

# IFJ COVID-19 Ongoing Updates

04/04/20-06/04/20

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Since Friday a short survey has been sent out to members to gauge their views and experiences of working during the pandemic. There is a Zoom meeting for members on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> providing an opportunity to discuss issues, share concerns and be supported.

There has been on going conversation with regards The Advocacy Gateway planned writing of a new tool kit for remote hearings. Contributions to this are invited the [advocatesgateway@gmail.com](mailto:advocatesgateway@gmail.com) ([www.theadvocatesgateway.org](http://www.theadvocatesgateway.org))

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Mr. Justice MacDonald has noted ((The-Remote-Acess-Family-Court-Version-3-Final-03.04.20) the necessity to solve the issue of providing a discreet channel of communication between party and intermediary so that proceedings are not interrupted. He stated these matters need to be resolved as a matter of urgency.

Intermediaries continue to be very concerned at being exposed to risk in carrying out assessments and await the publication of the Covid19 ABE guidelines (anticipated they will be available this week). Reports continue of intermediaries and other professionals having become infected possibly from working situations.

A child protocol produced by a Garden Court Chamber to address the issues concerning children being detained during this crisis has been shared.