



## **DISTRICT COURT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

### **PUBLIC NOTICE – COVID-19**

#### **Amendment to Practice Direction 17 - Change in practice due to COVID-19**

*This notice applies from 20 July 2020 in respect of the hearing of matters in the exercise of the Court's Civil Jurisdiction.*

#### **Background**

On 27 June 2020 the Government of Western Australia introduced Phase 4 of its response to COVID-19. Consistently with the easing of restrictions pursuant to Phase 4 and the continuing reduced incidence of COVID-19 cases in the community the Court has further reviewed its practices relating to the hearing of cases in its civil jurisdiction, resulting in changes to Practice Direction 17 of the Consolidated Practice Directions & Circulars to Practitioners.

#### **Expedited trials**

The Court will continue to expedite the hearing of trials where circumstances require, including circumstances in which the plaintiff may have a limited life expectancy.

#### **Practice Directions**

Practice Direction 17 of the Consolidated Civil Practice Directions will be amended to reflect the Courts decision to return to the practice of requiring the personal attendance of parties at the hearing of applications, with the use of audio or video-link to make submissions being the departure from normal practice.

Dated the 14 July 2020

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Julie Wager'.

Her Honour Judge Julie Wager

Chief Judge of the District Court of Western Australia