

NOTICE

PROVINCIAL COURT OF MANITOBA

Re: COVID-19 SUSPENSION AND RESTRICTION OF HEARINGS

November 10, 2020

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, all levels of Court have taken proactive preventative measures to protect the health and safety of all court users to help contain the spread of COVID-19. Given the current situation in Manitoba and the increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in the province, the Provincial Court of Manitoba is once again reducing court operations while continuing to ensure meaningful access to those with urgent matters.

Effective Thursday, November 12, 2020, all remaining circuit court sittings throughout Manitoba are cancelled until and including December 11, 2020 or until further notice. All circuit court matters will be adjourned to the first scheduled sitting of that circuit following December 11, 2020.

For all adult and youth **in custody** circuit matters counsel are encouraged to schedule teleconference case management meetings to discuss alternative options for hearings.

In addition to all circuit locations being cancelled, all adult and youth **out of custody** appearances in Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie, Brandon, Dauphin, The Pas and Thompson, including first appearances and trials between November 12, 2020 and December 11, 2020 are cancelled. Those having an appearance between these dates are encouraged to contact their lawyer, check the Manitoba Courts website or contact the court centre for specific appearance dates. All Inquests and Standing Hearings are also adjourned and the dates will be reset in the future.

The Provincial Court of Manitoba remains open to deal with **in custody** matters in all court centres (Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie, Brandon, Dauphin, The Pas and Thompson), and is available to hear applications with respect to other urgent matters.

Adult and youth **in custody** bail and disposition courts will continue to sit, with accused persons appearing by telephone (for matters not exceeding one hour) or video if available. Efforts will be made to facilitate counsel appearing by telephone when requested.

The Court does consider Child Protection proceedings to be a priority in the essential services provided by the Court during this time and therefore Child Protection dockets from the Court's circuit points will occur in the court centres of Winnipeg, Thompson, The Pas, Dauphin and Portage la Prairie, on the same date the child protection docket was to take place in the circuit court. The practices set out in our Notice of April 16, 2020 will be

in place again. Parents, guardians, parties to the proceedings and social workers will not be allowed to attend court in person. Counsel may attend but are encouraged to appear by telephone for the child protection dockets.

Child Protection trials are cancelled until and including December 11, 2020. Counsel are encouraged to contact the appropriate court centre to arrange teleconference case management meetings to discuss alternative options. The Court remains available to hear applications with respect to urgent matters.

Protection Order and Mental Health applications will continue to be heard by Judicial Justices of the Peace.

The Provincial Offences Court Office at 373 Broadway, in Winnipeg, will be closed to the public from November 12, 2020 to and including December 11, 2020. *Provincial Offences Act* matters (Winnipeg and Regional) including *Highway Traffic Act* matters scheduled to appear for a hearing at 373 Broadway between November 12, 2020 and December 11, 2020 will be adjourned without you being present and rescheduled for a later date. Notification of the new date and time will be sent to you. If you have any questions regarding your ticket please call 204-945-3156 or 1-800-282-8069 EXT 3156 or by email to POC@GOV.MB.CA

The out-of-custody Pre-trial Coordinator dockets will also be suspended until after December 11, 2020. The resumption date will be posted on the website. The in-custody Pre-Trial Coordinators docket will continue. Counsel should make arrangements in advance as to the remand date. If a date is not set in advance, counsel are encouraged to attend by phone.

Case Management Conferences will continue to be conducted by teleconference as scheduled.

The Provincial Court of Manitoba will continue to assess the situation on an ongoing basis.

ISSUED BY:

“Original signed by:”

**The Honourable Chief Judge
Margaret Wiebe**

DATE: November 10, 2020