



PRACTICE DIRECTION No. 4 OF 2020

FAMILY DIVISION

REMOTE HEARINGS - FAMILY MENTION DAYS

1. This Guidance, which is approved by the Chief Justice, is intended to be followed with immediate effect in the Grand Court Family Division. It should be read in conjunction with (i) the Protocol “COVID19: Guidance for the Family Division” issued by the Chief Justice on 29 March 2020 and (ii) Practice Direction No. 6/2012 “Listing of Family Law Proceedings.”
2. The days already allocated for Family Mention Days will remain. These dates are 16 April, 17 April, 14 May, 15 May, 28 May, 29 May, 1 June, 12 June, 25 June, 26 June 2020. All cases already listed on a Family Mention Day will still be heard at the same time on the same date. Additional cases will be added to the existing Family Mention Days and new Family Mention Days will be created.
3. All presently listed Family Mention Day cases and any cases added to the Family Mention Day list will now be dealt with remotely by Zoom. If you are unfamiliar with Zoom here is the help page from Zoom <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206618765-Zoom-Video-Tutorials> and further guidance and video <https://learninginbloom.com/use-zoom/>.
4. The attorneys and any litigants in person will, well in advance of the hearing, be provided with details of the hearing and a link that they will need to use to enable them to access the Zoom hearing. If they have not received these details then they should contact Ms. Suzanne Miller (Suzanne.Miller@Judicial.ky tel: (345) 244 3883).
5. It is important that the parties are available to enter the Zoom hearing at the set time and that they be prepared to wait as there may be a delay caused by a previous matter in the list overrunning. A Zoom connection test should be arranged with Ms. Suzanne Miller

(Suzanne.Miller@Judicial.ky tel: (345) 244 3883) well in advance of the hearing.

6. Each litigant and their attorney can attend the Zoom hearing from different locations. The screen will enable each person attending the meeting to be seen and each attendee can be heard. The Court may use the 'speaker view' in which the person speaking will appear as the main image on the screen and the other attendees will appear in small individual boxes at the top of the screen. The Judge will lead the meeting and will initially appear as the main image on screen. The Judge will then invite the other attendees to speak in turn and when that person is speaking he/she will appear as the main image on the screen. It is important that only one person speak at a time and only when invited by the Judge to do so. The Court may also use the 'gallery view' in which each person will appear in an equal size box on the screen throughout the hearing. At the start of the hearing, the Judge will recommend, depending on the number of attendees, which view should be used.
7. If a party is unable to attend by Zoom because they do not have adequate internet access, the Court will arrange for that party to attend the hearing by telephone. That attendee will be able to hear the other attendees speak and be able to speak during the hearing. At the time set for the hearing, the party will need to dial 1-30171-58592 followed by the meeting ID number and the # sign. The attendee must contact Ms. Suzanne Miller (Suzanne.Miller@Judicial.ky tel: (345) 244 3883) well in advance of the hearing if telephone attendance is sought, in order for them to be provided with the required meeting ID number. A Zoom/telephone connection test should be arranged with Mrs. Suzanne Miller (Suzanne.Miller@Judicial.ky tel: (345) 244 3883) well in advance of the hearing.
8. It is important that all litigants and attorneys ensure that Ms. Suzanne Miller (Suzanne.Miller@Judicial.ky tel: (345) 244 3883) is provided with their up-to-date email and telephone details and promptly notified of any changes made to them.



Hon. Anthony Smellie
Chief Justice

29 March 2020