

We have been asked to disseminate this information to FLS members from the Auckland registry and the judiciary.

Auckland and North Shore – from Judge de Jong

1. Judge Maude is currently away on long leave and returns at the beginning of September. For this reason I have been assisting with oversight of Northshore Family.
2. All Mental Health hearings continue to be administered from Auckland and under Alert level 3 all mental health hearings are conducted by AVL/VMR until further notice.
3. Under Alert Level 3 all conferences have been converted to telephone conferences in Auckland and Northshore. This arrangement will continue next week irrespective of the Alert Level
4. Auckland settlement conferences continue to be convened provided the Alert Level 3 Family Court protocol is adhered to. In particular this requires social distancing to be maintained and is dependent on the number of participants likely to attend. Settlement conferences at Northshore have been adjourned for the time being because the conference room is not big enough
5. Callovers have been arranged for all hearings (including long cause hearings) to ensure suitable hearing arrangements are in place for this week and next week. In person hearings will continue in Auckland and Northshore provided Alert Level 3 Family Court protocols can be complied with. Where appropriate, submissions only hearings may be conducted by telephone/AVL/VMR and in some cases it may be more appropriate to hear witnesses by AVL/VMR

From Judge Goodwin

The decision has been taken at Manukau Family Court to treat next week as if we will be in level 3. Leaving the rescheduling of work until after any announcements tomorrow, leaves an unnecessary level of uncertainty.

Therefore, all conference list courts will be converted to teleconferences with allocated times (MDC , Monday 17th August; MDC, Wednesday 19th August; MDC, Thursday 20th August (OT); and MDC Friday 21st August).

The Papakura list on Wednesday 19th August will be by teleconference and conducted at Manuka District Court.

If we do go down to level 2, the days will remain as teleconference days, with the allotted time and conducted from the Manukau District Court.

All the short cause work, (MDC, Tuesday 18th August; Wednesday 19th August and Friday, 21st August), will have a call over on Friday morning, by teleconference. Notices will be sent through.

Any settlement conferences (Monday, 17th August) and mediation conferences (Tuesday 18th August), will be sent a notice that says if we are in level 3, it is adjourned, and if in level 2, then it will proceed.

Long cause hearings at this stage are scheduled to proceed. Those involved in long cause hearings, will, however, have a teleconference allocated shortly to assess the viability in individual circumstances.

Waitakere update from Judges Pidwell and Parsons

Click [here](#) for an update about Waitakere from Judges Pidwell and Parsons.

District Court Level 2 and 3 protocols

[Alert level 2 protocol](#)

[Alert level 3 protocol](#)

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