



OFFICE OF THE JUDGE PRESIDENT

GAUTENG DIVISION OF THE HIGH COURT OF SOUTH AFRICA

P O Box 442, PRETORIA 0001 - Tel 012- 314-9003 - Fax 012-326-4940

Palace of Justice, Church Square, Room 13, First Floor, Pretoria

Private Bag X7, JOHANNESBURG 2001 - Tel 011- 335-0479 - Fax 086-207-1291

c/o Pritchard and Von Brandis Streets, Room 510, Fifth Floor, Johannesburg

E-mail: NWalkinshaw@judiciary.org.za

04 June 2020

PROTOCOL RE MEDIA ACCESS TO COURT PROCEEDINGS

RE: ACCESS BY THE MEDIA TO PHYSICAL/IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL COURT HEARINGS IN THE HIGH COURTS OF THE GAUTENG DIVISION

This protocol is issued to make provision for the media's access to physical and virtual Court hearings.

This protocol does not replace the provisions set out in the High Courts' Practice Manuals relating to requests for the media's attendance in Court proceedings unless where a deviation therefrom is specified in this protocol and only for the duration of the covid-19 pandemic.

1. Virtual Court Hearings


- 1.1 Members of the Media who wish to attend a virtual Court hearing may direct a request to the Secretary of the presiding Judge in instances where the details of the Judge hearing the matter are known.
- 1.2 In instances where the details of the presiding Judge are unknown, the request may be directed to the Secretary of the Judge President – Ms Nolene Morris at NWalkinshaw@judiciary.org.za who will direct the request to the Secretary of the presiding Judge.
- 1.3 It remains the decision of the presiding Judge to grant access to the proceedings with due regard to the nature of the proceedings, public interest in Court proceedings and the principles of open justice.



- 1.4 On direction of the presiding Judge, the Secretary will render such assistance as is necessary to ensure that the members of the media are linked to virtual hearings.
- 1.5 Virtual hearings should ideally be recorded. Subject to direction by the presiding Judge, the responsibility for recording and management of the audio recording will be undertaken by the Court and/or by the Party that has organized the virtual hearing. The party that has organized the virtual hearing must, immediately following the hearing, provide the Court with a link to the record which shall be uploaded to the case profile on CaseLines. Where feasible the link will also be posted on the website of the Office of the Chief Justice.
- 1.6 Members of the Media granted access to virtual hearings must mute their microphones and switch off their cameras at all times so as to minimise interference with the proceedings.
- 1.7 Members of the media may request access to Court records filed on CaseLines or through other electronic means from the Secretary of the presiding Judge, who shall subject to the direction of the presiding Judge, enable such access subject to applicable system access restrictions and protocols. To this end members of the media may have to register their profiles on CaseLines (<https://sajustice.caselines.com>).
- 1.8 Where feasible a web link for virtual hearings will be posted on the website of the Office of the Chief Justice and can be accessed at www.judiciary.org.za.
- 1.9 Court rolls will be published on the website of the Office of the Chief Justice and can be accessed at www.judiciary.org.za.

2. Physical or in person Court Hearings

Paragraph 95 of the Consolidated Directive dated 11 May 2020 is supplemented to the extent that the media may have access to physical Court hearings provided that the health and safety measures currently in place at the Court buildings, as referred to in paragraph 94 of the consolidated Directive, are adhered to.



D MLAMBO

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

