

As many of you are already aware, the Online Court service has been operating in the Local Court, Supreme Court and Land & Environment Court since October 2016.

I am pleased to announce that on 31 October 2018 it will commence for use in matters in the District Court General Division Civil List, Sydney (John Maddison Tower).

Cases eligible to use the Online Court will be required to use Online Court unless exceptional reasons are demonstrated for not doing so or the Court otherwise directs.

**In Online Court you will have the ability to:**

- Have case management orders made under Practice Note 1.
- Adjourn for pre-trial conferences, status conferences and case managed list directions hearings.
- List matters for hearing.
- List settled matters for approval hearings.
- Other additional orders.

**In the Online Court you will be expected to:**

- Conduct business in substantially the same manner as you would in Court in person.
- Make a request by **2pm, three business days** prior to the in-person sitting
- Consent or counter a request by **6pm, three business days** prior to the in-person sitting
- Not permit a matter to be listed in Court unless the circumstances require it or be directed to attend Court in person.
- Understand that a failure to participate in the Online Court processes will be deemed the same as a non-appearance in Court potentially resulting in dismissal.

**Some of the benefits of Online Court are:**

- The ability to communicate online with the Registrar and other parties without having to attend Court.
- Your case can be managed as soon as it is listed.
- Solicitors with carriage of the matter will be able to manage matters directly without the need to brief other solicitors, agents or counsel to attend Court.
- All information and correspondence is recorded online and can be viewed at any time

The core benefits are focused on creating an easier way of working, as well as saving time and costs for those involved in the process.

**Preparing for Online Court**

The key concern to prepare for at this stage is to understand that Online Court procedure will require parties to finalise any proposal for orders and/or adjournments at least two full business days before any future listing.

This may require a change in your current business practices and timelines to bring forward existing deadlines by which to prepare for the next listing.

Otherwise, at this stage just keep an eye out for any emails and flyers about Online Court in the coming weeks for more updates and further details.

For more information about how Online Court works refer to the information sheet attached to this email.

Regards

James Howard  
Judicial Registrar  
District Court of NSW