

the accused. Self-represented litigants will be requested to contact local Crown counsel offices by email or telephone to schedule the pickup of paper disclosure packages.

5. If the matter needs to be adjourned, it will generally be adjourned for at least six to eight weeks so that by the next court date, the accused is in a position to do something substantive such as fix a date for a trial or pre-trial conference or resolve the file.
6. Defence counsel, upon accepting a Legal Aid contract, must advise the Crown counsel office responsible for the prosecution that they are representing the accused. Defence counsel are encouraged to do so in writing.
7. Counsel must communicate with each other before any court appearance so that the appearance will result in something substantive happening. If no counsel must adjourn the matter to another date without the parties having to attend court.
8. Court appearances are not required to obtain disclosure.

Pre-trial conferences

1. There will be mandatory pre-trial conferences before a judge for all initial appearance court matters that are being arraigned for more than a half day of court time in order to determine how the matter will proceed.
2. For further direction see: [Criminal Practice Direction \(CRIM 12\): Criminal Pre-Trial Conferences During COVID-19](#).

History of Practice Direction

- Original Practice Direction effective June 12, 2020.

I make this practice direction pursuant to my authority under the *Provincial Court Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 379.

Melissa Gillespie
Chief Judge
Provincial Court of British Columbia