



## In the Supreme Court of Bermuda

A/50

03 April 2020

**CIRCULAR NO. 07 OF 2020**

**TO ALL ATTORNEYS**

**RE: UPDATED COVID-19 MEASURES**

This Practice Direction is issued further to Circular 06 of 2020.

Given the most recent update provided by the Bermuda Government on Wednesday, 1 April 2020 that there will be a 24-hour 'Shelter in Place' commencing Saturday, 4 April 2020 for two (2) weeks, the Court is required to implement the following measures with **immediate effect**.

**It should be noted that the health, safety and welfare of the Members of the Public, as well as Court Administrative Staff continues to be our paramount concern.**

### **SUPREME COURT**

- (1) All hearings listed before the Supreme Court during the period 6 April – 17 April 2020 shall be adjourned administratively to a date to be fixed. The parties **are not** required to attend the Supreme Court, and will be contacted in due course concerning a date for the hearing to be listed.
- (2) The Supreme Court Registries located at the Government Administration Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor and the Dame Lois Browne Evans Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, will remain closed until **Monday, 20 April 2020**.
- (3) If an application is of **extreme urgency**, the parties **MUST** contact the Court by email at [supremecourt@gov.bm](mailto:supremecourt@gov.bm) **immediately** and explain the urgency of the matter so that this may be taken into consideration. The Court will make every effort to list any application that is considered urgent, with such urgency to be determined by the presiding Judge.
- (4) If an application is listed for hearing as it has been determined to be of extreme urgency, the parties **may** be required to attend Court. Attendance by the parties and/or attorneys can be requested to be via telephone or an alternative form of audio visual technology with at least 24 hours' notice (or at the earliest possible opportunity if time constraints do not allow for this notice period). The presiding Judge will determine if these requests for alternative attendance are approved and the parties and/or attorneys will be advised accordingly.
- (5) During the period 6 April 2020 – 17 April 2020, counsel are discouraged from overloading the email with general correspondence and/or pleadings which do not relate to matters of extreme urgency.
- (6) Searches of all Cause Books are suspended until **Monday, 20 April 2020**.

## MAGISTRATES COURT

- (7) All hearings listed before the Magistrates' Court during the period 6 April – 17 April 2020 shall be adjourned administratively to a date to be fixed. The parties **are not** required to attend the Magistrates' Court, and will be contacted in due course concerning the date they are required to attend for the matter to be heard.
- (8) All matters listed before the Magistrates' Court Traffic Court are being adjourned in accordance with the attached schedule at Appendix 1.
- (9) The Magistrates' Court will remain closed to all filings until **Monday, 20 April 2020**. The public access windows will also remain closed.
- (10) The Cashiers Desk will remain closed until **Monday, 20 April 2020**.
- (11) If an application is of **extreme urgency**, the parties **MUST** contact the Court by email **immediately** using the table below and explain the urgency of the matter so that this may be taken into consideration. The Court will make every effort to list any application that is considered urgent, with such urgency to be determined by the presiding Magistrate.

MAGISTRATES COURT EMERGENCY CONTACT	
DIVISION	EMAIL
CIVIL	<a href="mailto:civil@gov.bm">civil@gov.bm</a>
CRIMINAL	<a href="mailto:records@gov.bm">records@gov.bm</a>
FAMILY	<a href="mailto:childsupport@gov.bm">childsupport@gov.bm</a>
BAILIFF	<a href="mailto:ctterry@gov.bm">ctterry@gov.bm</a>

- (12) If an application is listed for hearing as it has been determined to be of extreme urgency, the parties **may** be required to attend Court. Attendance by the parties and/or attorneys can be requested to be via telephone or an alternative form of audio-visual technology with at least 24 hours' notice (or at the earliest possible opportunity if time constraints do not allow for this notice period). The presiding Magistrate will determine if these requests for alternative attendance are approved and the parties and/or attorneys will be advised accordingly.

We will continue to review and monitor the above and whether they should be extended and/or expanded, and the public will be advised concerning any changes.

We thank you for your continued patience and understanding as we navigate through these unprecedented times, and apologise for any inconvenience the above may cause.

Dated this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April 2020.



**REGISTRAR**

CC: The Attorney-General's Chambers  
Department of Public Prosecutions  
Hamilton Police Station  
Commissioner of Police  
Commissioner of Corrections  
Magistrates Court  
Bermuda Bar Association  
Legal Aid Office

ANW/ct

