

Accessing virtual hearings

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In response to coronavirus (COVID-19), the Court is changing the way it operates.

The biggest change is the move to [virtual hearings](#) in a large number of cases. This enables those participating in the hearing to be linked through technology rather than in person attendance in the interests of public health.

These hearings can take different forms. Some are conducted with the judge in the courtroom. Some are conducted with all participants at remote locations but displayed on screens in the courtroom. Some are conducted with all participants at remote locations without any connection to a courtroom.

Where a courtroom is being used this will appear in the [daily hearing list](#). Court buildings remain open and these courtrooms can be accessed physically. Visitors wishing to come to the Court are reminded that they must comply with directions issued by the Chief Health Officer, including any direction that restricts movement. For further up to date information and guidance, please [visit the DHHS page](#).

Social distancing and hygiene measures are in place for courtrooms. These follow the guidance of the Chief Health Officer about [actions organisations should take to reduce the risk of transmission of coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).

Virtual hearings without any connection to a courtroom will appear in the daily list without a courtroom listed. If you wish to access these hearings please contact the Associate to the Judicial Officer listed. Their contact details can be found on the [judicial support contacts](#) page. Media should continue to contact the Court's Media Advisers by emailing them at media@supcourt.vic.gov.au.

Some of the work of the Court is done without a hearing, with the parties providing written material. These matters appear in the list as "On the papers". If you wish to know the outcome of these matters please contact the Associate to the Judicial Officer listed. Their contact details can be found on the [judicial support contacts](#) page.

Judgments and rulings of the Court may be delivered electronically without a hearing. These matters appear in the daily list. The judgments and rulings can be accessed on the [AustLII website](#). If you cannot locate a judgment or ruling on AustLII please contact the Associate to the Judicial Officer listed. Their contact details can be found on the [judicial support contacts](#) page.

Mediations being conducted by members of the Court also appear in the daily list, however mediations are not court proceedings and are not open to the public or recorded.

A small number of court proceedings, or aspects of some hearings are not open to the public, either because of a legislative requirement or an order of the Court. The Associate will be able to advise you if this is the case in relation to a matter.

Ordinarily, only parties to a proceeding play an active role in a hearing. There are however particular types of matters where non-parties may seek to appear before the Court and make submissions. These include applications for the winding-up of a company, family provision (or TFM) matters, applications in relation to restrictive covenants. Non-parties may also seek to appear in relation to subpoena matters and applications under the *Open Courts Act 2013*.

If you wish to appear in a winding up proceeding and have not filed a notice of appearance , please email windingups@supcourt.vic.gov.au by 9.00am on the day of the hearing. If you do not have access to email then please telephone the Associate to the judicial officer hearing the list. Their contact details can be found on the [judicial support contacts](#) page.

In relation to any other matter where a non-party seeks to appear in a matter they should contact the Associate to the Judicial Officer listed in advance of the hearing. Their contact details can be found on the [judicial support contacts](#) page.

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