



# FAMILY COURT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## PRACTICE DIRECTION

(No. 1 of 2020)

### MANDATORY eLODGMET BY LAWYERS

#### **Preamble**

The Family Court of Western Australia's overall digital strategy includes a phased approach leading to a digital Court file. The first phase includes the mandatory eLodgment of documents by solicitors.

This Practice Direction supersedes any previous Practice Directions or Information Notes concerning the eLodgment of documents.

This Practice Direction must be read subject to the *Family Law Act 1975* (Cth), the *Family Court Act 1997* (WA), the Rules, the Regulations, the Case Management Guidelines and any procedural orders made in the proceedings.

#### **Practice Direction**

1. This Practice Direction applies to all documents sought to be filed on and after 1 September 2020.
2. To the extent there is any inconsistency with any previous Practice Directions or Information Notes concerning the eLodgment of documents and this Practice Direction, this Practice Direction will prevail.
3. All documents that can be eLodged via the Commonwealth Courts Portal must be eLodged, if they are lodged by a solicitor. A complete list of documents that can be eLodged is available on the Commonwealth Courts Portal.
4. All correspondence (other than if it specifically relates to accompanying documents which cannot be eLodged) must be eLodged.
5. Notwithstanding Family Law Rule 24.05(2), a document that is eLodged after 4.00pm WST is taken to have been received by the Registry on the next day when it is open.
6. This Practice Direction:
  - a. is subject to any order to the contrary; and
  - b. comes into effect on 1 September 2020.

Handwritten signature of Gail Sutherland in black ink.

**GAIL SUTHERLAND  
CHIEF JUDGE**

**FAMILY COURT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
3 AUGUST 2020**