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**SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**  
**PRACTICE DIRECTION**  
**TRIAL OF CIVIL MATTERS**

(Issued under the Rules of the Supreme Court, 1975 Order 1  
Rule 10 (1) and (2))

With a view to—

- (a) ensuring that matters when fixed for trial have allotted to them appropriate time for their just determination;
- (b) ensuring that matters are dealt with expeditiously; and
- (c) avoiding waste of Judges' time


the Honourable Chief Justice after consulting with Judges of the High Court issues the following directions:

1. Subject to any special directions given in any particular matter all matters ordered or required to be set down for trial shall be set down on a general list of cases. Separate general lists shall be kept for Port of Spain, San Fernando and Tobago. The dates for the trial of such matters shall be fixed in accordance with the provisions of this Practice Direction.
2. Matters for trial shall be drawn from the general lists of cases as far as practicable in the order in which they were set down for trial and shall be assigned to Judges.
3. When such matters have been assigned to a Judge, he shall require the parties to attend before him on a date to be fixed by him for a pre-trial review, at which hearing the Judge shall give directions for the trial of the matter including, where appropriate, the fixing of a date or dates for trial.
4. The Judge conducting the pre-trial review shall have all the powers of case management as are given to a Judge under Parts 26, 27 and 39 of the Civil Proceedings Rules 1998 as amended.
5. The directions contained in this Practice Direction shall supersede and replace those contained in the Practice Direction for the Trial of Civil Matters dated the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2000 ("the former practice direction")

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and to the extent that the latter are so superseded and replaced, they shall cease to have effect and are revoked. The lists of cases up and including the month of October, 2005 shall continue to be fixed however in accordance with the former practice direction.

Dated this 30<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2005.

  
Satnarine Sharma  
Chief Justice