

COURT AND TRIBUNAL HOURS – DECEMBER 2023 & JANUARY 2024

Most courts and tribunals will be closed during the holiday period. All courts and tribunals will be open on Monday 15 January 2024, with some opening from Wednesday 3 January 2024.

If you have any questions, call 0800 COURTS (0800 268 787).

District Court Operating Hours 2023/2024

District Court

Auckland, Blenheim, Christchurch, Dunedin, Gisborne, Greymouth, Hamilton, Hastings, Hutt Valley, Invercargill, Levin, Manukau, Masterton, Napier, Nelson, New Plymouth, North Shore, Palmerston North, Porirua, Queenstown, Rotorua, Tauranga, Timaru, Waitakere, Wellington, Whanganui, Whangarei

Close: 5pm, Friday 22 December 2023

Open: 9am, Wednesday 3 January 2024

Kaikohe, Kaitaia, Papakura, Pukekohe, Taupo, Tokoroa, Wairoa, Whakatane

Close: 5pm, Friday 22 December 2023

Open: 9am, Monday 8 January 2024 (unless gazetted otherwise)

Ashburton, Dannevirke

Closes: 4pm, Friday 22 December 2023

Opens: 9am, Monday 8 January 2024 (unless gazetted otherwise)

Taumaranui,

Closes: 3pm, Friday 22 December 2023

Opens: 9am, Monday 8 January 2024 (unless gazetted otherwise)

Hawera, Huntly, Thames

Closes: 5pm, Friday 22 December 2023

Open: 9am, Monday 15 January 2024 (unless gazetted otherwise)

Alexandra, Gore, Morrinsville, Westport

Closes: 4pm, Friday 22 December 2023

Open: 9am, Monday 15 January 2024 (unless gazetted otherwise)

Taihape

Closes: 3pm, Friday 22 December 2023

Opens: 9am, Monday 15 January 2024 (unless gazetted otherwise)

The following courts are Hearing Courts. They will not be open over the Christmas and New Year's period, and will resume hearings as rostered in the New Year:

Chatham Islands, Dargaville, Kaikoura, Marton, Oamaru, Ohakune, Opotiki, Ruatoria, Te Awamutu, Te Kuiti, Waihi, Waipukurau

Family Courts will provide a national service for urgent applications over the Christmas and New Year holiday period. Urgent applications will all be dealt with via the National eDuty platform. Court staff and duty judges have been allocated to deal with applications on the following days:

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
18 Dec 2023	19 Dec 2023	20 Dec 2023	21 Dec 2023	22 Dec 2023
				- Applications close 12:00pm - All Registries close 5:00pm
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
25 Dec 2023	26 Dec 2023	27 Dec 2023	28 Dec 2023	29 Dec 2023
		- Applications close 2:00pm	- Applications close 2:00pm	- Applications close 2:00pm
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1 Jan 2024	2 Jan 2024	3 Jan 2024	4 Jan 2024	5 Jan 2024
		- Larger Courts reopen 9:00am - Applications close 2:00pm	- Applications close 2:00pm	- Applications close 2:00pm

National eDuty service available
Closed for observed statutory holiday

All urgent Family Court applications are required to be submitted to the registry by **2.00pm (exception 12pm on 22 Dec)** on the days above in order for them to be processed. Any applications received after that time will be considered the following day.

The process for urgent Family Court applications will go back to normal on Monday 8 January 2024.

Mental health

Judges will be available to deal with any applications made to the Family Court for a review of a patient's condition, section 16 of the Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992.

Arrest courts

Any persons arrested over this period will be brought to the nearest available court for the initial appearance before a Judge, Community Magistrate or Justice of the Peace. "Arrested" includes those arrested on new charges, on warrant or for breach of bail.

If bail is sought and it is not within jurisdiction of the judicial officer presiding at the first appearance, then any remand in custody (unless there is consent otherwise) must be adjourned to the next working day. This will allow the bail application to be dealt with via AVL from the prison (or police station) to the nearest, or most convenient, court where a judge is rostered to sit.

Electronically Monitored Bail applications

The EM Admin team will be processing the applications throughout the Christmas and holiday period (only being closed on statutory holidays). Applications filed after 1 December (or 8 December in the Youth Court) may be scheduled for hearing from 8 January 2024 subject to hearing time and counsel availability. Please ensure the EM Bail Team is advised of any such adjournments over the holiday period so arrangements can be made for potential installations of equipment as early as possible.

If there are any queries regarding the above time frames, please don't hesitate to contact the Electronically Monitored Bail Team, on 0800EMBAIL or embail@corrections.govt.nz.

Urgent Harmful Digital Communications Act applications

Judges will be available to deal with any urgent applications filed under the Harmful Digital Communications Act 2015 (HDCA) during the Christmas and New Year period.

Urgent High Court applications

Urgent High Court applications can be made during the Christmas and New Year period.