

**NOTICE TO THE PROFESSION**  
**MANITOBA COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH – MASTERS**  
**RE: COVID-19 UPDATE**  
**JANUARY 14, 2022**

The Notices issued by the Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench Masters on March 17, 2020, April 7, 2020, April 24, 2020, May 11, 2020, and September 1, 2021 are being updated with the changes noted below, **which are to take effect immediately, and continue in place until at least March 4, 2022, or further notice of the court.** These changes reflect the challenges related to the continuing and increasing threats associated with the COVID-19 virus and in particular, the alarming increase in the positivity rate within our communities. These changes will mirror those announced by the Chief Justice, Court of Queen's Bench for the period of January 10 to March 4, 2022.

Given the increasing rates of community transmission and potential impact on Manitoba's healthcare system, we are cancelling all in-person hearings set to proceed during this period, or until further notice. The Masters' courts in every jurisdiction will revert to the practices outlined in previous Notices to the Profession as follows:

**Maintenance Enforcement Dockets**

These dockets have been suspended in all regions until March 4, 2022 or until further notice.

### **Child Protection Dockets**

These dockets will continue remotely via teleconference in all judicial centres in Manitoba serviced by the masters in accordance with the process set out in the April 7, 2020, Notice from the Masters.

### **Masters' Civil and Family Uncontested List**

The Masters' Uncontested Lists will continue to operate via teleconference, in the manner described in the Notice issued by the Masters on May 11, 2020. The call-in number and ID for those matters on the daily uncontested list remain as follows for the Winnipeg Centre:

Toll-free dial-in number: 1-855-342-6455

Conference ID number: 5589296

For all other centres, the call-in numbers and ID remain the same as confirmed within prior notices from the court.

### **Bankruptcy Dockets**

The Bankruptcy dockets will continue to proceed remotely via teleconference until further direction from the court, in accordance with the May 11, 2020, Notice.

There will be no in-person attendances permitted. Any hearings requiring viva voce evidence that have been set to proceed between now and March 4, 2022, will be adjourned sine die. The parties may contact the Bankruptcy Coordinator to re-schedule these matters, or to have them placed back on the regular bankruptcy docket for further directions. If **all** involved parties are represented by counsel, they may seek a date and time to proceed with the hearing via video conference where capacity allows, and in accordance with previous practice directions.

### **Contested Motions**

Contested motions, family and civil, will continue to be heard via teleconference unless otherwise agreed with the presiding master. Upon request, where video capacity allows and all parties are represented by counsel, arrangements may be made to have contested motions heard via video conference rather than teleconference. These matters may be arranged in the normal course, either at the uncontested list appearance, or through the Masters' Coordinator with leave of the presiding master.

### **Uncontested Passing of Accounts and Hearings for Directions**

During the transition period, all uncontested Passing of Accounts or Hearings for Directions in respect of references, accountings or any other matters, will continue to proceed during this period via teleconference. Dates for appearances may be obtained in accordance with the rules.

### **Matters involving the provision of viva voce evidence**

All matters in which the master will be hearing viva voce evidence, and that have been set to proceed in person during this period of time, will be adjourned sine die, except as further outlined below.

If **all** parties are represented by counsel, the matter should be assumed to be proceeding at its scheduled time by video conference in accordance with previous notices to the profession. If one or more parties are self-represented, the matter will be adjourned sine die.

All parties impacted are directed to contact the Masters' Coordinator to schedule a follow up hearing for directions, which will proceed via teleconference, to set new dates and/or address issues that may arise as a result of these changes.

All other matters being addressed by the masters will continue as set out in the Notice to the Profession issued by the Masters on May 11, 2020.

**ISSUED BY:**

**"Original signed by Senior Master Karen L. Clearwater"**

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**Senior Master K. L. Clearwater**

**Date: January 14, 2022**