



**Children's Court
Victoria**

**PRACTICE DIRECTION
NO. 11 of 2021**

This Practice Direction is issued pursuant to section 592 of the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* (the Act) from 4 September 2021 12.00 am to 11.59pm 24 September 2021 (the relevant period) and revokes Practice Direction 10 of 2021.

The following directions apply during the relevant period:

1. The Online Children's Court (the OCC) will continue to hear matters across all Divisions 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.

Practice Direction No. 2 of 2021

3. Paragraphs 11, 13 - 18, 25 and 36 of Practice Direction No. 2 of 2021 are suspended.
4. Where a child is not on remand and is represented by a legal practitioner, the legal practitioner must arrange with the relevant Court for the matter to be listed in the OCC.
5. To list a matter in the OCC, contact should be made with the relevant Court Registry (see [local court registry](#)) **by email not later than 3 clear working days** prior to the current listing date, for the purpose of obtaining a hearing time.
6. Where a child is not legally represented and has not otherwise arranged for their matter to proceed in the OCC, their matter(s) will be adjourned to the next available return date and a hearing notice will be sent to the child.
7. To avoid unnecessary adjournments, the Court directs the parties to conduct a summary case conference pursuant to s54(3) of the *Criminal Procedure Act 2009* prior to the mention date.

Practice Direction No. 3 of 2021

8. 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

9. 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 4 September 2021.



Judge Jack Vandersteen
President
Children's Court of Victoria
3 September 2021