

# A SIMPLE GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING THE FORMAL LAND JUSTICE SYSTEM

*A simple guide to enable women and girls access Justice in disputes over land.*

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## THE LOCAL COUNCIL COURTS

### *How to institute a case in the LC Court*

- Report a complaint/claim orally or in writing to the Local Council Court.
- Make a payment of a required fee to the Court.
- Upon payment of the fee, obtain a hearing date
- Attend Court on the hearing date with your witnesses if any
- Court will hear the case and make a ruling
- If unsatisfied with the judgment of the Court, you can immediately appeal to the Higher Court

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## THE ROLE OF THE DISTRICT LAND BOARD

- Facilitates the recording, registration, and transfer of rights or interests in land.
- Provides services on marking, drawing maps, survey, and valuation of land.

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## THE LAND DESK UNIT OF THE UGANDA POLICE FORCE

### **(UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND PROTECTION)**

- The Police Land Desk is located at the Central Police Station in a district.
- The Police Land Desk Officer receives and handles land-related complaints.
- Sensitizes the public on land laws, their rights, and responsibilities.
- Prevents illegal evictions and demolitions.

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## THE COURTS OF LAW

## THE REGISTRAR OF TITLES

### *What you need to know.*

- Receives and handles matters related to titles.
- May alter, cancel or issue a fresh, special, or duplicate certificate of title.
- An appeal arising from the decision from the registrar will lie to the Magistrates or High Court.

- Go to the court Civil Registry and get an assessment of the Court filing fees to be paid
- Pay that amount to the bank and obtain a receipt.
- Attach the receipt to your documents and submit
- The case shall be assigned and given a date for hearing.
- Relevant documents will be prepared and served to the defendant.
- The right of appeal exists if one is not satisfied with the Court ruling.
- Appeals lie from the Magistrates Grade 1 Court - Chief Magistrates - High Court - Court of Appeal - Supreme Court.
- To lodge an appeal in the Court of Appeal, file a notice of appeal and memorandum of appeal within 60 days of the ruling of the lower Court.

*Note: One will need a lawyer to file a case and access justice.*

## JURISDICTION OF COURTS

*Land cases are filed at the Magistrate's Courts or the High Court depending on the monetary value of the land.*

**Grade 2 Magistrate** - Handles cases whose value doesn't exceed UGX 500,000. (G2 courts are being phased out).

**Grade 1 Magistrate** - Handles land matters whose value doesn't exceed UGX 20m

**Chief Magistrate** - Handles land matters whose value doesn't exceed UGX 50m.

**High Court** - Handles land matters exceeding UGX 50m.