



Use of electronic devices policy

MAGISTRATES' COURT OF VICTORIA



1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on what and how electronic devices can be used upon entering Magistrates' Court of Victoria (MCV) courtrooms.

This policy applies to all persons entering MCV venues and is to be applied during all proceedings before the court.

2. Commencement

This policy was revised in January 2020.

3. Objectives

The objective of this policy is to:

- establish clear guidelines for the use of electronic devices within MCV courtrooms
- inform all persons entering the courtroom about the conditions of entry.

4. Statement of policy

Upon entering a courtroom, you must not:

- use your mobile telephone to make or receive phone calls
- take photographs or make audio or video recordings of court proceedings, without permission of the presiding magistrate
- use any electronic devices where such use constitutes instantaneous publication (for example, social media platforms including Twitter and Facebook and live blogging sites).

The use of laptops and tablet computers is allowed for court, legal and media business, however these devices cannot be used if the device causes any disruption to the court.

If you do not comply with the conditions above, you may be asked to leave the courtroom and/or any electronic devices may be confiscated by the court.

If you are in doubt about whether you can use a device or not, please ask the bench clerk in court for clarification.

Ultimately, the presiding magistrate has the overriding responsibility to ensure that proceedings are conducted consistently with the proper administration of justice and may make any orders to this effect.

This information is to be made available on every MCV courtroom door. Please see **Attachment A** for appropriate signage.

5. Endorsement and review

This policy was endorsed by Chief Magistrate Judge Lisa Hannan on 10 January 2020.

This policy is subject to review every six months.

6. Related documents

- *Conditions of entry policy for the Magistrates' Court of Victoria* – this policy does not affect the current *Conditions of Entry Policy for the Magistrates' Court of Victoria*, which can be located on the MCV intranet.
- *Court Security Act (1980)*
- *Children, Youth and Families Act (2005)*
- *Open Courts Act (2013)*

7. Contacts

General inquiries – 03) 9628 7777 | Registry Service Counter at your court location

Media inquiries – 03) 9032 0919 | mcvmedia@courts.vic.gov.au