

NOTICE
PROVINCIAL COURT OF MANITOBA

RE: ACCESS TO WINNIPEG REMAND CENTRE (WRC)

The Provincial Court of Manitoba continues to assess its court processes in order to most efficiently provide quality justice to Manitobans. As you are aware, the Winnipeg Remand Centre (WRC) has not had counsel attend in person for some time. As a result, counsel were telephoning WRC and making appointments to speak to their clients. We were advised by counsel, in some cases they were having difficulty accessing their clients by phone. To help to alleviate the situation, WRC added telephone lines which are dedicated to consent releases, so these matters do not tie up the other lines for counsel. Notwithstanding this change, counsel continued to advise the court they were having difficulty contacting their clients before their appearance in court. As a result, some counsel are using the court time to speak to their clients on video. This practice has resulted in a slow down of the number of matters being heard across the Province given the limited video capabilities the court has at this time as well as the increased demand for video.

The WRC is again permitting counsel to attend in person as of Wednesday August 19, 2020. Please see the attached Notices. We are asking counsel to allow counsel who have bail matters the same day to have priority access to the in-person time slots available at WRC from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., in order to improve the running of the bail courts and other courts which rely on video.

Counsel can still contact their clients by telephone and LVI (on an expanded basis) and how to do so is also contained in the attached Notices.

Given the expanded use of telephone and the availability of in-person access at WRC, it should no longer be necessary for counsel to use the court video system to get instructions from their clients. This should assist in shortening the delays in video appearances.

These changes will take effect Wednesday, August 19, 2020.

ISSUED BY:

“Original signed by:”

**The Honourable Chief Judge
Margaret Wiebe**

DATE: August 18, 2020



Justice

Winnipeg Remand Centre

141 Kennedy Street

Winnipeg, Mb.

R3C 4N5

July 7, 2020

WRC PHONE ACCESS TO CLIENTS FOR CONSENT RELEASE MATTERS

Effective July 7, 2020 the Winnipeg Remand Centre (WRC) has established a temporary process to assist Legal Aid and Lawyers in speaking with applicants/clients for consent release matters.

To arrange a phone call to speak with an inmate for CONSENT RELEASE MATTERS ONLY:

- Please call **204-945-1960** and indicate you are calling about a **consent release matter**.
- Your call will be directed to the Admissions department where staff will work with you to arrange a time for the call, and obtain the contact information from you.
- Please ensure that the number you have provided is registered on the Lawyer phone number list for the Synergy phone system.
- The inmate will call you at the determined time to discuss the consent release matters.

Each inmate will be escorted down to Admissions for the call and will be issued a cordless phone to call and speak with you. The standard Lawyer privacy provisions are in place for this process.

Thank you.

Winnipeg Remand Centre
141 Kennedy Street
Winnipeg, Mb.
R3C 4N5

August 17, 2020

LEGAL AID /LAWYER IN-PERSON ACCESS TO CLIENTS

In addition to the existing Phone Access process and Consent Release Phone Access process for Legal Aid and Lawyers, effective Wednesday August 19, 2020 the Winnipeg Remand Centre (WRC) will resume facilitation of in-person access for counsel.

Please note the following:

- **Legal Aid/Lawyers wishing to attend WRC for an in-person meeting with a client will be required to bring and wear a mask at all times while onsite.**
- **On entry to WRC you will be required to sanitize your hands at one of the stations. You will also be required to participate in screening which will include:**
 - **You will be asked if you are experiencing any flu-like symptoms.**
 - **You will be asked if you have traveled outside of Manitoba in the last 14 days.**
 - **You will be asked whether you have had close contact with anyone having a confirmed case of COVID-19, or anyone having flu like symptoms.**
 - **Your temperature will be taken using a no-touch infrared thermometer.**
 - **You may be denied access based on the screening results.**
- **The number of available booths for in-person meetings are limited at this time due to the pandemic. Meetings will be facilitated on a first come-first served basis, you may have to wait outside the facility until space is available for you, and it will take longer to bring the inmate down for the meeting.**
- **The booths will be sanitized regularly. On the lawyer side a spray bottle containing sanitizer and paper towels will be available for you to spray and wipe the area prior to you using it.**
- **WRC will not disclose any health information regarding any inmate.**
- **Hours of operation for In-Person access will be 8am to 4pm, and 6pm to 8pm daily.**

Please be patient – Efforts will be taken to resume the in-person process as closely as possible to how it previously was, while ensuring we are following guidelines specific to COVID-19 requirements and recommendations.

Thank you.

Winnipeg Remand Centre
141 Kennedy Street
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R3C 4N5

August 17, 2020

LEGAL AID /LAWYER PHONE ACCESS TO CLIENTS - Updated

Effective March 25, 2020 the Winnipeg Remand Centre (WRC) has established a process to assist Legal Aid and Lawyers in speaking with applicants/clients via dedicated phones as an alternative to attending WRC.

Please note the following:

- **8am to 11am daily one phone has been reserved for Legal Aid access, and 2 phones are available for Lawyer access.**
- **After 11am all 3 phones are open to all counsel.**
- **30 minute timeslots have been established, with 3 bookings available during each timeslot.**
- **Bookings for timeslots will be accepted until 7pm daily.**
- **To book a timeslot please call 204-945-1960.**

Each inmate will be escorted down and secured in the identified booths for the calls and will be issued a cordless phone to call and speak with Legal Aid/their Lawyer. This will allow for the same degree of privacy afforded to an in-person lawyer visit at WRC.

While 3 booths have specifically been identified for phone access to clients, WRC has a limited number of booths available for in-person meetings with clients.

Thank you.