

SUPREME COURT OF THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

NOTICE TO PRACTITIONERS

Staged Return to Supreme Court Operations

Practitioners are advised that the court will move to stage 2 of its pathway to resuming court operations on 1 November 2021. Detail of the pathway is attached.

From 1 November 2021 the following registry services will resume:

- **Court Registry Counter**

The court registry counter will reopen at 9am for filing and payment of fees for documents which are not able to be filed by the courts e-lodgement portal.

- **Court Collection Boxes**

Solicitor's Court Collection Boxes will reopen for collection of all documents filed in the court registry and other court notices.

- **Library**

The Russell Fox Library on level 2 of the Supreme Court Building will reopen from 8:30am.

From 9am on 1 November 2021 the following registry services will cease:

- **Filing by email**

Filing will no longer be available by email other than by leave granted by the Registrar (see rule 6121 of the Court Procedures Rules 2006 (CPR)).

In the absence of leave being granted documents filed by email after 9am on 1 November 2021 **will not** be accepted for filing and will be rejected under rule 6140 of the CPR.

Solicitor firms who are interstate will be expected to either

- a) Use the e-lodgement facility where available;
- b) File documents by post in accordance with rule 6123; or
- c) Engage a local agent to file documents on their behalf.

The fact of being located interstate alone will not be accepted as sufficient reason for the granting of leave to file by email.

- **Filing by post box in the court foyer**

Filing via the post box in the court foyer will no longer be available. The Supreme Court 'post box' in the court foyer will be removed as of close of business on 29 October 2021.

- **Return of sealed documents**

With the reopening of the court registry counter and solicitor collection boxes the return of sealed documents by email will cease other than in exceptional circumstances and where leave has already been granted for the documents to be filed by email.

Restrictions that will continue:

- **Appearances via AVL**

At this stage all appearances in the ACT Supreme Court will continue via AVL where appropriate to the circumstances of the case.

- **Access to the Courthouse**

Access to the premises occupied by the Supreme Court will continue to be subject to any orders made by the Chief Justice and Chief Magistrate under section 50 of the *Court Procedures Act 2004 (CPA)*. Practitioners should take careful note of any requirements contained in those orders and abide by them at all times when entering and within the ACT Law Courts Building. Relevant staff have been instructed to enforce these orders and failure to comply with them may result in you being required to leave the building.

From time to time orders made under section 50 of the CPA may impose additional requirements to those mandated by the Chief Health Officer of the ACT.



Jayne Reece

Registrar, ACT Supreme Court

29 October 2021

Supreme Court of the ACT

Court Operations: Easing of COVID-19 Restrictions Pathway

	From 15 Oct 2021	From 1 Nov 2021	From 26 Nov 2021
Access to court precinct			
Physical access	As per s50 Order: Restricted to parties, legal representatives & other specified persons	As per s50 Order: Restricted to parties, legal representatives & other specified persons	As per s50 Order: Restricted to parties, legal representatives & other specified persons
Face masks	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Check ins	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Attending court			
Appearances	Via AVL where appropriate to the circumstances of the case	Via AVL where appropriate to the circumstances of the case	Via AVL where appropriate to the circumstances of the case
Counter			
Enquiries, filing & payments	Closed	Open	Open
Document collection boxes	Closed	Open	Open
Filing documents			
E-Lodgement via portal	Must be used where applicable	Must be used where applicable	Must be used where applicable
Post-Boxes	Open	Not available	Not available
Email filing	Available	By leave only	Not available
Court of Appeal Books	Hard copy via post-box	Hard copy via counter	Hard copy via counter
Return of documents			
Filed via email	Returned via email	Not available	Not available
Filed via post	Returned by post	Returned via collection / local agent for interstate parties	Returned via collection / local agent for interstate parties
Filed via post-box	Return by post	Not available	Not available
Handing yourself in			
	Go to the local police station	Via Counter	Via Counter
Paying fees			
	Electronically only	Electronically or via Counter	Electronically or via Counter
Library			
	Closed for in person use	Open	Open
Sheriff's Roadwork			
Enforcement action	On hold	Resumed	Resumed

NOTE: This document is subject to advice and directions from the Chief Health Officer of the ACT. The dates provided are indicative and subject to change.