

**UPDATED VERSION OF THE PRACTICE DIRECTION  
ON E-AFFIDAVIT ISSUED BY THE CHIEF JUDGE OF  
THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY, HON. JUSTICE  
HUSSEINI BABA YUSUF**

**In exercise of the powers conferred on me by Section 259 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended);Section 109 of the High Court Act, Cap. 510 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, Order 1 Rule 3 of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory (Civil Procedure) Rules 2018; and all other powers enabling me in that behalf, I, Hussein Baba Yusuf, Honourable Chief Judge of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, make the following Practice Direction -**

**Commencement:**

1. The Practice Direction shall take effect from 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2023

**Applicability:**

2. This Practice Direction shall, save to the extent and as may otherwise be directed by the Chief Judge apply to Affidavits issuing from the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja as well as the Magistrates/District Courts in the federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

## **Objective and guiding Principles**

3. The purpose of this Practice Direction is to carry into effect and regulate the new E-Affidavit adopted by the Court, particularly in:
  - a. Ensuring transparency, efficiency and speed in the issuance of Affidavit in compliance with global best practices.
  - b. Protecting the interests of litigant and court users; particularly from touts and fraudsters, and
  - c. Ensuring an organized environment for all by reducing delays and expenses.

## **Directions**

4. Without prejudice to the provisions of the FCT High Court Act, and the Oaths Act; All Affidavits from the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja shall emanate from the Commissioner for Oaths Department.
5. The Affidavit shall be in an electronic format with all the features as approved by the FCT High Court and application made online at [www.arms.fcthighcourt.gov.ng](http://www.arms.fcthighcourt.gov.ng) or as shall be directed by the Hon. Chief Judge.

6. The E-Affidavit Software will be directly under the Director in charge of the Commissioner for Oaths, who shall supervise the activities of all the units and areas under the jurisdiction of the FCT High Court in compliance with this Direction.
7. The E-Affidavit shall be issued by the Digital Commissioners for Oaths and Imputers designated for that purpose by the Director in charge, except where in the course of duty as a Registrar or an officer of the Court; it is officially required of any other person to so do.
8. For the purpose of swearing to an Affidavit under this provision, a deponent to the E-Affidavit may either appear in person or be captured virtually append his/her signature electronically through the Affidavit Registry Management System (ARMS)
9. In order to ensure the full compliance with this Direction, a Taskforce will be set up to monitor the implementation of this innovation and any defaulters shall be punished accordingly.

10. The cost of each E-Affidavit shall be N1, 500.00 (One Thousand, Five Hundred Naira) or any amount as may be further approved by the Chief Judge.
  
11. The Honourable the Chief Judge may review this Practice Direction and/or issue further directives upon any prevailing circumstance.

**Dated this ..... day of April, 2023.**

**HON. JUSTICE HUSSEINI BABA YUSUF**  
**Chief Judge, FCT Abuja**