

IFJ COVID-19 Ongoing Updates

15/04/20-16/04/20

Since yesterday there has been a great deal of material recommended as being useful and informative about the two major issues being of concern to the intermediary community: Covid-19 and remote hearings/trial/assessments. (For links see below.)

Many professionals are sharing information with regards remote access to justice. It has been noted that some of these accounts have failed to include those who are vulnerable and will struggle or not be able to access such means of communication. Another point being made that we should not assume everyone has experience of using technology in their everyday lives or that people (including professionals involved) have the capacity to 'multi-task' in a manner that remote working may require. Importantly courts will need to have technology suitable and reliable for the task.

Intermediaries continue to express concerns as to the lack of suitability for most VP's (and therefore putting them at a significant disadvantage), but might well be suitable for those who are able and technically competent. Many VP's would still require an intermediary being physically present with them. Important issues have been noted: does the VP have the necessary computer, do they have someone to assist them, do they have good auditory memory? Many have expressed the view that it can only be considered on a case by case basis and that the views of those involved with this process should be heard.

There can be very serious consequences for technological failures in the case given (see Kent -on- Line) an attempted murder charge is adjourned due to technical failure.

Further advice on minimising risk of transmission of Covid-19 (second link down)

An article in yesterday's The Guardian newspaper discussed the rise in care proceedings arising from 'lockdown' and the increase in domestic abuse and increase in the number of women being killed.

Links Covid-19

<https://mobile.twitter.com/hmctsgovuk/status/1250688950123016193>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control/transmission-characteristics-and-principles-of-infection-prevention-and-control>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000h7xw>

Remote process

<https://www.kentonline.co.uk/kent/news/technology-holds-up-attempted-murder-hearing-225690/>

https://mobile.twitter.com/inner_temple/status/1250390444439154688

<https://twitter.com/TringLawyer/status/1250136671129133059>

www.civillitigationbrief.com › 2020/04/16 › the-inns-of-court-college...

9 hours ago - In an extremely short amount of time the Inns of Court College of Advocacy has produced a remarkable guide "**Principles for Remote Advocacy**"

https://twitter.com/joanna_hardy/status/1250697519413280769?s=12

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-join-telephone-and-video-hearings-during-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

https://twitter.com/inner_temple/status/1250390444439154688?s=12