

Timeframes Under the Criminal Procedure Rules

Summary and Hybrid Offences

Criminal matters before the Magistrate Court are classified as:

Summary Offences

Tried only in the Magistrate Court.

Hybrid Offences

May be tried either in the Magistrate Court or the High Court.

The Director of Public Prosecutions determines where a hybrid matter will proceed.

Timeframes Under the Criminal Procedure Rules

Summary Matters

- First Hearing: Within 28 days of summons, or immediately after charge.
- Case file submission: Within 4 weeks of First Hearing.
- Disclosure: Within 8 weeks of First Hearing.
- Conclusion of trial:
 - 26 weeks (custody)
 - 39 weeks (bail)
- Sentencing: Within 21 days of conviction, unless exceptional circumstances exist.

Hybrid Matters Tried Summarily

- Venue determined at First Hearing.
- Venue hearing (if required): Within 14 days.
- Case file submission: 8 weeks.
- Disclosure: 16 weeks.
- Trial conclusion: 26 weeks (custody) or 39 weeks (bail).

These timelines are subject to limited exceptions provided for in the Rules.
