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25 March 2022

Mr C. M. Chan  
President  
The Law Society of Hong Kong  
3/F, Wing On House  
71 Des Voeux Road Central  
Hong Kong

Dear President,

**Guidance Note for Remote Hearings  
for Civil Business in the High Court  
(Judges Sitting outside Court Rooms)**

As you are aware, the Judiciary has been proactively promoting the greater use of remote hearings for suitable civil proceedings. I write to update you on the latest arrangement to facilitate such hearings to be conducted outside court rooms (“OC Hearings”) in light of the prevailing public health situation.

**Previous Guidance Notes**

2. In 2020, the Chief Judge of the High Court issued the following three Guidance Notes to facilitate the wider use of remote hearings :

- Guidance Note for Remote Hearings for Civil Business in the High Court (Phase 1: Video-Conferencing Facilities);
- Guidance Note for Remote Hearings for Civil Business in the

Civil Courts (Phase 2: Expanded Video-Conferencing Facilities and Telephone); and

- Guidance Note for Remote Hearings for Civil Business in the Civil Courts (Phase 3: Wider Video-Conferencing Facilities and Telephone).

### **Latest Guidance Note**

3. With the prevailing fluctuating public health situation, it is recognized that some flexibility may be required to facilitate remote hearings for civil proceedings to be conducted outside court rooms. Having regard to the paramount consideration that justice should be duly administered without compromising public health and safety, the Chief Judge of the High Court has issued a Guidance Note for Remote Hearings for Civil Business in the High Court (Judges sitting outside Court Rooms) at Annex which will take effect on **28 March 2022**. This Guidance Note should be read in conjunction with the above three Guidance Notes in paragraph 2.

4. The principle of open justice remains. Subject to the direction of the court, real-time access to an OC Hearing will be made available by video conferencing facilities provided at a court room or any other place in the High Court Building as designated.

5. For general enquiries, please contact the undersigned at 2825 4211 ([wendystcheung@judiciary.hk](mailto:wendystcheung@judiciary.hk)). For details, please contact Mr Colin Lo, Court Suite Manager at 2825 4610 ([kawinglo@judiciary.hk](mailto:kawinglo@judiciary.hk)).

Yours sincerely,



(Ms Wendy Cheung)  
for Judiciary Administrator

Encl.