



Verify Expert

Paragraph 3.3 of the Revised Supplementary Directive in respect of Court Operations in the Pretoria and Johannesburg High Courts during the extended COVID19 National Lockdown notes that:

Matters that require evidence to be adduced shall not, in general, be conducted in open Court, and the Judge seized with the matter shall exercise a discretion about an appropriate mode of hearing, which may include receiving evidence on affidavit and the utilisation of video conferencing, and if otherwise unavoidable, the convening of a physical hearing.



Verify Expert seeks to provide a simple platform for experts to verify their reports electronically, without having to depose to an affidavit before a Commissioner of Oaths in respect of each and every report presented to the Court. The system aims to provide Presiding Officers with the same peace of mind as to the authenticity of an expert's findings as one would gain from an affidavit to that effect.

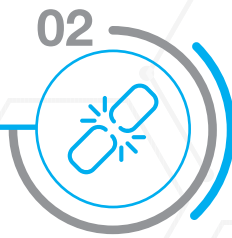
This system saves significant costs, promotes social distancing and provides a technology based solution with convenience.

**COST SAVINGS,
SOCIAL DISTANCING,
EFFICIENCY**

THIS SIMPLE PROCESS ENTAILS:



An expert registers on www.verifyexpert.co.za



The expert generates a unique verification link specific to that matter to copy and paste into their expert report.



The expert completes their report and sends a PDF file to their instructing attorney.



The expert receives this email notification to confirm the document containing the unique link is indeed their report.



A Judge can click on the unique link in the expert report to verify that the report before him/her is indeed that of the expert. Clicking on the unique link generates an email from the Verify Expert system to the expert who authored the report.



The attorney uploads the expert report to the online case management system being used by the Courts.



The expert confirms their report with a single click confirmation on the email received and the Judge is immediately notified via return email.



The Judge can print or save the confirmation to the case file.



The unique verification link then expires.

Through the Verify Expert platform, each expert will have access to a complete record of their unique verification links together with the date of electronic confirmation of these reports, conveniently recorded under the expert's matter number.



01

There is no need for the attorney to prepare an affidavit for each expert for each case.

02

There is no need for experts to print out all of the documentation which for medical experts can be in excess of 40 pages.

03

There is no need for experts to travel to find a Commissioner of Oaths to certify printed documents.

04

There is no need for experts to scan the Commissioned documents and send the PDF file to the instructing attorney. Scanning in excess of 40 pages takes up valuable time.

05

There is no need for attorneys to send couriers to collect original documents, also at a significant cost.

06

There is no need for the attorney to upload the affidavit to the online case management system used by the Courts.

07

There is no need for experts to leave isolated environments of their home or office to find a Commissioner of Oaths or go to their nearest police station and/or post office to complete same. For example a police station was closed down due to one staff member contracting COVID19. It also needs to be borne in mind that many designated Commissioner of Oaths in private practice such as auditors and attorneys may also be working in isolation and therefore are not easily accessible.

08

Several experts are over the age of 60 and may need to isolate for many months. It would be onerous to expect those experts to find a Commissioner of Oaths numerous times a month.

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The Verify Expert system is as reliable as completing a paper based affidavit.

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The Judiciary has already moved to a far more technological based solution and this enhances the smart use of technology and opens avenues for expert services to the Court to become more efficient.

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