



Children's Court of Victoria

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY POLICY

for

MELBOURNE CHILDREN'S COURT

and the

CHILDREN'S COURT CONFERENCE CENTRE

Principle

The Children's Court of Victoria should, as far as possible, provide a safe and secure environment for all persons attending Melbourne Children's Court at 477 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne 3000 and/or the Children's Court Conference Centre at Level 5, 436 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne 3000.

Application of this policy

This policy applies to Melbourne Children's Court and the Children's Court Conference Centre.

The *Conditions of Entry Policy for the Magistrates' Court of Victoria* applies in relation to all metropolitan and country venues of the Children's Court of Victoria.

Commencement

This policy commences on 24 March 2014.

Objective

The objective of this policy is to establish a clear statement for all court users, Victoria Police officers, Protective Services officers, private security officers and staff as to what the conditions of entry are that apply to Melbourne Children's Court and the Children's Court Conference Centre.

Statement of policy

1. All persons entering Children's Court premises at 477 Little Lonsdale Street and/or Level 5, 456 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne must submit to security screening procedures when and if required. This includes the use of electronic security devices such as baggage inspection machines, walkthrough metal detectors and hand held metal detectors.

It is an offence under the *Court Security Act 1980* to:

- carry any prohibited item, explosive device, substance or offensive weapon e.g. firearm, martial arts weapon, baton, knife or any article which can be used as a weapon; or
- fail to give your name, address and evidence of identity or reason for being on the court premises when requested to do so by an authorised officer.

Breach of these conditions of entry will result in refusal of entry to the court or conference centre, removal from the premises, or arrest.

2. Except with permission of the court, the taking of photographs or making of audio and/or video recordings is prohibited anywhere on court premises at 477 Little Lonsdale Street and/or Level 5, 456 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne.

Persons breaching this condition may be asked to leave the court premises and any camera, mobile phone or electronic device may be confiscated by the court.

3. All persons entering Melbourne Children's Court or the Children's Court Conference Centre should be aware that closed circuit television and video surveillance is in operation.

4. Any person who has concerns for their safety or security while on the premises of Melbourne Children's Court or the Children's Court Conference Centre should contact security personnel in the first instance, or court staff if security personnel are not immediately available.
5. Persons entering courtrooms of the Children's Court of Victoria must not:
 - use a mobile telephone to make or receive phone calls;
 - take photographs or make audio or video recordings of court proceedings without permission of the presiding magistrate;
 - use any electronic device where such use constitutes instantaneous publication (for example, social media such as Twitter or live blogging).

The use of laptops and tablet computers is allowed for court and legal business, however these devices cannot be used if any disruption is caused to the court.

Persons breaching the conditions above may be asked to leave the courtroom and any electronic device may be confiscated by the court.

Endorsement and review

This policy was endorsed by Judge Peter Couzens, President of the Children's Court of Victoria on 24 March 2014.

This policy will be subject to regular review.

Related documents

- *Court Security Act 1980*
- *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005*
- Use of Electronic Devices Policy, Children's Court of Victoria, 24 March 2014

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