

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: SENTENCING

DATE: 5 MAY 2020

SENTENCING:

Q: When will the sentencing happen?

There is no confirmed date for the sentencing yet. The Judge will decide when the sentencing will take place. We will let you know as soon as we have more information available to share.

Q: How long will the sentencing take?

At the moment we do not know how long the sentencing will take. We anticipate that sentencing may take a number of days. Planning is currently taking place. We will tell you in advance about when sentencing will happen, and how long it may take so that you can make any arrangements you need to. We will let you know as soon as we have more information to share.

Q: Can I attend the sentencing?

Victims can attend the sentencing in person if they are able to. Whether you can attend may depend on several things. These include where you live (both in New Zealand or overseas), and how the Courts are working under New Zealand's COVID-19 restrictions at the time of sentencing. As part of the planning process for sentencing, the court is looking at other ways people can participate. We will let you know what options are available once we have these confirmed.

Q: Will people from overseas be able to attend the sentencing?

Normally, people from overseas can attend court appearances. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this may depend on any border restrictions in place at the time the sentencing is held. This is difficult to predict at this time. For people travelling from overseas, restrictions in place in the countries they are travelling from, as well as in countries they may need to transit through to get to New Zealand, may affect their ability to attend.

Q: Will the offender be present at the sentencing? Do I have to see him?

Yes, we anticipate the offender will be present at sentencing as this is usually what happens in the New Zealand court system. If you want to come to sentencing but do not want to see him in person there may be other options for you to view the sentencing.

Q: If I do not attend the sentencing, how will I know what happens?

If you do not attend sentencing, your Court Victim Advisor will let you know the result of the sentencing by email. They will be available to answer any questions you have by email, phone and face to face – where possible - in the days following the sentencing.

Visit the websites below for more information:

Read more about sentencing on the [Victims Information website](#).

Read more about how the [Courts of New Zealand](#) are operating during COVID-19 restrictions:

Find out more information on the [New Zealand Government response to COVID-19](#).