



**Children's Court
Victoria**

PRACTICE DIRECTION

No. 5 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 Circuit Breaker Lockdown by the Chief Health Officer for the period 11.59 pm on 3 June 2021 to 11.59 pm on 10 June 2021 (the relevant period).

1. The Online Children's Court (OCC) will continue to hear matters across all jurisdictions of the Court.
2. The Children's Court Clinic will conduct assessments remotely by Telehealth or other non-contact means.
3. The following directions apply with effect during the relevant period to the Children's Court of Victoria sitting at:
 - Melbourne
 - Frankston
 - Moorabbin
 - Neighbourhood Justice Centre
 - Dandenong
 - Ringwood
 - Heidelberg
 - Broadmeadows
 - Sunshine
 - Werribee
 - a. Any physical attendance must be by prior arrangement with the relevant Registry, save for urgent and priority family violence matters.
 - b. Paragraphs 13, 18, 25 and 49 of Practice Direction 2 of 2021 are suspended.
 - c. Paragraphs 16 and 17 of Practice Direction 3 of 2021 are suspended.

- d. Children with a criminal matter or matters listed, 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.



Judge Jack Vandersteen
President
Children's Court of Victoria