



PRACTICE DIRECTION No. 2 of 2024

This Practice Direction is issued pursuant to section 592 of the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* for the purpose of directing transitional arrangements for metropolitan Melbourne criminal and intervention order matters and applies with effect from 22 October 2024.

1. From 6 January 2025, in the Melbourne metropolitan area, criminal, family violence and personal safety intervention order cases (“cases”) where the respondent is a child will be listed at dedicated Children’s Court of Victoria venues.
2. The Children’s Court of Victoria has designated new catchment areas for all metropolitan Children’s Court venues as shown in the attached diagram.
3. Where a child’s residential address falls within a catchment area, their case(s) will be listed at the following venues:

Broadmeadows Children’s Court¹:

- Northwest

Dandenong Children’s Court²:

- Southeast

¹ Cnr Dimboola Road & Pearcedale Parade, Broadmeadows

² 153 Foster Street, Dandenong

Melbourne Children's Court³

- East
- Northeast
- Central
- West
- Southwest

Moorabbin Children's Court⁴

- South
- Peninsula

Listing of a new case

4. A new case that is listed on or:

- a) before 20 December 2024 will continue to be listed in accordance with current listing arrangements; and
- b) after 21 December 2024, is to be listed in accordance with the new catchment area⁵ using the Children's Court Metropolitan Crime Listing Tool⁶.

Where a child has more than one case for mention

5. Where a case is sought to be adjourned and the child has another case or cases listed on that day or any day at any venue for mention, the legal practitioner for the child must ensure that the cases are abridged and, subject to the discretion of the presiding judicial officer, the cases will be adjourned as a group and if applicable in accordance with paragraph 3.

³ 477 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne

⁴ 1140 Nepean Highway, Highett

⁵ As referred to in paragraph 3

⁶ Available on the Children's Court of Victoria website at www.childrenscourt.vic.gov.au

Adjournment of cases

6. Where the parties seek to adjourn a case to a:

- a) contest mention;
- b) directions hearing;
- c) contested hearing; or
- d) in any other case, to a date on or after 6 January 2025,

in respect to the Dandenong, Melbourne and Moorabbin Children's Courts, the case is to be listed at the venue in accordance with the catchment area as set out in paragraph 3 and in relation to the Broadmeadows Children Court, to be listed at the Melbourne Children's Court.

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children and young people

7. Where the child:

- a) is Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander; and
- b) currently resides in either the West, Southwest, Central, Northeast or East catchment; and
- c) the proposed listing date is on or after 7 January 2025,

subject to paragraph 9, their case/s are to be listed at the Melbourne Children's Court on a Tuesday.

Where the child at the time of the offence is under the age of 14

8. Any case, existing or new, where the child:

- a) at the time of the offence is under the age of 14; and
- b) currently resides in either the West, Southwest, Central, Northeast or East catchment,

subject to paragraph 10, is to be listed at the Melbourne Children's Court on a Friday.

Part Heard Cases

9. The listing of cases that are part heard before a judicial officer is subject to the discretion of that judicial officer.

Return of Cases

10. Where a case is adjourned for a child to undertake the:

- a) Diversion program;
- b) ROPES program;

or sentenced to a:

- c) Good behaviour bond

the case(s) are to remain listed at the original venue for the return date.

Cases Already Listed in 2025

11. Where a case is not listed in accordance with paragraph 3 on or after 6 January 2025, parties will be contacted by the court registry.

This Practice Direction commences on 22 October 2024.



Judge Jack Vandersteen

President, Children's Court of Victoria
21 October 2024

