



## *Children's Court of New South Wales*

### **PUBLIC NOTICE OF RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC No. 9**

**27 June 2021**

**Amended 7 July 2021**

**Further Amended 15 July 2021**

In view of the further government announcements in relation to the current COVID-19 outbreak within New South Wales further changes to the sitting arrangements in the Children's Court will commence from Monday 28 June 2021. These arrangements will apply while the [Public Health \(COVID-19\) Temporary Movement and Gathering Restrictions\) Order 2021](#) is in force.

#### **Part 1 - Listing arrangements for the Children's Courts in Greater Sydney, the Central Coast and the Illawarra**

1. Part 1 applies to the following courts:

Campbelltown	Surry Hills
Mt Druitt	Sutherland
Parramatta	Woy Woy
Port Kembla	Wyong

2. All hearings listed between 28 June 2021 and 30 July 2021 are vacated unless the case can be dealt with by audio visual link (AVL).
3. Vacated hearings will remain listed by AVL on the first date of hearing for further directions (at all locations outlined above other than Parramatta and Surry Hills).
4. At Surry Hills Children's Court:
  - a. Hearings listed in the week commencing 12 July 2021 will be listed for mention on 8 or 9 July 2021 to determine whether the hearing can remain listed and dealt with by AVL;

- b. Hearings listed in the weeks commencing 19 July 2021 and 26 July 2021 will be listed for mention on 15 July 2021 to determine whether the hearing can remain listed and dealt with by AVL.
5. At Parramatta Children’s Court:
- a. Hearings listed in the week commencing 12 July 2021 will be listed for mention on 9 July 2021 to determine whether the hearing can remain listed and dealt with by AVL;
  - b. Crime hearings listed in the week commencing 19 July 2021 will be listed for mention on 15 July 2021 to determine whether the hearing can remain listed and dealt with by AVL;
  - c. Care and protection hearings listed in the week commencing 19 July 2021 will be listed for mention on 16 July 2021 to determine whether the hearing can remain listed and dealt with by AVL;
  - d. All hearings listed in the week commencing 26 July 2021 will be listed for mention on 19 July 2021 to determine whether the hearing can remain listed and dealt with by AVL.
6. Crime, parole and care and protection lists will continue to be conducted.
7. Education lists during the operation of the Public Health Order will be vacated and administratively adjourned until a date to be advised by the Registry after the Public Health Order Expires.
8. All parties are excused from attending court if legally represented.
9. Legal practitioners may appear by AVL.
10. All first appearance bail applications are to be dealt with by AVL.
11. In relation to care and protection proceedings legal practitioners should attempt to agree on a position consistent with the arrangements put in place under [COVID-19 Public Notice No. 3](#).

**Part 2 – Listing arrangements for circuit courts where the judicial officer is based in Greater Sydney, the Central Coast or the Illawarra**

12. Part 2 applies to the following courts:

Bateman’s Bay	Moss Vale
Bathurst	Muswellbrook
Cessnock	Nowra

Dubbo	Orange
East Maitland	Port Macquarie
Goulburn	Taree
Kempsey	

13. Travel for judicial officers based in Greater Sydney, the Central Coast and the Illawarra is suspended.
14. All hearings listed between 28 June 2021 and 30 July 2021 are vacated unless the case can be dealt with by audio visual link (AVL).
15. Vacated hearings will remain listed on the first date of hearing for further directions.
16. Crime, education and care and protection lists will continue to be conducted at these courts. However, the relevant judicial officer will appear from their home court.
17. With the exception of hearings and sentence matters parties are excused from attending in person if legally represented.
18. In relation to care and protection proceedings legal practitioners should attempt to agree on a position consistent with the arrangements put in place under [COVID-19 Public Notice No. 3](#).

### **Part 3 – Listing arrangements for Broadmeadow Children’s Court**

19. Crime, education and care and protection lists will continue to be conducted at Broadmeadow Children’s Court.
20. All hearings listed between 28 June 2021 and 16 July 2021 should be reviewed urgently by legal practitioners and prosecutors to ascertain whether the hearing can proceed having regard to the current health advice. Applications to vacate hearings should be sent to the registrar as soon as possible.

### **Part 4 – Northern Rivers Children’s Court circuit**

21. Lists and hearings will continue to be conducted consistent with current arrangements having regard to the availability of any court participant who may be subject to a stay-at-home order.

### **Part 5 – Riverina Children’s Court circuit**

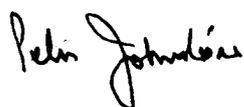
22. Lists and hearings will continue to be conducted consistent with current arrangements, with the relevant judicial officer appearing from their home court.
23. Courts will remain open for practitioners and parties to attend in person.
24. Practitioners or parties seeking to appear by AVL are required to seek leave from the judicial officer to appear by AVL.

### **Part 6 – Dispute Resolution Conferences & Compulsory Schooling Order Conferences**

25. All Dispute Resolution Conferences will be conducted by video conference across NSW unless otherwise determined by the Senior Children’s Registrar.
26. All Compulsory Schooling Order Conferences scheduled to be conducted by a Children’s Registrar between during the operation of the Public Health Order are vacated. Matters will be adjourned for a further conference on a date to be fixed by the Senior Children’s Registrar.

### **General**

27. Prosecutors and legal practitioners are to advise any party or witness that the requirement to wear a face covering in any indoor setting across NSW applies to an in-person attendance at a Children’s Court.
28. Please note that arrangements are subject to change at short notice.



Judge Peter Johnstone

President of the Children’s Court of NSW