



IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BERMUDA

CIRCULAR NOTICE

ISSUED BY THE REGISTRAR

Ref. A/50

Tuesday 18 October 2016

CIRCULAR No. 21 of 2016

Toxic Mold Contamination at Registry

1. The Registry of the Supreme Court located on 113 Front Street was tested by Bermuda Water Consultants Limited (BWC) for the presence of mold.
2. The toxic molds, *Stachybotrys*, *Aspergillus/Penicillium* (Asp/Pen) and *Chaetomium* were all identified as present in the airborne samples tested.
3. BWC described the nature and impact of these toxic molds in the following terms:

*Stachybotrys* is known as a toxic mold because it produces toxins called mycotoxins. It is one of the most infamous toxic mold because it can grow in houses and is extremely dangerous to humans.

*Chaetomium* is known as a toxic mold and encountered as causative agents of infections in humans. A few cases of fatal deep infections due to *Chaetomium atrobrunneum* have been reported in the immune-compromised host.

*Aspergillus/Penicillium* (Asp/Pen) is known as a toxic mold Prevalent in water damaged buildings. It is known for allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis (ABPA) which is common in asthmatic and cystic fibrosis patients, *Aspergillus sinusitis*, Invasive aspergillosis in immunocompromised patients.

4. Stachybotrys and Chaetomium were identified specifically in both of the exhibits vault rooms and the outside file room. These areas were reported as being uninhabitable.
5. For the most part, the exhibits vault rooms store documentary exhibits in respect of past and pending Supreme Court trials.
6. The outside file room stores mostly all files for cases in the divorce jurisdiction of the Supreme Court from 2011 and prior. Additionally, mostly all civil and commercial files dating from 2010 and prior are housed in the outside file room.
7. In light of these alarming results, Registry staff will not be permitted, for any reason, to access either of the two exhibit vault rooms or the outside file room.
8. The understanding and patience of members of the Bermuda Bar Association and the general public is requested.
9. Efforts for these areas to be fully decontaminated and indeed for Registry relocation are underway.
10. A further notice by Circular will be provided by way of update when resolve is achieved.

Dated this 18<sup>th</sup> day of October 2016



Shade Subair Williams  
**REGISTRAR**