

Magistrates Courts

Practice Direction No. 4 of 2012

Bail applications by remote communication device – Townsville Magistrates Court

1. The purpose of this Practice Direction is to provide, in accordance with section 15B of the *Bail Act 1980* (the Act), for the making of Bail applications by remote communication device under section 15A of the Act in circumstances as specified in this Direction.
2. This Practice Direction applies only to bail applications made on and from Thursday, 8 March 2012 to and including Saturday, 10 March 2012.
3. It applies to bail applications made by persons located in the Mount Isa and Cloncurry Magistrates Courts Districts to a Magistrate constituting a Magistrates Court at Townsville.
4. This Practice Direction provides for the making of an application for bail if the requirements set out above are met and the circumstances mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (c) apply:
 - (a) a Police Officer has refused to grant bail to a person under section 7 of the Bail Act 1980 for an offence; and
 - (b) a Magistrates Court is authorised under the Act to grant bail to the person for the offence; and
 - (c) having regard to all the circumstances, the person may not reasonably or practicably be brought personally before a Court.
5. Acting in accordance with this Practice Direction the person may apply under Section 15A of the Act to a Magistrate for bail for the offence by telephone, video or by another form of communication (a remote communications device), whether or not that section would otherwise apply.
6. A Magistrate will be available to constitute a Magistrates Court at Townsville in order to facilitate the making of applications under this Direction and to hear other matters between the hours of 9am and 12 noon on Thursday, 8 March 2012 and Friday, 9 March 2012 and between 8am and 10am on Saturday, 10 March 2012.
7. This Practice Direction does not limit the making of applications for bail under section 15A of the Act in circumstances where the requirements of s15A can be met without the need for reliance on s15B.

Judge Brendan Butler AM SC
Chief Magistrate
2 March 2012