



DISTRICT COURT
OF WESTERN
AUSTRALIA
500 Hay Street
PERTH WA 6000
Tel: (08) 9425 2230
Fax: (08) 9425 2268

NOTICE TO PRACTITIONERS – TECHNOLOGY ISSUES

Quality of audio recordings

On a couple of occasions recently, when counsel in a criminal trial has sought to play an audio recording on a CD or DVD, the sound produced has been barely audible in the courtroom. The reason for this was that sound level on the recording was at a lower than usual audio level (for example, a recording of a telephone intercept).

Counsel are requested to check the audio levels of any recording to be played in court. If the recording is quiet, counsel are requested to make arrangements to test whether the recording will be audible when played on the court's audio systems. These arrangements can be made by telephoning the court's Technology Officer on 9425 2278.

Format of audio recordings

The courtrooms in the District Court Building are equipped with CD and audio cassette players. If counsel wishes to play audio material recorded in a format not replayable on this equipment (such as digital audio in WAV format), separate arrangements will need to be made with the Court. One way for this audio material to be played is through Counsel's laptop.

Counsel should make arrangements to test the manner in which the audio material is to be played on the court's technology systems. Again, these arrangements can be made through the court's Technology Officer.

Witnesses or accused with a hearing impairment

The District Court Building is equipped with a hearing aid loop amplifier to assist any hearing impaired person within each courtroom. The audio system transmits audio directly to hearing aids with telecoils (T-coils.). People with hearing aids will need to switch their hearing aids to the 'T' position to receive this audio feed.

On a couple of recent occasions, a witness or accused with a hearing impairment has attended court without a suitable hearing aid. The court can make arrangements for such a witness or accused to be provided with a sound amplification system for use in court. However, the court requires notice to make the appropriate arrangements.

15 June 2008

District Court, Notice to Practitioners

Again, the arrangements should be made through the court's Technology Officer.

Michael Gething
Principal Registrar

15 June 2009