

COVID - 19

REMOTE HEARINGS AT THE CENTRAL REGISTRY OF THE COURT OF PROTECTION

This guidance note temporarily replaces CoP guidance note GN5 in relation to hearings at the Court Of Protection's central registry at First Avenue House. The detailed guidance from The Vice-President of the Court of Protection (Mr Justice Hayden) titled 'Remote access to the Court of Protection' and other current hearing updates are all available from the link [Coronavirus COVID19 judicial advice and guidance](#) (under Family Guidance) on the Court's home page on www.gov.uk The advice is also available on www.judiciary.uk. The guidance documents provide for the manner in which hearings are to be undertaken and on submission of bundles etc and should be read carefully.

On 23 March 2020 the Lord Chief Justice issued the following directions - "No hearings which require people to attend are to take place in any County or Family Court until further notice, unless there is a genuine urgency and no remote hearing is possible. All cases currently being heard should be adjourned part heard so that arrangements can be made, where possible, to conduct the hearings remotely".

There are no face to face hearings taking place at First Avenue House (FAH) at the present time, save in exceptional circumstances. Hearings are currently being arranged by remote means as appropriate to each case, **usually by telephone hearing** and, where possible and if directed by the judge, by Skype For Business. If your hearing is taking place at one of the Court of Protection's regional courts please contact the relevant regional hub court for further guidance.

Where one or both of the parties is represented the responsibility for making arrangements for the remote hearing **falls on either the applicant or the first represented party**.

Where none of the parties is represented the court staff will assist with arrangements for a remote hearing in accordance with judicial directions.

Preferred arrangements

Please contact either BT Conferencing Services on 0800 0284194 or Legal Connect on 0800 953 0405 (email: support@legalconnect.co.uk) .

You will need the direct telephone number of ALL the parties. You will also need the telephone number of the Court, **which is 020 7421 8718**.

You should confirm the booking with **Judicial Support Team (listing)** at least 2 days prior to the hearing.

Steps are being taken to set up alternative teleconference facilities via BT Meetme and where possible through Skype for Business (if directed by the judge). At present, these facilities are subject to availability and you should contact the Judicial Support Team in the first instance to discuss using either of these methods.

Please note that the court's hearing fee is £485.00.

If you wish to request a **vacation/adjournment** of a hearing, application should be made on form COP9 with a draft order. You should notify all parties of the application, seek to reach agreement and file consents with the application wherever possible.

General advice can be obtained from the court on 0300 456 4600.

Judicial Support Team's e-mail address is courtofprotectionhearings@justice.gov.uk

Court of Protection
Remote Hearing Attendance Sheet

Case Reference:

Case Intial:

Applicant:

Counsel	Name:	
	Email:	
	Tel:	

Solicitor	Name:	
	Email:	
	Tel:	

In Person	Name:	
	Email:	
	Tel:	

Other	Name:	
	Email:	
	Tel:	

1st Respondent:

Counsel	Name:	
	Email:	
	Tel:	

Solicitor	Name:	
	Email:	
	Tel:	

In Person	Name:	
	Email:	
	Tel:	

Other	Name:	
	Email:	
	Tel:	

2nd Respondent:

Counsel	Name:	
	Email:	
	Tel:	

Solicitor	Name:	
	Email:	
	Tel:	

In Person	Name:	
	Email:	
	Tel:	

Other	Name:	
	Email:	
	Tel:	

3rd Respondent:

Counsel	Name:	
	Email:	
	Tel:	

Solicitor	Name:	
	Email:	
	Tel:	

In Person	Name:	
	Email:	
	Tel:	

Other	Name:	
	Email:	
	Tel:	

Continue as necessary

*Please note details of any non-parties attending a remote hearing should also be provided.