





**(b) Judge Only Warrants**

The process for judge only warrants during the COVID-19 period set out in my March 26, 2020 memorandum is now replaced with following:

1. Peace officers are directed to contact the Justice Centre at 604-660-3263 for all judge only warrants. The Justice Centre staff will ensure that it is a judge only warrant and that all affidavits in support of the application for the warrant have been properly sworn. Peace officers must provide a photocopy of their identification with the application along with their contact information and the total number of pages to the application. The Justice Centre staff will then contact the Regional Administrative Judge ("RAJ") for the region from which the warrant application originates to provide them with the details of the application. The RAJ will direct how the application will be handled and may designate a specific judge from the region to deal with the application. The judge will contact the Justice Centre to determine how the application will be dealt with including how the documents will be received. Justice Centre staff will then relay directions to the officer.
2. It will be up to the individual judge how they want to receive and return documents. The use of couriers is not permitted but the documents can be exchanged in person using appropriate physical distancing and safety precautions. Alternatively, the judge can direct the peace officer to fax the documents to the court or personal fax number, or to the Justice Centre in which case the Justice Centre can then scan the faxed documents and email them to the judge's court issued email address.
3. The judge will review the application and either authorize the orders or provide reasons why the application is denied. The signed warrant and orders, or reasons for denial will be returned to the peace officer in the same manner the application was received. Except where the documents were exchanged in person, the judge will retain a copy of all the documents they reviewed together with the originally signed orders. The judge will deliver those documents to the applicable Court Registry or to another Court Registry for transmitting those documents via house mail to the applicable Court Registry. The peace officer will retain the originals of any documents transmitted to the judge and any faxed copies of authorized orders, and provide those to the applicable Court Registry, via the manner prescribed by the JP at that registry, to be combined with the documents the judge reviewed. The applicable Court Registry will place the original documents and any faxed copies of the documents along with the original signed orders and any faxed copies of the orders in one packet to be kept in the court file. Electronic signatures are not permitted on judge only warrants.
4. Applications for unsealing judge only warrants should be faxed to the Justice Centre for review by a judge and the same procedure set in paragraph 3 directly above applies. The Justice Centre may email the applications to the judge's court issued email to be reviewed.