

NOTICE
PROVINCIAL COURT OF MANITOBA

RE: CHILD PROTECTION HEARINGS

Further to our previous Notices, due to COVID-19 health restrictions within Manitoba, this is to advise the profession, those communities where the court has not resumed sitting, the child protection dockets will continue to sit in the court centres for the month of October, 2020. Child protection matters will be heard in the communities at the following locations **Steinbach, Beausejour, Pine Falls, Peguis First Nation, Emerson, Portage la Prairie, Dauphin, Bloodvein, Cross Lake, Norway House and Little Grand Rapids.**

The Provincial Court of Manitoba is committed to re-opening a court sitting only when safety protocols and the resources to implement the safety protocols are in place to protect all participants and the community. The ability to implement such protocols is a challenging endeavour at this time affecting the opening of several circuit locations. We continue to work with our partners towards resuming court sittings, potentially in October in Pukatawagan. A further Notice will be released, shortly, if this comes to fruition.

The following dockets will sit in Winnipeg:

October 5 (Poplar River)
October 13 (Berens River)
October 22 (St. Martin)
October 30 (Garden Hill)

The following dockets will sit in The Pas:

October 27 (Pukatawagan)

The other directions in our Notice of April 16, 2020 will continue to apply to the child protection dockets listed above that are not taking place in the originating community.

Sometimes a party to a child protection proceeding is in custody. If a person is transported to a circuit court location, they will have to quarantine for 14 days upon return to the correctional centre. They do not have to quarantine if they appear in a courtroom in Winnipeg, Brandon, Portage la Prairie, Thompson or The Pas (unless they were transported for more than one day causing them to be housed in RCMP or local cells, or they share a vehicle or airplane transport with a new admission to the correctional centre). We ask counsel, wherever possible, for persons in custody to be scheduled to appear by video in the court centre to avoid the need for the 14 day quarantine and the impact on Sheriff resources which are being stretched due to the enforcement of COVID-19 protocols.

The directions in this Notice are subject to change as the circumstances and public health directives resulting from this pandemic change.

ISSUED BY:

“Original signed by:”

**The Honourable Chief Judge
Margaret Wiebe**

DATE: October 1, 2020