



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**HIGH COURT OF SOUTH AFRICA, GAUTENG DIVISION, PRETORIA
FROM THE CHAMBERS OF HONOURABLE JUDGE DE VOS AJ
TEL: 012 492 6890 /EMAIL: DlaminiT@judiciary.org.za CHAMBER 25: PALACE**

01 JULY 2025

**URGENT COURT DIRECTIVE FOR THE WEEK STARTING ON 04 JULY 2025
UNTIL 11 JULY 2025 BEFORE HONOURABLE JUDGE DE VOS AJ**

1. Enrolment:
 - 1.1 All applications which have already been enrolled by **12:00 on Thursday 3 July 2025 (when the roll closed)** are indicated on the roll for Urgent Applications. Separate rolls will later be distributed for after the allocation of matters has been finalised. If cases were not ready at the time of filing on Thursday, they will not be heard, unless there is good cause or exceptional circumstances are shown.
 - 1.2 Where a matter is allocated to a specific date and time by the respective judges, an allocation does NOT mean that the matter is sufficiently urgent to be heard on the merits.
 - 1.3 Papers that have not been properly indexed and paginated also run the risk of being struck from the roll.
2. Hearings:
 - 2.1 Applications heard during normal court hours will be adjudicated by means of an oral hearing in open court.
 - 2.2 Applications heard outside of ordinary court hours will be heard either on a virtual platform or in physical court as arranged.
 - 2.3 All introductions will be done in open court.
 - 2.4 The court in which matters will be heard will appear on the day roll in the morning of the hearing.
3. Practice notes:
 - 3.1 **In all matters** (opposed and unopposed) **a Practice Note** must also be served and filed (**on Caselines only and not to be sent to the Judges' secretary**) by all parties concerned.
 - 3.2 **Failure to file Practice Note(s) timeously, will be an indication that there is no appearance for the party concerned and the application may then either be struck off the roll or be dealt with in the absence of such party.**
 - 3.3 The **practice note** must indicate at least the following (to assist the Judge

who will do the allocations and for both judges to be used in their preparation):

- 3.3.1 Particulars and **contact details** of the legal practitioners;
 - 3.3.2 **Nature of the relief sought** (without referring to the notice of motion);
 - 3.3.3 **Total number of pages;**
 - 3.3.4 **A brief summary of the factual as well as legal issues involved;**
 - 3.3.5 A clear indication (without referring to the heads of argument) which portion of the **papers must be read** and which not;
 - 3.3.6 **The main issues to be considered;**
 - 3.3.7 A **brief summary of the urgency** or absence thereof;
 - 3.3.8 Whether there was **service by the sheriff**, and if not, why not (unopposed applications);
 - 3.3.9 Estimated **duration**;
 - 3.3.10 Whether the matter is **opposed or not**.
 - 3.3.11 **A summary of:**
 - 3.3.11.1 **the cause of action;**
 - 3.3.11.2 **the requirements for relief'**
 - 3.3.11.3 **the source of the Court's powers; and**
 - 3.3.11.4 **the references to caselines which indicate compliance with the requirements for the relief sought.**
 - 3.4 **Failure to file a practice note setting out all the above information, par by par individually, may result in the application be struck off the roll and a punitive cost order be granted.**
4. Heads of argument:
- 4.1 must be uploaded **before 10:00 on Monday 7 July 2025** onto caselines (not emailed to the Judge's registrar) to permit the Court to consider the case.
 - 4.2 The applicant must also set out the reasons, in the Heads of Argument, why the matter is so urgent that it must be heard during the week concerned, by referring to the evidence in the founding affidavit.
 - 4.3 In unopposed matters the applicant must also indicate, in the practice note, where in the court papers the **Sheriff's return of service** is to be found.
 - 4.4 The submissions must set out the basis on which the parties seek the relief with sufficient detail to permit the Court to adjudicate the matter.
5. The Practice Directive regarding Urgent Applications (Chapter 13.24) still applies (to opposed and unopposed applications) and the Rules pertaining to urgency **will be strictly enforced**. Compliance with annexure "A" (13.24), more particularly par [4], subparagraphs (1) to (11) thereof, as referred to in paragraph 11 of Chapter 13.24 of the Practice Manual, will also be strictly enforced. **If a matter is not ready to be adjudicated on the date and the time indicated in the notice of motion (subject to the degrees of urgency) and/or not so urgent as indicated in the Rules and the Practice Directive, it may be struck off the roll in which event a punitive costs order may be made.**
6. Service of process in all urgent applications must comply with the Rules of Court. Deviations will only be condoned if good cause is shown. Where an agreement was reached by the respective parties' legal representatives to

provide for the electronic exchange of papers, this must be specifically stated in the practice note.

7. Caselines will be locked on Monday 7 July 2025 at 10:00.
8. Filing of papers which were **impossible** to upload on Caselines, must be done via email to the Judges' clerks, **with an affidavit** explaining what steps were taken to upload, when and by whom the steps were taken and why it was not possible to upload on Caselines. The judge's clerk must then be informed telephonically that an email has been sent.
9. **Particulars of the clerk of De Vos AJ are as follows:**
Ms. Thembisile Dlamini
Email: Dlamini T@judiciary.org.za
Tel number: **012 492 6890**
10. It should finally be pointed out that there is a growing tendency (especially during recess) **to abuse the urgent court in two ways: First**, to set matters down which are not ripe for hearing, not being urgent or where self-created urgency is applicable. **This will not be allowed. Second, the urgent court is not intended to hear complex factual and/or legal issues** scattered over hundreds of pages and which may take a long time to consider and finalise (when new matters may also be encountered on a daily basis in the urgent court). This will prevent other parties having their matters be adjudicated in time. **Such complex cases may be removed from the roll and the parties may be referred to the Deputy Judge president for a special court to be allocated at some time in future** (cf Practice Manual, annexure "A" to 13.24, par [41 sub par (10) and (11), page H2-141).
11. All practitioners are requested to prepare a **draft court order by using "MS Word format"** (to allow for alterations) and **to upload it onto Caselines only**. A failure to comply with this request may result in the application be struck off the roll. Hard copies of draft orders must be handed up when matters are called.
12. It is the duty of the applicant's attorney to ensure that the matter is **timeously (before Friday 4 July 2025 12:00) and fully uploaded onto Caselines, with an index to identify and find documents easily, and that the Judge will have access to it.**