



Children's Court of New South Wales

PUBLIC NOTICE OF RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC No. 7

2 August 2020

Amended 27 August 2020

Further amended 6 January 2021

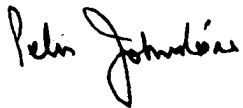
The Children's Court recognises that there is an increased risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus within custodial settings. It is also noted that with only six Youth Detention Centres across NSW the transport of young people to and from a large number of Children's Courts across the state increases the risk of the virus entering a custodial setting.

In light of the ongoing risk of locally acquired COVID-19 cases within NSW the Children's Court has again reviewed operational practices in response to the advice of health authorities and Youth Justice. As a result, the following changes to practice will apply until further notice.

1. Any young person who is in custody in a Youth Detention Centre is to appear before the Children's Court by audio visual link (AVL) unless;
 - a) the case is listed before the Youth Koori Court and the judicial officer has assessed that personal attendance is the most appropriate means of attendance or
 - b) the case is listed for hearing and the hearing cannot proceed without the young person's attendance in person.
2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, where Youth Justice is of the view that a young person cannot be transported to court safely following an assessment of the health risks, Youth Justice is to notify the relevant Children's Court registry as soon as possible outlining the concerns.
3. Where a case is listed for hearing and the young person is in custody the case is to be re-listed for a further readiness hearing as soon as possible unless a readiness hearing date is already listed in the future.
4. If, at the readiness hearing it is determined that the hearing cannot proceed with the young person appearing by AVL or by listing the hearing at another suitable court location the hearing is to be vacated

and adjourned for further hearing in approximately three months. A further readiness hearing is to be listed approximately two to four weeks prior to the hearing.

5. All other arrangements specified in earlier Public Notices issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to operate.
6. Please note that these arrangements are subject to change at short notice.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Johnstone". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Judge Peter Johnstone

President of the Children's Court of NSW