



Local Court of New South Wales

Practice Note 2 of 2008

To commence 7 April 2008

Tape recording of court proceedings Practice Note

Purpose

This Practice Note permits the media to use tape recorders during court proceedings for the purpose of preparing fair and accurate reports of those proceedings.

Application

This Practice Note applies to journalists who work for recognised media organisations and who can provide appropriate professional identification.

Approval process

Upon application through the Registrar of the Court where the proceedings are being held (see *Application by journalist to use a tape recorder during court proceedings*), a presiding magistrate may permit a journalist to take a tape recording of court proceedings for the purpose of preparing a fair and accurate report of those proceedings.

Proceedings not to be disrupted

It is a condition of approval that tape recording must not cause any disruption to proceedings.

Conversations not to be recorded

Tape recordings must not be made of private conversations before or after court proceedings or during breaks.

Use of tape recordings

Tape recordings of court proceedings are not to be broadcast by radio, television or on the internet. Copies of tape recordings of proceedings are not to be made.

Destruction of recordings

Unless otherwise approved or directed by the Court, tape recordings must be deleted within 24 hours of being made. Until recordings are deleted, they must be kept in the possession of the approved journalist at all times.

Assistance to other journalists

Journalists who have approval to tape record proceedings are to provide reasonable assistance to other journalists seeking to prepare a fair and accurate report of the proceedings.

Official record of proceedings

The transcript produced by the Reporting Services Branch is, and will remain, the authoritative record of proceedings.

Graeme Henson
Chief Magistrate
3 April 2008





Local Court of New
South Wales

Application by journalist to use a tape recorder during court proceedings

Name of proceedings:	
Judicial Officer:	
Date(s):	
Name of journalist:	
ID details & name of employer:	

I undertake to the Court that whenever I make use of a tape recorder during these court proceedings:

1. I will not permit any recording to be used in any way other than for the preparation of publication of a fair and accurate report of the proceedings
2. I will not permit any recording of court proceedings to be broadcast by radio, television or on the internet
3. I will not permit copies to be made of any recording of court proceedings
4. I will not disrupt the proceedings in any way
5. I will only record proceedings and will not record conversations before or after court or during breaks
6. I will, unless otherwise approved or directed by the Court, delete the recording within 24 hours of it being made and retain the recording in my possession at all times until deletion
7. I will provide reasonable assistance to other journalists seeking to listen to the recording to prepare a fair and accurate report of the proceedings as I note that a maximum of two tape recorders are permitted to be used in a courtroom.

I give these undertakings in the knowledge that any breach could result in contempt of court proceedings against me.

Signature of applicant:	
Date:	
Approved/not approved:	
Name and signature of presiding Magistrate:	
Date:	