



DISTRICT COURT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

PUBLIC NOTICE 5 OF 2022 - COVID-19

This Notice applies from Friday, 10 June 2022 to all matters listed in the District Court of Western Australia in Perth and in a regional court location. The provisions of this Notice apply to matters and hearings in both the civil and criminal jurisdictions of the Court, unless stated otherwise.

This Notice supersedes Public Notice 4 of 2022 – COVID-19, issued 28 April 2022.

1. Counsel are to appear in person or may appear by video or audio link as directed by the presiding judge or registrar.
2. Any person who has COVID-19 symptoms or who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 7 days must not enter the Court building.
3. The production of evidence of a person's vaccination status to enter the District Court building will cease.
4. If, for any reason, counsel are not permitted to enter the building and they have a matter listed, counsel must advise the associate to the presiding judge or registrar, or, if the identity of the presiding judicial officer is not known, District Court Criminal CriminalDC@justice.wa.gov.au or District Court Civil civildc@justice.wa.gov.au so that arrangements may be made to appear by video or audio link, or other arrangements made as directed by the judge or registrar.
5. Members of the public or other participants in the hearing may be directed not to enter the courtroom at the direction of the presiding judge or registrar.

Use of Face Masks

6. The wearing of masks is no longer mandatory but is encouraged where social distancing is not possible. This does not limit the power of a judge or registrar to require the wearing of masks during the course of proceedings if the circumstances require.

Hearings (Other than Trials and Sentencing Hearings)

For information on trials and sentencing hearings please see the information under the respective headings below.

7. Counsel are to appear in person or may appear by video or audio link as directed by the presiding judge or registrar.
8. All documents relating to the hearing must be filed electronically not less than two business days before the hearing.
9. For Sentence Mention Lists and Trial Listing Hearings or for other hearings at the direction of the presiding judge or registrar once counsel has filed a Notice of Acting on the accused's behalf the accused person may answer their bail by contacting counsel prior to the commencement of the list or by attendance at the counsel's office prior to the commencement of the list. Counsel will be required to confirm as an officer of the court that the accused contacted or attended as required and is complying with all conditions of bail including confirmation that the accused's residential address is correct.
10. If a Notice of Acting has not been filed the accused person must answer their bail by attending court unless otherwise directed. An accused person on bail who is to be arraigned or who has been directed to personally attend court must appear in person.
11. Counsel for the prosecution or defence in a criminal matter or for the plaintiff or defendant in a civil matter who are appearing by video or audio link are to inform the associate to the presiding judge or registrar by email at least 24 hours prior to the hearing of their telephone number and must be available to be contacted on that number from the listing time.

Sentencing

12. Counsel are to appear in person or may appear by audio or video link as directed by the presiding judge.
13. Sentencing of those in custody will proceed in person or by way of video link, as ordered by the presiding judge.
14. Those on bail pending sentence should attend the Court in person for sentencing hearings unless otherwise directed.

Trials (Civil and Criminal by Jury and by Judge Alone)

15. Trial arrangements will be made for accused, counsel, parties, witnesses and any other participants to appear in person as safely as possible. Bespoke arrangements for trials are at the direction of the presiding judge.
16. If bespoke arrangements for the trial need to be made, counsel must advise the associate to the presiding judge, or, if the identity of the judge is not known, District Court Criminal CriminalDC@justice.wa.gov.au or District Court Civil civildc@justice.wa.gov.au. Any potential arrangements should be flagged with as much notice as possible, but, in any event, not less than 72 hours' notice prior to the trial commencing.
17. Start times and lunch adjournments for trials may be staggered at the direction of the Chief Judge or presiding judge, where required, to allow for juror comfort and for social distancing in the lifts and public areas.
18. The Court is open to the public unless otherwise ordered by the Chief Judge or the presiding judge or registrar.
19. Those appearing by video or audio link are invited to familiarise themselves with the Court's [Recommended Practices for Remote Hearings](#).

Dated 9 June 2022



Her Honour Judge Julie Wager
Chief Judge of the District Court of Western Australia