



**Children's Court
Victoria**

PRACTICE DIRECTION

No. 4 of 2021

This Practice Direction is issued pursuant to section 592 of the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* (the Act) in response to the imposition of the 7 day Circuit Breaker Lockdown by the Chief Health Officer for the period 27 May 2021 11.59pm to 3 June 2021 11.59pm (the relevant period).

The following directions apply with effect during the relevant period:

1. The Online Children's Court (OCC) will continue to hear matters across all jurisdictions of the Court.
2. Any physical attendance at a Children's Court venue must be by prior arrangement with the relevant Registry, save for urgent and priority family violence matters.
3. Paragraphs 13, 18, 25 and 49 of Practice Direction 2 of 2021 are suspended.
4. Children with a criminal matter or matters listed during the relevant period, who have not otherwise made an arrangement for their matter to proceed in the OCC, will be contacted by text message and advised not to attend Court and that their matter will be adjourned to the next available return date.
5. The Children's Court Clinic will conduct assessments remotely by Telehealth or other non-contact means.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mr Vandersteen".

Judge Jack Vandersteen
President
Children's Court of Victoria