

ALL MAGISTRATES COURTS
PRACTICE DIRECTION

FORM OF ADDRESS

Background

In recent years only experienced legal practitioners have been appointed as magistrates leading to increased professionalism of the Magistrate's Courts. From this and the fact that all jurisdictions acknowledge magistrates as judicial officers it is clear there is a wide recognition of magistrates as judges in the true sense. Many jurisdictions now address magistrates as "Your Honour".

After consultation with the Honourable Justice Martin the Chief Justice of the Northern Territory, the Attorney General, the Law Society and the Bar Association the magistrates of the Northern Territory have determined that is appropriate to change their mode of address.

Direction

As from 1 September 2005 Magistrates are to be addressed as "Your Honour" and not as "Your Worship".

This Practice Direction applies to all Courts and Tribunals in the Northern Territory in which Magistrates sit.

**HUGH BRADLEY
CHIEF MAGISTRATE**

15 August 2005