



Magistrates' Court of Victoria

Practice Direction

No. 9 of 2022

Family Violence Fast Tracking

Purpose

The purpose of this Practice Direction is to outline arrangements which will apply from 17 October 2022 and to promote the timely commencement, progression and resolution of criminal charges arising out of family violence incidents.

This Practice Direction revokes the following Practice Directions from 17 October 2022:

- 10 of 2014
- 4 of 2015, 7 of 2015, 8 of 2015
- 3 of 2016, 8 of 2016, 12 of 2016, 13 of 2016
- 7 of 2017, 11 of 2017
- 1 of 2018

Direction

1. In the summary stream, the informant must commence a criminal proceeding arising out of family violence incidents by filing charge(s) in accordance with the following timelines:
 - 1.1 Where the accused person is on bail, the first mention hearing must be within **2 weeks** of the accused person's release on bail.
 - 1.2 Where the accused person has been charged by summons, the first mention hearing must be within **4 weeks** of the summons being issued.



Justice Lisa Hannan
CHIEF MAGISTRATE

Dated 28 September 2022

Note

Practitioners should expect that unless otherwise ordered or directed by the court the following timelines will apply to Family Violence Fast Track criminal proceedings.

- adjournment from first to second mention (if required) – within **4 weeks**.
- adjournment from mention to contest mention – within **6 weeks**.
- adjournment from contest mention to contest – within **8 weeks** (for a single day hearing) or **12 weeks** (for a hearing of more than one day).