



**Children's Court
Victoria**

**PRACTICE DIRECTION
NO. 12 of 2021**

This Practice Direction is issued pursuant to section 592 of the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* (the Act) from 12.00 am 25 September 2021 to 11.59pm 29 October 2021 (the relevant period).

The following directions apply during the relevant period:

1. The Online Children's Court (the OCC) will continue to hear matters across all Divisions of the Court.
2. Any physical attendance at a Children's Court venue must be by prior arrangement with the relevant Registry, save for urgent and priority family violence matters.

Practice Direction No. 2 of 2021

3. Paragraphs 11, 13 - 18, 25 and 36 of Practice Direction No. 2 of 2021 are suspended.
4. Where a child is not on remand and is represented by a legal practitioner, the legal practitioner must arrange with the relevant Court for the matter to be listed in the OCC.
5. To list a matter in the OCC, contact should be made with the relevant Court Registry (see [local court registry](#)) **by email not later than 3 clear working days** prior to the current listing date, for the purpose of obtaining a hearing time.
6. Where a child is not legally represented and has not otherwise arranged for their matter to proceed in the OCC, their matter(s) will be adjourned to the next available return date and a hearing notice will be sent to the child.
7. To avoid unnecessary adjournments, the Court directs the parties to conduct a summary case conference pursuant to s54(3) of the *Criminal Procedure Act 2009* prior to the mention date.

Practice Direction No. 3 of 2021

8. Paragraphs 16 and 17 of Practice Direction No. 3 of 2021 are suspended and those hearings will otherwise be listed to be heard in the OCC. If a party cannot participate via the OCC they may appear via telephone or in person if urgent and in accordance with paragraph 2. Where a matter is listed for a second or subsequent hearing and not able to be heard in the OCC or via telephone, it will be adjourned to the next available return date.

Practice Direction No. 6 of 2021

9. Paragraph 13, parts h) to j) of Practice Direction No. 6 of 2021 are suspended and those hearings will otherwise be listed to be heard in the OCC.

This Practice Direction commences at 12.00 am on 25 September 2021.



Judge Jack Vandersteen
President
Children's Court of Victoria

23 September 2021