



Coroners Court of Victoria

Practice Direction 6 of 2011

Directions Hearing

Background

This Practice Direction is relevant to the Melbourne registry of the Coroners Court of Victoria.

The practice of listing all inquests of estimated duration of 2 days or more for a Directions Hearing is to enable:

- a) The elimination of the practice whereby the Listings Registrar is spending inordinate amounts of time seeking details of proposed witnesses (some of whom may not be required)
- b) Addressing the resolution of preliminary issues such as:
 - the granting of leave for interested parties
 - identification of issues
 - confirmation of estimates as to hearing time and witnesses
 - availability of any court appointed witnesses
 - applications for privilege
 - distribution of all documentary material
 - elimination of unnecessary witnesses
 - booking video conferencing facilities
- c) To enable an assessment of an appropriate court room

Process in relation to listing Directions Hearing

1. Unless the coroner otherwise orders, inquests of estimated duration of 2 days or more should have a Directions Hearing.
2. Upon the allocated coroner's registry team receiving a Directions Hearing Referral (refer to **Attachment A**), a Directions hearing date will be set down within 6 weeks, unless the coroner requests a longer period. A Directions Hearing will be listed for one hour unless the coroner requests that it be listed for a longer or shorter period.
3. The coroner **must** indicate which parties he/she wishes to be notified of the Directions Hearing.

4. The coroner **must** let their allocated registry team know whether the matter can be dealt with in Court 3 or will need to be booked into a larger Court.
5. The coroner's registry team will send a letter to the parties indicating the time and place and purpose of the Directions hearing
6. PCSU or the In-House Solicitors Service will obtain all of the witness details to provide to the bench clerk for the coroner at the Directions Hearing.
7. The coroner's bench clerk is to provide a copy of the Directions Hearing form (refer to **Attachment B**). Upon completion of the Directions Hearing, the coroner is to complete the Directions Hearing Form to either adjourn the matter to another Directions Hearing or to fix a date for the commencement of the Inquest and any other directions or orders.
8. The completed Directions Hearing Form is to be provided to the bench clerk on completion of the Directions Hearing. Bench clerks must ensure they get a completed Directions Hearing Form from the coroner.

To enable the above to take effect, the following direction is made:

- (a) Practice Direction No 5 of 2010 is rescinded.
- (b) This Practice Direction is made pursuant to section 107 of the *Coroners Act* 2008.



Judge Jennifer Coate
State Coroner
30 September 2011



Coroners Court of Victoria

Attachment A

Directions Hearing Referral

Memo to:	TEAM
From:	
Re:	Court Ref:

A Directions Hearing is Required in this matter.

The following parties are required to attend:

- Location:**
- Court Room 1- 222 Exhibition Street
 - Court Room 2- 222 Exhibition Street
 - Court Room 3- 222 Exhibition Street

Time allocation: 1 Hour or _____ (please specify).

Coroner: _____ Date: ____/____/2009



Coroners Court of Victoria

Attachment B

DIRECTIONS HEARING FORM

Deceased: _____ Case Ref: _____ Date: / /

Coroner: _____ Assistant: _____

Registrar: _____

MATTER ADJOURNED TO:

Date: / /

Duration:

OR

A date to be fixed:

(Any preferred listing date/s)

HEARING TYPE:

Further directions hearing

Mention/Submissions hearing

Inquest hearing/Further Inquest hearing

Is a video link required? Yes/No Where to? Duration:

If applicable, has the expert witness' availability been checked? Yes/No

Details of expert(s):



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DIRECTIONS:

Appearance sheet and marked witness list **MUST** be attached

Copy to: Case Management Team

PCSU/In house Counsel

STATE CORONER / DEPUTY STATE CORONER /
CORONER