

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE



PRACTICE DIRECTION 5 OF 2021

OPERATIONAL DIRECTIONS FOR THE COURTS DURING THE RELAXED NATIONAL LOCKDOWN PERIOD

Application

- 1) This Practice Direction is issued to replace operational instructions announced in Practice Directions 1 to 4 of 2021.
- 2) It applies to the Constitutional Court; the Supreme Court; the High Court (including the offices of the Master and the Sheriff); the Labour Court; the Administrative Court; and the Magistrates' Court (including the Messenger of Court) in Zimbabwe.

Court Operations

- 3) Normal court operations, including the offices of the Master and the Sheriff of the High Court, shall resume with effect from **2 March 2021**, subject to the requirements of paragraphs 10, 11, 12 and 13 of this Practice Direction.
- 4) Court operations shall proceed in the manner set out in this Practice Direction.
- 5) The hours during which Registries shall be open for litigants, legal practitioners and the public shall be in terms of the applicable Court Rules.

- 6) The filing and processing of new cases, process, documents, pleadings, papers and court orders, including service and execution by the Sheriff and the Messenger of Court, shall be done in terms of the applicable Court Rules, legislation or court order.
- 7) For the avoidance of doubt, accused persons originally remanded between **5 January 2021** and **1 March 2021**, remain automatically remanded to the dates stated in Practice Direction 4 of 2021.
- 8) Solemnisation of marriages shall be conducted provided that only the parties to the marriage and their witnesses shall be allowed to attend.

Court Attendance

- 9) Admission into court premises and offices shall be subject to paragraphs 10-13 below.
- 10) All persons who attend Court shall at all times:-
 - i. be subjected to temperature checks;
 - ii. be required to sanitise their hands at entry into court premises;
 - iii. wear face masks in the manner prescribed by law;
 - iv. avoid person to person contact; and
 - v. maintain social distancing as prescribed by law.
- 11) Any person who does not comply with the requirements specified in paragraph 10 shall not be allowed entry into court premises/courthouse/ courtroom; or shall be asked to leave the court premises or courtroom or courthouse.
- 12) Entry into court premises/courthouses/courtrooms shall be limited to litigants, their legal practitioners, necessary witnesses and identified members of the press.
- 13) Entry into court premises/courthouses shall strictly not be permitted to members of the public who have no business at court.

Effective date

14) This Practice Direction takes effect from **2 March 2021**.

Hon. Mr Justice L Malaba
Chief Justice of Zimbabwe

HARARE
1 March 2021