



THE LAW COURTS
800 SMITHE STREET
VANCOUVER, B.C. V6Z 2E1

Notice to the Profession, the Public and the Media

COVID-19: ADJOURNMENT OF TRIALS AND OTHER IN-PERSON PROCEEDINGS

COVID-19 Notice No. 45

REVISED: January 5, 2022

- **Proceedings scheduled for the week of January 10-14**
- **Specific directions with respect to bankruptcy proceedings before the registrar**
- **Specific directions with respect to criminal jury trials**

Given the rapid and concerning recent increase in COVID-19 cases in the province, the Supreme Court is reducing the number of in-person proceedings scheduled to begin or continue during the week of January 10-14, 2022.

The Court remains open, and its operations by remote means (MS Teams or telephone) or by desk order will continue as usual. Court registries remain open for in-person attendance, subject to physical distancing, masking, and other public health protocols.

In-Person Proceedings

An “in-person proceeding” is any proceeding (whether a trial or another form of hearing) for which it is contemplated that one or more parties, counsel, or witnesses will attend for the proceeding in person in a courthouse. This notice does not affect proceedings for which arrangements have already been made for all parties, counsel, and witnesses (if any) to participate by remote means, such as MS Teams or telephone.

NEW MATTERS

Trials and Other In-Person Proceedings Scheduled to Begin During the Week of Jan. 10-14, 2022

Civil and Family Matters

All in-person civil and family trials and other in-person proceedings scheduled to begin on January 10 (or during the week of January 10-14) are adjourned. Civil and family trials or other in-person proceedings adjourned as a result of this notice may be rescheduled by contacting Supreme Court Scheduling any time after (not on) January 11, 2022.

Bankruptcy Proceedings Before the Registrar

All bankruptcy proceedings before the registrar will proceed remotely. The dial-in number or MS Teams link will be provided by Court Services Branch staff or by Supreme Court Scheduling.

Criminal Matters

Criminal trials and other in-person criminal proceedings scheduled to begin on January 10 (or during the week of January 10-14) are adjourned, except that counsel and the accused person should appear by telephone at the date and time when the proceeding is scheduled to begin to arrange a new appearance date. The dial-in number will be provided by Court Services Branch staff or by Supreme Court Scheduling. Counsel and self-represented accused are asked not to telephone Supreme Court Scheduling except in situations of urgency.

Criminal Jury Selections and New Criminal Jury Trials

Any criminal jury selection scheduled for the week of January 10-14 will be adjourned, and the corresponding trial will also be adjourned if the trial is scheduled to begin during the following week (the week of January 17-21). Counsel and the accused person on a jury trial for which the jury selection is scheduled for the week of January 10-14 should appear by telephone at the date and time scheduled for stage 1, to arrange a new appearance date. The dial-in number will be provided by Court Services Branch staff or by Supreme Court Scheduling. Counsel and self-represented accused are asked not to telephone Supreme Court Scheduling except in situations of urgency.

CONTINUATIONS

Civil, Family, and Criminal Trials or Other In-Person Proceedings Scheduled to Continue During the Week of Jan. 10-14, 2022

Civil, family, and criminal trials and other in-person criminal proceedings scheduled to continue during the week of January 4 are adjourned, subject to the following. Counsel or the parties should appear by telephone at the date and time when the proceeding is scheduled to begin to address with the seized judge, master, or registrar whether the matter should continue that week. For continuations of criminal cases, the accused person must appear by telephone or (where available) video for the appearance if the scheduled proceeding was one for which their appearance was required.

If the judge, master, or registrar determines that the matter should continue during the week of Jan. 10-14, they will also determine when, during the week, it should continue, taking into account the time required for participants to travel to the applicable court location, among other factors.

The dial-in number for the telephone conference will be provided by Court Services Branch staff or by Supreme Court Scheduling. Counsel and parties are asked not to telephone Supreme Court Scheduling except in situations of urgency.

Hearings for the delivery of reasons for judgment and sentencing proceedings are considered continuations. For short continuations such as those, the seized judge, master, or registrar may direct in advance, through Supreme Court Scheduling, that the matter will continue as scheduled, or may direct a telephone conference in advance of the scheduled continuation date.

Costs proceedings scheduled after a trial has concluded and reasons for judgement in the trial have been issued are not considered continuations.

In-Person Proceedings Scheduled to Begin or Continue on January 17 or Later

The situation for in-person proceedings scheduled to begin or continue on January 17, 2022 or later will be assessed in light of the public health situation on or around January 12, 2022. A revised notice will be issued at that time.

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

Dated **January 5, 2022**, Vancouver, British Columbia

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