

R. S. L. NO. 2 OF 2021
HIGH COURT OF RIVERS STATE PRACTICE DIRECTIONS
NO. 2 OF 2021

1. PREAMBLE:

Further to the enforcement of the directives issued in R. S. L Practice Directions No.1, 2 of 2020 and No.1 of 2021.

I, Hon. Justice I.A. Iyayi Lamikanra, the Chief Judge of Rivers State, pursuant to Section 274 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and all other enabling laws issue these Practice Directions.

2. APPLICABILITY:

These Practice Directions shall unless otherwise ordered or directed in writing by the Honourable Chief Judge, apply to all cases in all the Judicial Divisions and Magisterial Districts in Rivers State.

For the avoidance of doubt, these directions and all contained in Practice directions No. 1 & 2 of 2020 shall apply to all Magisterial districts of the Rivers State judiciary.

3. OBJECTIVES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

These Practice Directions are to ensure an effective and efficient administration of justice by the Rivers State Judiciary using available technology.

4. DIRECTIONS:

a) E-FILING AND SERVICE OF PROCESSES:

- (i) E-filing via the RivComis Platform which was commenced in the Rivers State Judiciary pursuant to Practice Direction No.1 of 2020 shall henceforth also apply to all the Magisterial Districts in Rivers State.
- (ii) In addition to the provisions of Cap 13, Rivers State High Court Law of 2001, Rivers State Magistrates' Courts Law of 2004, and any other Legislation, service of court processes may be effected by email, WhatsApp, or any other electronic means as directed by the court.

b. COMPULSORY USE OF LEGAL E-MAIL ADDRESS:

All counsel shall provide their active legal email addresses and phone numbers (including WhatsApp numbers) on all processes as communications shall be through these electronic channels.

c. PROBATE:

- i) All applications with respect to Letters of Administration or Grant of Probate/Letters of Probate shall henceforth be by both regular filing and E- filing on the RIVCOMIS platform from the 15th day of April 2021.

- ii) Regular Applications with respect to Probate shall cease from the 10th day of May 2021.

d. LIS PENDENS

- i) A Lis Pendens Certificate shall be filed on the RivComis Platform in all pending land-related matters on or before the 30th day of April 2021 and the said Certificate may be filed by any Counsel or Litigant involved in any such land-related matter.
- ii) From the 1st day of May 2021, a Lis Pendens Certificate shall be filed along with the originating processes in all land related matters and no land-related matter whatsoever; without a Lis Pendens Certificate, shall be heard by any Judge or Magistrate in the Rivers State Judiciary.
- iii) FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBT, any suit relating to a dispute on ownership or possession of any land; with or without any development thereon, is a land-related matter.

These Practice Directions shall be referred to as Practice Directions No. 2 of 2021 and shall come into force with effect from the ...1st... day of...April... 2021.

Dated the...1st... day of April 2021.



A. I. Iyayi-Lamikanra
Chief Judge
Rivers State