



Magistrates' Court Victoria

Practice Direction

No. 1 of 2018

Expansion of the fast tracking listing process to the Court at Mildura, Horsham and Warrnambool

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. Accordingly, the Magistrates' Court of Victoria (the Court) has commenced the introduction in stages of a fast tracking listing process of these cases. The first stage commenced at the Court at Dandenong on 1 December 2014.

The purpose of this Practice Direction is to expand the process to the Court at Mildura, Horsham and Warrnambool.


Direction

1. As and from 1 March 2018, all criminal charges arising out of family violence incidents and filed in the Court at Mildura, Horsham and Warrnambool will be listed according to the 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 interview to the first listing – four weeks;
 - (c) In either case described in (a) or (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.

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.

This Practice Direction commences from 1 March 2018.



Peter Lauritsen
Chief Magistrate

Date: 21 FEBRUARY 2018

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.