



THE LAW COURTS
800 SMITHE STREET
VANCOUVER, B.C.
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Notice to the Profession, the Public and the Media Regarding Civil Proceedings

COVID-19: Amendments to the *Supreme Court Civil Rules* - Temporary Suspension of Civil Jury Trials

COVID-19 Notice No. 41

Date: September 21, 2020

This notice replaces COVID-19 Notice No. 39 – Civil Jury Selections and Trials.

I. Introduction

Effective March 19, 2020, Chief Justice Hinkson suspended regular operations of the Supreme Court of British Columbia at all of its locations to protect the health and safety of court users and to help contain the spread of COVID-19. As part of the suspension, the Court cancelled civil jury selections and civil jury trials up to and including January 1, 2021, everywhere in the province.

II. Civil Jury Trial Rules Suspended until October 4, 2021

Effective **September 28, 2020**, the *Supreme Court Civil Rules* have been amended to temporarily suspend civil jury trials, and the operation of related rules, up to and including **October 3, 2021**. For more details about the changes, please see Order-in-Council No. 517/20, available [here](#).

The new rules provide that civil jury trials scheduled to be heard **before October 4, 2021** will automatically proceed by judge alone, regardless of whether a party filed or served a jury notice or paid jury fees.

The new rules also provide that, unless the Court otherwise orders, a party must not apply for an adjournment of a trial because the party may want to require that the trial be heard by the Court with a jury.

Civil jury trials will resume on **October 4, 2021**. The Court will provide further direction closer to that date.

THE FOREGOING IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. ANY UPDATED DIRECTIONS WILL BE POSTED ON THE COURT'S WEBSITE.

Dated September 21, 2020, at Vancouver, British Columbia

By Direction of Chief Justice Christopher E. Hinkson
Supreme Court of British Columbia