

**FLS REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES
SOUTH AUCKLAND/FRANKLIN**

LEVEL 4 (Delta Variant)

Hi everyone,

As we head into another week of Level 4, we thought it timely to recap information that has already been released through the Family Law Section (FLS) to date. We acknowledge that not everyone belongs to FLS but we felt it important to share the following summary as it relates to **Manukau Family**

Court:

- A Family Judge will be sitting in Manukau on **Mondays, Wednesdays** and **Fridays** – two of those days are for OT Lists¹ whilst the third day is for call-overs of SCHs².
- These three days (Mon, Wed, Fri) will proceed by way of telephone conference.
- There remains capacity to deal with individual cases which meet the **urgent** category. Any counsel (whether it is counsel for the parties or L4C) need to identify any cases in this category in a memorandum setting out why the case meets the level 4 protocol criteria. The email to CMT-MAN@justice.govt.nz must include **URGENT** in the subject line.
- The only Case Management Reviews that are currently taking place are for matters where time limits are crucial: i.e. Family Violence, PPPR, IDCCR.
- Whilst the Manukau Family Court Registry is working hard to schedule more court events, staff resourcing continues to significantly limit the Registry's ability to do so.
- There is only physical space for 2 managers, 1 family court coordinator and 7 registrars on site to ensure safe, social distancing. The surge in close contacts at the start of lockdown also impacted staffing availability.
- By comparison, the size of Auckland Family Court Registry enables more staff on site whilst practising safe, social distancing. Also, their OT matters requires less than a full day's worth of court time meaning that they have capacity to deal with other cases eg COCA matters.

If anyone has any queries, please contact Charles Boon, Lena Wong or Marion Anderson-Ulu.

(FLS Regional Reps – South Auckland/Franklin)

¹ Manukau FC typically operates two (2) OT court lists per week to reflect the sheer volume of OT files. For this reason, Manukau FC have identified OT matters as a priority.

² The teleconferences for SCF's are only designed to gauge what matters remain a priority or what matters can settle. These teleconferences are unable to schedule a further hearing date.