



**Children's Court
Victoria**

**PRACTICE DIRECTION
NO. 4 of 2022**

This Practice Direction is issued pursuant to section 592 of the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* (the Act).

1. This Practice Direction applies to Family Division proceedings in the Children's Court of Victoria.
2. This Practice Direction suspends the operation of the paragraphs (indicated below) of Practice Direction No. 2 of 2022 dated 2 March 2022, and paragraphs 11, 12 and 13 of Practice Direction No. 3 of 2022 dated 2 March 2022.
3. The suspension has effect from 14 July 2022 to 12 August 2022 (inclusive).

CHILD PROTECTION PROCEEDINGS

The Children's Court of Victoria sitting at Melbourne and Moorabbin

4. Unless otherwise directed by the Court, sub paragraphs 12 (a) to (f) inclusive on page 3 of Practice Direction No. 2 of 2022 are suspended, and the following court events will be listed in the Online Children's Court (OCC) with legal representatives and parties required to attend online:
 - (a) Protection Application by Emergency Care;
 - (b) Breach by Emergency Care;
 - (c) Application for a new Interim Accommodation Order due to a proposed placement change;
 - (d) Application for an urgent interim variation of a Family Reunification Order;
 - (e) Interim Accommodation Order Contested Hearings; and
 - (f) Final Hearings.

The Children’s Court of Victoria sitting at Broadmeadows

5. Paragraph 13 of Practice Direction No. 2 of 2022 is suspended in respect of the Broadmeadows Children’s Court. During the suspension period, unless otherwise directed by the Court, all Family Division child protection proceedings will be listed in the OCC, with legal representatives and parties required to attend online.

INTERVENTION ORDERS

The Children’s Court of Victoria sitting at Melbourne

6. Paragraphs 11, 12 and 13 of Practice Direction No. 3 of 2022 are suspended in respect of the Melbourne Children’s Court.
7. During the suspension period, unless otherwise directed by the Court, all Family Division intervention order proceedings will be listed in the OCC, with legal representatives and parties required to attend online.
8. Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Practice Direction No. 3 of 2022, applicants who cannot complete and file an application form online may attend Court in person and will be assisted by a court staff member.

THE CHILDREN’S COURT OF VICTORIA SITTING IN REGIONAL VICTORIA

9. For the purposes of clarity, at Children’s Courts sitting in regional Victoria:
 - a. Paragraph 13 of Practice Direction No. 2 of 2022 remains in force. Family Division child protection proceedings will be listed in accordance with local directions. Conciliation Conferences will continue to be held online state-wide.
 - b. Practice Direction No. 3 of 2022 remains in force.

This Practice Direction commences on 14 July 2022.



Magistrate Jennifer Bowles
Acting President
Children’s Court of Victoria

12 July 2022