

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS
2005 No. 65.

THE ADVOCATES (INSPECTION AND APPROVAL OF CHAMBERS)
REGULATIONS, 2005.

ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS.

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The Advocates (Inspection and Approval of Chambers) Regulations, 2005.

(Under section 77(1)(a) of the Advocates Act, Cap 267)

In exercise of the powers conferred upon the Law Council by section 77(1) (a) of the Advocates Act, these Regulations are made this 21st day of December, 2004.

1. Title

These Regulations may be cited as the Advocates (Inspection and Approval of Chambers) Regulations, 2005.

2. Interpretation

In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires—

“Act” means the Advocates Act;

“certificate of approval of chambers” means a certificate issued under regulation 6;

“chambers” means premises used by a practising advocate as approved by the Law Council;

“generic names” means any name other than the names of partners of a law firm;

“year” means a calendar year.

3. Chambers to be inspected yearly

Inspection of chambers shall be carried out by the Law Council, its representative or agent once a year.

4. Application for inspection

An application for inspection of chambers shall be addressed to the secretary of the Law Council and shall be submitted at least two months before the expiry of the certificate of approval of chambers for the previous year of the applicant.

5. Requirements to be met before approval

(1) An advocate’s chambers shall be well maintained with a professional appearance and must have—

(a) a suitable desk for an advocate;

(b) a separate room for each advocate and another for a clerk, secretary and cashier;

- (c) a secretarial desk and computer or typewriter;
- (d) a reception with chairs or benches for clients;
- (e) a bookshelf;
- (f) a chest of drawers or a filing cabinet;
- (g) a reasonable collection of reference law books including a full set of the Revised Laws of Uganda 2000;
- (h) access to a toilet and sanitary facilities; and
- (i) books of accounts.

(2) The headed paper of every law firm shall bear the names and qualifications of each partner, advocate and legal assistant in the firm.

(3) A law firm with generic names shall only be approved if consent is sought from the Law Council prior to the registration of that name.

(4) The consent referred to in sub- regulation (3) shall be in writing.

(5) Trading shall not be carried on in any chambers.

(6) The Law Council may refuse to approve any chambers that do not meet any of the requirements set out in these Regulations and may order the closure of those chambers until the chambers meet the required standards set out in these Regulations.

6. Issue of certificate of approval of chambers

(1) A firm of advocates whose chambers have been approved shall be issued with a certificate of approval of chambers.

(2) A certificate of approval of chambers shall remain valid for one year.

7. Revocation of certificate of approval of chambers

The certificate of approval of chambers may be revoked on any of the following grounds—

- (a) change of premises;
- (b) change of firm name;
- (c) change in partnership of the firm;
- (d) striking the name of the partner of the firm off the Roll of Advocates in case of a sole practitioner;
- (e) carrying on practice under a name consisting solely or partly of the name of a partner who has ceased to practice as an advocate subject to the Act and other regulations made under it; or
- (f) where the Law Council deems it necessary.

8. Payment of prescribed fees

Every application for inspection of chambers shall be accompanied by the fees prescribed in the Advocates (Fees) Regulations, 2004.

9. Penalty for late submission of application

Notwithstanding regulation 10, any application for inspection lodged after the 31st of December by any existing chambers, shall attract the penalty prescribed in the Advocates (Fees) Regulations, 2004.

10. Revocation of Practice Direction No.1 of 1986

Practice Direction No.1 of 1986 as amended by Legal Notice No. 3 of 1998 is revoked.

HON. JUSTICE J. W. N. TSEKOOKO, JSC
Chairperson, Law Council.