

PRACTICE DIRECTION

No. 2 of 2022

SHORT NOTICE HEARINGS

1. For the period 31 May – 28 June, 2022 the court will run a pilot programme involving ‘**Short Notice Hearings**’ on Tuesday of each week from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Thereafter, an assessment will be made on whether to continue the programme.

2. A ‘Short Notice Hearing’ is a hearing which:

- (i) is made in the usual way by Summons (or other document required under the Rules of the Supreme Court) supported by affidavit;
- (ii) lasts no longer than 30 minutes;
- (iii) does not require a written ruling;
- (iv) does not include hearings which are properly fixed before the Urgent Duty Judge;
- (v) does not require advance reading time of court documents by the judge of more than 30 minutes; and
- (vi) does not involve any oral evidence.

3. During the pilot programme, a request by or on behalf of an attorney for a Short Notice Hearing is made to the Listing Office by email (copying all counsel involved in the hearing) stating:

- (a) the name of the parties and case number;
- (b) the email address of all counsel involved in the application and, if available, all parties involved in the hearing; and
- (c) the preferred Tuesday hearing date for the application and whether such date is agreed by all counsel/parties.

Persons applying for a Short Notice Hearing during the Pilot Programme must NOT use the E Form for Hearing Dates on the Judiciary’s website.

4. The applicant must attach to the email pdf versions of the court documents filed in respect of the hearing and a draft Order.

5. The service of documents, notice periods and all procedural matters relating to Short Notice Hearings are governed by the provisions of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

6. *Pro se* applicants may apply for a Short Notice Hearing to the Listing Office by letter or email. In the case of a letter, he/she must provide the information stated in paragraph 3 and attach the documents set out in paragraph 4 above.

7. The Listing Office will notify the applicant (and all persons copied on the email sent under paragraph 3 above) by email of the date and time of the Short Notice Hearing and the name of the judge who will hear the matter.

8. Unless otherwise directed by the judge, all Short Notice Hearings which (i) do not involve a *pro se* litigant will be conducted remotely using the Zoom platform; (ii) involve a *pro se* litigant will be conducted as an In Person Hearing.

9. Hearing times on each Tuesday will be set at 30 minute intervals and attorneys and litigants will be required to attend (virtually or In Person as the case may be) at least 30 minutes prior to his/her designated time slot to ensure an uninterrupted flow of hearings in the event that an earlier hearing takes less than 30 minutes.

10. Time limits will be strictly applied and hearings will not be permitted to exceed 30 minutes without the permission of the judge. Such permission will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. Applicants who obtain a date for a Short Notice Hearing in a matter which is clearly outside the scope of paragraph 2 thereby resulting in an adjournment will, at the hearing, be subject to an adverse cost order within the discretion of the presiding judge.

11. In the case of a Short Notice Hearing the applicant **MUST**, at least 24 hours prior to the hearing date, deliver to the office of the judge copies of all relevant filed court documents in connection with the hearing and a draft Order. Where appropriate, the applicant (or his/her counsel) shall indicate whether or not the draft Order is agreed by all parties or their respective counsel.

Brian M. Moree
Chief Justice

25 May, 2022.