**Children's Court
Victoria**

**PRACTICE DIRECTION
No. 2 of 2017**

FAST TRACK REMAND COURT

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

Preamble

Since 2013 the number of children held on remand has increased significantly. On average, 80% of children held in detention are on remand and are not under sentence. It is well known that the detention of children on remand for extended periods can have detrimental consequences for them and for the community. Accordingly, the Children's Court of Victoria will introduce a Fast Track Remand Court at Melbourne to deal with the criminal charges of children held on remand in a timely manner.

Directions

1. With effect from 29 May 2017, all criminal matters filed at the Melbourne Children's Court[1] where the child is remanded in custody will be listed in the Fast Track Remand Court and will be dealt with according to the following timelines, unless otherwise directed by the Court:

    (a)   from the date the child is remanded and the charges are first mentioned to the date of the second mention - no longer than 21 days;

    (b)   from the date of the second mention to the date of contest mention or plea of guilty - no longer than 21 days;

    (c)   from the date of contest mention to the date of contested hearing - no longer than four weeks.

2. The parties appearing for the child must be in a position to advise the Fast Track Remand Court of the status of all outstanding or pending charges and whether another judicial officer is part-heard in respect of any of the charges.

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[1] Where Melbourne is the proper venue or where the charges are subject to Practice Direction 6 of 2016 – Criminal Division – Sunshine Custody Listings

3. All matters involving the child must be listed in the Fast Track Remand Court with the exception of contested hearings and matters listed in Children's Koori Court for plea or consideration of diversion.

This Practice Direction commences on 29 May 2017.

Judge Amanda Chambers
President
Children's Court of Victoria

Dated: 29.5.17