

all parts of the country as they are held in Honiara. Cases are heard in the Province where the offence was committed. This is taking justice to the grass root people and ensuring access to justice for more people in Solomon Islands.

If you are an accused, a complainant or a witness in a case that will be conducted at a provincial court circuit you will be informed by the Police at least 7 days before the circuit.

If you are an accused the Police will serve you a “summons to defendant”. When the document is given to you, you must read it and sign a copy for the Police. If you receive the document and you do not attend court in the Province, you will get into trouble and may be arrested.

If you are a complainant or a witness in a case that will be conducted at a Provincial circuit, the Police will serve you a “summons to witness” When the document is given to you, you must read it and sign a copy for the Police. If you receive the document and you do not attend court in the Province, you will get into trouble and may be arrested.

Sometimes you may hear announcements on SIBC that a session of a court circuit will be held in some Provinces.



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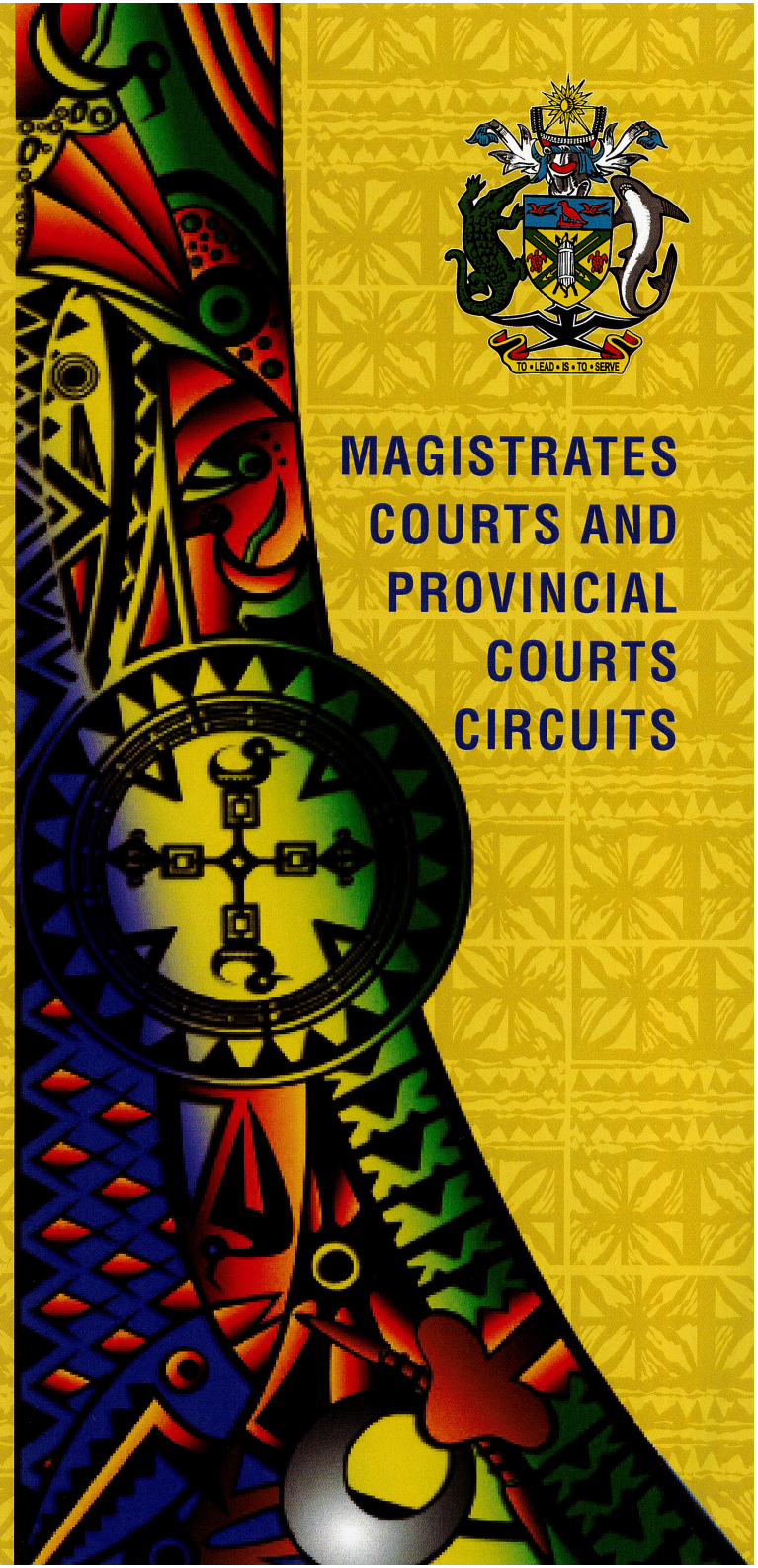
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This small booklet is part of the 7 booklets that provide information to help you understand how the justice system works in Solomon Islands.

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MAGISTRATES COURTS AND PROVINCIAL COURTS CIRCUITS



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

VISION

A safe and just Solomon Islands supported by a Constitutionally independent public prosecution service under the rule of Law.

MISSION

Delivering an independent, fair and effective prosecution service.

OUR VALUES

INDEPENDENCE

We act only according to the law of Solomon Islands and in the public interest without regard to inappropriate influences.

ACCOUNTABILITY

We are responsible for and report upon our actions decisions and performance.

RESPECT

We understand and value our diverse community and strive to meet its needs.

ETHICAL AND WITH INTEGRITY

We are fair to all, honest in all aspects of our work always act in the best interests of justice maintain confidentiality and practice our values in every aspect of our service.

EFFICIENCY

We will build making best use of resources, high quality work practices and case management to meet deadlines, preparation and case compilation.

ABOUT THE MAGISTRATE COURT UNIT

Magistrate Court Unit is one of the units in the Office of Director of Public Prosecutions.

The unit looks after all matters in the Magistrates' Court and is serviced by all Senior Legal Officers and occasionally by Principal Legal Officers.

The ODPP Prosecutors prosecute all serious matters in the Magistrate Court where Principal Magistrates preside.

Police Prosecutors prosecute minor cases in the Magistrates courts where First and Second class Magistrates preside.

Minor cases which are of national interest are prosecuted by ODPP Prosecutors.

This unit also looks after all Provincial Court circuits which are held around the provinces.

TYPE OF CASES HEARD IN THE MAGISTRATES COURTS

Cases that can be tried in the Magistrates Courts are;

1. Common Assault;
2. Assault causing grievous harm or Bodily Harm;
3. Indecent Assault;
4. Defilement (victim under the age of 15 and above the age of 13);
5. Arson;
6. Grievous harm;
7. Armed Robbery etc.
8. Corruption, fraud, stealing, abuse of office, etc

9. The Magistrates Courts conduct preliminary inquiry in serious matters like Murder, Attempted Murder, Rape, Attempted Rape, Money Laundering etc. After preliminary inquiries those matters are committed to the High Court for trial.

MAGISTRATES COURTS CIRCUITS

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) not only prosecutes in the Central Magistrate Court but we also attend Magistrates Courts Circuits to the provinces as scheduled in the Magistrate Court's Calendar.

At least one Prosecutor attends Provincial circuits unless the ODPP does not have any matters in that Provincial circuit.

Magistrate Court circuits are held in all Provinces, Lata-Temotu, Kira kira-Makira Renell and Bellona, Marau-Guadalcanal, Yandina/Tulagi-Central Province, Buala-Isabel Province, and Western Province.

MAGISTRATES COURT UNIT

The Magistrates courts unit looks after Central and Provincial Magistrates Courts. It is headed by a Coordinator. The role of the Coordinator is to manage ODPP matters in the Central and Provincial Magistrates court. The Coordinator ensures that all prosecutions at Magistrates Courts are well coordinated with the objective of prompt, speedy, efficient and effective disposal of cases. The Magistrates courts unit works in collaboration with the Magistrates courts and the Public Solicitors Office in taking Magistrates courts to the Provinces on court circuits. Cases are heard in Provinces where the offence was committed. Magistrates courts hearings are physically held in