



PUBLIC NOTICE - COVID-19

SUPREME COURT AND DISTRICT COURT CRIMINAL TRIALS

The Chief Justice of Western Australia, the Hon Justice Peter Quinlan and the Chief Judge of the District Court, her Honour Judge Julie Wager, have today announced plans for both the Supreme Court and the District Court to resume jury trials in criminal proceedings. The announcement follows the temporary suspension of jury trials since 16 March 2020 as a precautionary response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jury trials will resume in both the Supreme Court and the District Court from the week commencing 20 July 2020.

Following public health advice and advice from the Department of Justice, a variety of measures are being put in place to enable jury trials to resume in a manner consistent with the health and safety of the public.

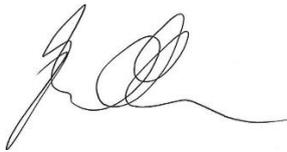
The plan to resume jury trials includes the following measures:

- All persons summonsed as jurors will be provided with information as to the response of the courts to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Advance screening will be undertaken by the Sheriff's Office to ensure that all persons in a jury panel are able to undertake jury service in the trial.
- Modifications will be made to the layout of courtrooms to enable social distancing. The modifications include the modification of jury boxes by removing chairs and installing perspex screens between the remaining chairs.

- Some juries will be empanelled by video conference, with the judge, accused and counsel in a different courtroom. This will facilitate social distancing with the larger numbers in the jury panels.
- Jury arrangements throughout the trial will be modified to reduce public health risks, including the use of offsite deliberation rooms.
- A variety of additional public health measures will be implemented, such as notices, hand sanitiser stations and control over direction of movement.

In announcing the plans the Chief Justice and the Chief Judge expressed their confidence that the measures to be taken will enable the vital role of jurors in the administration of justice to be undertaken in the sure knowledge that their health and safety is a matter of the highest priority.

Dated 15 June 2020.



The Hon Justice Peter Quinlan
Chief Justice of Western Australia



Chief Judge Julie Wager
Chief Judge of the District Court