

District Court Criminal Practice Note 35

Media Access to Sexual Assault Proceedings Heard in Camera

1. This Practice Note replaces District Court Criminal Practice Note 4.

Commencement

2. This Practice Note commences on 17 September 2025.
3. The purpose of this practice note is to provide arrangements under s 291C(2) of the *Criminal Procedure Act 1986* (NSW) for the media to access sexual assault proceedings held in camera.
4. In circumstances where s 291C(2) applies, and such arrangements are sought, the media representative should contact the Courts Media Unit (contact details below).
5. Upon application by a media representative, the Courts Media Unit will discuss with the media representative the reasonable and practical options available. Wherever possible, the application is to be made prior to the date of hearing. The longer the period of notice given to the Courts Media Unit, the more likely it will be that a practical arrangement can be made.
6. The Courts Media Unit will discuss with the media representative the options available and then provide a recommendation to the Court on what is reasonably practical to provide pursuant to s 291C(2). The Court will then determine what arrangements should be made, which will usually be announced in Court.
7. Any additional costs incurred in making arrangements pursuant to s 291C(2) are to be met by the media representative (e.g. cost of installing live audio/visual feeds, cost of a sheriff/court officer to supervise access to a remote audio/visual feed, cost of providing a real time or a daily transcript). The Courts Media Unit may require an undertaking to be given by the media representative to pay the additional costs.
8. If the media is given electronic access to the evidence, the media must not make an electronic recording of the proceedings.

Contact details:

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