

**Notification for Stakeholders about General Adjournment of  
Court Proceedings  
from 17 February 2020 to 23 February 2020  
(position as at 13 February 2020)**

***(I) General Arrangements***

The Judiciary has made a public announcement today (February 13) that in view of public health considerations, all hearings of the courts/tribunals originally scheduled from February 17 to February 23 will generally be adjourned. The courts will however continue to handle urgent and essential hearings and/or matters during this period, together with as appropriate any such hearings and/or matters which were originally fixed to be dealt with during the period from January 29 to February 16.

2. A copy of the press release is at Annex A.

***(II) Urgent and Essential Hearings/Matters Handled by the Courts***

3. The urgent and essential hearings and/or matters which may be handled from February 17 to 23 include the following :

*(a) For Civil Cases at the High Court (“HC”), the District Court (“DC”) and the Family Court (“FC”):*

(i) urgent matters or hearings before the HC, the DC and the FC, including those relating to the specialists lists, will continue to be dealt with by the respective Duty Judges (“Duty Judge system”); and

- (ii) the Duty Judge system has been expanded (with the support of duty master(s) as necessary), to cover the following urgent filing matters :
  - (1) urgent applications to file originating documents at these courts where the limitation period for a cause of action under the Limitation Ordinance (Cap. 347) may expire during the adjourned period. For such urgent applications for filing, the handling solicitor shall provide a certificate explaining the need for urgent filing;
  - (2) urgent non-contentious matters, i.e. urgent application and collection of apostilles and urgent grants of probate; and
  - (3) documents relating to the urgent bankruptcy-related proceedings set out in (b) below; and
- (iii) if a party or his/her legal representative considers that any matter has become urgent because of the court's continued general adjournment, they may consider using the Duty Judge system to bring such matters to the attention of the court. The party concerned should provide a certificate explaining the urgency of the matter. They should also provide the essential and key documents to enable the court to decide whether the matter is really urgent and essential which should be handled during the adjourned period on an exceptional basis.

(b) For Civil Cases at the Court of First Instance of the High Court (“CFI”) : the following urgent bankruptcy-related applications :

- (i) urgent applications under section 30A of the Bankruptcy Ordinance (Cap. 6) by the trustee in bankruptcy or creditor of the bankrupt for the suspension of the bankrupt’s discharge from bankruptcy;
- (ii) urgent objections to discharge applications not yet filed but with imminent dates of discharge of bankruptcy, and urgent applications for non-commencement orders under section 30AB of Cap. 6 not yet filed but with imminent deadlines for filing; and
- (iii) urgent applications under section 42 of Cap. 6 by the debtors for validation orders.

(c) For Criminal Cases at the Court of Appeal of the High Court : urgent bail applications;

(d) For Criminal Cases at CFI : urgent bail applications and bail reviews;

(e) For Criminal Cases at the CFI and DC : urgent cases in which the defendants are remanded in custody pending sentence and the hearings of which fall under either of the following categories :

- (i) the hearing date falls between February 17 and February 23; or

- (ii) the case was originally adjourned to a hearing date during the period of January 29 to February 16.

(f) For the MCs :

- (i) fresh remand cases; and
- (ii) person remanded in custody who has the legal rights to appear before a Magistrate to review his or her remand situation and either of the following conditions is met :

  - (1) the return date falls between February 17 and February 23; or
  - (2) the case was originally adjourned to a date during the period of January 29 to February 16.

These cases are called “eight-day cases” hereafter.

- (iii) urgent cases relating to sentencing in which the defendants are remanded in custody and the hearings of which fall under either of the following categories :

  - (1) the hearing date falls between February 17 and February 23; or
  - (2) the case was originally adjourned to a hearing date during the period of January 29 to February 16.

(g) *For the Juvenile Court* : urgent cases concerning care and protection orders with either of the following conditions being met :

- (i) the return date falls between February 17 and February 23; or
- (ii) the case was originally adjourned to a date during the period of January 29 to February 16.

(h) *For the Coroner's Court* : the following categories of urgent matters :

- (i) paper applications for waivers for autopsy;
- (ii) issuing urgent certificates of order authorizing burial/cremation of body;
- (iii) handling urgent cases with pathologist's recommendation for autopsy; and
- (iv) issuing urgent certificate of the fact of death and documents for the removal of bodies outside jurisdiction.

4. Moreover, the courts may also continue to hand down judgments for cases with urgency or great public importance as appropriate. As usual, the courts will give sufficient notice to the relevant parties of the cases.

### **(III) Statutory Duties**

5. For the DC and MCs, the relevant Judges and Magistrates will continue to perform, as appropriate, their statutory duties relating to urgent applications for search warrants and applications under the Mental Health Ordinance.

### **(IV) Detailed Arrangements for the MCs**

6. The MCs will continue to adopt basically the Holiday or Saturday sitting arrangement in the light of caseload and other factors. They will handle fresh remand cases and eight-day cases etc. The detailed arrangements are as follows :

- (a) 17 Feb (Monday) : Tuen Mun Magistrates' Courts will open;
- (b) 18 Feb (Tuesday) : No Magistrates' Courts will open;
- (c) 19 Feb (Wednesday) : West Kowloon Magistrates' Courts will open;
- (d) 20 Feb (Thursday) : No Magistrates' Courts will open;
- (e) 21 Feb (Friday) : Kwun Tong Magistrates' Courts will open;
- (f) 22 Feb (Saturday) : the usual Saturday sitting will be adopted, i.e. Eastern Magistrates' Courts, Kowloon City Magistrates' Courts and Shatin Magistrates' Courts will open; and
- (g) 23 Feb (Sunday) : No Magistrates' Courts will open.

## **(V) Registries and Other Court Offices**

7. Court/tribunal registries and offices will continue to be closed until further notice, except for providing support for the handling of urgent and essential court hearings and/or matters as set out above.

## **(VI) Contacts**

8. If stakeholders have any questions about the detailed arrangements for the above matters, particularly those relating to the urgent and essential court businesses, please contact the following officers for the respective courts during the office hours :

### **(a) High Court**

#### **For urgent and essential apostilles and bankruptcy (objections to discharge applications) related matters**

- Ms Catherine Li, Chief Judicial Clerk (High Court Registry) at 2825 4571
- Mr Kenneth Tsang, Senior Judicial Clerk I (Resource Centre) at 2825 0571
- Mr Larry Ngan, Senior Judicial Clerk II (High Court Registry) at 2825 0401

#### **For urgent and essential criminal matters including bail-related hearings, and bankruptcy (non-commencement orders) related matters**

- Ms Terri Tang, Clerk of Court at 2825 4383
- Miss Cynthia Leung, Judicial Clerk (Civil) at 2825 4672

*For urgent grants of probate*

- Ms Memory Wong, Chief Probate Officer at 2825 0619

(b) District Court

- Ms Clare Tsang, Chief Judicial Clerk (Courts) at 2582 4000
- Ms Anny Tam, Chief Judicial Clerk (Registry) at 2582 4200
- Mr Wing Lau, Senior Judicial Clerk II (Registry)1 at 2582 5368
- Miss Jenny Kwok, Senior Judicial Clerk II (Registry)2 at 2504 0766

(c) Family Court

- Ms Jolly Lam, Chief Judicial Clerk (Family Court) at 2582 5370

(d) Magistrates' Courts

- Ms Pauline Kwok, Senior Judiciary Executive (Magistracies) at 3916 6389

**(VII) Further Updates**

9. The Judiciary will keep in view developments. If the Judiciary decides to introduce any further changes, we will continue to keep the stakeholders posted as soon as practicable.

10. Besides, the Judiciary will continue to post updated information, including Daily Cause Lists and advice to court users visiting the courts, on the Judiciary's website ([www.judiciary.hk](http://www.judiciary.hk)).

Stakeholders are advised to check the website for updated information as necessary.

11. In particular, for the Bar Association and the Law Society, we should be grateful if you would continue to advise your members to check the website for updated information.

**Judiciary Administration**  
**13 February 2020**

## **Annex A**

### **Announcement by Judiciary**

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The following is issued on behalf of the Judiciary:

Attention duty announcers, radio and TV stations:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible and repeat it at suitable intervals:

The Judiciary today (February 13) announced that in view of public health considerations, all hearings of the courts/tribunals originally scheduled from February 17 (Monday) to February 23 (Sunday) will generally be adjourned to a date to be fixed.

Despite the general adjournment, the courts will continue to handle urgent and essential hearings/matters during this period. These include fresh remand cases, urgent and essential criminal matters including bail-related and sentencing hearings, and other urgent applications to the courts. They will continue to be handled in accordance with the established mechanisms, including the Duty Judge system. Parties or others concerned will continue to be

separately notified by the respective courts of the details in respect of the above hearings/matters.

Court/tribunal registries and offices will continue to be closed until February 23, except for providing support for the handling of the above urgent and essential court hearings/matters.

For enquiries regarding general arrangements on the court businesses during the period, the following hotlines are being operated from Monday to Friday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.—

- General Information: 2869 0869
- Court of Final Appeal: 2123 0123
- High Court: 2523 2212
- Probate: 2840 1683
- District Court: 2845 5696
- Family Court: 2840 1218
- Lands Tribunal: 2771 3034
- Labour Tribunal: 2625 0020
- Small Claims Tribunal: 2877 4068
- Magistrates' Courts: 2677 8373

The Judiciary will continue to post updated information, including Daily Cause Lists and advice to court users visiting the courts during this period, on the Judiciary website ([www.judiciary.hk](http://www.judiciary.hk)). Court users are advised to check the website for updated information as necessary.

Ends, February 13, 2020 (Thursday)

## 司法機構公布

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下稿代司法機構發出：

電台及電視台當值廣播員注意：

請盡快播出下列信息，並在適當時間重播：

司法機構今日（二月十三日）宣布，因應公共衛生考慮，原訂由二月十七日（星期一）至二月二十三日（星期日）於法院／審裁處進行的所有聆訊一般將延期至另行通知的日期。

在此期間，雖然聆訊一般將會延期，但法庭仍會繼續處理緊急和必要的聆訊／事宜，包括新羈押案件、緊急和必要的刑事事宜包括保釋相關及判刑聆訊、以及其他向法庭提交的緊急

申請。這些聆訊 / 事宜將繼續按現行機制（包括當值法官制度）處理。法庭將繼續就有關上述聆訊 / 事宜的詳情個別通知訴訟各方及其他相關人士。

除支援處理上述緊急和必要的聆訊 / 事宜外，法院 / 審裁處的登記處及辦事處將繼續關閉至二月二十三日。

有關法庭事務一般安排的查詢，可於星期一至五上午十時至下午一時及下午二時至下午四時致電以下熱線：

- 一般查詢：2869 0869
- 終審法院：2123 0123
- 高等法院：2523 2212
- 遺產承辦：2840 1683
- 區域法院：2845 5696
- 家事法庭：2840 1218
- 土地審裁處：2771 3034

- 勞資審裁處：2625 0020
- 小額錢債審裁處：2877 4068
- 裁判法院：2677 8373

司法機構會繼續把更新資訊上載至司法機構網頁（[www.judiciary.hk](http://www.judiciary.hk)），包括審訊案件表和法庭使用者在這期間到訪法院大樓應注意的事項。法庭使用者請按需要參閱網頁資訊。

完

2020年2月13日（星期四）