

APR 27 2020

ENTERED



IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

RELATING TO THE COURT'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

ORDER

BEFORE THE HONOURABLE
CHIEF JUSTICE HINKSON

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Monday, the 27th day of
April 2020

ON THE COURT'S OWN MOTION:

WHEREAS

1. On March 18, 2020, pursuant to the *Emergency Program Act*, R.S.B.C 1996, c. 111, the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General made Ministerial Order No. M073 declaring that a state of emergency exists throughout the whole of the Province of British Columbia because of the COVID-19 pandemic;
2. On March 19, 2020, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of British Columbia 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;
3. On April 22, 2020, the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General made Ministerial Order No. M121. The Order authorizes the Chief Justice and the Associate Chief Justice to make certain orders until the state of emergency expires or is cancelled. The Chief Justice and the Associate Chief may order that some procedural steps in the *Supreme Court Civil Rules* and the *Supreme Court Family Rules* that otherwise must be taken before an application can be heard do not apply to applications where the procedural steps cannot reasonably be taken because of the COVID-19 pandemic or would be inconsistent with public health advisories; and
4. To facilitate the just, speedy and inexpensive determination of proceedings while protecting the health and safety of court users, until the conclusion of the state of emergency declared by the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, the Chief Justice has determined that the Court will expand the scope of applications that parties may make by written submissions.

THIS COURT ORDERS THAT:

1. The requirement in Rule 8-6 of the *Supreme Court Civil Rules* that an order must be made at a case planning conference before parties can make an application by written submissions does not apply to applications that may be made by written submissions and are scheduled pursuant to the COVID-19 Notice No. 14 dated April 27, 2020;
2. The requirement in Rule 7-1(2) of the *Supreme Court Family Rules* that a judicial case conference must be held before a party can serve another party a notice of application or affidavit in support does not apply to applications that may be made by written submissions and are scheduled pursuant to the COVID-19 Notice No.14 dated April 27, 2020; and
3. This Order will remain in effect until the state of emergency expires or is cancelled or until further order of the Chief Justice.



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Chief Justice Christopher E. Hinkson

Supreme Court of British Columbia