



Coronavirus (COVID-19) contingency arrangements for Family Law Act injunctions

We've developed guidance to help make sure injunction applications are prioritised and victims of domestic abuse receive protection as soon as possible.

What do legal representatives need to do?

Please help courts to deal with your client's application promptly by:

- Including the words **injunction, non molestation, FL401, domestic violence or domestic abuse** in the subject line of your email.
- Complete a draft order using the [standard template 10.1](#). Remove any unnecessary paragraphs.
- Include your contact details in the **body of your email** if they are different from those on the application.
- **Do not** contact the court by email or telephone within a 3-hour period after submitting your application to give court staff time to progress it.

Family courts have been asked to:

- Create a priority folder and set up a filter on email accounts with these words in the title:
 - injunction
 - non molestation
 - FL401
 - domestic violence
 - domestic abuse
- Update auto responses to reflect the information set out in this update.
- Check the priority folder at least every hour.
- Refer without-notice injunction applications to a judge within three hours of receipt.
- Communicate the judge's response and arrange an emergency hearing if it is needed.
- Give the injunction order to the applicant's solicitor for service on the day it is made.
- Make immediate arrangements for service if the applicant is unrepresented.
- If the judge approves the draft order, it only has minor amendments and remains legible, they'll seal it and email it back to the solicitor. They'll do this before updating the case management system to avoid delay.
- They'll update the case management system at a later stage to make sure all relevant data is captured.

[The President of the Family Division supports this initiative and urges the use of the standard template order 10.1.](#)