



## COVID-19 – Changes to Court Operations

It is essential for the wellbeing of the community and the maintenance of the rule of law that the Court continues to operate to the extent possible in the current challenging environment.

The Court is responding to the developing COVID-19 pandemic by reviewing all operations to ensure all essential services are maintained and non-essential services continue for as long as practicable, consistent with health advice.

The Court is equipped to utilise online court, audio visual equipment and digital technology to allow matters to continue remotely.

The Court's paramount consideration remains the wellbeing of all court users. Everyone must adhere to health advice in relation to social distancing, self-isolation, hygiene and the management of symptoms.

### **No personal appearances**

In line with the current health advice, on and from Tuesday, 24 March 2020 there shall be no personal appearances in any matters save in exceptional circumstances with the leave of the Chief Justice or head of jurisdiction. This also applies to unrepresented litigants.

The Court will contact parties in relation to future listings to advise of the video and teleconference facilities available for their specific matter. Listings may alter at short notice and practitioners should refer to the Court's website for updates and review the daily listing notices.

### **Electronic delivery of documents**

The Court will require all Court documents to be provided by electronic means through

- Online Court;
- E-subpoena;
- Online registry

Only where facilities do not presently exist for documentation to be provided electronically will those documents will be received by email. Details regarding email contacts for documentation will be provided shortly via the Court's website.

### **Public Registry and Duty Registrar**

The public registry will remain open on Monday, 23 March 2020 until 4:00pm. The public registry will be closed on and from Tuesday, 24 March 2020. Contact details for the Court Registry are on the Court's website.

Face-to-face duty registrar services will also be suspended. Telephone appointments will continue.

### **Current jury trials**

Current jury trials will continue. Current trials already adhere to health advice in relation to social distancing. New jury trials are temporarily suspended.

### **Court annexed mediation**

Face-to-face Court annexed mediations will be temporarily suspended from [Monday, 23 March 2020]. Further information relating to Court annexed mediations will follow shortly. Mediations can proceed by way of teleconference.

### **Open justice**

The Court will be reviewing all operations with a view to maintaining open justice, consistent with the current constraints and health advice.

### **Health Advice**

Further information can be found at:

NSW Health, [www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)

Health Direct, telephone 1800 022 222

**23 March 2020**