



**Children's Court
Victoria**

PRACTICE DIRECTION

No. 5 of 2014

CRIMINAL DIVISION – VIDEO-LINK HEARINGS

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

Preamble

The purpose of this Practice Direction is to reduce the number of young persons in custody being transported to court unnecessarily by increasing the use of video-link hearings. This will reduce current issues that the Court is experiencing associated with cell capacity and disruption to the young person.

This Practice Direction applies to all criminal Children's Court custody mentions at the Melbourne Children's Court.

Directions

1. All criminal mention matters where the young person is in custody will be converted to video-link hearings unless:
 - a) the young person has not had adequate opportunity to meet his/her legal practitioner and establish rapport and trust (e.g. at the first mention);
 - b) the young person requests to come to court;
 - c) the young person requires an interpreter;
 - d) the young person does not have the capacity to participate in proceedings via video-link;
 - e) the proper venue of the Court or Youth Justice Centre cannot appropriately list the matter via video-link because of resource availability;
 - f) unless otherwise directed by the presiding Magistrate.
2. All matters should be ready to proceed at the time the video-link is listed.

This Practice Direction commences on 1 December 2014.

Judge Peter Couzens
President
Children's Court of Victoria

25 November 2014

REVOKED