



SUPREME COURT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

PUBLIC NOTICE - COVID-19

In order to ensure a timely and appropriate response to the impacts of COVID-19 on the operations of the Supreme Court of Western Australia, the following advice is provided to users of the Court, including members of the public and the legal profession.

Court listings and Registry services are continuing to operate in accordance with usual practice.

All staff have been advised that, if they have COVID-19 symptoms and have had possible exposure to the virus, they should not present for work until they have medical confirmation that they do not have the virus. This advice follows that provided to all public sector agencies in Western Australia.

That advice applies to people who live in, or have recently travelled to a country or region that is at higher risk of COVID-19 transmission (e.g. mainland China, Iran, the Republic of Korea or Italy) OR have had contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19.

Similarly, if court users (including litigants and legal practitioners) meet those criteria, and have upcoming court hearings, including mediation hearings, they are advised to contact the associate to the judicial officer hearing the matter (or otherwise enquire through the Registry), as to whether it is appropriate to attend court or whether alternative arrangements are necessary. Where possible arrangements will be made for attendance at hearings by telephone or video-link.

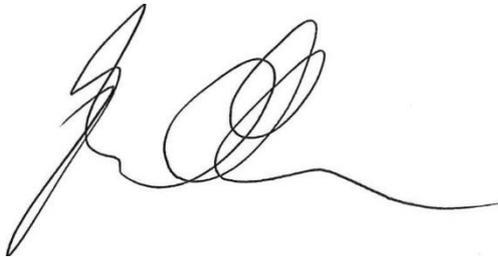
Should staffing levels be affected by absence due to illness or quarantine, steps may need to be taken to defer court hearings, including mediation hearings, until a more suitable time is available. If that occurs it will be necessary for an assessment to be made as to which matters will need to be accorded priority.

All urgent applications to a judge will continue to be dealt with in the usual way.

The Court's priority at this time is with the health and safety of its staff and users. The patience of all court users with any disruption to the business of the Court is appreciated.

Any further updates to the above advice will be made available on the Court's website.

Dated 12 March 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'P' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

The Hon Justice Peter Quinlan
Chief Justice of Western Australia