



Criminal Bar Association Protocol for 'No Returns'

1. Examine your professional diary. Make sure that days upon which you cannot work are noted, in advance. You will be unable to return instructions in the event of a new hearing clashing with a date which you neglected to enter into your diary.
2. Identify any potential diary clashes early.
3. Contact all instructing solicitors involved in any potential diary clash, keeping them apprised of the potential difficulty and informing them that you will attempt to resolve the difficulty by having the court move one, or other of the cases.
4. Attempt to have one of the cases moved so that you are able to attend upon both commitments.
5. In the event that a clash remains, identify which case takes priority and write to the other solicitor explaining that you need to return their instructions and the reason why you need to return them.