

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUPREME COURT REGISTRIES

As a result of the Covid 19 pandemic it was necessary to scale back the Court's operations in order to protect the health and well-being of judicial officers, staff members, lawyers and members of the public. While such action had to be taken, the Courts have, throughout the emergency, continued to provide public access to all essential court services.

The Court Coronavirus Mitigation Protocols ("the Protocols")

The Protocols were issued by the Chief Justice on 17 March, 2020 (and subsequently amended from time to time to reflect ongoing developments) to govern the operations of the Courts during the period of the public emergency.

Under the Protocols the offices of the Civil Registry, the Criminal Registry, the Family Registry, the Probate Registry and the Appeals Registry were closed. To ensure continued access to essential services within the administration of justice, the core operations of the Civil Registry and the Criminal Registry were transferred to a satellite office in Annex 1 (formerly the Ansbacher Building). The operations of the Registry in Freeport were limited to weekdays from Friday from 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

New operating hours of the Registries

Pursuant to the latest edition of the Protocols, ***the Civil Registry*** will resume limited operations for its essential workers from its offices located in the BAF Financial Building on George Street, New Providence effective as of 11 May, 2020. *Effective 18 May, 2020 the Civil Registry will be open to the public by appointment on weekdays between the hours of 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. for the purpose of conducting cause list searches, reviewing court documents or files and other related matters.*

The Family Registry, the Probate Registry and the Appeals Registry in New Providence will resume limited operations from their respective offices in Annex 1 for essential workers on 11 May, 2020. *Effective 18 May, 2020 these Registries will be open to the public by appointment on weekdays between 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. for the purpose of conducting cause list searches, reviewing court documents or files and other related matters.*

The Criminal Registry in New Providence will continue to operate out of the satellite Registry in Annex 1 during the hours of 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. until further notice.

The Supreme Court Registry in Freeport will continue its limited operations for essential workers on weekdays between 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. *Effective as of 18 May, 2020 the Registry in Freeport will be open to the public by appointment on weekdays between the hours of 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. for the purpose of conducting cause list searches, reviewing court documents or files and other related matters.*

Appointments to visit the Civil Registry, the Family Registry, the Probate Registry, the Appeals Registry and the Freeport Registry can be made through the eAppointment Request Form on the Judiciary's website at www.bahamasjudiciary.com.

Persons will only be allowed to enter the office of any of the Registries at the appointed time if they are wearing a mask.