



**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 pre-motion 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



**Updated Notice to the Profession, the Public and the Media regarding court operations
- COVID - 19
Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island
Updated May 12, 2020 (update to Notices of March 18, March 24 and April 7, 2020)**

On March 18, the Supreme Court suspended regular operations due to the COVID -19 pandemic. Since that time, the Court has only heard urgent, emergency or essential matters. On April 7, the Court suspended regular operations to the end of May.

With the easing of some restrictions related to COVID - 19, the Court will be expanding services in the coming weeks. The bulk of these matters will be facilitated by teleconference or videoconference technology.

The Court will be conducting case management conference calls (for those calls that did not proceed due to the pandemic), starting the week of May 19. The Court will be communicating immediately with parties to advise of the date for the re-scheduled case management conference call. These calls will be by telephone.

The Court will also be conducting family pre-motion conferences (for those pre-motions that did not proceed due to the pandemic), starting the week of June 1. The Court will be communicating with parties to advise of the date for the re-scheduled pre-motion conference. Given current recommendations of the Chief Public Health Office, these pre-motion conferences will be held using technology wherever possible.

The Court will also be scheduling calls with parties in relation to pre-trial conferences and settlement conferences that did not proceed due to the pandemic, with a view to exploring alternatives to having such conferences proceed by utilizing technology.

The Court will continue to hear urgent, emergency or essential matters, in accordance with the process outlined in the Prothonotary's Notice of April 1, 2020. The Court is not fully resuming regular operations, and at this point the Court is not scheduling in-person hearings (other than as specifically directed by the Court). The status of the Court's operations will be assessed on an ongoing basis and updates will be posted on the Court's website.

The complement of the Court's staff is increasing, and as such parties are welcome to proceed with filings. Court staff welcome, and 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 continues to appreciate the patience and cooperation of all.

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