

MEDIA RELEASE

Judiciary Calls on Media to Report Accurately

The Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago has noted recent media reporting on the content of Practice Direction No.16, which was published in Gazette No. 84 of 2021. It appears from the media reporting that the Practice Direction was misread and misunderstood. The Practice Direction states that a court may hear any matters that it deems fit for hearing during the period covered by the Practice Direction. **Nowhere does it state that courts could only hear:**

- Domestic violence cases;
- Maintenance applications;
- Urgent custody applications;
- Detention of cash matters;
- Matters under the Emergency Powers Regulations, 2021;
- and
- Charge matters.

The above mentioned matters however are **automatically deemed urgent** and always qualify to be heard by the courts during the period of the Practice Direction No. 16 without the need to have them formally deemed fit by a magistrate. This is indicated by the use of the words “*in any event*” in the practice direction.

The Judiciary would appreciate if the media misunderstanding of the Practice Direction could be corrected urgently to obviate the misleading of the public and other stakeholders

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For further information, kindly contact:

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