



## Magistrates' Court Victoria

### Practice Direction

#### No.17 of 2020

#### COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE

#### CRIMINAL JURISDICTION – SUMMARY MATTERS

#### EFAS REGISTRATION AND SPECIAL MENTIONS

1. All practitioners acting in summary criminal matters listed in the Magistrates' Court of Victoria (the Court) must register their appearance in all such matters on the Electronic Filing Appearance System (EFAS) **no later than 28 August 2020**.
2. **From 31 August 2020**, except from unrepresented accused, the Court will not accept fax or email correspondence in relation to the adjournment of any summary criminal hearing. All communications from practitioners must be via EFAS.
3. Practitioners may receive an email from the Court advising that their summary criminal matters listed after 12 October 2020, at a particular venue, have been listed for a 'block special mention' in the Online Magistrates Court (OMC) on a particular date for the purposes of abridging and relisting matters as either a plea of guilty or contest mention in the OMC. Where possible, the same Magistrate will retain conduct of the matter/s.
4. Practitioners will be advised of the date for special mention no less than three weeks in advance of the hearing date.
5. Practitioners must make contact with the prosecuting agency **at least two weeks prior to the block special mention** in order to identify whether each matter should be listed for a plea of guilty or contest mention. All case conference discussion must be completed prior to the special mention as matters will not be adjourned from the special mention to a summary case conference.
6. No appearance by the accused is required at the special mention.



**JUDGE LISA HANNAN**  
**CHIEF MAGISTRATE**

Date: 4 August 2020