



**SUPREME COURT OF THE
NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**NOTICE #3 TO PRACTITIONERS, LITIGANTS AND PUBLIC
COVID-19 LOCKDOWN – DARWIN AND ALICE SPRINGS**

30 JUNE 2021

1. Under the Directions issued by the Chief Health Officer on 27 June 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 who ordinarily resides in the lockdown area must not leave the premises where the person ordinarily resides except: (i) for the purposes relating to the administration of justice, including attending: (ii) a court or other premises for the purpose relating to the justice or law enforcement system”.
3. The following procedures will be adopted for matters listed in both Darwin and Alice Springs up to and including Friday, 2 July 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. The jury trial listed for this week in Darwin has been vacated. At this point, jury trials listed in the week commencing Monday, 5 July 2021, and the jury panel induction at 3 PM on Friday, 2 July 2021, will proceed.
 10. This notice will be updated as the circumstances require.
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