

## COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR COURTS

### FAMILY CARE CENTRE (FCC) BUSINESS RECOVERY

22<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2020

(Revised 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020<sup>1</sup>)

The OLCJ issued updated guidance and announced on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020 that, as part of the business recovery process, reviews of outstanding family business would be undertaken on a gradual and incremental basis as conditions permit.

FCC judges continue to hear urgent matters or those where the legal representative or a party to the proceedings has requested a hearing and the judge considers it appropriate. The Judges will review the remaining cases starting with those listed for the **week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> June which will include cases adjourned since the start of the pandemic**. A list of all cases to be reviewed, showing details of ICOS numbers and solicitor firms, will be made available to the profession via the Law Society, Bar Library, Directorate of Legal Services (DLS) and NIGALA no later than **10 days in advance of the proposed review date**. This will assist the profession in identifying their own cases so they can collaborate, complete and return the requisite forms [FCI1](#) **by the specified date** - 5 days in advance of review week commencing date. In cases where an unrepresented party / Litigant in Person is required to provide details on their position, they will be contacted directly by the Court Office to complete and return a form [LIPCI1](#) in line with the guidance found [here](#). The subject line of the email should include 'FCC Review'.

It would assist the office staff and the Judges if electronic copies of any documents relied upon or referred to in the [FCI1](#) form were attached to it on submission. The judge will review the forms received, together with any relevant documents lodged, and determine whether each matter can be dealt with administratively or will require a hearing. **Where the judge determines a hearing is required the court office will notify all parties of the sightlink arrangements, date and time specific to their case.**

Where the judge deals with the case administratively, court staff will result the case with any orders or directions made. Where the judge determines that a matter **cannot be progressed at this stage**, it will be adjourned to a fixed date determined by the judge for future review. Orders, directions and future review dates can be viewed on ICOS case tracking, or as is normal for the business area. The court office will such issue orders or directions to unrepresented parties / Litigants in Person where applicable.

**This review process will continue on a rolling basis each week with notice of cases to be reviewed issued via lists for forms to be returned by the date specified. The process will be kept under review and be revised as necessary.**

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<sup>1</sup> Revised to clarify that forms must be lodged for all cases listed by the date specified, including those where adjournments are sought.