



The Provincial Court of Alberta

Effective Date: March 1, 2018

Court: All Criminal Courts

Practice Direction: 2018-ACC-01

Name: High Potency Narcotics

Purpose:

To take all reasonable steps to protect court personnel and users of court facilities from exposure to high potency narcotics by avoiding, whenever possible, the entry into court proceedings of exhibit evidence that contains or may contain, or may have come into contact with high potency narcotics, including fentanyl, carfentanil or similar toxic or dangerous substances ("HPN Exhibits").

Practice Direction:

In any proceeding where a party intends to introduce evidence that contains or may contain, or may have come into contact with high potency narcotics (HPN) including fentanyl, carfentanil, or similar toxic or dangerous substances, then:

1. Before the start date of the proceedings in which the HPN exhibit evidence is to be introduced, the party proposing to introduce that evidence shall contact all other parties and:
 - i) endeavor to obtain their agreement to admit, for the purposes of the particular proceeding, that the HPN evidence contains the substance or substances alleged; or,
 - ii) endeavor to obtain their agreement, for the purposes of the particular proceeding, to the introduction of any proposed HPN evidence through statement of fact, expert report, photographs, and/or certificate of analysis.
2. Where no agreement is reached under 1 above, the party proposing to introduce the HPN evidence or an HPN exhibit shall, in a timely way before the start of the proceeding, bring an application before the Court to obtain leave of the Court to admit the HPN exhibit or exhibits into evidence at the proceeding.

3. In the event that the Court grants leave to admit HPN Exhibits into evidence, the HPN Exhibits shall be brought to the courthouse double bagged, sealed, and clearly labelled in accordance with policies established by Resolution and Court Administration Services, which may be amended from time to time, to ensure the safety of all court participants.
4. The court clerk shall notify the court manager in the event that the HPN Exhibits are admitted into evidence.

Issued this 9th day of February, 2018 by direction of



**The Honourable T.J. Matchett
Chief Judge
The Provincial Court of Alberta**