



Notice to the Profession, the Public and the Media regarding Criminal, Civil and Family Proceedings

Prince Edward Island Court of Appeal, Supreme Court and Provincial Court

March 16, 2020

In order to protect the health and safety of all court users and to help contain the spread of the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19), the Prince Edward Island courts are taking immediate steps. Essential public service is being maintained.

Measures applicable to all courts

All members of the public are expected to follow the recommendations and advisories of the Chief Public Health Office. Members of the public subject to self-isolation, or those experiencing possible coronavirus/COVID-19 symptoms are not to personally attend any courthouse.

Individuals with matters scheduled before the courts should contact their counsel or, if they do not have counsel, contact court staff to seek directions **prior to attending court facilities**.

Measures applicable to the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal

All in-person court appearances and matters, other than for urgent or emergency matters, are suspended until further notice.

Urgent matters will continue to be heard, in a manner and forum to be determined by the court (including for example the potential of hearings by way of telephone or video appearances).

The current telephone case management structure will continue namely, case management conference calls will continue as scheduled.

Previously scheduled in-person motions, pre-motion conferences, settlement conferences and pre-trial conferences will not proceed with in-person attendances. Where appropriate and where feasible, motions, pre-motion conferences, settlement conferences and pre-trial conferences will proceed by alternative means, most likely by telephone.

At this stage, parties may continue to file documents at the courthouses. Options are also being explored for alternative means for filing documents. Arrangements are in place to ensure compliance with the recommendations and advisories of the Chief Public Health Office regarding social distancing.

Individuals who have questions about court appearances or court filings should first contact their legal counsel. If individuals do not have legal counsel, or if further information is required, they should contact the following:

Prince Edward Island Court of Appeal: 902-368-6024
Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island: 902-368-6023

Measures applicable to the Provincial Court

Provincial Courts in the province will remain open and will operate in a manner which complies with the social distancing practices recommended by the Chief Public Health Office.

Access to the courts will be limited to only those who need to be present in the courthouse. Any person exhibiting signs of illness or who is required to self-isolate should advise their lawyer or court staff for direction on how to proceed.

The protocols in Provincial Courts could vary from court to court and from day to day depending on circumstances. Please call the following numbers with any questions:

Provincial Court – Charlottetown 902-368-6693

Provincial Court – Summerside 902-888-8190

Provincial Court – Georgetown 902-652-8990

We appreciate the patience, cooperation and flexibility of all as we navigate these rapidly changing times.

Chief Justice David H. Jenkins
Prince Edward Island Court of Appeal

Chief Justice Tracey L. Clements
Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island

Chief Judge Nancy K. Orr
Provincial Court of Prince Edward Island