Local Court Bail Division

Information guide

Overview

The Chief Judge of the Local Court has established a Bail Division to centralise adult bail matters across New South Wales.
The Bail Division manages the following types of bail matters:

- Police Bail Refused
- Executed Arrest Warrants
- Detention Application

This change will initially apply to adult bail matters in regional NSW, with metropolitan Sydney to follow at a later stage. The Bail Division will manage all adult bail matters across the state on weekends.

Purpose and benefit

The Bail Division aims to:

- Enhance consistency in bail hearings
- Free courtrooms for other judicial work
- Relieve workload pressures on Local Court Judges and court users
- Support specialisation in bail matters

How it works

All matters will be heard virtually, with all participants appearing by Audio Visual Link (AVL), including:

- Defendants
- Legal representatives
- Police Prosecutors
- Family or support persons

The virtual court will operate using Webex (a video conferencing platform). Participants can access Webex using a standard web browser, with no software installation required. A mobile and desktop app is also available if preferred.
Information on how access the Webex platform and apps can be found here.
Resources on how to dial in to the Bail Division will be provided upon email request to the baildivisionregistry@justice.nsw.gov.au

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Public and media access

The Bail Division operates as a virtual court and is open to the public, except when subject to suppression or non-publication orders, or by direction of the Local Court Judge.
Observers may request dial-in details to attend proceedings:

- Media: Contact localcourtmedia@dcj.nsw.gov.au for dial-in instructions and access links.
- Public and general enquiries: Reach out to baildivisionregistry@justice.nsw.gov.au for assistance.

Courtroom ettiquette

All participants and observers are expected to uphold the same rules as an in-person Courtroom. Attendees must:

- Be in a quiet room that ensures privacy
- Be dressed appropriately
- Use respectful language

It is an offence to take photographs or to use audio or video recording devices during court proceedings. For further information please refer to the Court Security Act 2005.

Court sitting and cut-off times

The Bail Division will commence sitting from 9:30am. Defendants arrested and processed before 12:00pm are eligible for a Bail Division hearing on the same day. Those arrested or processed after 12:00pm will have their hearing scheduled for the following day.

Transcript requests

Transcripts of proceedings can be requested on the NSW Online Registry or by submitting a completed order form to baildivisionregistry@justice.nsw.gov.au.

Courtroom allocation

The Bail Division will operates virtual courts, grouped by region. Matters will generally be heard in order of readiness, though they may be reassigned on the day to another courtroom at the discretion of the presiding Local Court Judge to ensure efficient case progression.

Weekday allocations

Courtroom	Region
Courtroom 1	Mid North Coast and Northern Rivers
Courtroom 2	Newcastle and Greater Hunter
Courtroom 3	Southern Highlands and South Coast
Courtroom 4	Western NSW
Courtroom 5	Riverina and New England
Courtroom 6	Central Coast and Inner Metro
Courtroom 7	Sydney CBD
Courtroom 8	Coming soon
Courtroom 9	Coming soon
Courtroom 10	Coming soon

Weekend allocations

Courtroom	Region
Courtroom 1	Mid North Coast and Northern Rivers
Courtroom 2	Newcastle and Greater Hunter
Courtroom 3	Southern Highlands and South Coast
Courtroom 4	Western NSW
Courtroom 5	Riverina and New England
Courtroom 6	Central Coast
Courtroom 7	Sydney- Surry Hills Correctional Centre
Courtroom 8	Metro- Amber Laurel Correctional Centre Blacktown / Penrith / Mt Druitt / Windsor/Katoomba
Courtroom 9	Metro- Amber Laurel Correctional Centre, Parramatta, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Liverpool
Courtroom 10	Metro- Surry Hills CC, Bankstown. Burwood, Hornsby, Sutherland

Frequently Asked Questions

Family / Friends / Support

1	How do I know what court my family member / friend is in and what time they will appear on screen?	You can contact the Bail Division Registry at baildivisionregistry@justice.nsw.gov.au with the details of your family member or friend. They will provide you with the necessary information.
2	How can I participate to support my family member / friend if I don't have access to: • Internet • Computer • Quiet space	You can visit your nearest local court or call the Court Service Centre at 1300 679 272 for further details. Your local court may be able to assist you in attending the virtual court.
3	Can I attend in person?	You are unable to attend in person; however, you can join the proceedings using your own device. Alternatively, on weekdays you may contact your local court to inquire about accessing a remote witness room, subject to availability.
4	How do I find out what happened in the Bail hearing for my friend or family member?	You can contact the Court Service Centre at 1300 679 272 or email baildivisionregistry@justice.nsw.gov.au with the details of your friend or family member. They will provide you with the legally available information.
5	I am from a community support agency - How do I attend a bail hearing?	You can contact the Bail Division Registry at baildivisionregistry@justice.nsw.gov.au with the details of the person you are supporting. They may provide you with the necessary information.

General

1	Can I attend a Bail Hearing if I am not family / friend / Media ?	Yes, although the Bail Division operates as a virtual court, it remains open to the public. For details on how to access the Bail Division, you can contact baildivisionregistry@justice.nsw.gov.au.
2	How do I access a transcript of the hearing?	Transcripts of proceedings can be requested on the NSW Online Registry or by submitting a completed order form to baildivisionregistry@justice.nsw.gov.au.
3	What matters are included / not included in the Bail Division	The Bail Division handles Police bail refused matters, executed arrest warrants, and detention applications. All other matters are processed through the Local Court. For more information, you can contact the Court Service Centre at 1300 679 272.

For technical support or further information please contact the baildivisionregistry@justice.nsw.gov.au.