

**CRIMINAL PROCEDURE, NORTHERN IRELAND****Criminal Appeal (Reference of Points of Law)  
(Northern Ireland) Rules 1973**

We, the Northern Ireland Supreme Court Rules Committee, being the authority having for the time being power under section 7 of the Northern Ireland Act 1962(a) and section 49 of the Criminal Appeal (Northern Ireland) Act 1968(b) to make, amend or revoke rules regulating the practice and procedure of the Court of Criminal Appeal in Northern Ireland, hereby exercise those powers and all other powers enabling us in that behalf as follows:—

*Citation and commencement*

1. These rules may be cited as the Criminal Appeal (Reference of Points of Law) (Northern Ireland) Rules 1973 and shall come into operation on 5th November 1973.

*Interpretation*

2.—(1) In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires—

“Act” means the Criminal Appeal (Northern Ireland) Act 1968,

“Court” means the Court of Criminal Appeal in Northern Ireland,

“reference” means a reference of a point of law to the Court in pursuance of section 48A of the Act,

“the Registrar” means the Registrar of the Court of Criminal Appeal and includes any other officer of the Supreme Court directed by the Lord Chief Justice to exercise the powers and perform the duties of the Registrar under the Act,

“respondent” in relation to any reference means the acquitted person in whose case the point of law referred arose.

(2) The Interpretation Act 1889(c) shall apply to the interpretation of these rules as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

*Form of reference*

3.—(1) Every reference shall be in writing and shall—

(a) specify the point of law referred and, where appropriate, such facts of the case as are necessary for the proper consideration of the point of law,

(b) summarise the arguments intended to be put to the Court,

(c) specify the authorities intended to be cited, and

(d) be lodged with the Registrar within the 3 months next following the conclusion of the trial at which the point of law referred arose.

(2) No mention shall be made in the reference of the proper name of any person or place which is likely to lead to the identification of the respondent.