



Covid-19 Response Steering Group

Dear Colleague,

Undoubtedly, the temporary closure of the Court system and the need to maintain social distancing is and will continue to pose a significant challenge for practitioners, the Court Service, clients and the Judiciary.

It behoves us all as practitioners to try and address the day to day challenges with a view to putting in place measures which might be acceptable to all users in the interregnum extraordinary period. The last few weeks have, I'm sure, brought home to us all the huge benefits that accrue to our clients when we are at our most resourceful, collegiate and co-operative. But however constructive our individual responses as practitioners has been, we all realise that we cannot fully function as Family Lawyers without the knowledge that the Courts are available to us as the ultimate resource. We need to get the Courts back up and running at full capacity as soon as it is safe to do so.

A sub-committee of the Family Lawyers Association has been tasked with co-ordinating the circulation of information concerning the interface with the Courts and to develop proposals for the safe running of the Family Courts in period April to September 2020, approximately.

As part of that undertaking, we have set out below our best understanding of how the relevant Courts and Courts offices are currently functioning across the Country.

As this is an evolving situation, the detail of this understanding is currently incomplete, notwithstanding the very significant efforts of the committee and their contacts to gather in information from far and wide. Local data from each of the Districts has been particularly hard to harness. This task is ongoing. Accordingly, the picture will gradually become more complete in the coming weeks. The committee would welcome updates and new data as they emerge. For the time being, please use my email address below for that purpose.

We will endeavour to provide updates at a minimum on a weekly basis.

We hope that you will find this guide to be informative.

Law Library Distillery Building, 145-151 Church Street, Dublin 7 DO7 WDX8
Contact: pcmcarthy@lawlibrary.ie or nejackson@lawlibrary.ie

1

Committee: Paul McCarthy SC (Chair), Sara Phelan SC, Adrienne Cawley BL, Eithne Hegarty BL, Rachel Baldwin BL, Sinead Behan BL, Jennifer Cuffe BL, Keith Walsh, solicitor, Brendan Dillon, solicitor, Deirdre Burke, solicitor.

Liaison: Sean O hUallachain SC (Bar Council), Helen Coughlan, solicitor (Law Society), Nuala E Jackson SC (FLA)

Finally, my thanks to the members of the committee, and all of the contributors and correspondents who have assisted in this task.

March 26th 2020

Paul McCarthy SC
Chairperson.

INDEX

1. **High Court -Family Law -Dublin. Page 4**
2. **Circuit Family Court – Dublin. Page 5**
3. **Eastern Circuit Family Court. Page 8**
 - A. **Wicklow.**
4. **Midlands Circuit Family Court. Page 10**
 - A. **Roscommon.**
 - B. **Other.**
5. **Northern Circuit Family Court. Page 16**
 - A. **Letterkenny.**
 - B. **Leitrim.**
 - C. **Cavan.**
 - D. **Monaghan.**
6. **Cork Circuit Family Court. Page 23**
7. **South Eastern Circuit Family Court. Page 26**
8. **South Western Circuit Family Court. Page 32**
9. **Western Circuit Family Court. Page 34**
10. **District Court - Family Law- Dublin. Page 36**
11. **District Court – Family – Provincial. Page 39**

1. High Court -Family Law -Dublin - functioning as of March 25th 2020

- 1. Contact person(s);**
Owen Duffy, registrar. OwenDuffy@courts.ie
- 2. Filing motions;**
This is done through the central office.
You will not get a return date this side of the Easter break
- 3. Applying for dates;**
There will be a list to fix dates on 11th May.
- 4. Trial dates already allocated;**
Trials listed between 16th March and 3rd April are adjourned to 20th April for the time being.
- 5. Monday motion lists;**
The lists for the 23rd March were adjourned to 27th April en bloc.
The lists for the 30th March were adjourned to 11th May en bloc.
- 6. Release of Section 47 reports;**
No specific procedure is in place.
- 7. Release of Judgments;**
No specific procedure is in place.
- 8. Filing/lodging consents terms (no evidence required);**
Registrar would need to know precisely which Motions are being referred to, and if they are being adjourned to a date the Court noting the Letters or if actual Orders are needed in terms of the letters.
We anticipate that Jordan J is likely to do what is being asked by the parties;
It appears that a very short Order can be drawn up (attaching any documents as agreed terms and Orders being made in terms of the documents as is the norm with Consent Terms agreed).
The Registrar would prefer if Orders were taken up by email from HC bespeaks, to avoid breach in camera rules or GDPR by sending Orders to the wrong people.
- 9. Filing/lodging consent terms (where evidence is required);**
No specific procedure is in place.
- 10. Access to Central Office.**
There is access to the Central Office in the normal way subject to Social Distancing protocols.

2. Circuit Family Court – Dublin - functioning as of March 25th 2020

1. Contact person(s) in the Court Office;

dublincircuitfamilylaw@courts.ie

2. Are new proceedings being issued?

Yes. You should file documents by post or by the drop box.

Stamped, filed documents will be returned by post.

New motions are currently being given dates circa November 2020.

3. Is there any restriction on the type of case?

None

4. What are the requirements for issuing a Civil Bill out of the office?

Same as usual

4.1. Physical filing;

You should file documents by post or by drop box.

Stamped, filed documents will be returned by post.

4.2. Service;

In accordance with the Circuit Court Rules.

5. Is there any restriction on the type of Motion which can be issued out of the office?

None, but for standard applications the return date will currently be circa November 2020.

At the present time it seems that Motions for immediate hearing are only being accepted in relation to urgent Domestic Violence applications, or matters that are objectively time sensitive.

This might be expanded to include urgent applications where access is being denied entirely or for financial destitution reasons but we cannot be sure.

Objectively urgent motions will be given an early return date but to gauge urgency an *ex parte* application must be first made.

6. What are the requirements for issuing a Motion out of the office?

6.1 Physical filing;

Same as usual; personal attendance is not permitted unless for reasons of urgency; otherwise filing should be done by dropbox or post and not at office counter.

6.2 Service;

Same as usual as per the Circuit Court Rules.

7. Are there any new or special requirements or dispensations concerning sworn affidavits?

None such.

8. Ex-Parte Applications

8.1 Filing process?

Law Library Distillery Building, 145-151 Church Street, Dublin 7 DO7 WDX8

Contact: pcmcarthy@lawlibrary.ie or nejackson@lawlibrary.ie

5

Committee: Paul McCarthy SC (Chair), Sara Phelan SC, Adrienne Cawley BL, Eithne Hegarty BL, Rachel Baldwin BL, Sinead Behan BL, Jennifer Cuffe BL, Keith Walsh, solicitor, Brendan Dillon, solicitor, Deirdre Burke, solicitor.

Liaison: Sean O hUallachain SC (Bar Council), Helen Coughlan, solicitor (Law Society), Nuala E Jackson SC (FLA)

Attend at Phoenix House Circuit Family Court Office (or post it in or place it in the drop box).

You must have hard copy usual documents.

9. What applications are being heard?

Presently it appears that the matters that are being heard are *ex parte* applications to satisfy urgency and matters that have satisfied urgency and were given a return date.

10. What is the procedure for attending at Court?

Must be dealt with through the office. The court building is otherwise closed.

11. Are there any video conferencing or other distance participation arrangements in place?

Not at the moment.

12. Co. Registrar

12.1 What is happening to Case progressions which had dates fixed in the coming weeks?

New dates will be allocated through the office; the office will be in touch with parties or their solicitors.

12.2 Are new dates being fixed for Case progression hearings?

New dates are likely to be November or later.

13 How do I apply for a trial dates?

Trial dates are not presently being assigned to cases.

14 How do I apply for motion dates?

Post/drop hard copy documents to office and they will issue.

Return date for non-urgent matters is November 2020 onwards.

15 What is happening to motions and trial dates already allocated?

For the time being, only existing motion and trial dates to end Easter term have actually been vacated.

Motions and Trials listed for after April 20th have not been vacated at this time.

16 Is there a procedure for the release of Section 47/32 reports?

None unless time sensitive and in case an *ex-parte* application can be brought.

17 How are reserved decisions being made known to parties?

Not currently. Application may be accepted *ex parte* by office.

18 Filing/lodging consents terms (no evidence required);

No special procedure is in place so that it is likely that a date in November 2020 will be allocated for Motions to rule settlements.

18.1 Are Orders being made remotely?

No.

19 Filing/lodging consent terms (where evidence is required);

No special procedure is in place so that it is likely a date in November 2020 will be allocated for Motions to rule settlements.

19.1 Is there a procedure in place?

No

20 Access to Circuit Court Office

20.1 Drop Box?

There is a Drop Box at the office for leaving documents for filing without interacting with Court Staff.

20.2 By email?

Queries will be answered by email, but documents cannot be filed by email

20.3 By telephone?

Usual telephone numbers still apply and are being answered.

Circuit Family Court office telephone numbers: +353 (0) 1 888 6806 / 6812 / 6818 / 6843 / 6811

21 Is there Access to Phoenix House?

The Court house is not presently open save through allocation of date from the Court office.

Wicklow

1. Contact person(s) in the Court Office;

Court Office
012744800

2. Are new proceedings being issued?

New proceedings are being issued by the Circuit Court Office.

3. Is there any restriction on the type of case?

The only restrictions surround the cases that are being listed. All applications continue to be accepted by the Office.

4. What are the requirements for issuing a Civil Bill out of the office?

4.1. Physical filing; This may be continue to be done via the drop box at the Court Office or the documents may be sent by post as heretofore.

4.2. Service; The documents may be served by post.

5. Is there any restriction on the type of Motion which can be issued out of the office?

There are no restrictions but there is no guarantee of when the Motion will be listed and heard.

6. What are the requirements for issuing a Motion out of the office?

6.1. Physical filing;

This may be continue to be done via the drop box at the Court Office or the documents may be sent by post as heretofore.

6.2. Service;

The documents may be served by post.

7. Are there any new or special requirements concerning sworn affidavits? There are none presently.

8. Ex-Parte Applications

8.1. filing process?

The papers may be brought to the Office and left in the drop box or alternatively they may be sent by post.

9. What applications are being heard?

Urgent cases only

10. What is the procedure for attending at Court?

The Courts are fully compliant with HSE guidelines surrounding social distancing.

Law Library Distillery Building, 145-151 Church Street, Dublin 7 DO7 WDX8

Contact: pcmcCarthy@lawlibrary.ie or nejackson@lawlibrary.ie

Committee: Paul McCarthy SC (Chair), Sara Phelan SC, Adrienne Cawley BL, Eithne Hegarty BL, Rachel Baldwin BL, Sinead Behan BL, Jennifer Cuffe BL, Keith Walsh, solicitor, Brendan Dillon, solicitor, Deirdre Burke, solicitor.

Liaison: Sean O hUallachain SC (Bar Council), Helen Coughlan, solicitor (Law Society), Nuala E Jackson SC (FLA)

11. Are there any video conferencing or other distance participation arrangements in place?

These facilities are not available.

12. Co. Registrar

12.1 What is happening to Case progressions which had dates fixed in the coming weeks?

These matters are being adjourned but it is unclear what dates will be assigned.

12.2 Are new dates being fixed for Case progression hearings? No new dates are currently being assigned as the Office is unclear when they may be assigned.

13. How do I apply for a trial dates?

This was due to occur at the next List to Fix dates next week (30th March 2020) but this has now been cancelled.

14. How do I apply for motion dates?

By lodging the relevant documents as set out above.

15. What is happening to trial dates already allocated?

Dates have yet to be allocated as the List to Fix Dates had been cancelled.

16. Is there a procedure for the release of Section 47/32 reports?

No there is no new procedure as all matters are being adjourned. There is no Circuit Court Judge sitting in Wicklow presently.

17. How are reserved decisions being made known to parties?

Not presently.

18. Filing/lodging consents terms (no evidence required);

The Motion to rule the Terms may be filed but it is unclear when these may be ruled.

18.1 Are Orders being made remotely?

Not presently.

19. Filing/lodging consent terms (where evidence is required);

The Motion to rule the Terms may be filed but it is unclear when these may be ruled.

19.1. Is there a procedure in place?

The usual practice continues.

20. Access to Circuit Court Office

Drop Box? Yes.

By email? Yes but not for filing documents.

By telephone? Yes.

21. Is there Access to the Court House(s)? Yes

Law Library Distillery Building, 145-151 Church Street, Dublin 7 DO7 WDX8

Contact: pcmcCarthy@lawlibrary.ie or nejackson@lawlibrary.ie

Committee: Paul McCarthy SC (Chair), Sara Phelan SC, Adrienne Cawley BL, Eithne Hegarty BL, Rachel Baldwin BL, Sinead Behan BL, Jennifer Cuffe BL, Keith Walsh, solicitor, Brendan Dillon, solicitor, Deirdre Burke, solicitor.

Liaison: Sean O hUallachain SC (Bar Council), Helen Coughlan, solicitor (Law Society), Nuala E Jackson SC (FLA)

ROSCOMMON CIRCUIT FAMILY COURT

1. **Contact person(s) in the Court Office;**
Gerard Moore Circuit Court (090) 662 614
Mairead Conway District Court (090) 662 6147
2. **Are new proceedings being issued;?**
Yes
3. **Is there any restriction on the type of case?**
No
4. **What are the requirements for issuing a Civil Bill out of the office?**
Same as before
 - 4.1. **Physical filing;**
can file by post
 - 4.2. **Service;**
can serve by post
5. **Is there any restriction on the type of Motion which can be issued out of the office?**
No
6. **What are the requirements for issuing a Motion out of the office?**
Same as before
 - 6.1. **Physical filing;**
can file by post
 - 6.2. **Service;**
can serve by post
7. **Are there any new or special requirements concerning sworn affidavits;**
None Court office is aware of same as before
8. **Ex-Parte Applications** not generally being accepted unless can state it is urgent then goes before Judge and you take your chances if urgency not upheld – a critical access/custody issue is due to be heard this week in Roscommon before Judge hearing criminal case
 - 8.1 **filing process?**
same as before
9. **What applications are being heard?**
None unless stated to be urgent and then will be listed before Judge for determination

10. What is the procedure for attending at Court?

If party has legal representation then no need for client to attend – can email for adjournment – watching brief permissible if required

11. Are there any video conferencing or other distance participation arrangements in place?

Not in Roscommon – it is unusual in that the court office and the courthouse are in two separate buildings – we are awaiting new building

12. Co. Registrar all dates being adjourned out to another notional date

12.1 What is happening to Case progressions which had dates fixed in the coming weeks?

all dates being adjourned out to another notional date

12.2 Are new dates being fixed for Case progression hearings?

all dates being adjourned out to another notional date

13 How do I apply for a trial date?

By post or email

14 How do I apply for motion dates?

By post or email

15 What is happening to trial dates already allocated?

all dates being adjourned out to another notional date

16 Is there a procedure for the release of Section 47/32 reports?

Not yet – still have to make physical application to the judge to get it released

17 How are reserved decisions being made known to parties?

Only being notified by post or email of adjourned dates – no reserved judgements have been identified yet

18 Filing/lodging consents terms (no evidence required);

No new procedure yet but court office of view if all on consent and on sworn affidavit see no reason why this could not be done once reviewed by County Reg / Judge as required and orders made in absence of parties at least e.g CCR Order 59 Rulings

18.1 Are Orders being made remotely?

Not as of yet no

19 Filing/lodging consent terms (where evidence is required);

19.1 Is there a procedure in place?

Not as of yet no

20 Access to Circuit Court Office

20.1 Drop Box? Yes

Law Library Distillery Building, 145-151 Church Street, Dublin 7 DO7 WDX8

Contact: pcmcCarthy@lawlibrary.ie or nejackson@lawlibrary.ie

11

Committee: Paul McCarthy SC (Chair), Sara Phelan SC, Adrienne Cawley BL, Eithne Hegarty BL, Rachel Baldwin BL, Sinead Behan BL, Jennifer Cuffe BL, Keith Walsh, solicitor, Brendan Dillon, solicitor, Deirdre Burke, solicitor.

Liaison: Sean O hUallachain SC (Bar Council), Helen Coughlan, solicitor (Law Society), Nuala E Jackson SC (FLA)

20.2 By email? Yes

20.3 By telephone? Yes

21 Is there Access to the Court House(s)?

Roscommon court is in a physically different and distant building to the court office building and is only open on scheduled court days anyway – court office is currently open usual hours to public

OTHER

- 1. Contact person(s) in the Court Office;**
All office personnel are available.
- 2. Are new proceedings being issued;?**
Yes
- 3. Is there any restriction on the type of case?**
No
- 4. What are the requirements for issuing a Civil Bill out of the office?**
Same as usual
4.1 Physical filing;
4.2 Service;
- 5. Is there any restriction on the type of Motion which can be issued out of the office**
No
- 6. What are the requirements for issuing a Motion out of the office?**
Same as usual
6.1 Physical filing;
6.2 Service;
- 7. Are there any new or special requirements concerning sworn affidavits;**
No
- 8. Ex-Parte Applications**
8.1. filing process?
Can be made as usual in the ordinary and it is assumed that County Registrar or Judge will take the current circumstance into consideration and decide what is/is not heard
- 9. What applications are being heard?**
Only Bail and “urgent” applications are being heard, “urgent” does not seem to be defined but is thought to include CFA applications, applications under the DVA and custody applications, it is also assumed that the sitting Judge will determine what is/is not urgent
- 10. What is the procedure for attending at Court?**
Practitioners and lay litigants are advised where possible not to attend Court but to contact the office by email and keep up with developments via the Court Services website
- 11. Are there any video conferencing or other distance participation arrangements in place?**

There are none in use although, it appears, there are video link facilities in place which could be used?

12 Co. Registrar

12.1 What is happening to Case progressions which had dates fixed in the coming weeks?

Notifications are being published on the website and practitioners/litigants are being advised to check

12.1 Are new dates being fixed for Case progression hearings?

This has not been decided, it seems likely that dates will be given but at some remove

13 How do I apply for a trial dates?

Same as always but litigants/practitioners are being discouraged from doing so at the moment as there is not certainty as to what dates will be available i.e. nobody knows how far away dates should be set just at the moment

14 How do I apply for motion dates?

Apply in the ordinary way but, again, doing so is currently being discouraged until there is a bit more certainty as to when same might be heard

15 What is happening to trial dates already allocated?

Practitioners/litigants are being advised to check the legal diary, there is no certainty yet [as far as I am aware, only custody sentencing cases are being dealt with at the moment and these are being dealt with en bloc eg. the custody cases from Portlaoise 18/3 have been put into Mullingar tomorrow to be dealt with, otherwise everything has gone back to dates in June. A special family law sitting for the 21/4 has not yet been adjourned but this may change, and details will be in the legal diary

16 Is there a procedure for the release of Section 47/32 reports?

No, it is assumed that if any such reports fall into the “urgent” category application can be made as for any other “urgent” application

17 How are reserved decisions being made known to parties?

This has not arisen to date, but it is assumed that email would be used

18 Filing/lodging consents terms (no evidence required);

This has not been considered

18.1 Are Orders being made remotely?

No

19 Filing/lodging consent terms (where evidence is required);

Law Library Distillery Building, 145-151 Church Street, Dublin 7 DO7 WDX8
Contact: pcmcCarthy@lawlibrary.ie or nejackson@lawlibrary.ie

14

Committee: Paul McCarthy SC (Chair), Sara Phelan SC, Adrienne Cawley BL, Eithne Hegarty BL, Rachel Baldwin BL, Sinead Behan BL, Jennifer Cuffe BL, Keith Walsh, solicitor, Brendan Dillon, solicitor, Deirdre Burke, solicitor.

Liaison: Sean O hUallachain SC (Bar Council), Helen Coughlan, solicitor (Law Society), Nuala E Jackson SC (FLA)

This has not been considered

19.1 Is there a procedure in place?

No, For this section it seems to be considered that these would be matters for the judiciary to direct rather than Court Services

20 Access to Circuit Court Office

20.1 Drop Box?

Yes

20.2 By email?

Yes

20.3 By telephone?

Yes, but the staff prefer either of the foregoing

21 Is there Access to the Court House(s)?

Yes, operating normal hours

Letterkenny

- 1. Contact person(s) in the Court Office;**
 - 1.1.1. Family Law section
 - 1.1.2. +353 74 920 6000
- 2. Are new proceedings being issued?**
 - 2.1.1. New proceedings are being issued by the Circuit Court Office.
- 3. Is there any restriction on the type of case?**
 - 3.1.1. The only restrictions surround the cases that are being listed. All applications continue to be accepted by the Office.
- 4. What are the requirements for issuing a Civil Bill out of the office?**
 - 4.1. **Physical filing;**
The documents may be brought to the Office and left in the drop box or alternatively they may be sent by post.
 - 4.2. **Service;**
The documents may be served by post.
- 5. Is there any restriction on the type of Motion which can be issued out of the office;**
 - 5.1.1. There are no restrictions but there is no guarantee of when the Motion will be listed and heard.
- 6. What are the requirements for issuing a Motion out of the office?**
 - 6.1. Physical filing; The Motion papers may be brought to the Office and left in the drop box or alternatively they may be sent by post.
 - 6.2. Service; Service is by way of post.
- 7. Are there any new or special requirements concerning sworn affidavits;**

There are none presently.
- 8. Ex-Parte Applications**
 - 8.1. **filing process?** The papers may be brought to the Office and left in the drop box or alternatively they may be sent by post.
- 9. What applications are being heard?**
 - 9.1. Urgent cases only
- 10. What is the procedure for attending at Court?**
 - 10.1 The Courts are fully compliant with HSE guidelines surrounding social distancing.

11. Are there any video conferencing or other distance participation arrangements in place?

11.1. These facilities would be available, if necessary.

12. Co. Registrar

12.1 What is happening to Case progressions which had dates fixed in the coming weeks?

All case progression hearings are being adjourned until after the 20th of April 2020.

12.2 Are new dates being fixed for Case progression hearings?

Yes dates are being assigned for after the 20th of April 2020.

13. How do I apply for a trial dates?

Dates are being assigned in the usual course

14. How do I apply for motion dates?

By lodging the relevant documents as set out above.

15. What is happening to trial dates already allocated?

The Court Office are adjourning cases that have been set down to a date after the 20th of April 2020.

16. Is there a procedure for the release of Section 47/32 reports?

No there is no new procedure as all matters are being adjourned until after the 20th of April 2020.

17. How are reserved decisions being made known to parties?

No, all decisions will be given when the case is listed at a date after the 20th of April 2020.

18. Filing/lodging consents terms (no evidence required);

18.1. Are Orders being made remotely? Not presently.

19. Filing/lodging consent terms (where evidence is required);

19.1 Is there a procedure in place?

The Terms may be filed but the matter may not be set down for a hearing date until after the 20th of April 2020.

20. Access to Circuit Court Office

20.1. Drop Box? Yes

20.2. By email? It is by post only

20.3. By telephone? Yes

21. Is there Access to the Court House(s)? Yes

Leitrim

Leitrim is in the same Northern Circuit area as Letterkenny, so the answers to questions 2 to 21 are the same. The Office Manager Aoife Brennan, who is currently on leave, oversees the Circuit Family Law.

Cavan

1. Contact person(s) in the Court Office;

The preferred method of contact to the Office is via email on cavancourtoffice@courts.ie

2. Are new proceedings being issued?

New proceedings are being issued by the Circuit Court Office.

3. Is there any restriction on the type of case?

The only restrictions surround the cases that are being listed. All applications continue to be accepted by the Office.

4. What are the requirements for issuing a Civil Bill out of the office?

Physical filing;

This may be continue to be done and it is preferable that the documents are be sent by post as heretofore.

Service;

The documents may be served by post.

5. Is there any restriction on the type of Motion which can be issued out of the office

There are no restrictions but there is no guarantee of when the Motion will be listed and heard.

6. What are the requirements for issuing a Motion out of the office?

Physical filing;

This may be continue to be done and it is preferable that the documents are be sent by post as heretofore.

Service;

The documents may be served by post.

7. Are there any new or special requirements or dispensations concerning sworn affidavits;

Not presently.

8. Ex-Parte Applications; what is the filing process? If a matter is urgent then the party is to email the Court Office setting out the urgency and this will then be set out to the Judge.

Law Library Distillery Building, 145-151 Church Street, Dublin 7 DO7 WDX8

Contact: pcmcCarthy@lawlibrary.ie or nejackson@lawlibrary.ie

18

Committee: Paul McCarthy SC (Chair), Sara Phelan SC, Adrienne Cawley BL, Eithne Hegarty BL, Rachel Baldwin BL, Sinead Behan BL, Jennifer Cuffe BL, Keith Walsh, solicitor, Brendan Dillon, solicitor, Deirdre Burke, solicitor.

Liaison: Sean O hUallachain SC (Bar Council), Helen Coughlan, solicitor (Law Society), Nuala E Jackson SC (FLA)

There is a Family Law urgent sitting taking place on the 26th of March 2020.

9. What applications are being heard?

Urgent cases only

10. What is the procedure for attending at Court?

The Courts are fully compliant with HSE guidelines surrounding social distancing.

11. Are there any video conferencing or other distance participation arrangements in place?

These facilities are available in the Court and have been used previously for Civil matters.

12. Co. Registrar

12.1 What is happening to Case progressions which had dates fixed in the coming weeks?

These matters are being adjourned. The next County Registrar list dealing with family law is on the 25th of May 2020. Any matters that are listed for the 27th of April 2020 will be adjourned to the June sitting.

12.2 Are new dates being fixed for Case progression hearings?

All matters are currently being adjourned.

13. How do I apply for a trial dates?

Dates will be applied for in the usual way.

14. How do I apply for motion dates?

If a Motion is urgent then this should be set out via email to the Court Office.

15. What is happening to trial dates already allocated?

All matters are being adjourned.

16. Is there a procedure for the release of Section 47/32 reports?

If a Report requires release then this should be set out on email by the practitioners and this will be brought to the Judge for consideration.

17. How are reserved decisions being made known to parties?

Not presently.

18. Filing/lodging consents terms (no evidence required);

The Motion to rule the Terms may be filed but it is unclear when these may be ruled.

18.1. Are Orders being made remotely?

Not presently.

19. Filing/lodging consent terms (where evidence is required);

The Motion to rule the Terms may be filed but it is unclear when these may be ruled.

Law Library Distillery Building, 145-151 Church Street, Dublin 7 DO7 WDX8

Contact: pcmcCarthy@lawlibrary.ie or nejackson@lawlibrary.ie

19

Committee: Paul McCarthy SC (Chair), Sara Phelan SC, Adrienne Cawley BL, Eithne Hegarty BL, Rachel Baldwin BL, Sinead Behan BL, Jennifer Cuffe BL, Keith Walsh, solicitor, Brendan Dillon, solicitor, Deirdre Burke, solicitor.

Liaison: Sean O hUallachain SC (Bar Council), Helen Coughlan, solicitor (Law Society), Nuala E Jackson SC (FLA)

19.1. Is there a procedure in place?

The usual practice continues.

20. Access to Circuit Court Office

Drop Box? The Court Office would prefer that people do not attend.

By email? This is the most preferred form of contact.

By telephone? The Court Office would prefer that people would email.

21. Is there Access to the Court House(s)?

Yes.

Monaghan

Please note that the Carrickmacross cases are now transferred to Monaghan Court.

1. Contact person(s) in the Court Office;

Court Office 04762300

2. Are new proceedings being issued?

New proceedings are being issued by the Circuit Court Office.

3. Is there any restriction on the type of case?

The only restrictions surround the cases that are being listed. All applications continue to be accepted by the Office.

4. What are the requirements for issuing a Civil Bill out of the office?

Physical filing;

This may be continue to be done via the drop box at the Court Office.

Service;

The documents may be served by post.

5. Is there any restriction on the type of Motion which can be issued out of the office?

There are no restrictions but there is no guarantee of when the Motion will be listed and heard.

6. What are the requirements for issuing a Motion out of the office?

Physical filing;

This may be continue to be done via the drop box at the Court Office.

Service;

The documents may be served by post.

7. Are there any new or special requirements or dispensations concerning sworn affidavits;

Not presently.

8. Ex-Parte Applications; what is the filing process?

The papers may be brought to the Office and left in the drop box.

9. What applications are being heard?

Urgent matters only.

10. What is the procedure for attending at Court?

The Courts are fully compliant with HSE guidelines surrounding social distancing.

11. Are there any video conferencing or other distance participation arrangements in place?

12. Co. Registrar

12.1. What is happening to Case progressions which had dates fixed in the coming weeks?

The County Registrars List on the 1st of April 2020 is being adjourned to the 3rd of June 2020. It is uncertain whether the 6th of May list is also being adjourned.

12.2. Are new dates being fixed for Case progression hearings?

This is unclear.

13. How do I apply for a trial dates?

In the usual manner but it is unclear when these will be listed.

14. How do I apply for motion dates?

By lodging the relevant documents as set out above.

15. What is happening to trial dates already allocated?

Dates have yet to be allocated as the List to Fix Dates had been cancelled.

16. Is there a procedure for the release of Section 47/32 reports?

No there is no new procedure as all matters are being adjourned.

17. What is happening to trial dates already allocated?

All matters are currently being adjourned save for urgent applications.

18. How are reserved decisions being made known to parties?

There is currently no procedure for this.

19. Filing/lodging consent terms (where evidence is required);

The Motion to rule the Terms may be filed but it is unclear when these may be ruled.

Is there a procedure in place?

The usual practice continues.

20. Access to Circuit Court Office

Drop Box? Yes.

Law Library Distillery Building, 145-151 Church Street, Dublin 7 DO7 WDX8

Contact: pcmcCarthy@lawlibrary.ie or nejackson@lawlibrary.ie

21

Committee: Paul McCarthy SC (Chair), Sara Phelan SC, Adrienne Cawley BL, Eithne Hegarty BL, Rachel Baldwin BL, Sinead Behan BL, Jennifer Cuffe BL, Keith Walsh, solicitor, Brendan Dillon, solicitor, Deirdre Burke, solicitor.

Liaison: Sean O hUallachain SC (Bar Council), Helen Coughlan, solicitor (Law Society), Nuala E Jackson SC (FLA)

By email? Yes but not for filing documents.

By telephone? Yes.

21. Is there Access to the Court House(s)?

Yes

6. Cork Circuit Family Court -functioning as of March 25th 2020

- 1. Contact person(s) in the Court Office;**
Ring usual number 021 – 4805600 and dial appropriate extension.
- 2. Are new proceedings being issued?**
Yes.
- 3. Is there any restriction on the type of case?**
No.
- 4. What are the requirements for issuing a Civil Bill out of the office?**
 - 4.1. Physical filing;**
Yes, but send by post.
 - 4.2. Service;**
In accordance with the Circuit Court rules.
- 5. Is there any restriction on the type of Motion which can be issued out of the office?**
No; save no date allocated for hearing at present.
Usual system is motion before County Registrar initially who then allocates a date.
No sitting of County registrar at present.
- 6. What are the requirements for issuing a Motion out of the office?**
 - 6.1. Physical filing;**
By Post only.
 - 6.2. Service;**
In accordance with the Circuit Court rules.
- 7. Are there any new or special requirements or dispensations concerning sworn affidavits?**
No.
- 8. Ex-Parte Applications**
 - 8.1. filing process?**
By Post.
- 9. What applications are being heard?**
Judge O'Donnabhain is hearing very urgent applications only.
- 10. What is the procedure for attending at Court?**
There are no sittings save for very urgent applications.
- 11. Are there any video conferencing or other distance participation arrangements in place?**
No

12. Co. Registrar

12.1 What is happening to Case progressions which had dates fixed in the coming weeks?

All matters are adjourned to June and it is anticipated that they will be adjourned further thereafter.

12.2 Are new dates being fixed for Case progression hearings?

No dates before June

13. How do I apply for a trial dates?

Dates for trials will be fixed in the call over.

The next call over will be July 23rd.

14. How do I apply for motion dates?

Return matters first in the usual manner to the County Registrar.

There will be no sitting until June. It is anticipated that these sittings will be adjourned again.

15. What is happening to trial dates already allocated?

At present awaiting decision.

They will be either adjourned to the call over on 23rd July next or allocated a specific date.

16. Is there a procedure for the release of Section 47/32 reports?

No.

17. How are reserved decisions being made known to parties?

No.

18. Filing/lodging consents terms (no evidence required);

18.1. Are Orders being made remotely?

No.

19. Filing/lodging consent terms (where evidence is required);

19.1. Is there a procedure in place?

No.

20. Access to Circuit Court Office

20.1. Drop Box?

By post.

20.2. By email?

Yes.

20.3. By telephone?

Yes.

21. Is there Access to the Court House(s)?

Yes; Anglesea Street only.

Law Library Distillery Building, 145-151 Church Street, Dublin 7 DO7 WDX8

Contact: pcmcCarthy@lawlibrary.ie or nejackson@lawlibrary.ie

25

Committee: Paul McCarthy SC (Chair), Sara Phelan SC, Adrienne Cawley BL, Eithne Hegarty BL, Rachel Baldwin BL, Sinead Behan BL, Jennifer Cuffe BL, Keith Walsh, solicitor, Brendan Dillon, solicitor, Deirdre Burke, solicitor.

Liaison: Sean O hUallachain SC (Bar Council), Helen Coughlan, solicitor (Law Society), Nuala E Jackson SC (FLA)

7. South Eastern Circuit Family Court -functioning as of March 25th 2020

1. Contact person(s) in the Court Office;

Waterford:-David Morrissey / Frances Lee Mullally / Heather Fanning – use waterfordcourtoffice@courts.ie in case anyone is out

Kilkenny:- Mairead O’Dwyer

Wexford: Kevin Cashman

Tipperary:- Gerard Connolly

2. Are new proceedings being issued?

Waterford:-Yes .

Kilkenny: - Routine proceedings not being issued not at the present time due to staffing issues but proceedings coming into the office for issuing are being monitored for urgency. Urgent proceedings will be issued.

Wexford: New proceedings are being issued as normal, though the processing time may be extended due to reduced staffing levels.

Carlow:- Yes.

Tipperary:- Yes.

3. Is there any restriction on the type of case?

Waterford:- No restriction on cases being issued but in terms of cases being heard, urgent cases only i.e. Domestic Violence (but almost entirely District Court).

Kilkenny:- Routine proceedings not being issued not at the present time due to staffing issues. Urgent matters only.

Wexford: No.

Carlow:- No.

Tipperary:- No.

4. What are the requirements for issuing a Civil Bill out of the office?

4.1. Physical filing;

Same as it was – Offices is still open

4.2. Service;

Registered post is still being used. Summons Servers not operating / doing so on a very restricted basis.

5. Is there any restriction on the type of Motion which can be issued out of the office?

Waterford: No restriction –Motion dates are being given for June.

Kilkenny:- Routine proceedings not being issued not at the present time due to staffing issues. Urgent matters only.

Wexford:- No restrictions.

Carlow:- No restrictions as to Motions that may be issued. According to the Courts Service Website the next County Registrar’s Motion date is 26th May.

Tipperary:- No restrictions – All Motions issued for / adjourned to next County Registrar’s Court, post 20th April.

6. What are the requirements for issuing a Motion out of the office?

6.1. Physical filing;

As per the usual practice

6.2. Service;

As per the usual practice.

7. Are there any new or special requirements concerning sworn affidavits?

No.

8. Ex-Parte Applications

8.1. Filing process

The filing process has not changed but there are no Courts before which to bring such applications and accordingly only applications meeting the criteria for urgency will be dealt with (before the Judge who is available on Circuit to deal with such applications).

A Judge will be available to hear urgent applications.

9. What applications are being heard?

Urgent applications only – mainly domestic violence

10. What is the procedure for attending at Court?

Solicitors are asked to advise clients not to attend. Judges adjourning most cases, with one solicitor present to adjourn everything unless it is an emergency application which will be heard.

11. Are there any video conferencing or other distance participation arrangements in place?

Waterford

Videolink is being used for the prisons. In the last few weeks, up a Virtual conference room has been set up. The other person dialling in does need to have very

good broadband. At least a week's notice would be required from practitioners who wish to use this facility.

SE Circuit Generally

Facilities exist in at least the newly renovated Courthouses (Kilkenny, Waterford, Wexford) but has not been used to date for Family Law Cases.

12. Co. Registrar

12.1. What is happening to Case progressions which had dates fixed in the coming weeks?

Waterford:-

16th March is adjourned into the 11th May and 23rd March and 30th March have both been adjourned to the 18th May.

Kilkenny

Adjourned to dates after 20th April.

Wexford

Not cancelled as of yet for the coming months but cancellation is likely and the parties will be notified.

Carlow

The sitting of the County Registrar's Case Progression Court scheduled for the 7th April 2020 is adjourned generally with liberty to re-enter (Courts Service website).

12.2. Are new dates being fixed for Case progression hearings?

Waterford:-

Dates being given in June at the moment.

Wexford

Any dates that are being issued are for well into the future and may be put on hold in the coming days.

Remainder of Circuit

It is understood that not at the present time.

13. How do I apply for a trial dates?

Notices of trial being completed in the usual way i.e. made returnable to the next family law session in the Court Calendar and then appearing in the Callover to be called on for next available date.

14. How do I apply for motion dates?

Issue a Motion returnable to next County Registrar's Motion Court (all of which Motion Courts on SE Circuit are scheduled to occur on dates after 20th April) at which Court dates for hearing are allocated in the usual way (i.e. in the event that the Motions Courts are not further adjourned)

15. What is happening to trial dates already allocated?

Waterford :-

The Family Law matters that were set for this week, commencing on Tuesday 24th March, have been adjourned en masse to the week of 12th May. Cases listed for Tuesday 24th March are adjourned into Tuesday 12th May, Wednesday 25th March into Wednesday 13th May, Thursday 26th March into Thursday 24th May and Friday 27th March into Friday 15th May.

Is there a procedure for the release of Section 47/32 reports?

No.

16. How are reserved decisions being made known to parties?

No procedure (but it is possible that there are no reserved decisions on the SE Circuit at the present time).

17. Filing/lodging consents terms (no evidence required);

17.1. Are Orders being made remotely?

No

18. Filing/lodging consent terms (where evidence is required);

18.1. Is there a procedure in place?

No.

19. Access to Circuit Court Office

19.1. Drop Box?

All Court Offices are to have a drop box available at the Counter for documents to be dropped in so that there is no need for queueing to take place.

19.2. By email?

Yes

19.3. By telephone?

Yes, as per usual (save that all offices have been affected in terms of staffing to some extent by the current situation, particularly in relation to staff who have children affected by creche and school closures).

20. Is there Access to the Court House(s)?

Yes, the Courthouses and public counters are still open and operational until further notice.

8. South Western Circuit Family Court -functioning as of March 25th 2020

All County Registrar Motion Courts and Case Progression hearings have been adjourned to dates after the 20th April. Family Law cases which were in the Judges Lists have also been adjourned back to the next Call-over lists to fix a new date when circumstances permit. Practitioners have been notified, details have been posted on the Courts Service website and updates will be made in like fashion as they arise.

Urgent matters, as defined in the practice notes issued by The Courts Service, will be dealt with during the public health emergency, whether before a Judge or County Registrar as appropriate. Practitioners should contact the Local Court Service Office with details of the intended urgent application at which point appropriate steps will be taken to list the application before the relevant Adjudicator at the first available opportunity. Procedures in each case will be notified to the applicant when the Court Office has discussed the matter with the Adjudicator.

The Tralee Court Office staff will now be manning the office on a six day per week 11 hour per day basis, i.e. 8am to 7 pm. Monday to Saturday. This should ensure capacity to deal with urgent matters on an ongoing basis. Judicial availability is also assured when necessary.

- 1. Contact person(s) in the Court Office;**
- 2. Are new proceedings being issued;?**
- 3. Is there any restriction on the type of case?**
- 4. What are the requirements for issuing a Civil Bill out of the office?**
 - 4.1. Physical filing;**
 - 4.2. Service;**
- 5. Is there any restriction on the type of Motion which can be issued out of the office?**
- 6. What are the requirements for issuing a Motion out of the office?**
 - 6.1. Physical filing;**
 - 6.2. Service;**
- 7. Are there any new or special requirements concerning sworn affidavits?**
- 8. Ex-Parte Applications**
 - 8.1. filing process?**
- 9. What applications are being heard?**

Law Library Distillery Building, 145-151 Church Street, Dublin 7 DO7 WDX8
Contact: pcmcCarthy@lawlibrary.ie or nejackson@lawlibrary.ie

32

Committee: Paul McCarthy SC (Chair), Sara Phelan SC, Adrienne Cawley BL, Eithne Hegarty BL, Rachel Baldwin BL, Sinead Behan BL, Jennifer Cuffe BL, Keith Walsh, solicitor, Brendan Dillon, solicitor, Deirdre Burke, solicitor.

Liaison: Sean O hUallachain SC (Bar Council), Helen Coughlan, solicitor (Law Society), Nuala E Jackson SC (FLA)

- 10. What is the procedure for attending at Court?**
- 11. Are there any video conferencing or other distance participation arrangements in place?**
- 12. Co. Registrar**
 - 12.1. What is happening to Case progressions which had dates fixed in the coming weeks?**
 - 12.1. Are new dates being fixed for Case progression hearings?**
- 13. How do I apply for a trial dates?**
- 14. How do I apply for motion dates?**
- 15. What is happening to trial dates already allocated?**
- 16. Is there a procedure for the release of Section 47/32 reports?**
- 17. How are reserved decisions being made known to parties?**
- 18. Filing/lodging consents terms (no evidence required);**
 - 18.1. Are Orders being made remotely?**
- 19. Filing/lodging consent terms (where evidence is required);**
 - 19.1. Is there a procedure in place?**
- 20. Access to Circuit Court Office**
 - 20.1. Drop Box?**
 - 20.2. By email?**
 - 20.3. By telephone?**
- 21. Is there Access to the Court House(s)?**

9. Western Circuit Family Court -functioning as of March 25th 2020

We would welcome any information from practitioners on the Western Circuit.

1. **Contact person(s) in the Court Office;**
2. **Are new proceedings being issued;?**
3. **Is there any restriction on the type of case?**
4. **What are the requirements for issuing a Civil Bill out of the office?**
 - 4.1. **Physical filing;**
 - 4.2. **Service;**
5. **Is there any restriction on the type of Motion which can be issued out of the office?**
6. **What are the requirements for issuing a Motion out of the office?**
 - 6.1. **Physical filing;**
 - 6.2. **Service;**
7. **Are there any new or special requirements concerning sworn affidavits?**
8. **Ex-Parte Applications**
 - 8.1. **filing process?**
9. **What applications are being heard?**
10. **What is the procedure for attending at Court?**
11. **Are there any video conferencing or other distance participation arrangements in place?**
12. **Co. Registrar**
 - 12.1. **What is happening to Case progressions which had dates fixed in the coming weeks?**
 - 12.2. **Are new dates being fixed for Case progression hearings?**
13. **How do I apply for a trial dates?**
14. **How do I apply for motion dates?**

Law Library Distillery Building, 145-151 Church Street, Dublin 7 DO7 WDX8
Contact: pcmcCarthy@lawlibrary.ie or nejackson@lawlibrary.ie

34

Committee: Paul McCarthy SC (Chair), Sara Phelan SC, Adrienne Cawley BL, Eithne Hegarty BL, Rachel Baldwin BL, Sinead Behan BL, Jennifer Cuffe BL, Keith Walsh, solicitor, Brendan Dillon, solicitor, Deirdre Burke, solicitor.
Liaison: Sean O hUallachain SC (Bar Council), Helen Coughlan, solicitor (Law Society), Nuala E Jackson SC (FLA)

- 15. What is happening to trial dates already allocated?**
- 16. Is there a procedure for the release of Section 47/32 reports?**
- 17. How are reserved decisions being made known to parties?**
- 18. Filing/lodging consents terms (no evidence required);**
 - 18.1. Are Orders being made remotely?**
- 19. Filing/lodging consent terms (where evidence is required);**
 - 19.1. Is there a procedure in place?**
- 20. Access to Circuit Court Office**
 - 20.1. Drop Box?**
 - 20.2. By email?**
 - 20.3. By telephone?**
- 21. Is there Access to the Court House(s)?**

10. District Court - Family Law -Dublin - functioning as of March 25th 2020

1. Contact person(s); Eamonn Doherty (office manager)

2. Are new summonses being issued?

No, other than domestic violence. If an individual attends at Dolphin House, they will only be seen if they are seeking a Protection Order or an Interim Barring Order. These are the only applications that are being defined as “urgent” (in line with the District Court president’s statement)

The only applications ultimately being dealt with by the Court are the return dates of Interim Barring Orders.

Each day, all listed cases are being adjourned by the sitting Judge and the clients will receive these dates personally as there is no Solicitors on record in these cases.

Solicitors may, if they wish, post summonses into the District Court Office. These will not be processed at this time, however, when the Courts decide to issue new Court dates, these will then be processed and hearing dates issued.

3. If so, for what type of cases?

Urgent Domestic Violence only as defined above.

4. What are the requirements for issuing a summons out of the office?

4.1. Physical filing; no new summons save for urgent domestic violence as set out above.

4.2. Service; If successful, by direction of the Judge. Either the usual way by the office or to be served by the Gardai.

5. What are the requirements for Ex-Parte Applications?

5.1. Physical filing; For urgent Domestic Violence as set out above.

5.2. Attendance before the Court; as above

5.3. Service of Orders made; as 4.2 above.

6. Are there special procedures in place for Hearings to take place? No.

7. If so, what are they? N/A

8. Are there any video conferencing or other distance participation arrangements in place?
No.

9. If so, what are they? N/A

10. What is happening to hearing dates already allocated?

Each day, the list of cases in each Court are being adjourned in block form. Any interim Orders or previously made Orders remain in place. If a Protection Order is in place, this will be adjourned with the Protection Order to continue. (note that today's cases, 23rd March 2020 are being adjourned to the 19th June 2020)

11. How are Section 32/Section 20 reports being released?

Law Library Distillery Building, 145-151 Church Street, Dublin 7 DO7 WDX8
Contact: pcmcCarthy@lawlibrary.ie or nejackson@lawlibrary.ie

37

Committee: Paul McCarthy SC (Chair), Sara Phelan SC, Adrienne Cawley BL, Eithne Hegarty BL, Rachel Baldwin BL, Sinead Behan BL, Jennifer Cuffe BL, Keith Walsh, solicitor, Brendan Dillon, solicitor, Deirdre Burke, solicitor.

Liaison: Sean O hUallachain SC (Bar Council), Helen Coughlan, solicitor (Law Society), Nuala E Jackson SC (FLA)

It is proposed that reports, if available, can be released to legal practitioners. If the assessor has submitted a report by email, it is proposed that the reports can be sent onto the solicitors. As no one is on record in the District Court, the solicitor should email with the initials and record number and state they believe report has been submitted and ask for it to be emailed back by return. If the report has been submitted in hard copy, it may be the case that a legal practitioner can attend and take up a copy. Only one practitioner need attend and can undertake to provide the other side (if they have representation only) with a copy of the report.

12. Filing/lodging consents terms (no evidence required);

12.1. Are Orders being made remotely?

Not presently. There seems to be a willingness to consider this but currently no Orders are being made remotely

13. Is there access to District Court Office in Dolphin House:

13.1. By email: districtfamilylaw@courts.ie

13.2. By telephone: No

14. Is there access to Dolphin House Courts?

Yes but only in regard to above. Any individuals attending are being turned away in ordinary circumstances. I have been assured that the office will remain open unless someone working in the building contracts Covid-19.

11. District Court - Family Law – Provincial - functioning as of March 25th 2020

We recognise that there are a large number of Districts to cover and at the moment the information concerning provincial Districts is very sparse.

The information below is for **District 16 ONLY** at present.

1. Contact person(s);

District 16 Only :General contact courtofficebray@courts.ie
Otherwise Eilis Kavanagh eiliskavanagh@courts.ie

2. Are new summonses being issued?

New summons for DVA yes, as categorised as urgent

New summons for other matters will be issued, but first return dates are post 8 June 2020

3. If so, for what type of cases?

Access & Custody; Guardianship; Maintenance

4. What are the requirements for issuing a summons out of the office

4.1. Physical filing;

No change to existing rules for physical filing, drop box outside the office collected daily.

Maintenance summons can be submitted by email to be issued and returned.

Other application which don't require signature by clerk/judge can be served, but return date must be post 8 June, ideally July

4.2. Service;

No change to normal rules

5. What are the requirements for Ex Parte Applications?

Only urgent DVA matters proceeding

5.1. Physical filing;

Law Library Distillery Building, 145-151 Church Street, Dublin 7 DO7 WDX8

Contact: pcmcCarthy@lawlibrary.ie or nejackson@lawlibrary.ie

39

Committee: Paul McCarthy SC (Chair), Sara Phelan SC, Adrienne Cawley BL, Eithne Hegarty BL, Rachel Baldwin BL, Sinead Behan BL, Jennifer Cuffe BL, Keith Walsh, solicitor, Brendan Dillon, solicitor, Deirdre Burke, solicitor.

Liaison: Sean O hUallachain SC (Bar Council), Helen Coughlan, solicitor (Law Society), Nuala E Jackson SC (FLA)

Yes required

5.2. Attendance before the Court;

Yes required

5.3. Service of Orders made;

No change to existing procedures, but are usually served by the court office or Gardai if directed by Judge

6. Are there special procedures in place for Hearings to take place?

Not especially

7. If so, what are they?

Callover of urgent matters as normal, no specific times being allocated.

8. Are there any video conferencing or other distance participation arrangements in place?

Not in Bray, which covers District 16. Said is aware there are such facilities in Naas, Trim, Waterford and Wexford.

9. If so, what are they?

N/A

10. What is happening to hearing dates already allocated?

All are being adjourned to post 8 June, most to July. Nothing will be struck out unless by consent

11. How are Section 47/32 reports being released?

Judge Kennedy has indicated that he will release reports by email if requested by both parties, by email

12. Filing/lodging consents terms (no evidence required);

12.1. Are Orders being made remotely

Judge Kennedy has indicated that he will accept submission of consent terms by email

13. Access to District Court Office

13.1. By email

Yes, still fully available, and preferred

13.2. By telephone

Yes, if essential

14. Is there Access to Courts?

Only for urgent matters, and not to office, drop box to be used