



**Magistrates' Court  
Victoria**

**Practice Direction**

**No. 2 of 2011**

**PRE-HEARING CONFERENCES AND ATTENDANCE BY  
TELEPHONE**

**Background**

Practice Direction No 2 of 2005 provided for attendance by telephone at pre-hearing conference in certain circumstances. From 1 January 2011, the provisions of the Magistrates' Court General Civil Procedure Rules 2010 ("the Rules") apply to the conduct of pre-hearing conferences. Practice Direction no 2 of 2005 is hereby revoked.

**Directions:**

1. Where the location of a party or other relevant person will cause unreasonable expense or inconvenience to that party or person in attending a pre-hearing conference personally then the court may, if requested by a party to the proceeding, conduct the pre-hearing conference by telephone.
2. The request must be in writing and given to the court at which the pre-hearing conference is to be conducted not less than three days before the date scheduled for the pre-hearing conference. Such request must contain the telephone number (preferably a landline) at which the party or other person will be available to attend the pre-hearing conference by telephone. The request may be made by facsimile transmission.
3. Where the court conducts pre-hearing conference by telephone, the party or other person must be present during the entirety of the conference by telephone.
4. Nothing in this direction limits an application made to a court under Rule 50.02(12).
5. This practice direction takes effect on 1 June 2011

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Muling'.

Dan Muling  
Acting Chief Magistrate  
18 May 2011