



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO GAZETTE (EXTRAORDINARY)

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No. 32

CORRIGENDUM

PRACTICE DIRECTIONS

COVID-19 EMERGENCY DIRECTIONS

In the *Trinidad and Tobago Gazette*, Vol.59, No.31, dated Tuesday 17th March, 2020, Item No. 388, under the heading Practice Directions COVID-19 Emergency Directions; paragraph 34 appearing under the bold heading “**Time**”, should instead read:

“Time

34. In respect of all directions or deadlines not specifically addressed in this Practice Direction, time will cease to run until April 20, 2020 save and except the payment of maintenance under any order of the court including an order under the Attachment of Earnings Act.”

The error is regretted.

Dated this 18th day of March, 2020.

IVOR ARCHIE
CHIEF JUSTICE

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TRIBUNAL

Practice Direction No 1

COVID-19 Emergency Directions

These Practice Directions are issued pursuant to **Rules 1.3 and 1.5 of the Equal Opportunity Tribunal Rules 2016**.

In order to safeguard the health of staff and members of the public during the novel coronavirus ('COVID-19') emergency in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and to ensure business continuity with minimal inconvenience to all stakeholders, the Equal Opportunity Tribunal ('the Tribunal') will implement the following measures from Monday March 16, 2020 to Friday April 17, 2020 ('this period'): -

COURT HEARINGS DURING THIS PERIOD

1. Sittings of the Tribunal are suspended save and except matters deemed by the Tribunal to be fit for hearing in this period.

DEEMING MATTERS FIT FOR HEARING IN THIS PERIOD

2. The Tribunal may on its own motion, deem a matter fit for hearing in this period.
3. Any party in a matter before the Tribunal may apply to have the matter or any application pertaining thereto deemed fit for hearing in this period.
4. A Notice of Application (Form No. 4) must be made and must be accompanied by an affidavit setting out the facts and reasons which make the application fit for hearing in this period. The Application may be sent to the Registry by via email to eot.courtstaff@gov.tt.
5. In appropriate cases, applications may be dealt with, without a hearing and email notifications of orders may be issued.
6. Where hearings are impractical, hearings may be telephonic or by video conference and or attendance at any in-court hearing may be limited to Attorneys, parties and necessary witnesses.

DEADLINES AND TRIAL DATES

7. With respect to deadlines which have been the subject of previous orders issued by the Tribunal and which will expire during this period, deadline will be extended to April 24, 2020.
8. Attorneys will be contacted by the Registry with respect to the scheduling of affected Trials.

OPENING OF REGISTRY

9. The Registry will be opened during this period on Fridays (commencing Friday March 27, 2020) between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon (save for Public Holidays) unless otherwise notified.

OTHER MATTERS

10. In the interest of public health and safety and in order to maintain the appropriate social distancing, attendance at the Tribunal building may be limited to attorneys, parties and necessary witnesses. Attorneys are encouraged to utilise, and the Tribunal will as far as practicable use, telephonic, emails, video technology and digital methods for communication.
11. The Tribunal may establish screening standards as well as health and safety protocols for entry into the court building. Persons may be denied entry into the building if they display flu like symptoms related to Covid-19, or otherwise fail to meet the screening standards required for entry.
12. Anyone with legitimate business who is ill, caring for someone who is ill or is in a high risk category as stated by the Ministry of Health is advised to communicate with the Registry via telephone at 868 485 8547 or email to cot.courtstaff@gov.tt.

Dated this 16th day of March, 2020.

/s/ Donna Prowell-Raphael,
Chairman/Judge, Equal Opportunity Tribunal.

**TAX APPEAL BOARD****(Superior Court of Record)****#27, FREDERICK STREET, PORT OF SPAIN,
REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO****TEL./FAX: (868) 623-1330, E-MAIL: txab@gov.tt; taxboard@gov.tt****PRACTICE DIRECTION NO. 5****COVID-19 VIRUS EMERGENCY DIRECTIONS**

Pursuant to Sections 6(7) and 6(13) of the *Tax Appeal Board Act* Chap. 4:50 with reference to the powers vested in the Honourable Chairman and in the exercise of the inherent jurisdiction vested in the Tax Appeal Board as a Superior Court of Record, the following *Practice Direction No.5* is hereby issued.

In response to the Corona virus (COVID-19) pandemic in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, this Practice Direction is issued to protect the health and safety of Court staff and members of the public who interact with the Court.

Whereas the Tax Appeal Board is desirous of-

- a) reducing the number of persons entering the nation's courthouses;
and
- b) ensuring that the Court's staff and physical facilities are rendered as safe as possible for persons physically attending the building which is located at #27, Frederick Street, Port of Spain

the following measures are to be implemented with immediate effect from today, **Tuesday March 17, 2020 to Friday April 17, 2020 inclusive ('the specified period')** at the **Tax Appeal Board**

Time

1. With respect to all directions or deadlines which have been the subject of previous orders issued by the Court or not specifically addressed in this Practice Direction, time will be extended to April 20, 2020.

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2. In accordance with Rule 4 of the *Tax Appeal Board Rules* Chapter 4:50, the Court's Registry will remain open during the specified period unless otherwise indicated.

Deeming Matters Fit for Hearing in the Specified Period

3. On its own motion, the Court may deem a matter to be fit for hearing during the specified period save when the Court is closed as indicated in Rule 4 of the *Tax Appeal Board Rules*.
4. Any party to an action or to an intended action may apply to the Court to have a matter deemed fit for hearing during the specified period.
5. An application under paragraph 4 hereof shall be made in writing to the Registrar of the Tax Appeal Court in accordance with Rule 5 of the *Tax Appeal Board Rules* and must be accompanied by an affidavit setting out the facts and reasons which may make the matter fit for hearing during the specified period.

Other matters

6. In the interest of public health and safety and in order to maintain the appropriate social distancing, attendance at the Court's facilities should be limited to attorneys, parties, and necessary witnesses if so permitted in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 4 hereof.
7. The Court may establish screening procedures and health and safety protocols for entry into the Court building. Persons may be denied entry into the Court building if they display symptoms related to Covid-19.
8. Anyone with legitimate Court business who is carrying the Covid-19 virus, is caring for someone who is so infected or in a high-risk category as stated by the Ministry of Health, is advised as follows:
 - a) to remain at home and
 - b) to request an adjournment via e-mail to the Registrar of the Tax Appeal Board which should be copied to the other party to the proceedings.

Dated this March 17, 2020

/s/. Anthony D.J Gafoor

HH Judge Anthony D.J. Gafoor

Honourable Chairman