HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA

PRACTICE DIRECTION NO 1 OF 2026

LIVESTREAMING

1. Purpose

   This Practice Direction sets out the Court's approach to public livestreaming of its proceedings.

2. Commencement

   This Practice Direction takes effect from 1 January 2027.

3. Use of public livestreaming in the High Court of Australia

   The Court considers that publicly livestreaming its proceedings enhances open justice by enabling the public, litigants, media and interested parties to view its proceedings in real time. The Court is committed to publicly livestreaming its proceedings, including:

   a. ceremonial hearings before the Full Court;
   b. oral hearings of applications for leave or special leave to appeal before the Full Court;
   c. oral hearings of applications for removal before the Full Court;
   d. oral hearings conducted by the Full Court; and
   e. the handing down of Full Court judgments

   held in Canberra unless the Court considers that, in the circumstances, public livestreaming would not be appropriate.

   Public livestreaming is in addition to the Court's practice of uploading audio-visual (AV) recordings of Full Court hearings onto the Court's website.

   The Court's public livestreaming service is separate to the Court's remote hearing access service, which is limited to party access and other authorised participants who are provided with an AV link.

4. Considerations for public livestreaming

   The Court intends to livestream all Full Court hearings held in Canberra unless it would not be appropriate to do so.

   Parties will be given an opportunity to identify in written submissions any reasons why they consider it would not be appropriate for a hearing to be livestreamed.

The Court may consider the following factors when determining whether it would not be appropriate for a proceeding to be publicly livestreamed:

a. the nature or the subject matter of the hearing;
b. the risk of disclosure of information or material that is subject to legislative restrictions on publication (for example, restrictions under the *Family Law Act 1975* (Cth) or the *Migration Act 1958* (Cth)) or is the subject to a non-publication, suppression or confidentiality order;
c. the parties' views on the appropriateness of livestreaming the hearing;
d. any potential impact on the parties, legal representatives and/or third parties involved in the matter, including the right to a fair trial for matters in which relief sought includes remittal; and
e. cultural sensitivities and/or practices of the litigants and/or practitioners.

This list is not exhaustive and not in any order of priority.

The decision whether to livestream any hearing is at the discretion of the Court. The position in relation to livestreaming can be reviewed by the Court at any time, including once the hearing has commenced. The Court may also impose conditions controlling AV recordings, AV links and public livestreaming as appropriate.

5. Notification of livestreaming

The Registry will engage directly with the parties when a decision on livestreaming has been made.

The Court will indicate the matters likely to be livestreamed before each sittings and will confirm whether a matter will be livestreamed in the Daily Court List published the day before a hearing.

6. Terms of Use for public livestreaming

Users of the High Court's public livestreaming are required to agree to Terms of Use before accessing the livestreaming service, which includes a prohibition on recording, copying and publishing any proceeding or part of any proceeding.

Accessing the livestreaming service is through clicking on the 'play' button for the livestream video. By commencing the livestreaming service, the user agrees to be bound by the Terms of Use.

7. Technical requirements

Livestreaming can be accessed through the Court's website.

It is the user's responsibility to manage their own internet connections and streaming capabilities to view the livestreaming through the Court's website.

The Court is not responsible for any technical difficulties encountered during any public livestreaming service. Other platforms and services may be adopted from time to time as technology develops.

The Court will livestream in real-time with limited delays, as appropriate. Practitioners and parties are responsible for ensuring confidential material is not inadvertently referred to during the hearing.

8. Correspondence with the Court

All media enquiries related to the livestreaming of matters should be directed to media@hcourt.gov.au.

All other enquiries regarding public livestreaming should be directed to registry@hcourt.gov.au.

9 November 2026