



DISTRICT COURT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

PUBLIC NOTICE - COVID-19

This notice applies to criminal listings for the period 2 February 2021 to 5 February 2021.

Background

On 31 January 2021 the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Western Australia with the authority of the head of each jurisdiction published a notice advising that all trial and in person hearings listed in the week beginning 1 February 2021 were vacated and other matters were to be vacated unless alternative arrangements were made for them to continue. The following arrangements will apply to listed criminal matters for 2 February 2021 to 5 February 2021.

Jury Trials

All jury trials will be administratively vacated and adjourned to a call over list on Monday 8 February 2021. Jury trials presently in progress will be adjourned until Monday 8 February 2021. If the accused is on bail then bail will be extended until Monday 8 February 2021.

Listed Bail Hearings

Bail hearings will proceed at the discretion of the listed judge. If arrangements can be made for all parties to appear by video link or audio link then the matter can proceed at the judge's discretion.

Section 98 CPA Criminal Directions Hearings

Section 98 hearings can proceed if counsel appear by video link or audio link at the discretion of the presiding judge.

Sentencing

Sentencing can proceed if the accused is in custody and appearing by video link and counsel are able to appear by video link or audio link at the discretion of the listed judge.

Sentencing cannot proceed for accused who are on bail because it would require an in person appearance. If a sentencing matter does not proceed then the accused can be remanded administratively to a future date set at the listed judge's discretion.

Pre-recording of Evidence

Pre-recording of evidence cannot proceed because the witness and the accused would both be required to use video facilities thereby placing them both on the screen at the same time. Pre-recording of evidence hearings will be vacated and adjourned to the call over list on Monday 8 February 2021 by the Associate to the listed judge. If the accused is on bail then bail will be extended administratively to the future date.

Urgent General Duties

The Chief Judge will preside over an urgent General Duties List on Thursday 4 February 2021. General Duties matters that are not urgent will be listed in the General Duties list on Monday 8 February 2021. The General Duties List will not include in person appearances by accused or counsel. Counsel can appear by video link or audio link.

Trial Listings Hearing

The Trial Listings Hearing list will proceed before the Chief Judge on Friday 5 February 2021 by audio link or video link.

Sentence Mention Hearing

The Sentence Mention Hearing list will proceed by audio link on Friday 5 February 2021.

Dated 2 February 2021



Her Honour Judge Julie Wager

Chief Judge of the District Court of Western Australia