

Below is a message from Judge Mahon:

Morena

- 1. Since my email to you as acting Family Liaison Judge last Monday, we have moved to Level 2 category lockdown.*
- 2. Level 2 restrictions are similar to Level 3 restrictions for the court. As the Family Registry had to prepare in advance and it was anticipated that any drop in alert level would be to Level 2 only, a decision was made to continue Family Court events on the same basis as last week.*
- 3. The only exception is that Judicial Settlement Conferences will now take place this week as the social distancing requirement has reduced from 2 to 1 metre apart.*
- 4. Those involved in OT and COCA lists will have received specific times for appearances which will continue to be remote either via VMR or if VMR isn't available in the courtroom, the conference will be by telephone. However, counsel and parties may now appear in person if they prefer.*
- 5. Short cause and half day hearings for the first part of this week were subject of a callover before Judge Wagner last week. Counsel involved in defended hearings for Thursday and Friday this week will have received notice of a callover for these cases tomorrow.*
- 6. Counsel need to remember to:*

- a. *Bring proof of any appearance time as security will be limiting the number of people allowed into the courthouse at any one time. You will only permitted entry shortly before the time of your conference/hearing.*
 - b. *Obtain prior approval to any support person(s) accompanying a party. The request for prior approval needs to include the name of the person(s) and reason why it is requested they be present.*
7. *Judges continue to be aware of the anxiety for some lawyers and parties about in person appearances in the Manukau Court given the proximity of the latest outbreak. It is important that anyone concerned about an in-person appearance at a defended hearing this week informs the Judge at the call over tomorrow so alternative arrangements can be made.*
8. *The JSCs scheduled for Papakura today will still take place there. **All Family Court events will continue to take place in Manukau** unless you are advised otherwise.*
9. *If you have any questions about this email or the protocols generally, please don't hesitate to contact me.*

Below is a message from Judge Pidwell:

Dear everyone,

We are relieved to returned to Alert Level 2. again. As this announcement came late last week, Monday Tuesday and Wednesday has been scheduled as per Alert Level 3 protocols, returning to Alert Level 2 on Thursday and Friday for Auckland, North Shore and Waitakere.

1. *All judicial/directions/pre-hearing conferences have been converted to telephone conferences. Counsel and parties will receive log-in information from the registry. This will revert to in person on Thursday and Friday, unless counsel seek to attend remotely.*
2. *Settlement conferences will proceed provided the Alert Level 2 Family Court protocols can be adhered to.*
3. *Long cause fixtures will proceed in Auckland this week.*

4. *Callovers have been arranged for all short cause hearings before the hearing date to ensure suitable hearing arrangements are in place and explore the availability of AVL/VMR where necessary.*
5. *Mental Health hearings will continue via AVL/VMR all week. Counsel are expected to personally attend hospital hearings rooms if the relevant hospital allows them access.*
6. *Registry counters are open.*
7. *Please remind your clients to limit their support people to one person, to ensure we comply with Level 2 limits on numbers.*

*Kath Moran
FLS Manager*

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