

**THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE  
JUDICIARY OF THE BAHAMAS**

**NOTICE # 9**

**THE COURT CORONAVIRUS MITIGATION PROTOCOLS 3.0 –  
GRAND BAHAMA**

**23 July, 2020**

On 22 July, 2020 the Competent Authority made the Emergency Powers (Covid 19 Pandemic)(Grand Bahama)(Lockdown) Order, 2020. By its terms, effective 7:00 p.m. on 23 July, 2020 until 5:00 a.m. on 7 August, 2020 every agency, business or establishment in Grand Bahama shall remain closed except those exempted under order 3(1) and all persons in Grand Bahama excluding those mentioned in order 3(2) and (3) shall not leave his/her place of residence other than for the purpose of seeking urgent medical care or in accordance with order 5(1) (“*the Lockdown*”).

These Protocols only apply to Grand Bahama and come into effect at 7:00 p.m. on 23 July, 2020 and, unless extended by Notice issued by the Chief Justice, shall cease to have effect at 12:00 midnight on 11 August, 2020 (“*the Cessation Date*”).

Except as otherwise defined in these Protocols, capitalized terms used herein have the same meaning as set out in the Court Coronavirus Mitigation Protocols 2.0 contained in Notice # 8 (“*the Protocols 2.0*”).

**The Protocols 2.0 continue to be in effect subject only to the modifications set out herein in respect of Grand Bahama during the period between 24 July, 2020 and the Cessation Date (“*the Effective Period*”).**

**Supreme Court – Criminal Side:**

1. **Arraignments** fixed to be heard in Grand Bahama during the Effective Period are adjourned to 13 August, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. before Senior Justice Evans and shall be heard in accordance with paragraph 2 of the Protocols 2.0.

2. **Bail** – only urgent bail applications (in accordance with the criteria for urgent bail applications posted on the Judiciary’s website) will be heard in Grand Bahama

during the Effective Period. Other bail applications during that period which would usually be heard in Grand Bahama will be processed through the Criminal Registry in New Providence and assigned by the Deputy Registrar responsible for that Registry to a Judge in New Providence.

**3. Mention Date hearings, Case Management Conferences and Pre Trial Reviews** in Grand Bahama are suspended until the Cessation Date.

### **Supreme Court – Civil Side (all cases which are not Criminal):**

**4. Part heard trials** in Grand Bahama commenced before 24 July, 2020 are suspended until the Cessation Date and will continue thereafter on a date, at a time and in a manner fixed by the presiding Judge.

**5. New trials** in Grand Bahama are suspended until the Cessation Date.

**6. Interlocutory applications** (other than Urgent applications under paragraph 8 of the Protocols 2.0 which will continue to be heard in accordance with the terms thereof) - **Case Management Conferences and Pre Trial Reviews** in Grand Bahama are suspended until the Cessation Date.

### **Hearings - Registrar/Deputy Registrars/ Assistant Registrars (collectively “the registrars”):**

**7.** Court hearings before the Deputy Registrar in Grand Bahama are suspended until the Cessation Date.

### **Magistrates Court Registry in Grand Bahama:**

**8.** During the Effective Period **the Registry for the Magistrates Court in Grand Bahama** will be open to the public on weekdays from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

## **Magistrates Courts – Criminal Side:**

9. During the Effective Period, **arraignments / first time pleas** in the Magistrates Court in Grand Bahama will be heard on weekdays between 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. by way of In-Person Hearings in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 13 of the Protocols 2.0.

10. **Bail / Variation of bail applications** – where applicable will be heard in in The Magistrates Court in Grand Bahama at the times and subject to the conditions applicable to arraignments under paragraph 9 above.

11. **Traffic cases in Grand Bahama** - during the Effective Period, where the defendant admits the offence and intends to pay the fine either under a Fixed Penalty Notice or otherwise he/she can do so on weekdays under current procedures at the Magistrates Court Registry in Grand Bahama between 10:00 a.m. – 2: 00 p.m.

## **Coroners Court:**

12. **The Office of the Coroner** - during the Effective Period persons seeking releases from the Office of the Coroner in Grand Bahama must apply by letter delivered to the Registry.

## **Magistrate Courts – Civil Side (any cases not criminal, traffic or juvenile):**

13. **Family Court** - during the Effective Period payments can be made and funds received in Grand Bahama at the Registry of the Magistrates Court between 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

## **Magistrates Court in Eight Mile Rock**

14. Hearings and matters in the Magistrates Court in Eight Mile Rock will be dealt with by the Magistrates Court in Freeport during the Effective Period.

## **General**

15. Judicial Officers and staff members of the Court must use personal protective equipment at all times when in the Garnett Levarity Justice Complex (“**the GL Complex**”).

16. All persons (including law enforcement officers, accused persons, attorneys and litigants) entering the GL Complex will be required to wear a facial mask or face shield at all times when in the building and comply with the hand sanitizing procedures implemented by the Court. Persons who fail to do so will not be allowed to enter (or, as the case may be, remain in) the GL Complex.

17. At all times there must be strict adherence to the physical distancing requirements imposed under the Emergency Powers Orders.

**Brian M. Moree**  
**Chief Justice.**