



COURT OF APPEAL

Notice Regarding Modified Court of Appeal Procedures and Access to Court Proceedings during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Issued July 11, 2022, effective July 18, 2022

This Notice replaces the Notice Regarding Modified Court of Appeal Procedures and Access to Court Proceedings during the COVID-19 Pandemic dated April 11, 2022.

1. Changes to pandemic related measures in courthouses and courtrooms

- On 11 April, 2022, the following changes to pandemic related measures in courthouses and courtrooms took effect:
 - Sheriffs no longer conduct a health screening for people entering a courthouse.
 - In the public areas of the courthouse, wearing face masks is a matter of personal choice.
 - In a courtroom, wearing of face masks is subject to the direction of the presiding judge or registrar. A supply of face masks is available in the courthouses and courtrooms.
 - Hand sanitizer is available in courtrooms and plexiglass barriers remain in place.
 - There are no pandemic related capacity limits in courthouses and courtrooms.
 - Water is supplied in courtrooms. Parties, counsel, and other courtroom participants may not bring their own water into the courtroom.
 - There are no physical distancing requirements in place.

2. Access to hearings

Mode of hearing

- appeal hearings and chambers proceedings continue to take place in person in the courtroom, unless parties request, or elect, to appear remotely, following the process in the [remote appearance directive](#) and the [chambers applications directive](#).

Hearings in a Courtroom

- To observe matters proceeding in the courtroom, check the [Court's weekly hearing list](#) or the bulletin board in the lobby at 800 Smithe Street. The lists will indicate the name of the proceeding, the mode of hearing and the courtroom number. Seating in the public gallery in courtrooms is not restricted, subject to any directions issued by the presiding judge.

Appeal hearings with at least one party appearing by Zoom [hybrid appeal hearings]

- For appeal hearings where at least one party will appear by video conference, the Court's weekly hearing list will include a publicly accessible video link and members of the public will have the option of observing the hearing remotely by clicking on the link. Hybrid appeal hearings will also be open for members of the public to observe from the courtroom.

- Beginning January 3, 2023 the Court will return to publicly broadcasting all appeals subject to limited exceptions described in Section 2.2 of the [Court of Appeal's Record and Courtroom Access Policy](#). Details regarding implementation of the policy are also found in the policy.

Policy on Use of Electronic Devices in Courtrooms

- The Court's [Policy on the Use of Electronic Devices in Courtrooms](#) applies to all court proceedings including those conducted remotely by video or teleconference. This means that members of accredited media may audio record proceedings for the limited purpose of verifying their notes. Any other audio or video recording of the proceeding including screen shots or other photographs is prohibited. Anyone who uses an electronic device in a manner prohibited by the policy is subject to sanction, including prosecution for contempt of court.

Media Access to Digital Audio Recordings (DARS)

- Any requests for access to court audio recordings (post-hearing) by accredited media should be made by completing the usual [access to audio request form](#) and attaching a [remote access to DARS undertaking](#) to the automatically generated email before submitting the request. Requests will be processed by Court Services Branch personnel in the usual manner. If access is granted, the requestor will receive an email confirmation and a link to a digital FTP site to remotely access the requested audio recording.

3. Self-represented litigants

- Self-represented litigants are expected to comply with the processes set out in this notice.
- Anyone e-filing materials in the Court of Appeal or preparing to appear before the Court by Zoom video conference may contact the Canadian Bar Association BC Branch at members@cbabc.org for technical support with managing PDF Adobe or Zoom software.

4. Registry contact information

Mail or Courier to the Vancouver Registry	Telephone Contact
BC Court of Appeal The Law Courts 400 – 800 Hornby Street Vancouver, British Columbia V6Z 2C5	General Inquiries: 604.660.2468 Maria Littlejohn, Court Scheduler: 604.660.2865 Matthew Soo, Chambers Scheduler: 604.660.2859 Kristine Dhamrait, Registrar Scheduler: 604.660.2729 Fax filings: 604.660.1951

The forgoing is subject to change. Any updates will be posted on the BCCourts.ca website.

Dated 11 July 2022, at Vancouver, British Columbia



By Direction of Robert J. Bauman, Chief Justice of British Columbia