



**OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL COURT PRESIDENT
LIMPOPO DIVISION**

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The Director
Limpopo Legal Practice Council

CURRENT 100 DAYS DIVORCE BACKLOG PROJECT

The Limpopo Regional Court Civil Seats together with the representatives of the major stakeholders had agreed to have a 100 Days Divorce Backlog Project ending on 14 December 2020 due to the huge volume of outstanding divorce cases on the court rolls. The purpose of the project is

- to fast track unopposed and settled divorces to get finalised,
- to fast track opposed divorces through the possibility of mediation, and
- to the assistant registrars will send out notices to follow up on matters which have been dormant for longer than 6 months

in order to work down the current outstanding backlog in divorce cases in the Limpopo Regional Courts. (See attached a document with the outstanding number of divorce cases at each Regional Court Civil Seats)

The following initiatives are also being implemented during the 100 Days of the Divorce Backlog Project until 14 December 2020:

- free mediation opportunities offered by mediators through the ADR Network (through Zoom or in person),
- quick dates will be given by the relevant court (as far as possible) when requested for settled matters (suitably endorsed by the Fam Adv where applicable),
- the Office of the Family Advocate will prioritise the endorsement of settlements in matters involving children,

- awareness raising initiatives about mediation,
- training of mediators and
- possible pro bono legal representation where necessary to enable fast tracking of especially long outstanding cases.

All legal practitioners appearing in divorce cases are encouraged to participate and assist with fast tracking of their outstanding divorce cases in the Regional Court.

Legal Practitioners are requested to –

- ensure that the assistant registrars at the relevant Regional Court Civil Seats where they have outstanding cases have their updated contact details, including email addresses in order for them to send set down notices through email,
- utilise email for filing of any documents with the assistant registrars at the relevant civil seat,
- consider virtual hearings especially if it will assist their clients who might not be in the province or live near the civil seat to fast track a hearing,
- to follow up instructions with clients in matters that have been dormant for more than 6 months,
- in cases where they no longer have instructions or a mandate, to ensure that the relevant notices are filed as required in terms of MC Rule 52A and
- to actively participate in the project to work down the outstanding divorce cases during the 100 Days Divorce Backlog project.

Thank you to all practitioners already involved for your assistance and cooperation in the 100 Days Divorce Backlog Project.

Regards
J Wessels
Regional Court President
Limpopo Regional Division