

Dear Member,

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an effect on every sector of the society, including the legal profession. The immediate impact has been the temporary shutting down of the court system, except for certain types of cases. But the likely medium or long term effect, until a vaccine is found and widely distributed, is the implementation of social distancing measures given that the most prevalent mode of transmission of the virus is by human contact or proximity.

The challenge for the delivery of legal services therefore is to continue to do so while maintaining a safe distance between and among the officials and users of the judicial system. Simply put, the day to day contact between and among members of the public who are required to or are desirous of having access to justice, must be controlled and minimised. This necessarily impacts upon our own interactions with our staff and clients.

The objective of these guidelines is to expose the profession to the various issues which have been thrown up by the COVID-19 Pandemic and which affect our way of doing business, and to suggest some hopefully helpful approaches to dealing with these issues.

Yours Sincerely,

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