

Dear Mr Tickle,

I am writing to inform you of the arrangements across Court Services during the Christmas/New Year period 2023/24.

LOCAL COURT ARRANGEMENTS

The normal rostered sittings of the Local Court are suspended on and from Monday 25 December 2023 and recommence on Monday 8 January 2024. Friday 22 December 2023 will be a statewide Chambers Day.

Local Court - Persons in custody - *On weekdays that are not Public Holidays*

Metropolitan areas

Magistrates will be rostered at **Parramatta Local Court** to determine bail for adult persons, who remain in custody in the metropolitan area and to consider any urgent applications for Apprehended Violence Orders that are lodged state-wide.

All adults remanded in custody within the Sydney metropolitan area are to be dealt with via Audio Visual Link (AVL) facilities at Parramatta Local Court from Amber Laurel and Surry Hills Correctional facilities.

There will be no appearances in person. Appearances will be in accordance with the agreed standard operating procedures for centralised bail courts.

The telephone contact for Parramatta Local Court is **(02) 8688 4090**.

Local Court – custody (weekends and public holidays)

Magistrates will be rostered at **Parramatta Children's Court** to determine bail for adult persons, who remain in custody in the metropolitan area and to consider any urgent applications for Apprehended Violence Orders that are lodged state-wide.

All adults remanded in custody within the Sydney metropolitan area are to be dealt with via Audio Visual Link (AVL) facilities at Parramatta Children's Court from Amber Laurel and Surry Hills Correctional Facilities.

There will be no appearances in person. Appearances will be in accordance with the agreed standard operating procedures for the centralised bail courts.

Domestic and Personal Violence – Police Informants

Police may apply for urgent orders during business hours to the Central Justice Panel by forwarding a prepared 'Provisional (Ex Parte) Apprehended Violence Order' to the court.

Police may also apply for urgent orders 24 hours per day through the 'electronic transfer inbox', AHJP@justice.nsw.gov.au. Please note Central Justice Panel operates from 8am to 3pm, the Extended Registry from 3pm to 11pm and Authorised Justices on the 'After Hours' roster between 11pm and 8am.

Urgent AVO's – Private Informants

A Magistrate will be available at Parramatta Local Court on weekdays that are not public holidays to determine urgent applications only during Court sitting hours.

For further information regarding the arrangements for metropolitan areas, please contact local-court-parramatta@justice.nsw.gov.au

LEPRA Applications

Parramatta Local Court will action LEPRA between 8am and 4pm on weekdays that are not Public Holidays and the Extended Registry/AHJP will action outside of these times.

Regional areas

Hunter/North Region

Tamworth Hub Region

Appearances via AVL to Tamworth court from participating police stations, from Oxley and New England Areas are in accordance with the Tamworth Hub Christmas/New Year centralised bail court SOPs.

Coffs Harbour Region

Bail Court appearances for the Coffs Harbour Hub will be via AVL to the Port Macquarie PBR court dial in, from participating police stations in accordance with the Coffs Harbour Christmas/New Year centralised bail court SOPs which are attached to this bulletin. Standard Operating Procedures have been developed and distributed to impacted stakeholders. Stakeholder consultation is being managed locally.

Newcastle/Gosford Regions

Bail Court appearances for the Newcastle and Gosford Hub will be via AVL to the Newcastle court dial in, from participating police stations in accordance with the Newcastle Weekend Bail Court SOPs which are attached to this bulletin. Standard Operating Procedures have been developed and distributed to impacted stakeholders. Stakeholder consultation is being managed locally.

Lismore Region

Bail Court appearances for the Lismore Hub (Hunter North) will be via AVL to the Lismore Hub Centralised Bail Court, from participating police stations in accordance with the Lismore Weekend and Public Holiday (WEPH) centralised bail court SOPs which are attached to this bulletin. Papers and communications will be centralised to the Lismore PBR email lismorepbr@justice.nsw.gov.au with contact numbers below.

Standard Operating Procedures for all locations have been developed and distributed to impacted stakeholders. Stakeholder consultation is being managed locally.

Further information regarding the arrangements for the Hunter/North region can be provided by Damian Bultitude, Acting Regional Director, Hunter/North via email to:

Damian.Bultitude@justice.nsw.gov.au.

Illawarra/South Region

Appearances via AVL to Wollongong court from participating police stations in accordance with the Illawarra/South Christmas/New Year centralised bail court Standard Operating Procedures which have been developed and distributed to impacted stakeholders. Stakeholder consultation is being managed locally.

Further information regarding the arrangements for the Illawarra/South region can be provided by Tonia Adamson, Regional Director, Illawarra/South region via email to:

Tonia.Adamson@justice.nsw.gov.au.

West/South West Region

West [Dubbo/Bathurst/Orange/Broken Hill hubs]

Appearances via AVL to Dubbo court from participating police stations in accordance with the Dubbo Christmas/New Year centralised bail court Standard Operating Procedures which have been developed and distributed to impacted stakeholders. Stakeholder consultation is being managed locally.

South West [Wagga/Griffith/Albury hubs]

Appearances via AVL to Wagga court from participating police stations in accordance with the Wagga Christmas/New Year centralised bail court SOPs.

Further information regarding the arrangements for the West/South West region can be provided by Renae Elrington, Regional Director, West/South West region via email to:

Renae.Elrington@justice.nsw.gov.au

Please Note: 22 December 2023

The Chief Magistrate has approved a Chamber Day on Friday 22 December 2023.

Bail matters for the Sydney Metropolitan area will be centralised to Parramatta Local Court.

Regional matters will not be centralised and will be managed locally.

CHILDRENS COURT ARRANGEMENTS

Children's Court (weekdays that are not public holidays)

Magistrates will be rostered at **Parramatta Children's Court** to determine bail applications, urgent applications for Apprehended Violence Orders and urgent applications for care and protection orders from across the state.

Children's Court (weekends and public holidays)

A Magistrate will be rostered at **Parramatta Children's Court** to determine bail applications, urgent applications for Apprehended Violence Orders.

Bail proceedings

First appearance bail applications from across the state will be dealt with by AVL at **Parramatta Children's Court** each day including public holidays.

Standard Operating Procedures have been developed and agreed between agencies setting out processes for 3 categories

- a) AVL from Youth Justice Centre's
- b) AVL from police stations that are more than 2 hours from a Youth Justice Centre
- c) AVL from police stations that are less than 2 hours from a Youth Justice Centre with approval of the Court.

Care and protection applications

Applications for an emergency care and protection order under s46 of the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act* or an application for an interim order where a care application is made following the removal or assumption into care of a child or young person under s45 of the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act* are to be listed at **Parramatta Children's Court** on a weekday that is not a public holiday during the court vacation period.

Legal practitioners are to appear in accordance with Public Notice 15 or any subsequent Public Notice.

Standard Operating Procedures for the listing of urgent Care and Protection applications during this period have been developed with local stakeholders.

Domestic and Personal Violence applications

In the ordinary course provisional orders are to be listed after 8 January 2024.

However, urgent applications for interim domestic and personal violence orders or urgent interim variations of domestic and personal violence orders may be listed at **Parramatta Children's Court** on a weekday that is not a public holiday during the court vacation period but only following consultation with the registrar of Parramatta Children's Court.

General enquires: Parramatta Children's Court: ph: 8688 1888, fax: 8688 1999 or by email childrens.court@justice.nsw.gov.au

Any **urgent enquiries** during the court vacation period should be directed to:

Weekdays: James Hogan, Registrar, Parramatta Children's Court on 8688 1420 or 0412 197 313 (after hours)

Weekends and Public Holidays: Deputy Registrar, Parramatta Children's Court on 8688 1442

Please Note: Friday 22 December 2023 Magistrates' Chamber Day.

GENERAL INFORMATION – BAIL VARIATIONS

Should a person attend a Police station anywhere in NSW during this period regarding applications to vary bails they should be asked to call the New South Wales Courts Service Centre (NSWCSC) on 1300 679 272. Upon receiving a call, the NSWCSC will provide assistance and if necessary, directly transfer the person to a senior staff member at Parramatta Local Court or, in appropriate circumstances, Parramatta Children's Court. In limited circumstances, an authorised justice may grant a bail variation if there is no objection by the prosecutor, or in the case of a young person, the application may be listed before the court.

For Children's Court bail variations, the young person should contact either the Children's Legal Service on 1800 101 810 or the Aboriginal Legal Service on 1800 765 767 for advice and representation.

CORONIAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Coroners Court Registry will be open on all days except the Public Holidays (Christmas Day Public Holiday, Monday 25 December 2023, Boxing Day Public Holiday, Tuesday 26 December 2023, and New Year's Day Monday 1 January 2024).

The Forensic Medicine office at FMCCC (Forensic Medicine and Coroner's Court Complex) is closed to the public on Friday 29 December 2023 as this is a NSW Health public holiday. Any clients attending Forensic Medicine on this day will be directed to call the Court registry who will attend at the entrance to accept any documents seeking to be filed.

During the two-week Christmas - New Year period, a duty Senior Coroner will be available during normal business hours at the State Coroner's Court for all deaths reported in NSW. The duty Senior Coroner is also available 24 hours on call for urgent issues arising out of hours.

Christmas and New Year Coronial Reporting Arrangements for the Coroner's Court have been developed and distributed by the Coroner's Court to impacted stakeholders.

Further information regarding arrangements for the Coroners Court can be provided by Gemma Baker Finch, Executive Officer, Coroners Court via email to:

Lidcombe.coroners@justice.nsw.gov.au

DISTRICT COURT ARRANGEMENTS

The District Court summer vacation will commence at the conclusion of sittings on Friday 15 December 2023.

A list court will sit in Sydney from Tuesday 2 January 2023 to Friday 12 January 2024.

Sydney, Lismore and Gosford will resume sitting on 15 January 2024 on a limited basis. The Court term for the District Court resumes on Monday 29 January 2024.

Further information regarding arrangements for the District Court can be provided by Martin Kane, A/Regional Director Metro via email to: martin.kane@justice.nsw.gov.au

DRUG COURT ARRANGEMENTS

The Drug Court Registries will be open throughout this period, including public holidays, except for Christmas Day.

Further information regarding arrangements for the Drug Court can be provided by Filiz Eminov, Registrar, Drug Court via email to: Filiz.Eminov@justice.nsw.gov.au

DUST DISEASES TRIBUNAL

The Dust Diseases Tribunal Registry will be closed from 4:00pm Friday 22 December 2023 and re-open on Monday 8 January 2024 at 9:00am. For urgent matters please email:

dust.diseases.tribunal@justice.nsw.gov.au.

REGISTRY SERVICES

Parramatta Local Court, Parramatta Children's Court and Parramatta Drug Court will be open for urgent enquiries only.

All other registries across the State will be closed to the public subject to the exceptions for District Court and Drug Court as outlined above.

ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ACCESSING REGISTRY SERVICES

The NSWCS will manage telephone calls for all Registries State-wide and will contact a Senior Registry Officer at Parramatta to facilitate urgent police applications, urgent personal and domestic violence applications, applications for variations of bail and urgent civil notices of motion/applications.

NOTIFICATION OF CLOSURES TO COURT USERS

The following action will be taken to advise stakeholders and members of the public of amended opening hours:

- Signage on entry doors
- Website updated with opening hours, NSW Court Service Centre (NSWCSC) contact number and registry mailbox address
- Local stakeholders including Police and legal practitioners notified
- Court User Forums held to advise of Christmas-New Year closures and alternative contact methods.

COURT SERVICES DIRECTOR ON CALL

A Court Services Director will be on call during the shutdown period to manage any urgent issues that arise. The Director on call is:

Martin Kane, Acting Regional Director Metro Region via email to: martin.kane@justice.nsw.gov.au or mobile 0419 509 628.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sue Jenner', written in a cursive style.

Sue Jenner
**Acting Executive Director Court
Services**