

COVID-19 AND YOUR TRUST ACCOUNT

The Trust Accounts Department wants to reassure all law practices that we are sympathetic to the challenging circumstances posed by the COVID-19 protocols.

As legal practitioners and their staff move towards home office, difficulties may be experienced in complying with the Uniform Rules. The Department accepts in some instances it will be impossible to fully comply and you will not be breached for delays in complying.

The most important thing for you to address is to ensure you know your clients' trust account balances, prior to making any payment from the trust account.

We are there to assist with any difficulties you may be experiencing. Please refer your request for assistance to tad@lawsociety.com.au

With respect to the External Examiners Reports for 2020 we are especially mindful of the cooperative effort associated with preparation and lodgement of the annual External Examiners Reports.

An extension to the lodgement date was considered but we were not confident about the course COVID-19 might take and whether such a change would provide a solution to these challenges.

Consequently, we have informed External Examiners that should considerations around COVID-19 make it too difficult to complete all their normal examination program we would be quite prepared to accept qualified reports to this effect.

The date for lodgement remains at 31st May 2020.

If, in consultation with your examiner, you determine that an extension of time to lodge is necessary please make your request by emailing the Trust Accounts Department on tad@lawsociety.com.au and advise us of the estimated date by which you believe lodgement will be possible.