

NOTICE

COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH OF MANITOBA

RE: ADJUSTMENT TO CURRENT SCHEDULING PROTOCOLS APRIL 1, 2021, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Despite what is welcome optimism surrounding the arrival of vaccines, the uncertainty in relation to the COVID-19 variants pending a more full vaccination, calls for a continuing approach that is cautious and prudent when it comes to protecting all Court participants.

Accordingly, this Notice will confirm that for the General and Family Divisions, the scheduling protocols announced in the latest Practice Directions/Notices, will all continue to apply **from April 1, 2021, until further notice**. It should be assumed that this means the existing protocols will remain in effect until the end of June 2021.

A summary of these protocols is as follows:

General Division

- All judge-alone criminal trials for both in-custody and out-of-custody accused will proceed as scheduled and in person.
- Where there are counsel representing all parties, all civil trials will proceed as scheduled by video hearing.
- All other judicial services being offered by video or audio conference in the areas of criminal and civil law will continue as before unchanged.

Family Division

- Family Triage hearings, the Triage Screening List, motions, case conferences and JADRs will continue to be heard remotely by teleconference or video conference.
- Child Protection Intake Lists and child protection pre-trial conferences will continue to proceed by teleconference.
- Where there are counsel representing all parties, all family and child protection trials will proceed as scheduled by video hearing.

All other civil, family and child protection trials scheduled to commence **between April 1 and June 25, 2021** (where one or more parties are not represented by counsel), are adjourned to administrative lists for rescheduling. These adjourned trials will be appearing on Administrative Lists on **Friday, June 18, 2021**.

All jury trials scheduled to commence between **April 1 and June 25, 2021**, are presumed to be proceeding. However, as such trial dates approach based on the relevant circumstances as they exist at the time it may be that the trial cannot proceed. Counsel are to remain in regular communication with the pre-trial judge so as to be current as to whether the jury trial will be proceeding.

A video tutorial and related Questions and Answers on the functioning of a video conference trial are available on the Manitoba Courts website.

Going Forward

It is hoped that by the beginning of the fall term 2021, the situation with regard to the pandemic in Manitoba will be such so as to permit us to resume the Court of Queen's Bench's regular judicial service and scheduling. That said, it should be nonetheless understood that prior to the resumption of regular service and scheduling (whenever that may be confirmed), representatives from various segments of the profession will be consulted concerning the extent to which certain new and innovative approaches (technical and otherwise) necessitated by the pandemic, will be retained.

Coming into effect

This Notice comes into effect immediately.

ISSUED BY:

“Original signed by Chief Justice Glenn D. Joyal”

**The Honourable Chief Justice Glenn D. Joyal
Court of Queen's Bench (Manitoba)**

DATE: March 17, 2021