



MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Legal Profession and the Public

FROM: The Honourable Associate Chief Justice Heather J. Holmes

DATE: May 27, 2026

RE: New Criminal Rule 7 and the Ongoing Revision of Other Criminal Rules of the Supreme Court of British Columbia

This accompanies a new Criminal Rule 7 setting out the process for applications for a reduction in the number of years of imprisonment without eligibility for parole.

The new rule is made in accordance with ss. 745.64(1) and 482 of the *Criminal Code*. It replaces the former *British Columbia Rules of Practice Respecting Reduction in the Number of Years of Imprisonment Without Eligibility for Parole*, SOR/97-569, which will be repealed.

The new Rule 7, which will come into force on June 1, 2026, is published on the Court's website [here](#). There will be a period of transition to the new Forms 8 and 9 during which the Court will continue to accept applications using the old Forms, in recognition that there may be applicants who have prepared applications and affidavits using the old Forms, but have not yet filed them as of the date that the new Rule 7 comes into effect.

All of the Court's Criminal Rules are under review and revision and will be replaced in the coming months. The new Rule 7 is being issued in advance of the other revised rules because the former Rule 7 was out of accord with the current *Criminal Code* procedure, jurisprudence, and practice. Rule 7 may be revised further when the other rules are issued, including for consistency of formatting and usage with the other new rules.

Many individuals and groups within and outside the Court have generously given their time and expertise to assist the Court's Criminal Law Committee in the development of this rule and others. The contributions to the drafting of the new Rule 7 have been invaluable. I would like to thank in particular:

Todd Gerhart, Public Prosecution Service of Canada
Amanda Lord, Department of Justice Canada
Rebecca McConchie, Trial Lawyers Association of BC
Eric Purtzki, BC Prosecution Service
Lesley Ruzicka, K.C., BC Prosecution Service
Michael D. Smith, Legal Aid BC
Staff of Supreme Court Scheduling
Personnel of the Attorney General's Court Services Branch