

# DERWENT & TAMAR CHAMBERS

## COVID-19/SARS CoV-2 UPDATE 2

22 March 2020

**Tasmanian Public Health Hotline: 1800 671 738**

**Further information: [www.health.tas.gov.au/coronavirus](http://www.health.tas.gov.au/coronavirus)**

The primary concern of the Directors of Derwent & Tamar Chambers Pty Ltd is to balance the need to meet the legal needs of the Tasmanian community as barristers, with the need to protect the health and safety of barristers and staff of Derwent & Tamar Chambers. We remain committed to providing the best legal services to the Tasmanian community, business and government that we can.

These Chambers Rules will come into effect on 23 March 2020.

Derwent & Tamar Chambers remains open for business, but will be putting in place the following arrangements to address the current COVID-19/SARS CoV-2 public health emergency:

1. All non-essential face-to-face meetings must not occur in chambers and should instead be conducted by telephone, videoconferencing or off-site.
2. Essential face-to-face meetings must occur in the barrister's room and not the conference room taking into account the government's social distancing requirements.
3. Face-to-face mediations will not occur in chambers.
4. The conference room must not be used for meetings. If the conference room is used as a work room, before leaving chambers the barrister using the room is to thoroughly clean the table, chairs and telephone.
5. Delivery people will be asked to leave any deliveries inside the front door rather than being delivered to reception where possible.
6. Barristers will encourage solicitors to deliver briefs electronically, without a paper copy, and then print the brief in chambers. Carol will order additional folders, paper and stationery to manage this measure.
7. Barristers and Carol must not attend chambers if they are feeling unwell and have any symptoms of COVID-19, in particular:
  - a. fever (temperature over 37.5 C);
  - b. coughing;
  - c. shortness of breath;

- d. chills;
  - e. body aches;
  - f. runny nose;
  - g. muscle pain.
8. Everyone will practice good personal hygiene methods, and Chambers will endeavour to have sanitiser and wipes available at various locations around chambers.
  9. Door handles and other common surfaces will be regularly cleaned.
  10. If anyone has close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 they must immediately notify the head of chambers and self-isolate in accordance with advice from the Department of Health & Human Services. Close contact is currently defined as meaning 15 minutes of face-to-face contact or 2 hours in an enclosed location.
  11. We will engage in social distancing in accordance with current government guidelines and encourage barristers to work from home where possible. Indoor social distancing requires participants to maintain a distance of 1.5m from each other a maximum people in a room of 1 person to each 4m<sup>2</sup> of floorspace. We are, however, of the view that the physical layout of chambers creates a high degree of social distancing.
  12. In the event that a decision is made to shut down chambers or send Carol home, she will continue to be paid her usual salary.
  13. In the event of the absence of Chris Gunson SC, Sandra Taglieri SC is the Acting Head of Chambers.



**CHRIS GUNSON SC**  
Head of Chambers