



**Children's Court
Victoria**

PRACTICE DIRECTION

No. 5 of 2016

**PROTECTION APPLICATIONS IN REGIONAL VENUES
WHERE A CHILD IS PLACED IN EMERGENCY CARE**

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

Preamble

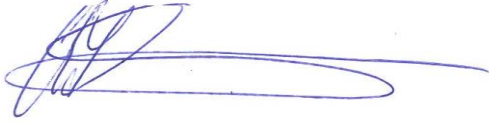
This Practice Direction applies to a child protection application filed at regional venues of the Children's Court of Victoria where a child has been placed in emergency care.

Directions

1. At regional headquarter venues of the Children's Court (Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Latrobe Valley and Shepparton):
 - (a) Any protection application made where a child is placed in emergency care must be filed with the Family Division registry no later than 1pm on that sitting day; and
 - (b) Where the protection application requires time for submissions to be heard in order to determine the placement of the child, the parties must be in a position to proceed by 3pm that day.
2. At non-headquarter, regional venues of the Children's Court:
 - (a) Child protection practitioners must contact the Registrar of that venue of the Children's Court prior to filing the protection application to ascertain the capacity of that court to hear the application;
 - (b) If the Court has the capacity to hear the application:
 - (i) the protective worker must file the application with the Registrar by the agreed time; and
 - (ii) any submissions contest arising out of the filing of the application must be ready to proceed as soon as practicable.
 - (c) If the court does not have capacity to hear the protection application that day, the Registrar will refer the matter to the closest regional venue of the Children's Court for the application to be filed.
3. Child protection practitioners should file a copy of all relevant CRIS notes in a sealed envelope together with the protection application at the time of filing or

as soon as practicable thereafter. Applications for the release of notes shall be brought before the Court as soon as practicable after they are filed.

This Practice Direction commences on 29 August 2016

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'A' followed by a long horizontal line that loops back under the 'A'.

Judge Amanda Chambers
President
Children's Court of Victoria

24 August 2016