



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY JUDGE PRESIDENT

(HIGH COURT OF SOUTH AFRICA, GAUTENG LOCAL DIVISION)
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NOTICE

URGENT

TO

1. **Chief Registrar - Gauteng Division of the High Court, Pretoria and Johannesburg**
2. **Secretariat – Judicial Case Flow Management, Office of the Chief Justice**
3. **Registrars - Gauteng Division of the High Court, Johannesburg and Pretoria**
4. **Legal Practice Council – Gauteng**
5. **Law Society of South Africa**
6. **Johannesburg Society of Advocates**
7. **Pan African Bar Association of South Africa**
8. **Gauteng Family Law Forum**
9. **Gauteng Attorneys Association**
10. **Pretoria Attorneys Association**
11. **Johannesburg Attorneys Association**
12. **West Rand Attorneys Association**
13. **South African Black Women in Law**
14. **South African Women Lawyers Association**
15. **General Council of the Bar of South Africa**
16. **National Bar Council of South Africa**
17. **South African Bar Association**
18. **National Forum for Advocates**
19. **Pretoria Society of Advocates**
20. **North Gauteng Association of Advocates**
21. **Church Square Association of Advocates**
22. **Advocates for Transformation**
23. **Black Lawyers Association**
24. **South African Medical Malpractice Lawyers Association**

25. **Personal Injury Plaintiff Lawyers Association**
26. **National Association of Democratic Lawyers**
27. **Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Pretoria and Johannesburg**
28. **Office of the State Attorneys, Pretoria and Johannesburg**
29. **CEO – Legal Aid South Africa**
30. **CEO – Road Accident Fund**
31. **CEO – PRASA**
32. **Director General – Gauteng Province**
33. **Head of Legal Department – Department of Health – Gauteng Province**
34. **South African Medico-Legal Association**
35. **Solicitor General** :

DATE : 12 November 2021

RE : **COVID-19 DIRECTIVES (REVISED) OF 11 JUNE 2021**
– URGENT REVISION WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT

1. The Judge President's Consolidated Directive ("Revised – 18 September 2020 Consolidated Directive in re Court Operations in the Pretoria and Johannesburg High Courts during the Extended Covid-19 National State of Disaster") dated 11 June 2021, among other aspects, addresses the procedure for unopposed divorces. Divorces are dealt with at paragraphs 135 to 151.
2. Paragraph 141(c) and paragraph 147(c) provide for an affidavit to be produced to the court dealing with the merits of the divorce matter. It states that the relevant evidence can be deposed to by the plaintiff or an attorney.
3. The notion that an attorney can give such evidence is self-evidently incorrect.
4. The phrase in both paragraphs which reads "alternatively the attorney of record" is improper and obviously is in conflict with law. It is amended and deleted by this notice with immediate effect.
5. Divorce orders, where an attorney has purported to give the evidence shall not be granted.

Yours faithfully

*Dictated by the Deputy Judge President
Electronically transmitted, therefore no signature*

ROLAND SUTHERLAND
DEPUTY JUDGE PRESIDENT