

**MAGISTRATES COURT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
CIVIL JURISDICTION
FACT SHEET 14B**

GENERAL PROCEDURE STATUS CONFERENCE

This fact sheet is intended to help people in preparing themselves for a status conference. The attempt to settle the case at a pre-trial conference has not been successful

What is a status conference?

The purpose of a status conference is to allow for the management of a case. A status conference will be listed before a Magistrate.

When will a status conference be listed?

A status conference will be listed by a Registrar at the pre-trial conference. Parties will receive notice in writing as to the date, time and location of the status conference.

Who attends the status conference hearing?

A party must attend a status conference and may do so in person or they may be represented by their lawyer or counsel. If the Magistrate deems it necessary, they may order that a party's solicitor or counsel attends the status conference in person. If the court orders a person to attend a status conference in person, the party will be notified in writing.

If a party's attendance is likely to cause undue expense or the party is of ill health, the Court may approve the conference to be conducted by audio link or video link.

If you receive a notice to attend a status conference and you are aware of a risk to yourself or others in relation to the matter, you should contact the Court at which you are required to attend.

What will happen at a status conference?

At a status conference, the Court may order:

- Amendments to pleadings
- The parties to produce witness statements
- Further particulars to case statements
- Discovery on oath
- Interrogatories
- The parties engage in mediation, either privately or through another magistrate

What happens if I do not attend the status conference?

- Adjourn the matter to a further status conference
- The parties to lodge and serve bundles of documents
- For the case to be listed for trial
- Make any other orders to progress the matter to trial

If a party fails to attend the status conference, the Court may:

- order the party to pay costs; or
- give judgment against the party without a trial.

This is a guide only. The content is subject to change. If you are unsure about any of the information in this fact sheet, contact your nearest registry or seek legal advice.