

South Auckland Family Court Cluster operations – alert level 2

A further update to the ongoing operations in the southern cluster Family Courts has been made, now that the courts have been sitting at alert level 2 for over a week.

A call over of short cause and half day hearings on the ready list have been completed.

This has resulted in the removal of eight days of hearing time, which is a significant reduction in work to be scheduled. As the court continue to address the backlog of work caused by the lockdown, it is fortunate to have some additional judge time rostered to the southern cluster in weeks to come. This means that there will be the ability to schedule additional short cause and half day hearings.

The court appreciates there may be times when there will be short notice for counsel and parties and that will be taken into consideration in dealing with advancing matters to hearing; however, the additional judicial resource allows the court to make continued reductions to the ready list and more importantly reduce delays in having matters heard.

Whilst continuing at Level 2, there will be call overs for short cause and half day hearings. Lists will continue to be allocated set times for appearances. This week the court has been able to hold nine extra courts. This has meant that all the COCA direction conferences that were adjourned during the lockdown have been allocated and the court has set down other judicial conferences and pre-hearings conferences.

This has been a considerable effort by both the registry and the local bar and the court

appreciates the time and effort that has been committed by everyone. If there are any questions or concerns, please direct them to Judge Goodwin, the liaison judge.

Bench and bar forum – Auckland – Monday 29 June

The Auckland Family Court judges and the FLS regional representatives invite all Auckland family lawyers to a bench and bar forum at the Auckland Family Court on **Monday, 29 June at 5.30pm**. An agenda for discussion will be circulated prior to the meeting. If there are any issues that practitioners wish to discuss, please contact one of the Auckland Central regional representatives Sharon Chandra at sharon.chandra@turnerhopkins.co.nz, Nazmeen Rasheed nazmeen@halcyonchambers.co.nz or Louise Reed louise@louisereed.co.nz so that we can raise your issues at the forum.

Kath Moran
FLS Manager