

**HIGH COURT OF RIVERS STATE OF NIGERIA
PRACTICE DIRECTIONS, NO.4 OF 2021**

I, Hon. Justice Simeon Chibuzor Amadi, 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**.

1. **APPLICABILITY:**

These Practice Directions shall unless otherwise ordered or directed in writing by the Honourable Chief Judge, apply in all the Judicial Divisions of the High Court of Rivers State.

2. **OBJECTIVES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES:**

The purpose of these Practice Directions:

1. is to put a check on:
 - (a) forum shopping
 - (b) abuse of court process, including but not limited to
 - (i) filing of actions or applications by same party on same or similar subject matter in two or more Courts within a Judicial Division.
 - (ii) filing of actions or applications by same party on same or similar subject matter in two or more Judicial Divisions.
2. is to impose penalty on parties and counsel who engage in forum shopping and abuse of court process.

CIVIL CAUSES/MATTERS:

1. Further to the provisions of Order 3 Rule 2 of the High Court (Civil Procedure) Rules, 2010, a party commencing an action in the High Court of Rivers State by Writ of Summons, Originating Summons, Originating Motion or Petition, shall in addition be required to file an affidavit of non-multiplicity of actions sworn to by the party or counsel on his behalf.

2. Failure to comply with paragraph one above, the action, application or process shall not be accepted for filing and if filed by sheer inadvertence without compliance, the Judge shall order compliance and the party shall pay ₦1,000.00 penalty for each day of default before any step is taken in the proceeding by the court.
3. In pending actions or applications filed before the commencement of these Practice Directions, where hearing had not begun or any further step taken, the Judge shall order the party to file an affidavit of non-multiplicity of actions to ensure compliance with the Practice Directions before taking steps in the proceedings, and failure to comply within the time specified by the court, shall attract penalty as specified in paragraph 2 above.

BAIL APPLICATIONS:

1. Bail applications shall be filed and determined in the Judicial Division where the offence was allegedly committed or where the charge leading to the remand of the applicant originated.
2. Bail applications sequel to refusal of bail or remand by a Magistrate in any of the Magisterial Districts in Rivers State for lack of jurisdiction in criminal matters awaiting the Legal Advice of the Director of Public Prosecution, Ministry of Justice, Rivers State or the filing of information by the office of the Director of Public Prosecution or where information has been filed at the High Court, shall be filed in the appropriate High Court of the Judicial Division, where the charge emanated or seized with the matters.
3. Applicant for bail or Applicant's counsel shall file with the bail application an affidavit of non-multiplicity of bail applications. The affidavit must confirm that there is no ongoing criminal trial against the applicant before any High Court for the offence/offences for which the applicant was remanded by the Magistrate.
4. No bail application shall be accepted for filing without compliance and if filed in breach of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 above, the Judge shall

refuse to hear the application and may make any necessary orders/orders against the Applicant or Applicant's Counsel.

These Practice Directions shall be referred to as **Practice Directions No. 4 of 2021** and shall come into force with effect from the 1st day of December, 2021.

Dated the 10th day of November, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simeon Chibuzor Amadi', is positioned above the printed name.

HON. JUSTICE SIMEON CHIBUZOR AMADI
Chief Judge of Rivers State