

### **Oaths & Declarations and Wills**

The Ministry of Justice has published information to support the gazette notices modifying the Oaths and Declarations Act 1957 and the Wills Act 2007:

- [Oaths and Declarations](#)
- [Wills](#)

We are pleased to see that couriering documents will no longer be an issue at alert level 3, which will alleviate issues for those who do not have printers. We acknowledge however that many elderly clients will have trouble accessing AVL. Some lawyers are asking if they can be allowed to meet with such clients at alert level 3 while observing appropriate physical distancing. We will keep you updated on any guidance in this regard but please note that the alert level 3 guideline remains - if you can work from home you should.

### **Family violence – immigration implications**

Just a reminder to FLS members that there may be immigration implications for family violence applicants who are neither New Zealand residents nor citizens. Some of these implications if a victim of family violence was to leave their home might be:

- They would not have access to WINZ funding (for themselves and any children) unless they hold a work visa as a victim of domestic violence;
- They would not be eligible for assistance from Shine, and will have to get in touch with local refuges; and

- They would be in breach of their work visa conditions (if they are on a partnership-based work visa) which may have lasting immigration consequences.

Each case has various issues that need to be taken into account depending on a person's current visa status and situation. Immigration New Zealand has also recently [announced](#) that it will prioritise the processing of applications for victims of domestic violence.

*Kirsty Swadling*

*FLS Chair*