

Trial bundle

By

Owiny Micheal
of Kaganzi & Co. Adocates
&
Asodio Jordan
of Ochieng Associated Advocates

Introduction

According to law.dictionarybrowse.com, a trial bundle is defined as “all the documents brought together by the claimant for a trial”. The Trial Bundle must contain all evidence which the judge will be asked to consider during the trial. Therefore, any document that is likely to be referred to at trial should be placed into a trial bundle for use by the judge, witnesses and other relevant parties. All documentary evidence must be in the trial bundle.

Purpose of Trial bundles

The purpose of a trial bundle is fourfold:¹

1. To place before the court all the relevant material to which reference will be made at the trial or other hearing
2. To give the advocate the best prospect of preparing effectively the presentation of the case.
3. To assist the judge with pre-trial reading.
4. To enable the hearing to proceed smoothly and expeditiously.

Parts of a Trial Bundle

The parts that make up the Trial bundles are as follows;

- a. **The cover page:** This page contains the title of the case and an index of the sections listed below, their contents, as well as the page numbers of each of the contents.
- b. **Pleadings;** This section has the plaint, the written statement of defense, the reply to the written statement of defense, and any other subsequent pleadings, the mediation report and the final document is the (Joint) scheduling memorandum.
- c. **Evidence:** The next section consists of:

¹ According to a Law Society Gazette article written by Judge Paul Waterworth,

- a. witness statements of all the witnesses that you intend to rely upon.
- b. Annexures and exhibits of the documents that appear in the witness statement and the pleadings.

The trial bundles should have four copies of the document, one for court, one for you and opposing counsel, one for your witnesses.