



# TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO GAZETTE (EXTRAORDINARY)

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## **REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

### **PRACTICE DIRECTION**

#### **COURT OPERATIONS COVID-19 PANDEMIC DIRECTIONS WITH EFFECT FROM JANUARY 1 2021 NO. 10**

This Practice Direction is issued pursuant to Part 4 of the Civil Proceedings Rules 1998 (as amended), Part 20 of the Criminal Procedure Rules, Part 4 of the Family Proceedings Rules and Part 22 of the Children Court Rules and is applicable to the entire Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago which includes the Supreme Court and all Summary Courts.

The objective of this Practice Direction is to continue to provide for adequate and appropriate measures with effect from January 1, 2021 at the Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago to, *inter alia* –

- (a) Ensure continued access to justice;
- (b) Promote efficiency in case flow management and court operations generally;
- (c) Safeguard the health and safety of all stakeholders of the Court, including but not limited to Judges, Masters, District Judges, judicial officers, court staff, attorneys-at-law and members of the public;
- (d) Facilitate the use of electronic alternatives to in-person activities at the Court by internal and external persons;
- (e) Ensure that appropriate administrative arrangements are made for all hearings; and
- (f) Regulate the payment of fines and the scheduling of hearings arising out of Fixed Penalty Notices issued under the Public Health [2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)] on or before March 26, 2021.

## PRACTICE DIRECTION

## COURT OPERATIONS—COVID-19 PANDEMIC DIRECTIONS—Continued

having regard to:

- (a) the Public Health regulations in place from time to time;
- (b) the Public Health policies in place;
- (c) the persistence of community spread of COVID-19 within the population;
- (d) the inherent risk to court personnel and members of the public intrinsic in in person activity at court buildings at this time; and
- (e) recent developments which have required court buildings to be closed and staff to be quarantined.

Accordingly, the following measures shall take effect:

**EFFECTIVE DATES**

1. This Practice Direction comes into effect on January 1, 2021 and makes provision for the extension of the waiver of fees, the extension of the collection of fines, payments for traffic tickets issued prior May 26, 2020 and the suspension of all service and commissioner of affidavit fees.
2. For the avoidance of any doubt, the Practice Direction published in Trinidad and Tobago Gazette Vol. 59 No. 201 dated November 30, 2020 titled “Court Operations Covid-19 Pandemic Directions with effect from December 1, 2020 No. 9” shall continue to have effect on January 1, 2021 and continue until further notice or otherwise superseded (this period), save and except paragraphs 46 to 48, 52 and 53.

**EXTENSION OF WAIVER OF FEES (FILING BY ELECTRONIC MEANS)**

3. Further to Rule 67.15(5) of the Civil Proceedings Rules 1998 (as amended), Legal Notice No. 67 of 2020, the period for which the fees specified in Appendix D to Part 67 of the said Rules shall not be charged in respect of filings by electronic means shall be **April 2, 2020 to March 26, 2021** inclusive.
4. Further to Rule 36.12 (3) of the Family Proceedings Rules 1998 (as amended), Legal Notice No. 72 of 2020, the period for which the fees specified in Appendix B of the said Rules shall not be charged in respect of filings by electronic means shall be **April 2, 2020 to March 26, 2021** inclusive.

**FINES**

5. The payment of **all fines** due during this period is suspended until March 26, 2021.
6. Any Public Health Fixed Penalty Notices issued on or before March 26, 2021, may be **paid from March 27, 2021 to June 1, 2021**.

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## PRACTICE DIRECTION

## COURT OPERATIONS—COVID-19 PANDEMIC DIRECTIONS—Continued

7. The hearings for Public Health Fixed Penalty Notices issued on or before March 26, 2021 in situations in which the fines are not paid, are hereby adjourned as follows:

<b>PUBLIC HEALTH FIXED PENALTY NOTICES ISSUED DURING PERIOD</b>	<b>ADJOURNED DATE OF HEARING</b>
September 5, 2020 to September 11, 2020	Tuesday 22 June 2021
September 12, 2020 to September 18, 2020	Tuesday 29 June 2021
September 19, 2020 to September 25, 2020	Tuesday 6 July 2021
September 26, 2020 to October 2, 2020	Tuesday 13 July 2021
October 3, 2020 to October 9, 2020	Tuesday 20 July 2021
October 10, 2020 to October 16, 2020	Tuesday 27 July 2021
October 17, 2020 to October 23, 2020	Tuesday 3 August 2021
October 24, 2020 to October 30, 2020	Tuesday 10 August 2021
October 31, 2020 to November 6, 2020	Tuesday 17 August 2021
November 7, 2020 to November 13, 2020	Tuesday 24 August 2021
November 14, 2020 to November 20, 2020	Tuesday 7 September 2021
November 21, 2020 to November 27, 2020	Tuesday 14 September 2021
November 28, 2020 to December 4, 2020	Tuesday 21 September 2021
December 5, 2020 to December 11, 2020	Tuesday 28 September 2021
December 12, 2020 to December 18, 2020	Tuesday 5 October 2021
December 19, 2020 to December 25, 2020	Tuesday 12 October 2021
December 26, 2020 to January 1, 2021	Tuesday 19 October 2021
January 2, 2021 to January 8, 2021	Tuesday 26 October 2021
January 9, 2021 to January 15, 2021	Tuesday 2 November 2021
January 16, 2021 to January 22, 2021	Tuesday 9 November 2021
January 23, 2021 to January 29, 2021	Tuesday 16 November 2021
January 30, 2021 to February 5, 2021	Tuesday 23 November 2021
February 6, 2021 to February 12, 2021	Tuesday 30 November 2021
February 13, 2021 to February 19, 2021	Tuesday 7 December 2021
February 20, 2021 to February 26, 2021	Tuesday 14 December 2021
February 27, 2021 to March 5, 2021	Tuesday 21 December 2021
March 6, 2021 to March 12, 2021	Tuesday 28 December 2021
March 13, 2021 to March 19, 2021	Tuesday 4 January 2022
March 20, 2021 to March 26, 2021	Tuesday 11 January 2022

**SERVICE AND COMMISSIONER FEES**

8. All service and commissioner of affidavit fees will be noted during this period and payment will be suspended until March 26, 2021.

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## PRACTICE DIRECTION

COURT OPERATIONS—COVID-19 PANDEMIC DIRECTIONS—Continued

**TRAFFIC TICKETS RECEIVED PRIOR TO MAY 26, 2020**

9. While provision has been made in the Miscellaneous Amendments Act, Act No. 10 of 2020, for all tickets issued before May 26, 2020 to be settled within six (6) months from May 26, 2020, by payment of 50% of the penalty, which said payment has been extended for a period of four (4) months from November 26, 2020 by Legal Notice No. 366 of 2020, the collection of these payments by the Judiciary is hereby suspended until March 26, 2021.

Dated this 30<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2020

/s/ Ivor Archie  
**Chief Justice**