

**MAGISTRATES COURT OF THE AUSTRALIAN
CAPITAL TERRITORY**

Practice Direction 1 of 2017

**Originating applications and applications in
proceeding before Magistrates - civil matters**

1. This practice direction commences on the date it is signed.
2. Where an originating application or application in proceeding in a civil matter is required to be heard by a magistrate rather than the registrar the following procedures will apply.
3. Matters to be heard by the magistrate will be listed before the registrar at 9.45 AM on the first return date so that the registrar can deal with any adjournments or consent orders.
4. Matters ready to proceed on the first return date will be referred to the Magistrate for further directions (if necessary). On the first return of a matter, the parties are to provide to the Court a time estimate and dates for availability of legal representatives.
5. Except for short applications (less than 30 minutes), urgent applications and applications to approve infant settlements, contested applications will not be heard by a Magistrate on the first return. Practitioners are encouraged to give advance notice to the Court (via – email at CourtMCTCivil@courts.act.gov.au) if a contested application is urgent and a party seeks to have it heard on the first return.
6. Ordinarily the court will, at the first return of a contested application, fix a date for the hearing of the application in a Wednesday Civil Motions List in the afternoon.

Amanda Nuttall
Registrar
On behalf of the Chief Magistrate and Magistrates

19 January 2017