

Supreme Court Practice Directions (Amendment No. 4 of 2014)

Part XI: Appeals And Hearings Before Court Of 3 Judges

90. Skeletal arguments for appeals before the High Court, Court of Appeal and Court of 3 Judges

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Skeletal arguments for civil matters before the Court of Appeal

(5) The need for parties to avoid prolixity in their “skeletal arguments” is emphasised. All skeletal arguments in civil matters before the Court of Appeal shall not exceed 20 pages. Any skeletal arguments in breach of this requirement will be rejected. The cover page and backing page shall be excluded from any computation of the number of pages.

(6) Where the appeal or matter is before the Court of Appeal, the skeletal arguments must be filed by 4 p.m. on the Monday three weeks before the week of the Court of Appeal sitting (e.g., the skeletal arguments for the Court of Appeal sitting in the week of 8 April 2013 must be filed by 4 p.m. on 18 March 2013). The skeletal arguments should be filed by tendering 4 hard copies to the Legal Registry of the Supreme Court and filing one soft copy through the Electronic Filing Service. Skeletal arguments filed in breach of this timeline will be rejected. For the avoidance of doubt, this timeline applies regardless of the actual day on which the particular appeal is scheduled for hearing before the Court of Appeal.

(7) As with other non-compliance with timelines, costs may be imposed against the party in default or his counsel personally in the event of non-compliance with sub-paragraph (6) above. Unless approval for late filing has been granted, the party in default may not file or tender these skeletal arguments in Court.

(78) Parties whose skeletal arguments have been rejected for filing may re-file their skeletal arguments, provided they comply with sub-paragraphs (4) to (67) above.

Timelines for submission of skeletal arguments for appeal before the High Court

(89) Where the appeal is a civil appeal before the High Court, the skeletal arguments should be sent to the Legal Registry at least 2 working days before the hearing of the appeal.

(910) Where the appeal is a criminal appeal before the High Court, the skeletal arguments should be sent to the Legal Registry at least 10 days before the hearing of the appeal. Skeletal arguments filed in breach of this timeline will be stamped “Late Submission”.

Application of this paragraph to Court of 3 Judges

~~(1011)~~ Sub-paragraphs (1) to ~~(78)~~ also apply to disciplinary proceedings, or appeals therefrom, brought under any statute, including the Legal Profession Act (Cap. 161) and the Medical Registration Act (Cap. 174) which are heard by a Court of 3 Judges.