

NOTICE

PROVINCIAL COURT OF MANITOBA

RESUMPTION OF LIMITED OUT OF CUSTODY DISPOSITIONS VIRTUALLY

RE: COVID-19 SUSPENSIONS, RESTRICTIONS AND RESUMPTIONS

January 27, 2021

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. Further to the Notice of January 22, 2021 the Provincial Court of Manitoba continues to take incremental steps towards re-opening courts by resuming the hearing of some out of custody dispositions of a half day or less in the major court centres of Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie, Brandon, Dauphin, The Pas and Thompson. This Notice applies to dispositions where all parties can appear virtually, including the accused and where no custody is being sought. Counsel and the accused are not to attend the courthouse in person.

The virtual appearance will be either by teleconference or videoconference where available. Appearance by videoconference may be limited by court location, availability of an appropriate courtroom or by the technology available to the parties and accused.

If you have a matter where a community based non custodial disposition (including conditional sentence orders and intermittent sentence orders) is being sought by counsel and/or the accused, you are asked to contact the Trial Coordinator in the appropriate regional court centre to schedule a date for disposition. At that time you will be advised if teleconference and/or videoconference is available and you will be required to provide the applicable contact information for all parties to allow for the scheduling of the appearance. Teleconference numbers and passwords are for the use of counsel only and are not to be provided to members of the public including accused persons.

Contact information for Trial Coordination in the major court centres is set out below.

Winnipeg: pctricalcoordinators@gov.mb.ca

Brandon: Louise.Hoad@gov.mb.ca

Dauphin: Jeannette.Brown-Porter@gov.mb.ca

Portage la Prairie: Sherry.Moffit@gov.mb.ca

The Pas: ThePasTrialCoordinator@gov.mb.ca

Thompson: ThompsonTrialCoordinator@gov.mb.ca

Any disposition imposed by the Judge will be explained in detail on the record and arrangements will be made for any paperwork to be forwarded to counsel, or directly to the accused electronically or by regular mail. The accused will not be required to attend the court office to sign the paperwork.

This procedure is intended to reduce the number of people attending court in person. Proceeding by teleconference or videoconference is always at the discretion of the presiding judge at the time of the disposition to ensure proceeding in a virtual manner is effective, appropriate and fair to those participating.

ISSUED BY:

“Original signed by:”

**The Honourable Chief Judge
Margaret Wiebe**

DATE: January 27, 2021