

ADVISORY FROM THE LAW SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

Dear Colleague

The Minister of Justice and Correctional Services has published new directions in *Government Gazette* 43191 of 31 March. These directions replace the directions in *Government Gazette* 43167 of 26 March and outline rules in force during the lockdown. Note that the process for legal practitioners to obtain a permit to travel to court and police stations is set out; access to courts are restricted; services rendered by sheriffs, Masters' Offices and Legal Aid are limited; family law services are limited; and evictions are suspended.
[Click here to read Government Gazette 43191.](#)

Consequent to the publishing of [Government Gazette 43191](#), the Legal Practice Council has issued additional guidelines regarding the rendering of essential legal services during lockdown. A legal practitioner who cannot obtain a permit from the relevant provincial office of the LPC will be entitled to commute between their homes and the court on presentation of the original or certified copy of their admission certificate, proof of identification and confirmation from the Registrar or Clerk of the relevant court that the matter is on the court roll for that particular day, that the legal practitioner is the official legal representative and that the matter is urgent or essential.
[Click here to view the LPC guidelines.](#)

Tax relief

The National Treasury and the South African Revenue Service (SARS) have published the 2020 Draft Disaster Management Tax Relief Bill and the 2020 Draft Disaster Management Tax Relief Administration Bill for public comment. These draft Bills provide the necessary legislative amendments required to implement the Covid-19 tax measures. The measures contained in these draft Bills came into effect on 1 April 2020.

Written comments must be sent to the National Treasury's tax policy depository at 2020AnnexCProp@treasury.gov.za and to Adele Collins at acollins@sars.gov.za by close of business on 15 April 2020.

[Click here to view the draft Bills.](#)

[Click here to view the tax relief explanatory notes.](#)

The Minister of Social Development has published regulations relating to, amongst other, children in Child and Youth Care centres, shelters for victims of crime and violence, South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) and co-holders of parental responsibilities in *Government Gazette* 43182 of 30 March. Note that movement of children is prohibited during the lockdown.

[Click here to read Government Gazette 43182.](#)

Free access to legislation

In support to the legal profession during the Covid-19 lockdown, LexisNexis is giving legal practitioners free access to its Lexis Library and Lexis Practical Guidance until 30 April.

[Click here to sign up for free.](#)

Juta is also providing legal practitioners free access to Covid-19 legislation updates so that you are kept updated on changes as they are made by government.

[Click here for Covid-19 legislation updates.](#)

*Disclaimer: This advisory is issued with the intention of providing guidance to legal practitioners and law enforcement officers, as contemplated under the Regulations issued pursuant to the Disaster Management Act 57 of 2002, but should not be interpreted as legal advice.

Regards

ANTHONY PILLAY
Acting Executive Director, Law Society of South Africa

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Visit our website - www.LSSA.org.za
Telephone: (012) 366 8800 Email: LSSA@LSSA.org.za