

**PRACTICE DIRECTION NO 11 OF 2021: SUSPENSION OF JURY TRIALS**  
**SUSPENSION OF JURY TRIALS IN THE HOME CIRCUIT SUPERIOR CRIMINAL**  
**COURTS OF TRIAL**

**AND**

**SUSPENSION OF JURY TRIALS IN THE RURAL CIRCUIT SUPERIOR CRIMINAL**  
**COURTS OF TRIAL**

This Practice Direction is issued by the Honourable Chief Justice and applies to the Home Circuit Superior Criminal Courts of Trial and The Rural Circuit Superior Criminal Courts of Trial

**GENERAL**

1. This Practice Direction comes into effect immediately and will continue in effect until revoked or amended.
2. The Home Circuit Superior Criminal Courts of Trial ('HCSCCT') comprises the Supreme Court of Judicature (Criminal Division), the Circuit Court Division of the Gun Court, and the High Court Division of the Gun Court sitting at the Supreme Court of Judicature, Public Building East, King Street, Kingston.
3. The Rural Circuit Superior Criminal Courts of Trial ('RCSCCT') comprises the Supreme Court of Judicature (Criminal Division), the Western Regional Gun Court, the Circuit Court Division of the Gun Court, the High Court Division of the Gun Court sitting in any parish other than the parishes of Kingston and St Andrew.
4. This Practice Direction applies only to those criminal courts at the HCSCCT and the RCSCCT in which a jury may be empaneled for the trial of any matter.
5. The 'Health Guidelines Governing Access to all the Courts of Jamaica' dated May 27, 2020 except paragraph 10 continue to apply.

**JURY TRIALS IN THE HCSCCT**

6. Practice Direction No. 2 of 2021, dated 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2021, dealing with the Resumption of Jury Trials in the HCSCCT continues to be suspended until further notice.

## **JURY TRIALS IN THE RCSCCT**

7. Jury trials are suspended in **ALL** RCSCCT until further notice.

## **JURY TRIALS - WESTMORELAND, HANOVER, ST. MARY AND ST. JAMES**

8. Practice Direction No. 3 of 2021, dated 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2021, dealing with the Resumption of Jury Trials in the RCSCCT is amended in so far as it relates to the resumption of jury trials in the parishes of Westmoreland, Hanover, St. Mary and St. James.
9. Jurors summoned or bound over for the period **March 8, 2021 to March 26, 2021**, for the parishes of Westmoreland, Hanover, St. Mary and St. James **ARE NOT** required to attend and are excused without any risk of penalty.

## **OTHER TRIALS**

10. All cases in the HCSCCT and the RCSCCT that do not require a jury and cases where there is agreement for trial by judge alone, are to proceed in accordance with the 'Health Guidelines Governing Access to all the Courts of Jamaica' dated May 27, 2020.

**DATED THIS 10<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MARCH 2021**

  
**BRYAN SYKES OJ, CD**

**CHIEF JUSTICE**