

ACT Government media release  
Simon Corbell - Attorney General  
21 August 2008

## **COURT EFFICIENCY IMPROVED**

The Legislative Assembly has tonight passed the Court Legislation Amendment Bill 2008, which contains a number of criminal procedure reforms, including a more efficient process for the commencement of criminal prosecutions, Attorney General Simon Corbell said.

"The Court Attendance Notice system is a procedural improvement to the way criminal proceedings are commenced," Mr Corbell said.

"This new system will be simpler and more efficient, as police are not required to attend at a court before commencing criminal proceedings, saving time and money and keeping more police on the street.

"The use of Court Attendance Notices can apply to all minor offences where court proceedings would have been commenced by way of the laying of information and the issuing of a summons, and will allow our courts more time for courts to deal with substantive issues."

A CAN is issued to the defendant at the time of charging. The form of the CAN has been adapted from other jurisdictions, and provides all the information required by the defendant, including a brief outline of the particulars of the offence, the time and date that the accused must appear in court, and the consequences of non-attendance.

"This legislation also includes a number of other improvements to criminal procedure, including improved reference appeal procedures and time-saving changes to requirements for written statements admitted as evidence," Mr Corbell said.

"This Bill will further improve the efficiency of our criminal justice processes and will allow police and the courts to allocate resources in more productive ways."

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