

PRACTICE DIRECTION 2 of 2020

ASSISTANCE ANIMALS

In this Practice Direction an assistance animal is as defined in section 9 of the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Commonwealth), being a dog or other animal:

- accredited under a law of a State or Territory that provides for the accreditation of animals trained to assist a persons with a disability to alleviate the effect of the disability; or
- accredited by an animal training organisation prescribed by the regulations (none currently prescribed); or
- trained:
 - to assist a person with a disability to alleviate the effect of the disability; and
 - to meet standards of hygiene and behaviour that are appropriate for an animal in a public place.

Where a person wishes to bring an assistance animal to the Magistrates Court they may apply to the Registry for prior approval by [completing the attached form](#) together with evidence that the animal is an assistance animal and is trained to meet the standards of hygiene and behaviour that are appropriate for an animal in a public place, at least 3 working days prior to the date of appearance.

This application will be referred to the presiding judicial officer, and where the request is approved, a copy of the approval will be returned to the applicant and may be produced to security when entering the Court.

Where the request is not approved, the applicant will be advised and will be required to attend court without any assistance animal.

Where prior approval is not obtained, a person will be required to complete the same form and produce the same evidence to the Registry prior to being permitted to take an assistance animal into Court. The application will be referred to the presiding judicial officer and the applicant should allow for the delay that will occur while this process takes place. The application may not be able to be approved prior to the time of appearance and in that event arrangements must be made to enable attendance without the assistance animal.

This Practice Direction does not apply to guide dogs as they are readily identifiable as assistance animals.

Dated 30th of June 2020



Steven Heath
Chief Magistrate