

Coronavirus

Guidance in respect of Civil Business in Grampian, Highland and Islands

No. 1 of 2020

This guidance sets out the arrangements for the management of civil business in the Sheriffdom of Grampian, Highland and Islands with immediate effect.

General

The court will make the orders set out below without the necessity of appearance.

Ordinary Causes and Summary Applications

All ordinary causes and summary applications, including, for the avoidance of doubt, family causes and first callings, will be continued for a period of 16 weeks until further notice.

In particular, no ordinary proofs or debates or other hearings will be assigned for a date prior to August 2020. All previously assigned ordinary proofs or debates or other hearings will be adjourned to a date to be hereinafter fixed, which will be no earlier than August 2020.

Simple Procedure

All simple procedure case management discussions and hearings will be adjourned and the case paused for four months from the date of the adjourned hearing.

Summary Cause Actions

All summary cause actions will be sisted until further notice.

Social Work Referrals

All social work referral proofs will be discharged and a new diet fixed for 16 weeks after the date or dates previously assigned.

Applications to extend interim compulsory supervision orders will be dealt with administratively if parties are in agreement.

Adoptions & Permanence Orders

All procedural callings of adoption and permanence order cases will be continued for a period of 16 weeks until further notice.

All adoption and permanence order proofs will be adjourned to a date to be hereinafter fixed, which will be no earlier than August 2020.

Exceptions

Notwithstanding the foregoing guidance, the court will consider any matter which it regards as urgent on cause being shown, including the lodgement of caveats, applications for child protection orders, applications for interim interdict and applications in relation to adults with incapacity.

In addition, the court will consider any application by way of initial writ, summary application, motion or otherwise where a statutory or common law time limit applies to the cause of action and steps are required to ensure

compliance with same, in which case unless on cause shown the court will take the minimum steps required to ensure such compliance, but otherwise continue the cause of action until a date afterwards to be fixed, but not before August 2020.

“D C W Pyle”

Sheriff Principal

26 March 2020