

Auckland Family Court – Alert Level 2

The following is an update from Judge de Jong – Northern Region Family Court Liaison Judge:

1. As you know, Alert Level 2 begins tomorrow at midnight in Auckland. Early indications suggest Alert Level 2 will last about two weeks. At this stage the epidemic notice is in place until 23 December 2020 but is due to be reviewed shortly. It is unlikely that date will be brought forward.
2. Taking into account that Alert Level 2 is likely to be in place for a short period, that there is a need to maintain social distancing, and that it remains prudent to reduce the number of people congregating in confined spaces in the court building, we intend to continue:
 - a. arranging telephone conferences (directions/judicial) on an appointment basis but in person attendances will still be permitted.
 - b. conducting callovers in advance of short cause hearing days and allocating appointment times on short cause hearing days for in person attendances.
 - c. AVL mental health hearings - however, counsel are encouraged to attend the hospital hearing room where the hospital allows lawyers to visit their clients in person.
3. A return to filing hard copies of documents will take effect from Alert Level 2 **except** in relation to standard Family Court protocols (for example, without notice applications).

4. Once we return to Alert Level 1 we will resume pre-covid court arrangements. Relevant Alert Level 1 social distancing and associated hygiene requirements will apply.

Manukau Family Court

There will be an update from Judge Goodwin tomorrow in respect of the Alert Level 2 process for the Manukau Family Court.

Crown invoicing – change in process – effective 28 September

There will be a change in the processing of Crown invoices for the Auckland Metro Family Courts. As from 28 September, Central Registry in Wellington will be processing Crown invoices and extension requests for all courts in the Northern region.

There will be no change to the current process for emailing invoices, these are still to go to crownaccounts.payable@justice.govt.nz, this includes when filing extensions and invoices together.

From Monday 28 September, all extension requests (without an attached invoice) are to be emailed to CRFamilyprocessing@justice.govt.nz

If you have any questions regarding this change for the Auckland Metro area, please email Nadine Lemme, Service Manager, North Shore District Court on Nadine.lemme@justice.govt.nz

Kath Moran
FLS Manager