



No. 2013/001

Practice Direction

Domestic Violence Docket
(Kamloops, Kelowna and Penticton Registries)

*Effective July 3, 2013**

Objective(s):

In order to improve the case management of domestic violence matters in the Provincial Court of British Columbia, by:

- Emphasizing the need for compliance with this Court's practice of setting domestic violence trials within 60 days of arraignment;
- Recognizing the possibility of multiple interim bail variation applications and charges alleging breach of bail conditions;
- Addressing the high level of trial uncertainty in matters alleging domestic violence; and in order to
- Provide increased certainty to family relationship circumstances before the Court.

I am directing the creation of a domestic violence docket at the following court registries: Kamloops, Kelowna and Penticton.

I make the following Practice Direction under my authority under section 11(1) of the *Provincial Court Act*.

Direction:

The domestic violence docket will be scheduled as follows:

- 1) The docket will be held periodically on dates determined by the Regional Administrative Judge pursuant to the delegated authority of the Chief Judge;
- 2) The trial list will be limited to eight files per docket, or as otherwise set by the Court;
- 3) The docket will be limited to cases involving intimate partner relationships. However, any cases where the offence alleged involves assault causing bodily harm, aggravated assault or assault with a weapon in a domestic

setting are exempted from this Practice Direction and will be scheduled according to the Court's general scheduling practices unless otherwise ordered by the Court;

- 4) The initial trial date will be fixed to occur not more than 60 days from the Arraignment Hearing date ("the Initial Trial Date");
- 5) Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, only one Crown witness will be required for the initial day of trial day;
- 6) Trials requiring a continuation will be set within 30 days of the initial trial date (the "Continuation Date");
- 7) No dates will be scheduled for matters on the Domestic Violence Docket apart from the Initial Trial Date and Continuation Date unless ordered by the Regional Administrative Judge.

Expectations of Counsel:

Counsel will be expected to reasonably arrange their calendars to facilitate implementation of this Direction.

Duration of Direction:

Until further direction of the Chief Judge.

Thomas J. Crabtree
Chief Judge

* Practice Direction 2013/001 has been amended since its formerly effective date of April 26, 2013.