

# THE NJC COURT LAYOUT AND GLOSSARY OF TERMS

NJC court layout



## Glossary

Term	Explanation
Accused	A person who has been charged with a crime. Also known as a defendant. At the NJC we tend to refer to such people as 'clients'.
Adjourn	To move a court hearing to another time or day.
Bench Clerk	Responsible for the administration of the court, including announcing the cases, calling witnesses, administering the oath and preparing court orders for distribution.
Community Correction Order (CCO)	A sentence the client serves in the community, as an alternative to prison. A CCO can include conditions such as: unpaid community work, regularly attending appointments with a case manager, providing random urine samples for drug/ alcohol testing, attending counselling or rehabilitation and engaging in offence specific programs.
Contest Mention	When a client wishes to plead not guilty, this is a hearing where all parties and the Magistrate try to decide whether a case can be resolved by finding common ground between the parties.
Corrections	(Usually referring to 'Community Correctional Services') Corrections staff at NJC have responsibility for overseeing clients who are on parole or undertaking a Community Correction Order (see above).
Community Justice Centre	A place within a specific community or neighbourhood where a range of services are available to assist in providing justice outcomes for the community. Not all community justice centres have court rooms. However, they often have more than one service under the one roof, such as legal services and mediation services.
Client	Term used to describe an offender, victim, or accused person appearing before the court. The term 'client' is used at the NJC to remove any stigma and create neutrality when interacting with and talking about a person attending court. The term 'client' aligns with the principles of therapeutic jurisprudence.

Glossary cont.

Defence Lawyer	Defends a person in court who is accused of committing a crime. The NJC has several defence lawyers who provide free assistance to clients who meet their eligibility criteria. These lawyers are from: Legal Aid Victoria, Fitzroy Legal Service and Darebin Legal Service.
Informant	The person (usually a police officer) who provides a statement of details to the court relating to the offence.
Mention Hearing	The first time a matter is brought before the court.
Methamphetamine	An illicit drug, also known as 'ice'.
Methadone	A drug used by medical practitioners to treat heroin addiction.
NJO	<p>Short for Neighbourhood Justice Officer, the NJO is a court officer, who works within the Registry team to assist and provide extra support to clients coming before the court. The NJO acts as an intermediary between the court, services and clients, and is unique to the NJC.</p> <p>The NJO might provide extra information to a Magistrate surrounding a case, if it is complex in nature, or provide additional support to a client who is disadvantaged in some way whether due to language, gender, disability, etc. Additionally, the NJO might provide a court user with more information about their case or help to facilitate a problem-solving meeting with various people involved in a dispute.</p>
Prosecutor	Presents the case against the accused person to the court on behalf of the Crown.
Recidivism	Tendency of an individual to relapse into criminal behaviour.
Registry	Registry is the administrative branch of a court. Those who work within Registry are known as registrars, and they are responsible for the day to day running of the court. Their role includes processing court documents, answering enquiries, and performing bench clerk duties. At the NJC, Registry staff perform some additional functions, such as referring clients to services and providing extra assistance to clients needing support.
Stand Down	When a court matter is temporarily paused, to be finished later that day.
Therapeutic Jurisprudence (TJ)	A practice that acknowledges an individual's psychological and emotional wellbeing when interacting with the justice system. Therapeutic jurisprudence aims to minimise the potential for harm caused by an individual's interaction with the justice system. Principles of therapeutic jurisprudence can be used by judicial officers when interacting with a client, or they can be used when designing a courtroom. TJ is about implementing techniques to support a client's wellbeing, and humanizing the justice system.