



In the Supreme Court of Bermuda

A/50

20 April 2021

CIRCULAR NO. 4 OF 2021

TO ALL ATTORNEYS

RE: FURTHER REDUCTION OF SERVICES DUE TO COVID-19

This Practice Direction is issued further to Circular 03 of 2021.

The health, safety and welfare of the Members of the Public, as well as Court Administrative Staff continues to be our paramount concern.

The continued surge of positive COVID-19 test results the island is experiencing continues to be of great concern to the community. As such, the Courts must reduce services further as part of protective measures which are necessary to implement in order to assist in the efforts to reduce the community spread of COVID-19.

It should be noted that both the Magistrates' Court and the Supreme Court of Bermuda are in operation, but reduced services and limited access is being implemented.

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

SUPREME COURT

- (1) The Supreme Court Registries located at the Government Administration Building, 2nd Floor and the Dame Lois Browne Evans Building, 3rd Floor, will be closed until **Monday, 27 April 2021**.
- (2) If an application is considered urgent or time sensitive, the parties **MUST** contact the Court by email at 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 or time sensitive.
- (3) During the period 17 to 30 April 2021, only new applications that are urgent and/or responses on urgent active applications within the Probate Division may be submitted to supremecourt@gov.bm. You will be advised when original hard copies can be filed.
- (4) We are not accepting the filing of pleadings **via email** unless the parties have been directed to do so by the Judicial Department. If correspondence or applications are sent via email which are not explicitly stated as being urgent it is likely this correspondence

via email which are not explicitly stated as being urgent it is likely this correspondence will not be addressed. Likewise, do not send "follow up" emails unless the matter is urgent.

MAGISTRATES' COURT

- (5) The Magistrates' Court will be closed to all filings until **Monday, 27 April 2021**.
- (6) The Cashiers Desk will be closed until **Monday, 27 April 2021**.
- (7) If an application is considered urgent or time sensitive, 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 or time sensitive.

MAGISTRATES COURT EMERGENCY CONTACT	
DIVISION	EMAIL
CIVIL	civil@gov.bm
CRIMINAL	records@gov.bm
FAMILY	childsupport@gov.bm
BAILIFF	ctterry@gov.bm

We will continue to review and monitor the above to determine whether they should be extended and/or expanded. 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 reduction in services may cause.

Dated the 20th day of April 2021



- 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