



On and from 1 April 2020, the District Court of NSW will temporarily suspend **New Judge alone trials, sentence hearings, Local Court Appeals, arraignments and readiness hearings, where the defendant is not in custody.** This temporary suspension will be reviewed on 1 May 2020.

The Court will continue to hear to the extent and for as long as possible, consistent with health advice, all criminal matters **where the defendant is in custody**, with the exception of new jury trials which remain temporarily suspended.

Re-Listing

Registrars of the District Court will notify the parties of the date that suspended matters have been re-listed for mention. These re-listing dates for mention will not be before 1 May 2020. Present bail orders will continue for all matters that have been temporarily suspended.

Applications to vary bail

On and from 1 April 2020 all applications to vary bail will be dealt with by a judge in chambers. Personal appearances will not be permitted. The Court will shortly publish procedures to be followed for these applications.

Prioritising hearings – bringing criminal matters forward where the defendant is in custody

Practitioners are encouraged to notify the Court of:

1. Sentence hearings requiring priority, particularly those defendants whose time on remand is approaching the period likely to be served on sentence, and
2. Local Court appeals where the appellant has been sentenced to a full-time custodial sentence.

Where both the prosecution and defendant are ready to take an earlier hearing date and the hearing may proceed by use of a Virtual Court room, the Court may prioritise the hearing.

Virtual Courtroom Practitioner Guide

Practitioners are asked to familiarise themselves with the Virtual Courtroom by reading the Virtual Courtroom Guide, published on the District Court NSW website.

Justice Price AM, Chief Judge

30 March 2020