



NOTICE
THE BAIL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
18 February, 2022

The Bail Management System (“BMS”) has been launched in the Criminal Division of the Supreme Court and is currently operating in parallel with the manual procedure for bail applications. It is a customized software application specifically designed for the Courts of The Bahamas which automates (i) the process of applying for and dealing with bail applications (and variations) in the Supreme Court; and (ii) the procedure to be followed subsequent to an application for bail in the Magistrates Court.

The BMS also facilitates compliance with reporting conditions, if any, through the use of physical kiosks located in a number of police stations throughout New Providence and Grand Bahama.

Last year the Office of the Judiciary arranged for the software vendor to provide members of the Bar and other stakeholders with multiple training sessions (both in person and virtual) on the use of the BMS web based portal for lawyers and other users. There will be one additional virtual training session on the BMS on 2 March, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. All members of the Bar who practice in the criminal courts are encouraged to attend this virtual session.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that as of 7 March, 2022 all applications in the Supreme Court for bail or for a variation of bail conditions will be required to be made through the BMS unless:

- (i) by reason of technical difficulties or equipment failure it is impracticable to do so;
- (ii) in exceptional circumstances permission is obtained in writing from the registrar who is responsible for the Criminal Registry to make a paper application; or
- (iii) in exceptional circumstances permission is obtained from the judge who is assigned to hear the application to proceed with a paper application.

A Practice Direction will be issued in connection with the BMS prior to 7 March, 2022.

Office of the Chief Justice