



Working Instructions for Local Court Resumed Services Plan

This document provides further practical working instructions as to how the Local Court will resume services as per the Northern Territory Resumed Services Plan released on Monday 11 May 2020, and available [here on our website](#).

Stage 1 – Commencing 18 May 2020



Physical Distancing Limits

Local Court	Foyer	Cells	Crt 1	Crt 2	Crt 3	Crt 4	Crt 5 & 6	Crt 7	Crt 9	Stakeholder rooms
Darwin Children's	15	12	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	DPP/TF = 2 NAAJA/NTLAC = 3 Interview Room = 1
Darwin	Lvl1= 50 Lvl2= 40 Civil = 8	11	20	20	15	15	10	10	10	REALS/AIS = 1 NTLAC = 2 2 x NAAJA offices = 3
Alice Springs	37 total (level breakdown TBA)	5 (after youth cells open 8)	15	15	5	5	5			2x prep only rooms = 1 1x Custodial interview Room = 2 E10 x interview rooms =2 (Incl NAAJA, NTLAC & Ors) DDP room = 3
Katherine	20	15	20	10	-	-	-	-	-	NAAJA/NTLAC/WAS = 2 Prosecution = 4 Interview Room = 1



Call overs, by consent orders in chambers and on-country bail applications

The purpose of the call over is to confirm all fresh paper work received, remove from the list matters which can be resolved by way of by consent applications in chambers, and prioritise on-country bail applications. The call-over will be at 9:30am and will be conducted by the Criminal Registrar, and in Katherine by the Judicial Registrar.

Registry Counters

Registry counters will operate as per usual, within physical distancing requirements. **Electronic filing will remain and practitioners will still be encouraged to access the registry via email or phone in order to preserve physical distancing space for people who cannot otherwise access the Court.**

Criminal in-custody matters

Physical distancing must be maintained in court cells. Given this, first appearance ('Fresh Custodies') will be transported to and from Police custody to the court cells as appropriate.

Duty services may wish to place staff or arrange phone links at Palmerston and Alice Springs watch houses to commence taking instructions. This will need to be arranged between the duty services and the custody facility.

It is not anticipated this will be required in Katherine given the cells capacity. Should the watch houses be used for overflow it will be imperative to clear current matters out of the court cells as quickly as possible in order for watch house custodies to be brought across.

For in-custody hearings an application will need to be made to court for a defendant to be transported in from the correctional centre. If approved, a call up notice will be issued. Noting that these call ups will affect the capacity for fresh custody matters. Call up notices for hearings in Darwin on Monday 18.05.2020 have been issued.

All other matters will continue to be heard via AVL or by telephone link.

On-country bail applications will remain in place for arrests in communities outside of Darwin, Alice, Katherine.

Childrens Court

All mentions of in detention matters will be via AVL from the Detention Centre. An application will need to be made to court to appear in the cells. If approved, a call up notice will be issued. Territory Families Detention staff will not be present at the courthouse unless a call up notice is issued.

All fresh paperwork, charges, reports etc. must be submitted via email and not handed to registry staff. These documents can be emailed to Darwin.ChildrensCourt@nt.gov.au or ASLC.CriminalRegistry@nt.gov.au.

The court and registry will continue to encourage the use of AVL and telephone communication. Responsible adults may appear by telephone or AVL.



Physical Court facilities

The NT Local Courts have made hand sanitiser available and put signage in courtrooms about hygiene and social distancing. Seats are being spaced further apart where possible. Security staff will be monitoring adherence to physical distancing requirements.

Parties are to come to court prepared, have their matter heard, and leave the court building so others may access the court.

Leave to Appear and Requirements to Appear in Person

There will be no end date to when lawyers will be able to appear by video, but the standing leave will cease as of 18 May 2020. After this leave will need to be sought from the presiding judge. The practice of submitting the Virtual Appearance Slip where leave is granted will remain. This will be the same in the Children's Court.

For example, a duty lawyer may liaise with the Children's Court Registrar to seek leave for the week from the presiding judge by submitting a Virtual Appearance Slip of the matters they are aware they have, and then noting it would also be on a duty basis if required (and providing the dial in details to the Court so a link may be prepared).

Defendants and witnesses will be expected to attend the Court physically unless ordered otherwise from 18 May 2020.

The administrative call overs and in-chambers orders by consent will also remain, so if lawyers seek 'defendant excused if legally represented' orders and they are not opposed this may be raised in the call overs, or lodged via relist application noting the details of the other side's consent.

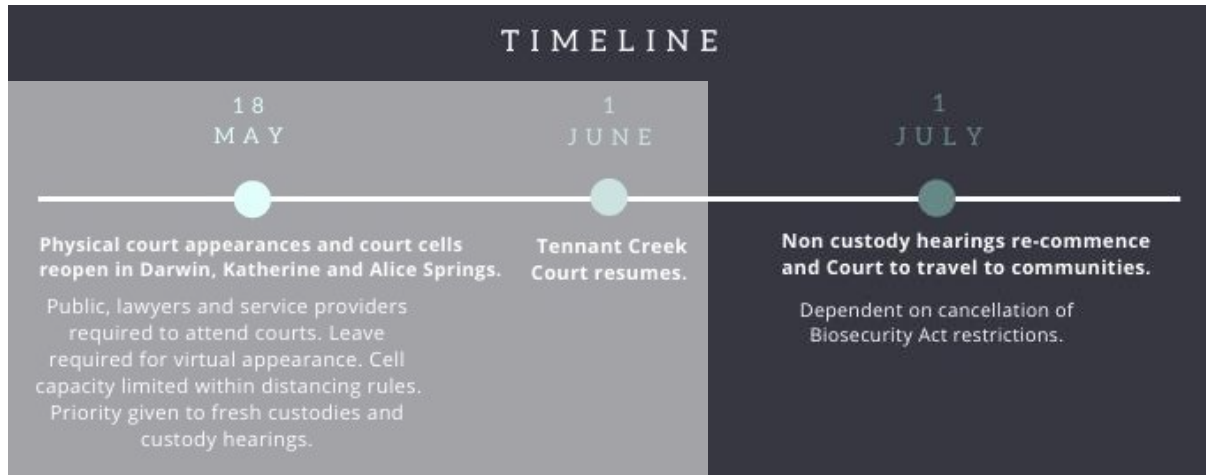
Stage 2 – Commencing 1 June 2020



From 1 June 2020, the measures adopted for Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs will also be adopted for Tennant Creek.



Stage 3 – Commencing 1 July 2020



In the weeks beginning the 22nd and 29th June 2020 the court has allocated time each day to manage the non-custody matters which have had their hearing dates vacated because of the CoVid 19 restrictions.

Represented defendants are not expected to appear and will be excused.

- In Darwin April Hearings are now vacated and listed for CMI on 22 June, 2020. The May hearings are vacated and listed for CMI on 23 June. June Hearings are vacated and listed for CMI on 24 June.
 - Matters with private legal representation, representation by NTLAC and self-represented defendants will commence at 9:30am. Matters with representation by NAAJA will commence at 2:00pm.
- In Katherine non-custody contested hearings in April and May are vacated and listed for CMI on June 22, 2020.
- In Alice Springs, April and May Hearings are now vacated and listed for Directions Hearings on 23 June 2020.
 - Matters with representation by NAAJA will commence at 9:30am, all others will commence at 2:00pm.
- In Tennant Creek April Hearings are now vacated and listed for Directions Hearings on 23 June 2020.
- Civil hearings are not vacated.
- All interim domestic violence orders are continued.

For more information see <https://localcourt.nt.gov.au/court-updates/local-court-hearings-be-vacated-help-tackle-spread-covid-19#>

Further details in regards to Circuit Court commencement to be provided closer to the time.