the view that a case does not require ongoing management by the trial judge, the assignment may be revoked.

Christopher E. Hinkson
Chief Justice