

## Updated Notice to the Profession, the Public and the Media regarding court operations - COVID - 19

## Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island Updated June 3, 2020 (update to Notices of March 18, March 24, April 7 and May 12, 2020)

In March 2020, the Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island suspended regular operations due to the COVID - 19 pandemic. Proceedings were limited to urgent, emergency or essential matters. This suspension of regular operations continued until the end of May.

In mid-May, with the easing of some restrictions related to COVID - 19, the court expanded its operations, and proceeded with case management conference calls. Recently, the court has also scheduled premotion conferences, pre-trial conferences, and settlement conferences (many of which are proceeding with the use of technology).

Effective June 15, 2020, the court will no longer be in the "urgent, emergency, or essential services" model. As such, parties will no longer have to establish a matter is urgent, an emergency or essential in order to proceed. In-person hearings will be scheduled, provided the hearings can be conducted in accordance with established protocols to address COVID - 19. The court will continue to explore with counsel and the parties the option of utilizing technology to conduct hearings.

Court staff continue to encourage use of the drop box for filings. Filing in accordance with Practice Direction 46 (e-filing or filing by fax), remain as options.

The court will be issuing directives related to in-person hearings, which may continue to be modified. These will be posted on the court's website.

Further updated notices will also be posted on the court's website.

Once again, thank you to everyone for your continued patience and cooperation.

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