



**Children's Court
Victoria**

**PRACTICE DIRECTION
NO. 9 of 2021**

This Practice Direction is issued pursuant to section 592 of the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* (the Act) for a period of 14 days from 16 August 2021 12.00 am to 29 August 2021 11.59pm (the relevant period), and revokes Practice Direction No. 8 of 2021.

The following directions apply during the relevant period:

REGIONAL COURTS

1. Subject to paragraph 2, Practice Directions No. 2 of 2021, No. 3 of 2021, and No. 6 of 2021 apply to Children's Court cases heard at regional courts.
2. Any person who is resident in the Melbourne metropolitan area and is required to appear in a regional Children's Court matter will appear in the online Children's Court (OCC).

METROPOLITAN CHILDREN'S COURTS

3. The OCC will continue to hear matters across all jurisdictions of the Court.
4. 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.

Practice Direction No. 2 of 2021

5. Paragraphs 13, 17, 18, and 25 of Practice Direction No. 2 of 2021 are suspended.
6. 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.

Practice Direction No. 3 of 2021

7. Paragraphs 16 and 17 of Practice Direction No. 3 of 2021 are suspended and those hearings will otherwise be listed to be heard in the OCC. If a party cannot participate via the OCC they may appear via telephone or in person if urgent and in accordance with paragraph 2. Where a matter is listed for a second or subsequent hearing and not able to be heard in the OCC or via telephone, it will be adjourned to the next available return date.

Practice Direction No. 6 of 2021

8. Paragraph 13, parts h) to j) of Practice Direction No. 6 of 2021 are suspended and those hearings will otherwise be listed to be heard in the OCC.

This Practice Direction commences at 12.00 am on 16 August 2021.



Judge Jack Vandersteen
President
Children's Court of Victoria
10 August 2021