

COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR COURTS

BAIL APPLICATIONS - HIGH COURT

6 November 2020

This guidance replaces the guidance published on 9 April 2020 to reflect that from 16 November 2020, all High Court bail applications will be dealt with via remote hearings (Sightlink).

HIGH COURT

Legal representatives should send the [Application](#) for High Court Bail by email to HC.BailOffice@courtsni.gov.uk. The office will forward a copy of the application to the PPS and issue notification of the hearing date and Sightlink details. It is essential that the application is fully completed and includes sufficient details; otherwise, the application may be delayed or returned for amendment.

The High Court will deal with bail applications on **Monday, Wednesday and Friday**. The following timelines for filing applications apply:

- Monday - application to be lodged by 12 noon on Thursday;
- Wednesday - application to be lodged by 12 noon on Monday;
- Friday - application to be lodged by 12 noon on Wednesday.

The maximum number of bail applications which will be listed each day is 14. When that limit is reached, any further applications will be listed for the next available bail day (not later than 7 days from the date on which notice of the application was received). Where a legal representative requires an earlier hearing date, they must provide reasons in writing demonstrating the need for urgency for consideration by the judiciary.

Emergency courts, both during working and non-working hours, for example for compassionate bail, will be facilitated. Where a request is to be made out of hours, legal contact should be made through the normal out of hours court arrangements.

Legal aid arrangements, including certification, will apply as usual.