



OFFICE OF THE JUDGE PRESIDENT

GAUTENG DIVISION OF THE HIGH COURT OF SOUTH AFRICA

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E-mail: NWalkinshaw@judiciary.org.za

2 August 2020

To:

1. All Judges of the Gauteng Division of the High Court, Pretoria and Johannesburg
2. All Judiciary Heads of the Regional and District Courts, Gauteng Division
3. Court staff, Professional Bodies, Practitioners and members of the public

NOTICE:

EXTENTION OF THE 11 MAY 2020 CONSOLIDATED DIRECTIVE REGARDING COURT OPERATIONS IN THE GAUTENG DIVISION OF THE HIGH COURT, PRETORIA AND JOHANNESBURG

1. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to rage in South Africa with the Gauteng province being the epicentre. Despite the easing of movement restrictions, health and safety measures remain applicable especially the avoidance of physical contact among persons and the continued requirement for social distancing. In view of this context, the provisions of the Consolidated Directive issued on 11 May 2020 remain relevant.
2. It is for this reason that a decision has been taken to extend the application of the 11 May 2020 Consolidated Directive indefinitely and/or until it is withdrawn or replaced. The provisions of this Directive therefore continue to apply save for those referred to in paragraphs 4 and 5 below, regarding the Pretoria High Court.



3. The provisions of the 11 May Consolidated Directive are being reviewed with a view to amending and improving them as well as to address other relevant issues. To aid this process, suggested amendments, improvements, etc. are requested from all concerned which must be sent to NWalkinshaw@judiciary.org.za by not later than 16h00 on Friday 7 August 2020.

PRETORIA – Final Civil Trial enrolment Practice Notes

4. Paragraph 8.2 of the 11 May 2020 Consolidated Directive in so far as it applies in the High Court, Pretoria is withdrawn. In this regard the following shall apply instead -
 - 4.1 With effect from Monday 3 August 2020, the practice notes should **NO LONGER** be emailed but instead, hard copies thereof must be dropped off at the designated boxes at the entrance of the High Court Building. Five boxes will be placed at the entrance of the High Court building labelled Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.
 - 4.1.1 By way of illustration of the process - all practice notes for the trial date 11 August 2020 must be dropped off in the box labelled Tuesday on or before Tuesday the 4th of August 2020 by 13h00; all practice notes for the trial date 12 August 2020 must be dropped off in the box labelled Wednesday on or before Wednesday 5th of August 2020 by 13h00 and so forth.
 - 4.2 The practice notes must be placed in an envelope, in the designated boxes left at the entrance of the High Court building only between the office hours of 9h00 and 13h00.
 - 4.3 Should the Practice notes not be for matters that are finally enrolled for the five days of the following week, the registrar will have the discretion to discard that practice note.



- 4.4 If the practice note is non-compliant with the practice manual or this directive, and should it not be placed in the correct box the registrar will have the discretion to discard it.
- 4.5 If a matter was set down for judicial case management and the file was created on CaseLines, there is no need to request the creation of another profile of that case number for trial purposes. Litigants should upload their trial bundles on the case profile already created on CaseLines.

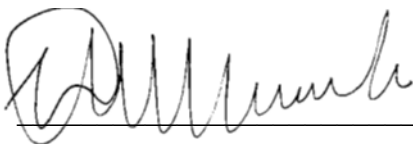
PRETORIA – Unopposed Motion date applications

5. In so far as the Unopposed Motion date requests/applications in the High Court, Pretoria, are concerned IT network challenges have led to the non attendance of email requests/applications with the consequence that a massive backlog has accumulated. To address this challenge, the provisions of the 11 May Consolidated Directive, in so far as these requests/applications are concerned, **NO LONGER APPLY** with immediate effect. Instead parties shall comply with the directions set out hereunder –
- 5.1 A copy of the email request/application including all attachments that was sent to ptaUdateapplications@judiciary.org.za, which has **NOT** been attended to, **MUST** be dropped off in designated boxes, at the foyer of the High Court building, during the week of 03 – 07 August 2020.
- 5.2 This direction shall also apply to new requests/applications provided that these **MUST NOT** be dropped off during the week of 3 – 7 August 2020. These must be dropped off with effect from 12 August 2020. Non compliance with this direction will result in the affected request/application being discarded. The earlier and unattended requests/applications will be prioritised until the backlog is addressed. Parties will be notified by email of the allocated dates not later than 10 days after the hard copy was dropped off.



- 5.3 To cater for proof of dropping off/filing of the requests/applications referred in paragraph 5.1 and 5.2 above, a register will be placed next to the relevant box for the capturing of the necessary such as the details of the person, etc. regarding the email request/application being dropped off.
- 5.4 All bundles of the unattended email requests/applications dropped off must be collected during the week of 24 – 28 August 2020, from designated boxes at the foyer of the High Court building. The application for an Unopposed Motion date form, with the date allocated, will be attached at the top of the bundle.

Sincerely



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**JUDGE PRESIDENT OF THE GAUTENG DIVISION OF THE
HIGH COURT OF SOUTH AFRICA**

