



Children's Court of Western Australia

Practice Direction 4 of 2020 COVID-19 Measures

This Public Notice and Practice Direction is authorised under s 37 of the [Children's Court of Western Australia Act 1988 \(WA\)](#) and takes effect on 30 March 2020. Public Notice and Practice Direction 3 of 2020 continues to apply except as varied by this Practice Direction.

In response to the impact of COVID-19 on the operation of the Children's Court and to minimise the risk of infection to staff, court users and the public and to ensure the continuing operation of the court, the following procedures and practices will be implemented until further notice.

Court listings

From 30 March until 29 May 2020 inclusive the Perth Children's Court (including emergency regional matters which are transferred to Perth), suburban Children's Courts and Saturday Children's Court will be operated by two separate teams of judicial officers and support staff.

Each team will be physically isolated from the other and will operate the Court in alternate weeks. Team one will consist of the President and Magistrates Vose, Crawford and Hogan. Team two will be a duty Judge (for urgent matters only) and Magistrates Horrigan, Dewsbury and Hughes.

Team one will conduct the business of the Court in the weeks commencing 30 March, 14 and 28 April, 11 and 25 May 2020. Team two will conduct the business of the Court in the week commencing 6 and 20 April, 4 and 18 May 2020.

All matters listed in the Magistrates jurisdiction, apart from trials which have already been adjourned, remain so.

All matters listed before the President, apart from trials which have already been adjourned, remain so. Matters currently listed in a week when the

President is not scheduled to sit may be adjourned administratively to the following week. Parties will be notified in advance if their matter is to be listed on another day.

Court appearances in Perth Children's Court

All court users are strongly encouraged to consider alternatives to appearing in person. The Registry can be contacted on 08 9218 0100 to discuss other arrangements. Where possible, attendance by telephone or video link will be organised in accordance with the guidelines in Public Notice and Practice Direction 3 of 2020.

Where a court user, including accused, legal practitioners and agency representatives, appears in person they will not be permitted to appear in person in any Perth Children's Court matter in the following week (ie commencing the next Monday and ending the following Saturday).

Legal practitioners and agency staff who appear regularly in the Court are strongly encouraged to adopt a shift roster which aligns with the Court's roster.



Judge Hylton Quail

President of the Children's Court of Western Australia

25 March 2020