



Magistrates' Court
of Victoria

Practice Direction

No. 10 of 2014

Fast tracking of the hearing and determination of criminal offences arising out of family violence incidents

Background

It is well-known with family violence cases that the rate of recidivism for crimes of violence against intimate partners is much greater than crimes of violence against strangers. We also know that usually the violence increases, in number and intensity. Accordingly, the Magistrates' Court of Victoria (the Court) will introduce in stages the fast tracking of these cases. The first stage will start in the Court at Dandenong ("Dandenong Magistrates' Court').

Direction

1. As and from 1 December 2014, all criminal charges arising out of family violence incidents and filed in the Dandenong Magistrates' Court will be listed according to these timelines:
 - (a) where the accused person is on bail, from the date of his or her release on bail to the first listing of those charges – one week;
 - (b) where the accused person has been summonsed, from the date of the issue of the summons to the first listing – four weeks;
 - (c) in either case described in (a) and (b):
 - (i) from the date of the first listing to the date of the second listing – four weeks;
 - (ii) from the date of the second listing to contest mention – four weeks¹;
 - (iii) from the date of the contest mention to trial – four weeks.

¹ In some instances, a proceeding may be adjourned for trial without a contest mention. Whether that occurs is a matter for the presiding magistrate.

2. At the time of release on bail or when served with a summons, the accused person must be given a document entitled “Family violence related criminal proceedings”, a copy of which is attached to this Practice Direction.
3. This Practice Directions commences on 1 December 2014.

Peter Lauritsen
Chief Magistrate

Date: 25 November 2014