



Magistrates' Court of Victoria
Family violence related criminal proceedings
Information for accused persons

If you have criminal charges listed at the Ballarat Magistrates' Court or the Ringwood Magistrates' Court that are family violence related, the following listing timeframes will apply:

Filing to first listing for bail matters (the time to first listing from the release of an accused on bail)	1 week
Interview to first listing for summons' matters	4 weeks
First listing to second listing (a summary case conference is to be conducted on or before the second listing)	4 weeks
Second listing to contest mention	4 weeks
Contest mention to contested hearing	4 weeks

Adjournment Requests

The Court may grant a short adjournment from the first listing if suitable or sufficient reasons are supplied. You and/or your legal representative **must** be present at court for any future adjournment request to be considered. If you are on bail, you **must** appear at court for each listing.

Police Brief

If you do not have a copy of the preliminary brief at the first listing, you will need to obtain a copy from Victoria Police prior to leaving the court. You will need to provide a copy of the brief to your legal representative.

Summary Case Conference

A summary case conference will need to occur on or before the second listing date.

Legal Advice

It is very important to get legal advice **before** you go to court. Legal advice will help you:

- decide if you will say that you are guilty or not guilty
- decide if you need a lawyer to speak for you in court or if you can represent yourself
- help you to prepare for your case

You can obtain free legal advice from Victoria Legal Aid on 1300 792 387.