



Children's Court of Western Australia

Public Notice and Practice Direction 3 of 2021

COVID-19 Measures

This Notice and Practice Direction is authorised under s 37 of the [Children's Court of Western Australia Act 1988 \(WA\)](#) and takes effect on 15 February 2021.

1. Public Notice and Practice Direction 2 of 2021 is revoked on 15 February 2021.

Court listings

2. All matters in Perth, Joondalup, Midland, Armadale, Fremantle, Rockingham and Mandurah Children's Courts will proceed as listed (including trials) from 15 February 2021.
3. Some trials listed in Perth Children's Court may be moved to another courtroom in Perth or the metropolitan area. Parties in affected matters will be given reasonable notice of any change of court location.
4. Children's Court lists in Joondalup, Midland, Armadale, Fremantle, Rockingham and Mandurah courts will be presided over by a magistrate sitting in person, unless circumstances require the magistrate to sit via video link from Perth Children's Court.
5. If regional Children's Courts are unable to sit for COVID-19 related reasons, bail and other urgent matters will continue to be transferred to Perth Children's Court and conducted by video or telephone link where possible.

Court appearances in Perth Children's Court

6. Subject to the following directions court users should appear in person. People who are ill or isolating must continue to appear by telephone or video link.
7. Arrangements for telephone and video links must be organised with the Court registry no later than 2.00pm on the day before the scheduled appearance (phone: (08) 9218 0100, email: childrenscourt@justice.wa.gov.au).
8. Consent adjournments where no bail variation or other orders are required will continue to be allowed, provided signed consent forms are lodged no later than 2.00pm on the day before the scheduled appearance.
9. Forms for each jurisdiction can be downloaded from the [Court's website](#).

Accused in custody (All Children's Courts)

10. Accused in custody will appear in person on overnight arrests, for pre-recordings of evidence and for trial.
11. For sentencing, bail and other applications heard in Perth Children's Court accused will be brought up in person, and any proposed responsible adult must attend at Perth Children's Court in person unless excused by the presiding judicial officer.
12. All other in custody appearances will be by video link from Banksia Hill Detention Centre or other remand prison unless the presiding judicial officer orders otherwise. Counsel may not appear in person from Banksia Hill unless authorised by the officer in charge of the detention centre.

Entry to the Perth Children's Court

13. The following people are NOT permitted to enter the Perth Children's Court building:
 - People who have flu or COVID-19 symptoms.
 - People who should be in isolation or quarantine.
 - Members of the general public with no interest in a matter before the court

14. Everyone who enters Perth Children's Court must comply with current government health requirements unless they have an authorised exemption. Exemptions must be produced to security staff on entry to the building.
15. Subject to government health requirements and restricted court seating capacity, media entry to the Court remains unaffected.
16. Court users are ONLY allowed to enter a courtroom to check in with the court orderly and again when their matter is called. People who disobey this direction will be removed from the courtroom and their matter stood down to the bottom of the list.
17. Entry to the registry and chambers is prohibited to everyone except court staff and people authorised by the Clerk of Court.
18. Agencies who operate from the building must arrange their workspaces to comply with current social distancing requirements and comply with all government health requirements.
19. People who enter the building must practise safe hygiene and comply with current government health requirements:
 - Sanitise your hands on entry and before leaving the building.
 - Avoid personal contact (stay 1.5 metres away from others).
 - Cough or sneeze into a tissue or the crook of your arm, not your hands.
 - Dispose of the tissue in a bin and wash your hands.
 - Wear a mask if asked to do so by security officers or government rules require it.

Filing documents

20. Registry services will continue to operate as they usually do.
21. All consent adjournments, applications and other correspondence are to be lodged by email to childrenscourt@justice.wa.gov.au.
22. Documents must not be handed up in court. They must be emailed beforehand.

Court staff

23. All staff and judicial officers have been told that:
 - If they have flu or COVID-19 symptoms they should not come to work.
 - If they have had close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19, they must not come to work and should place themselves in isolation for 14 days.
24. If staff levels are affected by illness or COVID-19 measures, court hearings may need to be adjourned to another day. Matters which can proceed will be assessed on a priority basis. Bail applications, new restraining order applications, accused in custody and urgent protection and care matters will take priority.
25. The Court's priority is with the health and safety of everybody. Your patience is appreciated.



Judge Hylton Quail

President of the Children's Court of Western Australia

15 February 2021