

**MAGISTRATES COURT OF THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
NOTICE TO PRACTITIONERS**

Priority Criminal Hearing Procedure (in custody)

The Magistrates Court will recommence hearing priority criminal hearings for defendants remanded in custody from 8 May 2020.

Prosecutors, Defence Counsel, and Defendants will appear in person while adhering to social distancing requirements.

Witnesses – Remote witness rooms

Unless otherwise ordered all witnesses will appear via Audio-Visual Link from the Court's remote witness rooms located in the ACT Law Courts Building.

The prosecution is to provide the Court with a witness list at least **two days (2)** prior to the hearing with the following details:

- Name of the defendant;
- Charge numbers;
- Name of witness(s);
- Estimated time witness will be required (if known);
- Category of witness (Vulnerable witness – Child, Complainant / Expert / Police / layperson etc)

Witnesses - phone or WebEx

Witnesses may appear by phone or WebEx only with the consent of both parties and by order of the court.

For witnesses who wish to appear via phone or WebEx, the party calling the witness must email both MCChamberAssociates@courts.act.gov.au and MCListings@courts.act.gov.au no later than 4:00 pm **two days (2)** prior to the hearing with the following details:

- Name of the defendant;
- Charge numbers;
- Name of witness(s);
- Whether they will be appearing by phone or WebEx;
- If appearing by phone the contact number the witness will be available on;
- If appearing by WebEx, the witness' email address;
- Consent from both parties.

All emails sent to the court must copy in all other parties to the proceeding.

For those witnesses appearing via WebEx, Associates will arrange the meeting and provide details directly to the witness on how to use WebEx with the email address provided. Parties will be copied into this email as confirmation that the witness has received the meeting request.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jayne Reece', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jayne Reece
Registrar
ACT Magistrates Court
5 May 2020