

NOTICE

PROVINCIAL COURT OF MANITOBA

RE: COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS - VIRTUAL DOCKET APPEARANCES

In order to reopen the courts responsibly and remain vigilant about preventing the spread of COVID-19, the Court is seeking to reduce the number of persons attending court. Counsel are directed to contact their clients to ensure only those persons who have something meaningful occurring (such as a multi-day trial or disposition authorized pursuant to a Court Notice) attend court. The courts remain closed to the general public and for attending in person on all docket appearances. The Court is holding virtual dockets with counsel to deal with the matters on the docket. **Individual accused are not required to appear. If you are representing yourself, you should phone counsel or phone into the Court as detailed below.**

All persons having a court appearance should call their lawyer before their court date. Those who do not have a lawyer should call Legal Aid at the numbers below or call the Crown to discuss what is happening with their matter and arrange their next court date. Most people are not allowed to attend court in person, so it is **VERY IMPORTANT** you phone your lawyer/Legal Aid or the Crown in advance so that they can let the Court know what is happening with your charge. **If you do not contact your lawyer, Legal Aid, the Crown or phone into the Court on your Court appearance date (between 8:30 and 2:00 pm), a warrant may issue for your arrest.**

If you do not intend to be represented by a lawyer you should call the Crown to discuss what is happening with your matter and arrange your next court date. If you intend to retain a private bar lawyer you should contact them before your court date to speak to your matter.

If you do not have a lawyer retained or appointed at least 2 days before your court hearing date you can email tracing@legalaid.mb.ca or phone (204) 985-8506 or 1 (866) 261-2960 to get the number and/or email address for the Duty Counsel who will attend court where your charge(s) appears.

The offices below can also direct you to the correct Duty Counsel Lawyer so that lawyer can assist you.

Legal Aid duty counsel:	Email	Telephone
Winnipeg:	crimdco@legalaid.mb.ca	(204) 985-8572 or 1 (800) 261-2960
Portage la Prairie:	phoenix@legalaid.mb.ca	(204) 985-5222 or

		1 (855) 777-3759
Brandon:	brandon@legalaid.mb.ca	(204) 729-3484 or 1 (800) 876-7326
Dauphin:	amisk@legalaid.mb.ca	(204) 622-7000 or 1 (800) 810-6977
The Pas:	thepas@legalaid.mb.ca	(204) 627-4820 or 1 (800) 268-9790
Thompson:	thompson@legalaid.mb.ca	(204) 677-1211 or 1 (800) 665-0656

To apply for Legal Aid online visit www.legalaid.mb.ca, or call (204) 985-8511 or 1-866-800-8056 Monday-Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Please contact the Crown Attorney at the court center nearest to you.

Crown Attorney:	
Brandon	General Phone: (204) 726-6013
Dauphin	General Phone: (204) 622-2082
Portage la Prairie	General Phone: (204) 239-3343
The Pas	General Phone: (204) 627-8444
Thompson	General Phone: (204) 677-6766
Winnipeg	General Phone: (204) 945-2852

If you have not contacted your lawyer, Legal Aid or the Crown to arrange a remand date, **AND** you have a Winnipeg Court appearance, you can call **204-948-3138** between 8:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on your court date to arrange your next court date with the Staff Justice of the Peace.

In the regions, you can call the court office on your court date if you have not already spoken to the Crown or Legal Aid or your lawyer. It is much better for you to contact Legal Aid, your lawyer or the Crown, in advance, than to call the court on the day of your court appearance.

Thompson	204-677-6767
Flin Flon	204-687-1672

The Pas	204-627-8420
Selkirk	204-785-5077
Steinbach	204-346-6070
Brandon	204-726-7114
Dauphin	204-622-2192

The above steps are critical to reducing the number of people who attend court.

ISSUED BY:

“Original signed by:”

**The Honourable Chief Judge Margaret Wiebe
Provincial Court of Manitoba**

DATE: January 28, 2021