

Explanatory Statement

Court Procedures Amendment Rules 2019 (No 3)
Subordinate Law SL2019-30

Issued by the Authority of the Rule-Making Committee

The Rule-Making Committee (currently comprising the Chief Justice, Justice Elkaim, Acting Chief Magistrate Theakston and Magistrate Morrison) may make rules in relation to the practice and procedure of ACT courts and their registries pursuant to section 7 of the *Court Procedures Act 2004*. The Courts and the Joint Rules Advisory Committee have conducted a consultative review of the rules which has resulted in the amendments contained in the *Court Procedures Amendment Rules 2019 (No 3)*.

The amended rules introduce a new division 4.2.1AA relating to first appearances in criminal proceedings in the Magistrates Court. New rule 4302 outlines the circumstances where it is not necessary for the court to read charges to a defendant at the defendant's first appearance before the court.

New rule 4303 provides for a plea to be entered or summary disposal of a proceeding in writing in the event a defendant is legally represented.

The rules will commence on 1 January 2020.