



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 12, 2022**

- **New civil and family proceedings adjourned the week of January 17-21**
- **New or continuing criminal proceedings proceeding as scheduled January 17-21, except for new criminal jury trials**

Given the continuing increase in COVID-19 cases in the province, the Supreme Court is adjourning a number of in-person proceedings scheduled to begin or continue during the week of January 17-21, 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.

#### CIVIL AND FAMILY PROCEEDINGS

##### ***New Trials and Other In-Person Proceedings***

All in-person civil and family trials and other in-person proceedings scheduled to begin on January 17 (or during the week of January 17-21) 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 18, 2022.

##### ***Continuations of Trials or Other In-Person Proceedings***

Civil and family trials and other in-person proceedings scheduled to continue during the week of January 17-21 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.

If the judge, master, or registrar determines that the matter should continue during the week of Jan. 17-

21, 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.

***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**

***New Criminal Matters***

With the exception of criminal jury selections (addressed in the next para.), all criminal trials and other in-person criminal proceedings scheduled to begin or continue on January 17 (or during the week of January 17-21) will proceed as scheduled unless the Court orders otherwise in relation to the particular case.

***Criminal Jury Selections***

Any criminal jury selections scheduled for the week of January 17-21 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 24-28). Counsel and the accused person on a jury trial for which the jury selection is scheduled for the week of January 17-21 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.

**IN-PERSON PROCEEDINGS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN OR CONTINUE ON JANUARY 24 OR LATER**

The situation for in-person proceedings scheduled to begin or continue on January 24, 2022 or later will be assessed in light of the public health situation on or around January 19, 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 12, 2022**, Vancouver, British Columbia

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