



**SUPREME COURT OF THE
NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**NOTICE #1 TO PRACTITIONERS, LITIGANTS AND PUBLIC
COVID-19 LOCKDOWN – DARWIN AND KATHERINE**

16 AUGUST 2021

1. Under COVID-19 Directions (No. 39) 2021 issued by the Chief Health Officer on 16 August 2021, “[a]n employee or contractor engaged ... [in] the administration of justice” is an essential worker and is authorised to attend the person’s workplace in the course of employment. That authorisation necessarily extends to barristers and self-employed solicitors.
2. The Directions also provide: “A person residing in the lockdown area must not leave the premises where the person resides except for the following reasons: ... (i) for purposes relating to the administration of justice, including attending: ... (ii) a court or other premises for a purpose relating to the justice or law enforcement system”.
3. The following procedures will be adopted for matters listed in Darwin up to and including Thursday, 19 August 2021.

Pre-trial hearings, mentions and directions hearings

4. The Presiding Judge’s Associate will make contact with the parties to arrange for the matter to be heard by audio-visual link (if facilities are available in the practitioners’ offices) or telephone, or for the matter to be adjourned to a later date if that is not possible.
5. Where it is a criminal matter, the accused will be excused from attending if legally represented.

Guilty pleas

6. Where the accused is remanded in custody, he or she will appear by audio-visual link from the prison.
7. Where the accused is on bail, he or she will appear in person unless the Presiding Judge has adjourned the matter to a later date and enlarged bail.
8. Any application for adjournment of guilty pleas should be notified by telephone to the Presiding Judge’s Associate.

Jury trials

9. At this point, jury trials listed in the week commencing Monday, 23 August 2021 will proceed.
 10. This notice will be updated as the circumstances require.
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