

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

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Regulations 1995, No. 32\*

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Rules of Court under the *Local Court Act*

I, IAN LESLIE GRAY, the Chief Magistrate, in pursuance of section 21 of the *Local Court Act*, hereby make the following Rules.

Dated 4 September 1995.

I.L. GRAY  
Chief Magistrate

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AMENDMENTS OF LOCAL COURT (ADOPTION  
OF CHILDREN) RULES

1. PRINCIPAL RULES

In these Rules the Local Court (Adoption of Children) Rules are referred to as the Principal Rules.

2. FILING OF APPLICATION AND DECLARATION

Rule 6(2) of the Principal Rules is amended by omitting paragraph (a) and substituting the following:

"(a) fix a date and time for the holding of a pre-hearing conference;"

3. NEW RULE

The Principal Rules are amended by inserting after rule 8 the following:

"8A. PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE

"(1) The date fixed for a pre-hearing conference under rule 6(2)(a) shall be 28 days after an application is filed, or as soon as practicable thereafter.

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\* Notified in the *Northern Territory Government Gazette* on 20 September 1995.

*Amendment of Local Court (Adoption of Children) Rules*

"(2) A pre-hearing conference shall be held informally and each party to the application shall attend the pre-hearing conference -

- (a) in person;
- (b) by a legal practitioner; or
- (c) subject to rule 8B, by videoconference or teleconference.

"(3) At the pre-hearing conference the Court may -

- (a) give such directions as it thinks necessary for the expeditious determination of the proceedings; or
- (b) of its own motion or on application by a party -
  - (i) adjourn the pre-hearing conference and fix a date for the adjourned pre-hearing conference; or
  - (ii) fix a date for the hearing of the application.

"8B. ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCE BY VIDEOCONFERENCE, &c.

"(1) A party wishing to attend a pre-hearing conference by videoconference or teleconference may, not less than 24 hours before the time set for the conference, seek the permission of the Court to do so and the Court may, in its discretion, grant or refuse to grant such permission.

"(2) Permission under this rule may be granted informally by telephone and without notice to any other party.

"(3) A party who has been granted permission to attend a pre-hearing conference under this rule shall give such notice to the other parties of his or her attendance at the pre-hearing by videoconference or teleconference as the Court may direct.

"(4) The Court may direct that the party granted permission to attend the pre-hearing conference under this rule provide and meet the expense of any equipment necessary to enable the videoconference or teleconference to take place."

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