



SPECIAL MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

(SMIN-4)

Court Attendance

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Special Measures Information Note (SMIN-4) sets out arrangements for Court attendance at the Federal Court during the COVID-19 outbreak in Australia.
- 1.2 Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, where appropriate and necessary, the Federal Court is modifying its practices in order to minimise in person attendance on Court premises, with the Court's priority being the health and safety of the community, and in particular, parties, practitioners, judges and staff, and the families of all of these groups.
- 1.3 The cooperation of all court users and court staff is required in this regard.
- 1.4 This special measures information note takes effect from the date it is issued and, to the extent practicable, applies to all proceedings filed before, or after, the date of issuing.
- 1.5 This special measures information note remains in effect until and unless superseded or revoked.

2. IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE

- 2.1 The health and safety of the community, judges and court staff is our priority.
- 2.2 As infection rates and government restrictions ease the opportunities for a limited return to in-person attendance in Court will increase.
- 2.3 The Court will continue to limit the number of people within the Court precinct to limit the spread of COVID-19. In addition, there will be physical distancing requirements and limits on the size of gatherings for all persons who are in attendance.
- 2.4 Do not come to court if you are unwell.
- 2.5 All those attending the Courts for hearings are encouraged to download the Australian Government Department of Health COVIDSafe app.

3. PHYSICAL DISTANCING AND PERSONAL HYGIENE

- 3.1 All of the Court's buildings have been assessed to ensure appropriate physical distancing can be maintained and limits placed on the numbers of people who can gather in Courtrooms and other areas.
- 3.2 Decals, stickers and floor markings throughout the Court's buildings indicate appropriate physical distancing and gathering limits.

- 3.3 All persons attending Court buildings must obey appropriate physical distancing and gathering limits.
- 3.4 All persons attending Court buildings must also practice good hygiene.
- 3.5 Hand sanitiser is available at the entry of each building, on each floor and at bar tables.
- 3.6 Public bathrooms on each floor provide access to soap and water.

4. CLEANING

- 4.1 All Court facilities are being cleaned to ensure compliance with COVID-19 cleaning and disinfecting measures outlined by Safe Work Australia.
- 4.2 Please inform a member of Court staff or Court Security if you become aware of anything that requires prompt attention from cleaning staff.

J L B ALLSOP
Chief Justice
16 June 2020