



MAURITIUS BAR ASSOCIATION

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7th September 2021

COMMUNIQUE: Access to prisons

Dear Friends,

Further to representations made by the Council to the Commissioner of Prisons about difficulties faced by barristers visiting prisons, we have been informed that:

- i. Instructions have been given to all officers in charge of Institutions in writing to see to it that clients (detainees) are timely made available to visiting Barristers so as to avoid unnecessary delay;
- ii. The 48 hours' notice is maintained. However, any urgency from Barristers to see their clients will be considered by the Commissioner of Prisons or Deputy Commissioner of Prisons;
- iii. **Pupils** will, henceforth, be allowed to accompany their pupil masters to prisons provided requests are also made on the Application Form with the name of the pupil, his/her NIC no which he/she has to produce for access.

The Council has also been informed that pursuant to the **COVID-19 (Restriction of Access to Specified Institutions, Places and Premises) Regulations 2021** which came into operation on 21st August 2021, Barristers will henceforth be required to produce either of the following documents to have access to prisons:

- i. A COVID-19 vaccination card certifying that the Barrister and pupil(s), if any, have been vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine; or
- ii. In the absence of a COVID-19 vaccine, a RT-PCR test result slip certifying a negative result dating back to not more than 7 days from the date the RT-PCR test was undertaken.

However, the above restrictions will not apply to a person who is in possession of a medical certificate, duly certified by 2 Government Medical Officers that, by reason of his medical condition, that person cannot be vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine.

Yours faithfully,

Mayuri D. Bunwaree-Ramlackhan
Secretary of the Bar Council