

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Operationalisation of The Family Court, Princes Town, and The Trinidad South District – Princes Town Court

The Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago wishes to advise that subject to Practice Directions in place which direct the in-person activity at any court building, the following courts will be located at **271 Naparima Mayaro Road, Princes Town** with effect from Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021

- **Family Court, Princes Town**
- **Trinidad South District – Princes Town Court**

The Trinidad South District– Princes Town Court will hear matters previously heard at the following Trinidad South District courts:

- Princes Town Magistrates' Court,
- Rio Claro Magistrates' Court and
- Mayaro Magistrates' Court.

### Family Court, Princes Town

The Family Court, Princes Town is the first dedicated court for family matters in the southern region of Trinidad and is another milestone in the Judiciary's continued effort to provide access to justice for families and children. The layout and circulation of this court were designed to facilitate the unique needs of the Family Court customer, with specific attention being paid to domestic violence matters.

The Family Court, Princes Town is part of the Family and Children Division of the High Court and the third Family Court location in the country. A Family Court is also planned for San Fernando. The work on the former Convent of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny will soon begin in order to house this court.

The Family Court, Princes Town will serve the communities of Princes Town, Mayaro, Rio Claro, New Grant, Tableland, Moruga and environs by giving citizens a multi door approach with access to court-annexed wrap-around services including mediation, counselling, and other psycho-social services.

Residents of these areas who wish to file new Family Matters such as domestic violence applications, and applications for custody and maintenance, should do so at this court.

As the Princes Town, Rio Claro and Mayaro district court locations will no longer be dealing with family matters, customers seeking information about their existing family and domestic violence matters at the Mayaro, Princes Town and Rio Claro District Courts should contact the Trinidad South District – Princes Town Court.

Persons who wish to commence matters which were hitherto matrimonial matters may also do so at this court.

The Family Court, Princes Town may be contacted via:

**Telephone: (868) 223-1060; (868) 628-8529 or (868) 235-2988 Ext. 6400**

**or**

**Email: [fcg.response@ttlawcourts.org](mailto:fcg.response@ttlawcourts.org)**

### **Trinidad South District – Princes Town Court**

The Trinidad South District – Princes Town Court will serve the people of Mayaro, Princes Town, Rio Claro and environs.

The new Trinidad South District – Princes Town Court will combine the operations of the Mayaro, Princes Town and Rio Claro District Courts.

The Trinidad South District Court is part of the Judiciary's Criminal and Traffic Division.

E-filings will be facilitated through the Judiciary's e-Services portal.

The Trinidad South District – Princes Town Court may be contacted via:

**Telephone: (868) 223-1060; (868) 628-8529 or (868) 235-2988 Ext. 2985, 2988, 1877, and 2991;**

**or**

**Email: [mrcc.princetown@ttlawcourts.org](mailto:mrcc.princetown@ttlawcourts.org)**

### **Virtual Access Customer Centres (Mayaro and Rio Claro)**

While the Judiciary will no longer be operating full court services in Rio Claro and Mayaro, the Virtual Access Customer Centres being placed in these locations will be available to provide continued access to justice for the public. These buildings will provide public access kiosks to

enable e-filing for persons who do not have personal devices, as well as virtual access booths to enable persons to appear in court virtually.

## **COURT OPERATIONS DURING THE PANDEMIC**

Notwithstanding the new court facilities, attention is drawn to the Judiciary's Practice Directions in effect from time to time that state the in-person activities permitted in court buildings. Members of the public are reminded that court hearings are being conducted virtually and that services such as CourtPay, the Domestic Violence Hotline and E-Filing are available.

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For further information, kindly contact:

Court Protocol and Information Unit

Telephone: 62-TTLAW (628-8529) [TSTT] | 23-LAWTT (235-2988) [DIGICEL] | 223-1060 [Flow]

Exts. 2414, 2415

E-mail: [cpim@ttlawcourts.org](mailto:cpim@ttlawcourts.org)