

# Magistrates Courts

---

## Practice Direction No. 7 of 2024

Issued: 7 June 2024

### Citation of Authority

---

1. This Practice Direction applies to the citation of authorities in all proceedings in the Magistrates Court.

#### Citation of Authority

2. It is acceptable to use an available official medium neutral citation for the citing of any authorities.
3. Where a judgment is reported in one of the following (authorised) reports, that citation should, as far as possible, also be noted in Lists of Authorities and written submissions:
  - Commonwealth Law Reports (High Court of Australia)
  - Australian Capital Territory Law Reports (Supreme Court of the ACT)
  - Federal Court Reports (Federal Court of Australia)
  - New South Wales Law Reports (Supreme Court of NSW)
  - Northern Territory Law Reports (Supreme Court of NT)
  - Queensland Reports (Supreme Court of Queensland)
  - South Australian State Reports (Supreme Court of South Australia)
  - Tasmanian Reports (Supreme Court of Tasmania)
  - Victorian Reports (Supreme Court of Victoria)
  - Western Australian Reports (Supreme Court of WA).
4. When citing an authority:
  - a. The particular passages in the judgment which are relied upon should be identified.
  - b. It is sufficient and appropriate to refer to medium neutral citation paragraph numbers of the judgment rather than page numbers in authorised reports in any written or oral submissions.
  - c. Reference should also be made to any subsequent judgment which has doubted, or not followed, the cited judgment in a relevant respect.
  - d. Unreported judgments should not be cited unless they contain a material statement of legal principle, or a material application of principle, which is not found in reported authority.

5. In selecting the authorities to be cited to the court, parties should:
  - a. Limit their citation to the authorities which are necessary to establish the principles or propositions which are relied upon.
  - b. Avoid citing authorities which merely rephrase, illustrate or apply those principles or propositions in a way which is not apt to assist the court materially in resolving the real matters in dispute.
  - c. Ensure the citation provided is accurate.
6. Practice Direction 19 of 2013 is repealed.

  
Judge Janelle Brassington  
Chief Magistrate  
7 June 2024