



NEW SOUTH WALES

## THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE OF THE LOCAL COURT

4 September 2020

Mr G Tolhurst  
Executive Director  
New South Wales Bar Association  
Selborne Chambers  
174 Phillip Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Tolhurst

**Re: Sitting arrangements: Christmas New Year Period 2020/2021**

In accordance Rule 8.2A of the *Local Court Rules* 2009 (the fixed leave period for the Local Court) normal rostered sittings of the Local Court are suspended on and from Monday 28 December 2020, and conclude on Sunday 10 January 2021.

**Local Court – Adult Person's in Custody on weekdays that are not public holidays.**

The following sitting arrangements are to occur from Friday 25 December 2020 to Friday 8 January 2021 inclusive:

**Metropolitan area**

On weekdays, that are not public holidays, two Acting Magistrates will be rostered at Parramatta Local Court to determine bail for adult persons who remain in custody in the metropolitan area and will consider any urgent applications for Apprehended Violence Orders that are lodged statewide. All adults, remanded in custody within the Sydney Metropolitan area, are to be dealt with via Audio Visual Link facilities at Parramatta Local Court from Correctional facilities.

**Regional areas**

Registrars of the Court will conduct bail hearings when required at regional locations.

**General instructions for Authorised Justices conducting adult bail courts**

Authorised Justices and Magistrates are to adjourn matters involving persons in custody to the next sitting day of the Court (or circuit if applicable) from which that matter arises on or after 11 January 2021 wherever possible. Should an accused person be refused bail and not consent to the adjournment beyond the statutory period the matter should not be adjourned to Parramatta Local Court, unless arrangements have been made with the relevant registrar for the listing of the matter before a magistrate.

**Children's Court – Juveniles in Custody on weekdays that are not public holidays.**

The following sitting arrangements are to occur from Friday 25 December 2020 to Friday 8 January 2021 inclusive:

Two Acting Magistrates with experience in the operation of the Children's Court 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.

Specific details in relation to the operation of the children's court during this period will be published separately by the Children's Court.

### **Apprehended Violence Orders**

Magistrates will be available at Parramatta Children's Court and Local Court on weekdays that are not public holidays to determine urgent applications only during court sittings hours.

### **Weekends and Public Holidays**

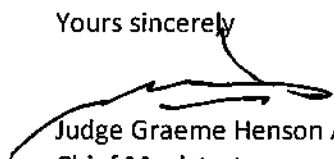
Bail Courts will operate in accordance with normal arrangements.

This table reflects the arrangements for the Metropolitan area:

Day	Date	Location of Sittings
Friday (Public Holiday)	25 Dec 2020	2 Magistrates at Parramatta Children's Court to conduct both Local and Children's Court matters
Saturday (Public Holiday)	26 Dec 2020	3 Magistrates at Parramatta Children's Court to conduct both Local and Children's Court matters
Sunday	27 Dec 2020	2 Magistrates at Parramatta Children's Court to conduct both Local and Children's Court matters (as per usual weekend bail arrangements)
Monday	28 Dec 2020	2 Magistrates at Parramatta Local Court 2 Magistrates at Parramatta Children's Court
Tuesday	29 Dec 2020	2 Magistrates at Parramatta Local Court 2 Magistrates at Parramatta Children's Court
Wednesday	30 Dec 2020	2 Magistrates at Parramatta Local Court 2 Magistrates at Parramatta Children's Court
Thursday	31 Dec 2020	2 Magistrates at Parramatta Local Court 2 Magistrates at Parramatta Children's Court
Friday (Public Holiday)	1 Jan 2021	Authorised Justices at Parramatta Children's Court for Both Local and Children's Court matters
Saturday	2 Jan 2021	3 Magistrates at Parramatta Children's Court to conduct both Local and Children's Court matters (as per usual weekend bail arrangements)
Sunday	3 Jan 2021	2 Magistrates at Parramatta Children's Court to conduct both Local and Children's Court matters (as per usual weekend bail arrangements)
Monday	4 Jan 2021	2 Magistrates at Parramatta Local Court 2 Magistrates at Parramatta Children's Court
Tuesday	5 Jan 2021	2 Magistrates at Parramatta Local Court 2 Magistrates at Parramatta Children's Court
Wednesday	6 Jan 2021	2 Magistrates at Parramatta Local Court 2 Magistrates at Parramatta Children's Court
Thursday	7 Jan 2021	2 Magistrates at Parramatta Local Court 2 Magistrates at Parramatta Children's Court
Friday	8 Jan 2021	2 Magistrates at Parramatta Local Court 2 Magistrates at Parramatta Children's Court
Saturday	9 Jan 2021	3 Magistrates at Parramatta Children's Court to conduct both Local and Children's Court matters (as per usual weekend bail arrangements)

Sunday	10 Jan 2021	2 Magistrates at Parramatta Children's Court to conduct both Local and Children's Court matters (as per usual weekend bail arrangements)
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Yours sincerely



Judge Graeme Henson AM  
Chief Magistrate