

## **IN THE COUNTY COURTS OF CUMBRIA AND LANCASHIRE**

### **GENERAL GUIDANCE ON HEARINGS**

This guidance given as a result of the following:

1. the COVID 19 (Coronavirus) pandemic;
2. the measures being taken in response and the Protocol regarding remote hearings issued on 20 March 2020 a copy of which can be found at <https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Civil-court-guidance-on-how-to-conduct-remote-hearings.pdf>
3. the statement made by the Prime Minister on 23 March 2020 and the Guidance issued.
4. The direction of the Lord Chief Justice that no hearings which require people to attend are to take place in any County or Family Court until further notice, unless there is 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 hearing remotely.

#### **Until further notice the following will apply:**

##### **Telephone hearings**

1. Unless the parties apply for an alternative means of remote hearing and the court agrees, the following types of hearing will take place by telephone with immediate effect:
  - a) Costs Case Management Conference;
  - b) Case Management Conference;
  - c) Applications;
  - d) Directions and allocation hearings;
  - e) Stage 3 hearings;
  - f) Winding up petitions;
  - g) Bankruptcy petitions;
  - h) Insolvency applications;
  - i) Detailed assessments;
  - j) Third party debt orders;
  - k) First hearings of injunctions and the return date;
  - l) Settlement approvals under CPR 21 other than those referred to in paragraph 2a) below.

##### **Paper Hearings**

2. Unless the parties apply for a hearing by telephone or other means of remote hearing and the court agrees, the following types of hearing will be determined on paper:
  - a) Infant approval settlements. A separate direction has been made in respect of these hearings;
  - b) Fund applications;

c) Application to make Interim Charging orders final.

**Small Claims, Fast Track Trials and Multi-Track trials**

3. Separate directions have been made in respect of these hearings.

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4. Separate directions have been made in respect of possession hearings, new possession claims and applications for the suspension of the warrant for possession.

Her Honour Judge Beech, Designated Civil Judge for Cumbria and Lancashire

DATED this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020