

Procedures of the House of Representatives for dealing with matters of contempt

Resolution adopted 25 November 2009

- (1) The House, in considering any matter which may give rise to a contempt of the House, shall observe the procedures set out in this resolution:
 - (a) for any motion that makes a finding of contempt or that imposes any sanction for contempt, seven sitting days notice must be given;
 - (b) if, in considering any matter that may give rise to a contempt, the House wishes to consider further evidence not previously provided to the Committee of Privileges and Members' Interests, the person or persons accused of contempt shall be given the opportunity to respond to that evidence;
 - (c) where the House proposes to impose a punitive penalty on a person or persons for contempt, the person or persons shall have the opportunity to address the House, either orally or in writing;
 - (d) where the Committee of Privileges and Members' Interests has made a recommendation for the imposition of a penalty on a person or persons for contempt, the House shall not impose a penalty which exceeds that recommended by the Committee;
 - (e) where the Committee of Privileges and Members' Interests concludes in a report to the House that there is no finding of contempt against a person or persons, the House cannot make any finding of contempt against the person or persons; and
 - (f) any members who initiated an allegation of contempt should not vote in any divisions on motions relating to any findings, or impositions of penalties, for those contempts; and
- (2) This resolution has effect and continues in force unless or until amended or rescinded by the House in this or a subsequent Parliament.