



JUDICIARY OF
ENGLAND AND WALES

IN THE CROWN COURT AT SOUTHAMPTON

SENTENCING DEFENDANTS ON BAIL DURING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

1. Defendants who are on bail and whose cases are listed for sentence should attend the hearing at court. They will be directed in the first instance to a waiting area.
2. **Pre-hearing conferences** should be conducted with counsel by telephone before the day of the hearing.
 - a. In circumstances where, notwithstanding an earlier conference, it is necessary for a further conference immediately before the hearing, counsel should telephone the defendant and invite him/her to request access to a room where s/he can speak privately. Given the rigid time slots available to the court, and in order to avoid disruption to other cases, last minute conferences are exceptional and it may not be possible to accommodate them within the day's list.
3. Immediately before the hearing, the defendant should surrender to the dock, which will be manned by custody staff.
4. During the hearing, counsel will appear by Skype.
5. **Defendants sentenced to immediate custody** will be received in the cells from the dock by custody staff.
 - a. At present, post-sentence conferences with defendants in custody cannot be arranged. Counsel will no doubt advise in writing in the usual way.
6. **Defendants who are not sentenced to immediate custody** will be released from the court subject to providing telephone and address information to the court. The court will then make arrangements for those details to be passed to the probation service so that initial appointments can be arranged within 24 hours.
7. Post sentence conferences for defendants not sentenced to immediate custody can be conducted by telephone without further intervention from the court.

CP 28 April 2020