



**Children's Court
Victoria**

**PRACTICE DIRECTION
No. 7 of 2018**

FAST TRACK REMAND COURT

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

Preamble

The Children's Court at Melbourne operates a Fast Track Remand Court ("FTRC") to actively case manage the criminal proceedings of children who are held on remand. It is well known that the detention of children on remand for extended periods can have detrimental consequences for the child and for the community. For proceedings initiated in the FTRC strict time frames apply to the management of the criminal charges of children held on remand.

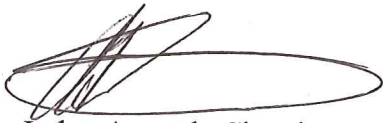
Directions

1. All criminal matters filed at the Melbourne Children's Court¹ where the child is remanded in custody will be listed in the FTRC 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 FTRC of the status of all outstanding or pending charges and whether another judicial officer is part-heard in respect of any of the charges.

¹ Where **Melbourne** is the proper venue or where the charges are subject to Practice Direction 6 of 2016 – Criminal Division – **Sunshine** Custody Listings or are subject to Practice Direction 8 of 2018 – Criminal Division – **Moorabbin Justice Centre**.

3. All matters involving the child must be listed in the FTRC other than contested hearings and matters listed in Children's Koori Court for plea or consideration of diversion.
4. Other than applications for bail made under s346 of the Act, any application for bail to be heard in the FTRC must be filed with the Court. The application for bail must also be served on the informant, with a copy to be provided to the prosecution, within 3 business days of the scheduled hearing.

This Practice Direction replaces Practice Direction 2 of 2017 and commences on 20 September 2018.



Judge Amanda Chambers
President
Children's Court of Victoria

Dated: *19th September, 2018.*