



LAW ASSOCIATION OF
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

A GUIDE BY:
THE LAW ASSOCIATION OF
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

PROJECT:
LAW IN THE TIME OF CORONA:
GET IN THE KNOW

GET IN THE KNOW

A COVID-19 practicing guide



LAW ASSOCIATION OF
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GET IN THE KNOW

Law in the Time of Corona



INTRODUCTION

Familiarize yourself with those arrangements which have been put in place by the Government and your stakeholders and understand how it affects your business with them, your clients and your staff.

NATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

How do I obtain the most recent public health regulations?

STAKEHOLDER ARRANGEMENTS

How do I contact, and interact with, the various ministerial, judicial and legal stakeholders?

CLIENT ARRANGEMENTS

How do I manage clients during this time?

STAFF ARRANGEMENTS

How do I address staff concerns and human relations during the pandemic?

PREPARE TO ADVISE

How do I effectively advise clients during this crisis?

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NATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Obtain a copy of the most recent public health regulations. These are published in the form of a Legal Notice which may be accessed through www.news.gov.tt. Click on the link to “Gazettes”, then click the link to the current year, and then click on the folder called “Legal Notices”. Once there, look for the most recent legal notice containing public health regulations.

STAKEHOLDER ARRANGEMENTS

Identify your stakeholders and enquire whether they have put specific arrangements in place to deal with their operations during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Legal practitioners may find it useful to consult the following websites, among others, for information in this regard:

- www.ttlawcourts.org– This is the official website of the Trinidad and Tobago Supreme Court. In addition to its repository of cases, the section entitled “Rules and Practice Directions” contains an up-to-date collection of amendments to the Rules of Court and recently issued practice directions;
- <https://lawassociationtt.com/> - The website of our venerable professional association. Registered members have access to a great deal of useful information and resources. It is highly recommended that every effort be made to join their mailing list which provides timely updates relevant to legal practice in Trinidad and Tobago;
- <https://sites.google.com/site/civilrulestt/> -This website is still in development, but contains an electronic, updated and searchable version of the Civil Proceedings Rules 1998;





- **www.agla.gov.tt** – The official website of the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs. It contains access to many helpful resources and information including links to the websites of various registries falling under this line ministry; and
- **www.social.gov.tt**- This is the official website of the Ministry of Social Development. It contains useful information on accessing social grants, including those put in place to specifically address circumstances arising from the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Other stakeholders will include your suppliers (stationery, catering, hygiene products, office furniture, etc.) and your direct service providers (IT, hardware maintenance, utilities, health and safety, property maintenance, plumbing, electrical, telecommunications, etc.). Each of these stakeholders may have implemented their own arrangements which might affect the means and ways by which you interact with them. Familiarize yourself with such arrangements to maintain your supply chain and access to critical services.

CLIENT ARRANGEMENTS

In addition to being directly affected by many of the arrangements identified above, your Clients may also have imposed arrangements upon and/or within their business operations which can affect the ways in which they conduct business, and how you conduct business with them. It is important to understand such arrangements in order to ensure continuity in your delivery of legal services to your Clients.





STAFF ARRANGEMENTS

It is very important to be mindful of your staff at all times, especially in times of crisis. For many persons, they have responsibilities outside of the office. Some employees have medical conditions which might place them in a high-risk category to contract the novel coronavirus. Some employees might be required to stay at home with children during the school closure. Knowing such key information can assist you in making appropriate arrangements to manage your staff and workplace risk effectively. Keeping sick employees home, setting up arrangements to allow employees in need to access social assistance, and knowing how to effectively deploy your staff are essential tools in your arsenal when battling the threat of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

PREPARE TO ADVISE

Being familiar with the arrangements identified above will assist you in not only managing your operations, but also advising your Clients effectively on how they might deal with such arrangements and other issues that might arise in relation thereto.

The COVID-19 Pandemic and the arrangements put in place to respond to it also give rise to many significant issues which are likely to affect and/or be raised by Clients, and indeed we have seen several such issues being raised in the public domain and before the Courts. Legal practitioners ought to anticipate receiving questions in relation to these and other relevant topics and refresh and/or familiarize themselves with fundamental principles arising in these areas. These issues include, but are certainly not limited to:

- The effect of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the performance of obligations arising under business contracts, property rental, lease and sale agreements and employment contracts;
- The effect of the COVID-19 Pandemic on occupational health and safety compliance;





- The effect of arrangements put in place in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic on human rights;
- The management of the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the responses to it on industrial relations practice; and
- The means of access to justice during the Pandemic period.

The rapid changes to the arrangements identified above, and the swift pace at which jurisprudence develops during times of crisis require legal professionals to collaborate and share information in order to keep ahead of the curve ensure that their knowledge of the information available to them is up-to-date, relevant and appropriate.

The Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago is committed to assisting all legal professionals as far as reasonably practicable. This brochure is produced by our Information Technology Committee and is one of a series containing guidance which we hope will assist legal professionals in continuing business operations during the Pandemic period. We hope this information has been useful to you.

If you have any questions, comments and/or suggestions on how to improve the information contained in this brochure, please feel free to contact admin@lawassociationtt.com