



SUPREME COURT PRACTICE NOTE SC GEN 22

Pronunciation of Names, Forms of Address, and Cultural Protocols for Deceased First Nations People in Proceedings

Commencement

1. This Practice Note was issued on 18 August 2025 and commences on 25 August 2025.

Acknowledgment

2. The Supreme Court of New South Wales recognises that the correct pronunciation of names and forms of address is an important component of the mutual respect to which all participants in judicial proceedings are entitled. The Supreme Court also recognises that speaking the name or displaying images of a deceased First Nations person can be distressing and inconsistent with community protocols particularly during a period of mourning.

Pronunciation of Names and Forms of Address

3. Legal practitioners and self-represented parties should advise the Court, where appropriate, of the phonetic pronunciation of names for use in a proceeding and forms of address such as Ms, Mr, Mrs, Mx, Dr, Prof. This includes but is not limited to counsel, solicitors, parties, witnesses, and interpreters.
4. Information regarding pronunciation and forms of address may be provided:
 - (a) on the Court's appearance form, in a witness list, case statement or as part of a Court Book, by inserting the information in square brackets directly after a name;
 - (b) when announcing an appearance at the commencement of a hearing, when calling a witness or when mentioning a name relevant to the proceeding for the first time; or

- (c) in writing to an associate or other Court officer before a hearing or when requested by a judicial officer or associate during the hearing.
- 5. To the extent possible, legal practitioners and self-represented parties are expected to familiarise themselves with the correct pronunciation of all names and forms of address of individuals in proceedings in which they are involved, and to seek to pronounce those names and use nominated forms of address correctly when referring to individuals in the course of any hearing.

References to names of deceased First Nations people and depiction of their image in proceedings

- 6. Where proceedings involve or relate to the death of a First Nations person, legal practitioners should, to the extent possible, inquire with the immediate family of the deceased person about the name the family wish to be used to refer to the deceased person throughout the duration of the proceedings, and inform the Court of this at the commencement of the hearing and use that name during the proceedings.
- 7. Where any such proceedings may involve the tender of photographs or other depictions (including audio or visual depictions) of a deceased First Nations person, legal practitioners should, to the extent possible, inform the deceased's immediate family, and any witnesses, of that possibility.

The Hon. A S Bell
Chief Justice of New South Wales
18 August 2025

Amendment history

18 August 2025: This Practice Note replaces the previous version of SC Gen 22 that was issued on 12 April 2024.

12 April 2024: This Practice Note was issued on 12 April 2024 and commenced on 22 April 2024.