



PROVINCIAL COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

The March 19, 2020 update replaces this update.

COVID-19 March 17, 2020 Update

Effective **Wednesday, March 18, 2020:**

FAMILY (including child protection (CFCSA) and maintenance enforcement (FMEA))

Family case conferences and CFCSA case conferences scheduled between March 16 and May 4, 2020 will not proceed so the parties should **not** attend Court. The parties will receive notification by May 4, 2020 regarding the next date they must attend Court.

Only urgent family, CFCSA, and FMEA matters **as determined** by a judge will be heard, including:

- a. requests for urgent relief relating to the safety of a child or parent;
- b. requests to obtain or set aside protection orders, or urgent orders involving parenting time, **contact** with a child or communication between parties;
- c. urgent **issues** that must be determined relating to the well-being of a child including essential **medical** decisions or issues relating to relocation, non-removal, wrongful removal or retention of a child;
- d. in a child protection case, all urgent or statutorily mandated matters, including the initial presentation hearing, the protection hearing, applications for supervision orders and for extension of time, and any other urgent motions or hearings; and
- e. applications to suspend, change or cancel any order for imprisonment or committal pursuant to the *Family Maintenance Enforcement Act*.

Applications to a judge for determining if the matter is urgent can be sent by fax to fax filing registries (see [GEN 01 Practice Direction](#)) or by mail to the applicable [court registry](#) until further notice.

All non-urgent family matters, including trials, scheduled to proceed between March 18 and May 16, 2020 are adjourned without the parties having to attend Court. See Adjournment Details for more information.

The Provincial Court registries will not accept any new non-urgent family filings between March 18, 2020 and May 16, 2020.

SMALL CLAIMS

Small claims case conferences scheduled between March 16 and May 4, 2020 will not proceed so the parties should not attend Court. The parties will receive notification by May 4, 2020 regarding the next date they must attend Court.

Only urgent small claims matters as determined by a judge will be heard, including applications:

- a. regarding outstanding warrants;
- b. to preserve limitation periods;
- c. to extend the time for filing pleadings where permitted under the Small Claims Rules; and
- d. to renew notices of claim.

Urgent small claims filings will only be accepted:

- electronically (where able) using [Court Services Online](#);
- by mail; or,
- by fax to fax filing registries (see [GEN 01 Practice Direction](#)).

Applications to a judge for determining if a matter is urgent can be sent by fax to fax filing registries (see [GEN 01 Practice Direction](#)) or by mail to the applicable [court registry](#) until further notice.

All non-urgent small claims matters, including trials and [Rule 9.1 Simplified Trials](#), scheduled to proceed between March 18, 2020 and May 16, 2020 are adjourned without the parties having to attend Court. See Adjournment Details for more information.

No new non-urgent small claims filings will be accepted by the Provincial Court registries between March 18, 2020 and May 16, 2020.

CRIMINAL (ADULT AND YOUTH)

PERSONS IN CUSTODY

The scheduling and hearing of in-custody criminal trials and sentencings will proceed unless adjourned by the Court on application by a party. Parties are encouraged to apply to use video conference for in custody sentencing and trials in criminal matters. You may call the [court registry](#) to schedule your telephone application before a judge to have a matter heard by videoconference. You may apply to adjourn a matter by calling the applicable [Judicial Case Manager](#). Adjournments due to COVID-19 will be noted as such in the Court file.

Consent remand matters will proceed by telephone or by submitting to the Judicial Case Manager the [Consent Remand Form](#) by email where available.

All judicial interim release (bail) hearings will continue to use video/telephone conferences in accordance with [CRIM 05 Hearing of Bail Applications](#) (instead of in-person appearances), unless a judge or justice orders otherwise. CRIM 05 generally provides that bail applications within Court sitting hours are assigned to be heard by judges in the locations where they are sitting, and bail applications occurring outside of Court sitting hours shall be referred to the Justice Centre.

PERSONS OUT OF CUSTODY (including Circuit Courts)

All out of custody criminal matters (initial appearances, remands, applications, trials, and sentencings) scheduled to proceed between March 18 and May 16, 2020 are adjourned without the parties attending Court. See Adjournment Details for more information. The Court file will record that these adjournments are due to COVID-19.

If you think your matter is urgent, you or your counsel may contact the applicable [Judicial Case Manager](#), and they will arrange to have a Provincial Court Judge determine by telephone whether the matter is urgent and any next steps.

JUDICIAL AUTHORIZATIONS

All applications for judicial authorization that can be made by telecommunication should be made by telecommunication for judicial consideration due to COVID-19 until further notice. This direction restricting in-person applications supercedes paras. 3 and 6 of [CRIM 03 Daytime Search Warrant Applications](#).

Applicants seeking judicial authorization for matters that by law must be applied for in person are to give consideration to the investigative urgency of the matter and seek judicial authorization where the matter is a priority. The Court may vet matters accordingly, decline to consider an in person application, or provide applicants with directions as to where a particular application may be made in person to a judicial officer.

TRAFFIC, TICKET OR BYLAW MATTERS

Traffic, ticket or bylaw matters scheduled from March 18 to May 4, 2020 will be adjourned without the disputant having to attend Court and will be rescheduled to a later date. A notice of a new Court date will be sent to the disputant by mail to the address on file with the Court.

This situation will continue to be monitored and information updated on the Provincial Court [website](#). The Court will post further information as it becomes available, so please continue to check our website at www.provincialcourt.bc.ca.

Expired



March 17, 2020

Adjournment Details

You should not attend Court in person for your family (including child protection (CFCSA) and maintenance enforcement (FMEA)), small claims, or criminal (adult and youth) court matter scheduled to proceed between March 18 and May 16, 2020.

If your court location is listed in the table immediately below, you will be required to contact the scheduling contact noted below for your location (by email or telephone) **on the date you were originally scheduled to attend Court** in order to set your next appearance date.

| AREA | COURT LOCATION | SCHEDULING CONTACT |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Cariboo | Quesnel (staffed) | Cariboo.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca 250-398-4377 |
| | Williams Lake (staffed) | |
| | 100 Mile House (circuit) | |
| | Anaheim Lake (circuit) | |
| Duncan | Duncan (staffed) | Dun.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca 250-746-1201 |
| | Ganges (circuit) | |
| East Kootenays | Cranbrook (staffed) | EKootenays.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca 250-426-1354 |
| | Golden (staffed) | |
| | Creston (circuit) | |
| | Fernie (circuit) | |
| | Invermere (circuit) | |
| | Sparwood (circuit) | |
| West Kootenays | Nelson (staffed) | WKootenays.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca 250-354-6870 |
| | Rossland (staffed) | |
| | Castlegar (circuit) | |
| | Grand Forks (circuit) | |
| | Nakusp (circuit) | |
| North Vancouver | Sechelt (staffed) | NVan.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca 604-981-0293 |
| | Pemberton (circuit) | |
| Peace District | Dawson Creek (staffed) | Peace.District.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca 250-787-3416 |
| | Chetwynd (circuit) | |
| | Tumbler Ridge (circuit) | |
| Penticton | Princeton (circuit) | Penticton.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca 250-492-1298 |
| Powell River | Powell River (staffed) | LCaporale@provincialcourt.bc.ca and YHadfield@provincialcourt.bc.ca |
| Prince George | Mackenzie (staffed by Service BC) | PG.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca 250-614-2740 or 250-614-2756 |
| | Valemount (staffed by Service BC) | |

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|---------------------|---|--|
| | Fort St. James (circuit) | |
| | Fraser Lake (circuit) | |
| | McBride (circuit) | |
| | Vanderhoof (circuit) | |
| Prince Rupert | Prince Rupert (staffed) | PrinceRupert.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca 250-847-7482 |
| | Masset (circuit) | |
| | Queen Charlotte (circuit) | |
| Smithers | Burns Lake (staffed) | Smithers.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca 250-847-7482 |
| | Smithers (staffed) | |
| | Hazelton (circuit) | |
| | Houston (circuit) | |
| Terrace | Fort Nelson (staffed) | Terrace.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca 250-638-2104 |
| | Dease Lake (circuit) | |
| | Kitimat (circuit) | |
| | New Aiyansh (circuit) | |
| | Stewart (circuit) | |
| Vernon | Salmon Arm (staffed) | Vernon.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca 250-549-5433 (Vernon) 250-833-3376 (Salmon Arm) |
| | Revelstoke (circuit) | |
| Western Communities | Western Communities – Colwood (staffed) | WestComm.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca 250-391-2880 |

For all other court locations **not** listed in the above table, your matter is adjourned to the date set out below to fix your next appearance date:

| If your matter is scheduled for... | Your matter is adjourned to fix a date for your next appearance on... |
|------------------------------------|---|
| March 18 | June 17 |
| March 19 | June 18 |
| March 20 | June 19 |
| March 23 | June 22 |
| March 24 | June 23 |
| March 25 | June 24 |
| March 26 | June 25 |
| March 27 | June 26 |
| March 30 | June 29 |
| March 31 | June 30 |
| April 1 | July 2 (STAT July 1) |
| April 2 | July 3 |
| April 3 | July 6 |
| April 6 | July 7 |
| April 7 | July 8 |
| April 8 | July 9 |
| April 9 | July 10 |

| | |
|----------|-----------------------|
| April 14 | July 13 |
| April 15 | July 14 |
| April 16 | July 15 |
| April 17 | July 16 |
| April 20 | July 17 |
| April 21 | July 20 |
| April 22 | July 21 |
| April 23 | July 22 |
| April 24 | July 23 |
| April 27 | July 24 |
| April 28 | July 27 |
| April 29 | July 28 |
| April 30 | July 29 |
| May 1 | July 30 |
| May 4 | July 31 |
| May 5 | August 4 (STAT Aug 3) |
| May 6 | August 5 |
| May 7 | August 6 |
| May 8 | August 7 |
| May 11 | August 10 |
| May 12 | August 11 |
| May 13 | August 12 |
| May 14 | August 13 |
| May 15 | August 14 |

****Note:** This does **not** apply to any family case conferences, CFCSA (child protection) case conferences or small claims case conferences or to traffic, ticket or bylaw matters.



March 18, 2020 (Updated March 19, 2020)

Adjournment Details

You should not attend Court in person for your family (including child protection (CFCSA) and maintenance enforcement (FMEA)), small claims, or criminal (adult and youth) court matter scheduled to proceed between March 18 and May 16, 2020, unless a judge has determined it to be urgent after receiving a request from a party for the matter to proceed.

See <https://www.provincialcourt.bc.ca/COVID19> for more information.

If your court location is listed in the table immediately below, you will be required to contact the scheduling contact noted below for your location (by email or telephone) **on the date you were originally scheduled to attend Court** in order to set your next appearance date.

| AREA | COURT LOCATION | SCHEDULING CONTACT |
|----------------|--------------------------|--|
| Campbell River | Campbell River (staffed) | CampbellRiver.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca |
| | Gold River (circuit) | 250-286-7556 (Mon and Tue) 250-334-1237 (Wed, Thu, and Fri) |
| Cariboo | Quesnel (staffed) | Cariboo.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca |
| | Williams Lake (staffed) | 250-398-4377 |
| | 100 Mile House (circuit) | |
| | Anaheim Lake (circuit) | |
| Courtenay | Courtenay (staffed) | Courtenay.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca 250-286-7556 (Mon and Tue) 250-334-1237 (Wed, Thu, and Fri) |
| Duncan | Ganges (circuit) | Dun.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca 250-746-1201 |
| Kamloops | Clearwater (circuit) | Kamloops.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca |
| | Lillooet (circuit) | 250-828-4086 |
| | Merritt (circuit) | |
| East Kootenays | Cranbrook (staffed) | EKootenays.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca |
| | Golden (staffed) | 250-426-1354 |
| | Creston (circuit) | |
| | Fernie (circuit) | |
| | Invermere (circuit) | |
| | Sparwood (circuit) | |
| West Kootenays | Nelson (staffed) | WKootenays.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca |
| | Rossland (staffed) | 250-354-6870 |
| | Castlegar (circuit) | |
| | Grand Forks (circuit) | |
| | Nakusp (circuit) | |

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| Peace District | Dawson Creek (staffed) | Peace.District.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca 250-787-3416 |
| | Chetwynd (circuit) | |
| | Tumbler Ridge (circuit) | |
| Penticton | Princeton (circuit) | Penticton.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca 250-492-1298 |
| Port Hardy | Port Hardy (staffed) | PortHardy.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca 250-286-7556 (Mon and Tue) 250-334-1237 (Wed, Thu, and Fri) |
| Powell River | Powell River (staffed) | LCaporale@provincialcourt.bc.ca and YHadfield@provincialcourt.bc.ca 604-485-3630 |
| Prince George | Mackenzie (staffed by Service BC) | PG.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca 250-614-2740 or 250-614-2756 |
| | Valemount (staffed by Service BC) | |
| | Fort St. James (circuit) | |
| | Fraser Lake (circuit) | |
| | McBride (circuit) | |
| | Vanderhoof (circuit) | |
| Prince Rupert | Prince Rupert (staffed) | PrinceRupert.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca 250-847-7482 |
| | Masset (circuit) | |
| | Queen Charlotte (circuit) | |
| Smithers | Burns Lake (staffed) | Smithers.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca 250-847-7482 |
| | Smithers (staffed) | |
| | Hazelton (circuit) | |
| | Houston (circuit) | |
| Terrace | Fort Nelson (staffed) | Terrace.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca 250-638-2140 |
| | Dease Lake (circuit) | |
| | Kitimat (circuit) | |
| | New Aiyansh (circuit) | |
| | Stewart (circuit) | |
| Vernon | Salmon Arm (staffed) | Vernon.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca 250-549-5433 (Vernon) 250-833-3376 (Salmon Arm) |
| | Revelstoke (circuit) | |

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| March 26 | June 25 |
| March 27 | June 26 |
| March 30 | June 29 |
| March 31 | June 30 |
| April 1 | July 2 (STAT July 1) |
| April 2 | July 3 |
| April 3 | July 6 |
| April 6 | July 7 |
| April 7 | July 8 |
| April 8 | July 9 |
| April 9 | July 10 |
| April 14 | July 13 |
| April 15 | July 14 |
| April 16 | July 15 |
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| April 20 | July 17 |
| April 21 | July 20 |
| April 22 | July 21 |
| April 23 | July 22 |
| April 24 | July 23 |
| April 27 | July 24 |
| April 28 | July 27 |
| April 29 | July 28 |
| April 30 | July 29 |
| May 1 | July 30 |
| May 4 | July 31 |
| May 5 | August 4 (STAT Aug 3) |
| May 6 | August 5 |
| May 7 | August 6 |
| May 8 | August 7 |
| May 11 | August 10 |
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| May 14 | August 13 |
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