



Children's Court of Victoria

USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on what and how electronic devices can be used upon entering courtrooms of the Children's Court of Victoria.

This policy applies to all persons entering the courtrooms of the Children's Court of Victoria and is to be applied during all proceedings before the court.

Commencement

This policy commences on 15 August 2013.

Objectives

It has been recognised that there is a need for clarification regarding the use of electronic devices during court proceedings. The objective of this policy is to:

- establish clear guidelines for the use of electronic devices within courtrooms of the Children's Court of Victoria; and
- to inform all persons entering a courtroom about the conditions of entry.

Statement of policy

Upon entering a courtroom of the Children's Court of Victoria, you must not:

- use your mobile telephone to make or receive phone calls;
- take photographs or make audio or video recordings of court proceedings without permission of the presiding magistrate;
- use any electronic device where such use constitutes instantaneous publication (for example, social media such as Twitter or live blogging).

The use of laptops and tablet computers is allowed for court and legal business, however these devices cannot be used if any disruption is caused to the court.

If you do not comply with the conditions above, you may be asked to leave the courtroom and/or any electronic devices may be confiscated by the court.

If you are in doubt about whether you can use a device or not, please ask the bench clerk in court for clarification.

Ultimately, the presiding magistrate has the overriding responsibility of ensuring that proceedings are conducted in a manner consistent with the proper administration of justice and may make any orders to this effect.

Restriction on publication

Nothing in this policy alters the effect of any restrictions on publication imposed by statute or the Children's Court limiting or prohibiting the publication of information.

Endorsement and review

This policy was endorsed by Judge Peter Couzens, President of the Children's Court of Victoria on 15 August 2013.

This policy will be subject to regular review.

Related documents

- *Court Security Act 1980*
- *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005*
- Conditions of Entry Policy, Children's Court of Victoria, 24 March 2014
- Media Access Protocol, Children's Court of Victoria, 23 April 2007

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