



**THE SUPREME COURT OF BERMUDA
PRACTICE DIRECTION**

ISSUED BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE

Ref. A/50

CIRCULAR NO. 18 OF 2005

BENCH WARRANTS

1. In order to ensure the effective execution of Bench Warrants issued by the Supreme Court for defendants who fail to answer their bail in criminal matters, the following procedure will be implemented forthwith.
2. When a Bench Warrant is issued the Court will also put the matter for Mention at 10 a.m. at the next monthly arraignment session.
3. At that next session the Court will, if the warrant has not been executed in the interim, require a full report from the prosecutor why not, and on the efforts being made to do so. The matter should then be put to the next arraignments for a further report, and so on until the defendant is apprehended.
4. If the warrant is backed for bail it should be to appear at the next arraignment session following the issue of the warrant.
5. Nothing in this Practice Direction is intended to interfere with or change the existing practice on arrest, or to prevent a person arrested under a Bench Warrant being brought before the Court as soon as practicable after his arrest, when the Court can give appropriate directions for the future conduct of the matter.

Dated this 14th day of November 2005

Richard W. Ground OBE QC
Chief Justice

To: All Judges
The Director of Public Prosecutions
All Attorneys
The Commissioner of Police
The Commissioner of Prisons
The Deputy Provost Marshal