

Rules of the High Court (Amendment) Rules 2007

The Rules of the High Court (Cap 4A)

Appendix D

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR EXPERT WITNESS (O.38 R. 37AA)

Remarks

Application of code

Rule 119
Rec 102, 103 and 107

1. This code of conduct applies to an expert who has been instructed to give or prepare evidence for the purpose of proceedings in the Court.

General duty to the Court

2. An expert witness has an overriding duty to assist the Court impartially and independently on matters relevant to the expert's area of expertise.

3. An expert witness's paramount duty is to the Court and not to the person from whom the expert has received instructions or by whom he is paid.

4. An expert witness is not an advocate for a party.

Declaration of Duty to Court

5. A report by an expert witness is not admissible in evidence unless the report contains a declaration by the expert witness that –

- (a) he has read this code of conduct and agrees to be bound by it;
- (b) he understands his duty to the Court; and
- (c) he has complied with and will continue to comply with that duty.

6. Oral expert evidence is not admissible unless an expert witness has declared in writing, whether in a report or otherwise in relation to the proceedings, that –

- (a) he has read this code of conduct and agrees to be bound by it;
- (b) he understands his duty to the Court; and

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- (c) he has complied with and will continue to comply with that duty.

Expert report to be verified

7. A report by an expert witness must be verified by a statement of truth in accordance with Order 41A of the Rules of the High Court (Cap. 4 sub. leg. A).

The form of expert reports

8. A report by an expert witness must (in the body of the report or in an annexure) specify –

- (a) the person's qualifications as an expert;
- (b) the facts, matters and assumptions on which the opinions in the report are based (a letter of instructions may be annexed);
- (c) reasons for each opinion expressed;
- (d) if applicable, that a particular question or issue falls outside his field of expertise;
- (e) any literature or other materials utilised in support of the opinions; and
- (f) any examinations, tests or other investigations on which he has relied and identify, and give details of the qualifications of, the person who carried them out.

9. If an expert witness who prepares a report believes that it may be incomplete or inaccurate without some qualification, that qualification must be stated in the report.

10. If an expert witness considers that his opinion is not a concluded opinion because of insufficient research or insufficient data or for any other reason, this must be stated when the opinion is expressed.

11. An expert witness who, after communicating an opinion to the party instructing him (or that party's legal representative), changes his opinion on a material matter shall forthwith provide the party (or that party's legal representative) with a supplementary report to that effect which must contain such of the information referred to in section 8(b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) as is appropriate.

RemarksExperts' conference

12. An expert witness shall abide by any direction of the Court to -
- (a) confer with any other expert witness;
 - (b) endeavour to reach agreement on material matters for expert opinion; and
 - (c) provide the Court with a joint report specifying matters agreed and matters not agreed and the reasons for any non-agreement.

13. An expert witness shall exercise his independent, professional judgment in relation to such a conference and joint report, and shall not act on any instruction or request to withhold or avoid agreement.

Note: - Proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against a person if he makes, or causes to be made, a false declaration or a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.