

**NOTICE TO THE PROFESSION
MANITOBA COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH – MASTERS
JUNE 9, 2022**

RE: COVID-19 UPDATE AND NEW PRACTICES FOR THE FALL OF 2022

There have been Notices issued by the Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench Masters on March 17, 2020, April 7, 2020, April 24, 2020, May 11, 2020, September 1, 2021, January 15, 2022 and March 1, 2022. While these notices continue to govern practice before the masters through this summer, they will be replaced by this notice in the fall.

THE NEW PRACTICES NOTED BELOW WILL BE EFFECTIVE IN FULL AS OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2022, AND WILL CONTINUE IN PLACE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE OF THE COURT.

These changes reflect a balance between the continuing health and safety risks for court participants related to COVID-19, available court resources, proportionality, access to justice and the nature of the work of the masters. These changes reflect, as close as is possible, the changes announced by the Chief Justice of Manitoba, the Chief Justice of Court of Queen's Bench and the Chief Judge of the Provincial Court on February 25, 2022 and May 13, 2022.

As noted, this notice will be in full force and effect as of **September 6, 2022**, and will impact service requirements for all matters noted as moving back to full in person hearings. Until that time, the previous directions, in particular the notice of March 1, 2022, will continue to guide proceedings before the masters. These changes reflect the move back to in person hearings for all matters that are not set to appear in masters' chambers, with some

exceptions in jurisdictions outside of Winnipeg as set out below. Concerning all other matters, as more specifically addressed below, there will be a continued use of available remote technology, with opportunity to implement flexibility in appropriate circumstances, on the request of the parties, and where resources allow. This notice will apply to practices in the masters' courts in every jurisdiction, except as expressly addressed below:

Maintenance Enforcement Dockets

These dockets recommenced on or about March 14, 2022, and will continue to run in all centres with no changes. Debtors who are summoned to appear on a Maintenance Enforcement docket in Manitoba are required to attend court in person. If debtors have legal counsel, counsel will also be required to appear in person. All COVID-19 Safety Procedures in force must be followed.

Child Protection Dockets

These dockets will return to in person dockets as of September 6, 2022, subject only to consideration of legal assistance continuing to be provided to impacted children without the necessity of a court appearance where circumstances permit, or as determined through further consultation with the bar. Persons or organizations required to be served in accordance with the relevant legislation must be served accordingly. Should circumstances arise which may justify proceeding with audio or video conferencing (where capacity allows) the parties must direct their request to the child protection coordinator, or scheduling coordinator as the case may be, for the consideration of the presiding master. Similarly, any matters that are appropriate to be brought to the attention of the presiding master prior to the docket for review, should continue to be so brought in the same fashion and

counsel should continue to file all relevant documents in advance of the docket wherever possible. This applies in all judicial centres in Manitoba serviced by the masters.

Masters' Civil and Family Uncontested List

The Masters' Uncontested Lists in all jurisdictions 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

In the event there are any questions with respect to scheduling of matters for outside of Winnipeg, counsel should contact the applicable Trial Coordinator:

Brandon: BrandonQBTrialCoordinator@gov.mb.ca (Michelle Brown's telephone number is 204-726-7430).

Dauphin: Shauna.Kachur@gov.mb.ca (telephone number is 204-622-2100).

Portage la Prairie: Sherry.Moffit@gov.mb.ca (telephone number is 204-239-3383).

Morden: Sheila.Jeffers@gov.mb.ca (telephone number is 204-822-2880).

Bankruptcy Dockets

The Bankruptcy dockets will return to full in person service as of September 6, 2022. All parties that are required to be served for the dockets on, or after that date, should be served appropriately for attendance at the relevant court facility. Should circumstances arise which may justify proceeding with a

matter by audio or video conferencing (where capacity allows), requests can be made to the appropriate scheduling coordinator for the consideration of the presiding registrar. This applies in all judicial centres in Manitoba serviced by the masters/registrars.

Contested Motions

Contested motions, family and civil, will continue to be heard via teleconference in all judicial centres serviced by the masters unless alternate arrangements are made at least 10 days in advance, and at the discretion of the presiding master.

Uncontested Passing of Accounts and Hearings for Directions

All uncontested Passing of Accounts or Hearings for Directions in respect of references, accountings or any other matters, will continue to be heard via teleconference in all judicial centres serviced by the masters unless alternate arrangements are made at least 10 days in advance, and at the discretion of the presiding master.

Matters involving the provision of viva voce evidence

All matters in which the master will be hearing viva voce evidence will be set to proceed in person. Should circumstances arise which may justify proceeding by video conference (where capacity permits) or teleconference, counsel may direct such a request to the presiding master through the appropriate scheduling coordinator in the relevant jurisdiction.

ISSUED BY:

“Original signed by Senior Master Karen L. Clearwater

**Senior Master K. L. Clearwater
June 9, 2022**