

## NOTICE TO THE PROFESSION

**From:** Chief Magistrate Judge Gardiner

**Date:** 29 March 2021

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In light of the three-day lockdown announced this morning the following arrangements will apply on Tuesday 30 March 2021, Wednesday 31 March 2021 and Thursday 1 April 2021 in relation to court proceedings in the following Courthouses:

- Brisbane Magistrates Court and Brisbane Arrest Courts
  - Beenleigh
  - Cleveland
  - Wynnum
  - Holland Park
  - Richlands
  - Ipswich
  - Pine Rivers
  - Sandgate
  - Redcliffe
  - Caboolture
1. The Registries and Courthouses will be not be open to the public.
  2. Messaging on the Courthouse doors and websites will provide Registry contact information so that filing of urgent documents can be completed.
  3. Subject to paragraph 4, all appearances will be by telephone or videoconference. All parties have leave to appear by telephone/video on 30 and 31 March and on 1 April 2021. If a Prosecutor can appear and wishes to appear in-person the local Magistrate can give leave.
  4. At this stage, in-person appearances by adult prisoners will proceed in accordance with letters of production that have been issued provided prisons do not move from Stage 3 to Stage 4 lockdown.
  5. All appearances by children in detention will be by video.
  6. For private domestic violence applications Courthouses will have signage advising the applicant to contact police if their matter is urgent. Applicants wishing to proceed with an urgent private application should contact the Registry. The local Magistrate may give leave to appear or arrangements may be made for an application to be heard by telephone/video.
  7. Parties wishing to appear by telephone or videoconference should contact the relevant court registry by telephone or email with the header "URGENT COURT and DATE: matter details". The contact details for the relevant Courthouses can be found here: <https://www.courts.qld.gov.au/contacts/courthouses>

8. Legal practitioners may apply for an electronic adjournment using the Online Application for a Court Event portal. Ordinarily, applications lodged through the [Online Application for a Court Event](#) portal must be submitted two clear business days before the current listed date. This requirement is temporarily removed. Legal practitioners may now submit applications at any time. In other cases, an email can be sent to the relevant Court registry requesting an adjournment with a telephone contact.
9. Media representatives are permitted to report on Court by telephone or video where the Court is open.
10. Duty lawyer services are available by telephone as outlined below:
  - a. Adult criminal duty lawyer – 1300 004 924
  - b. Youth legal advice hotline – 1800 527 527
  - c. Family Law duty lawyer including family law, domestic and family violence, child protection and family advocacy support service – 1300 267 762.
11. Masks must be worn at all times in court buildings, save at the direction of a Magistrate when a proceeding is under way.
12. All hearings will be adjourned.
13. Other matters will remain as listed and, if possible, proceed.
14. Matters where a defendant may be sentenced to custody are not suitable to proceed.
15. If parties do not appear the matters will be adjourned and a notice of adjournment will be sent.
16. Enforcement of any warrants will be postponed.

**Judge Terry Gardiner**  
**Chief Magistrate**