

L.N. 27 of 1968

THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT, 1962

(1962 No. 33)

**Standing Orders of the Legal Practitioners
Investigating Panel 1964**

1. Meetings of the Panel shall be held at such time and place and on such days as the Attorney-General of the Federation may from time to time decide.

Days and
Hours of
Meeting.

2. If a complaint is made against legal practitioner or any other matter is referred to the Panel, the secretary to the Panel shall forward such complaint or refer such matter to the Attorney-General of the Federation who shall, as soon as may be thereafter, convene a meeting of the Panel for consideration of the complaint or matter.

3. At all meetings of the Panel, the Attorney-General of the Federation shall be the chairman; but if he is absent, the member who is most senior in accordance with the table of precedence in the First Schedule to the Act shall preside thereat.

Chairman
of Meetings.

4.—(1) The parties to proceedings before the Panel shall in the case of a complaint against a legal practitioner be—

Parties to
Proceedings
before the
Panel.

(a) the complainant or his counsel; and

(b) the legal practitioner concerned or his counsel.

(2) If instead of a complaint any other matter or the conduct of the legal practitioner is for any reason to be investigated, the Attorney-General of the Federation shall be deemed to be a party for the purposes of the investigation.

5.—(1) The chairman shall fix the date, time and place for the hearing of any complaint or other matter, as the case may be, and the Secretary shall forthwith thereafter serve notice in the form in the Schedule hereto on all parties to the proceedings and members of the Panel together with copies of the charges and, as the case may require, of the report on complaint made against the legal practitioner.

Hearing day
and service
of Notice.

(2) The notice shall be served on the parties to the proceedings at least 14 days before the date fixed for the hearing of the case.

6.—(1) If the complainant fails to appear at the hearing, the Panel may, upon proof of service on him of the notice of hearing—

Absence of
parties at
hearing.

(a) dismiss the complaint, or

(b) adjourn the case to another date, or

(c) proceed to hear and determine the case in his absence

(2) If the legal practitioner concerned fails to appear, the Panel may, upon proof of service on him of the notice of hearing, either adjourn the case to another date or determine the case in his absence.

7. All proceedings before the Panel shall be heard in private; and where a party is represented by counsel, appearance by counsel shall be deemed to be appearance by the party so represented.

Hearing and
appear-
ances.

Quorum.

8. The quorum of the Panel shall be three, of whom an attorney-general shall be one.

Adjournment.

9. The Panel may of its own motion, or upon the application of either party, adjourn the hearing to such other date as the Panel may think fit.

Findings of Panel if no case made against legal practitioner.

10. If the Panel is of opinion that no case has been made out against the legal practitioner concerned the Panel may, with or without conditions imposed, direct that the complaint be dismissed.

Findings of Panel if case made against legal practitioner.

11.—(1) If, after the hearing, the Panel finds that a case of infamous conduct in a professional capacity has been made out against the legal practitioner concerned, the Panel shall thereupon direct that the case be referred to the Disciplinary Tribunal; and if the case is to be so referred it shall be the duty of the Secretary to refer all documents and papers relating thereto to the Disciplinary Tribunal.

(2) It shall be sufficient if the report of the Panel to the Tribunal is signified under the hand of the Chairman.

Evidence.

12.—(1) The Panel may act on any testimony, sworn or unsworn, and may receive as evidence any statement, document, information or matter which may assist it to deal effectively with the case, whether the same would, in any court of law, be legally admissible evidence or not.

(2) Subject to the foregoing provisions of this standing order, the Evidence Act shall apply to all proceedings before the Panel.

Decision.

13. The decision of the Panel in a case shall be that of the majority of the members of the Panel present at the hearing. In case of equality of votes, the chairman shall have a casting vote.

Signification of Acts, Documents etc of Panel.

14. Anything required to be done by the Panel in relation to its functions under the Act or under these Standing Orders may be signified under the hand of the Chairman.

Interpretation.

15. In these standing orders—

“the Act” means the Legal Practitioners Act 1962;

“Complainant” means any person who makes allegation of professional misconduct against a legal practitioner;

“Complaint” includes any matter referred to the Panel in which a legal practitioner is involved;

“the legal practitioner concerned” means the legal practitioner whose conduct is being investigated by the Panel under the Act;

“the Panel” means the Legal Practitioners Investigating Panel, under the Act;

“Secretary” means Secretary to the Panel.

Title.

16. These standing orders may be referred to as the Standing Orders for the Legal Practitioners Investigating Panel, 1964.

Standing Order 5

SCHEDULE

THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT 1962

Notice of hearing by the Legal Practitioners Investigating Panel

**In the matter of the Legal Practitioners
Act 1962**

and

In the matter of A.B. a Legal Practitioner.

To.....

TAKE NOTICE that the complaint and charges in respect of the above matter are fixed for hearing by the Legal Practitioners Investigating Panel at.....
on the day of , 19..... at..... o'clock in the forenoon.

2. You are hereby requested to attend at the hearing as the complaint and charges may be dealt with in your absence.

3. A copy of the charge and other related documents are attached hereto.

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Secretary to the Panel

MADE at Lagos this 21st day of October 1964.

**T. O. ELIAS,
Chairman of the Legal Practitioners
Investigating Panel**