



The Supreme Court of British Columbia

NOTICE

Scheduling Changes - Masters' Chambers at Vancouver Law Courts

Commencing 27 May 2013, the Court will implement some changes to the scheduling of foreclosure applications in Masters' chambers at Vancouver Law Courts ("VLC") in order to better serve family and civil matters.

Currently, on any given day in Masters' chambers at VLC, foreclosure matters tend to occupy the first 60-90 minutes, with family and other civil matters waiting until the foreclosure matters are heard. This arises because uncontested and brief applications are called first and although individual foreclosure applications are brief, in aggregate they often dominate the first part of the list.

In implementing scheduling changes for foreclosure applications, the Court hopes to reduce the wait time experienced by counsel and litigants appearing on family and other civil applications and ensure that these applications get heard. It is anticipated that these scheduling changes will continue to serve foreclosure matters well.

Under the new process:

1. Subject to paragraph 3, applications in foreclosure matters may be scheduled for hearing in Masters' chambers only on Mondays and Thursdays.
2. On Mondays and Thursdays, in addition to the master sitting in regular chambers, a second master will be assigned to hear the foreclosure list.
3. If an urgent application arises in a foreclosure matter, the application may be set in regular chambers and need not await a Monday or Thursday date to be heard.

4. Counsel must ensure that application records pertaining to matters to be set on the foreclosure list are clearly marked and identified in large, bold print on the bottom of cover page of the application record. This will assist Court registry staff to ensure that matters on the foreclosure list are set for hearing in the appropriate courtroom.

These scheduling changes are being implemented on a pilot basis initially and their impact will be assessed.

Counsel are invited to provide comments on the effectiveness or otherwise of these scheduling changes by email to Sue.Smolen@courts.gov.bc.ca

Robert J. Bauman
Chief Justice

29 April 2013