



## CALGARY REGION CRIMINAL, FAMILY AND CIVIL DIVISIONS

### COURT RESUMPTION PROTOCOL – PART 3

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**(Drumheller Base Court locations: Drumheller, Hanna, Siksika and Strathmore)**

**Effective: September 8, 2020**

#### **Purpose:**

As the Provincial Court of Alberta begins to expand the services provided to Albertans while the Court Pandemic Plan still remains in effect, the purpose of this Practice Note is to update what types of matters will be heard in the regional locations listed above (Drumheller Base Court) and the manner in which they are to be addressed.

As of September 8, 2020, regional courthouses will re-open for the following matters:

- All criminal trials and preliminary inquiries
- Family court hearings
- Civil court hearings
- Traffic court mandatory court appearances and trials (see [covid-19 traffic court](#))

#### **Calgary Region Remote Court locations & Sittings**

All Regional Case Management offices will remain closed to in-person appearances. Appearances will continue to be via email or telephone pursuant to the [Case Management Office and Out of Custody Docket Court Business Resumption Protocol](#).

Everyone entering a courthouse in the Province of Alberta will be required to wear a mask or protective face covering in all public areas of the courthouse.

#### **Drumheller**

- Family and Civil Court hearings will be held the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of every month
  - Matters to be scheduled through the Case Management Office

- Either in person or remote appearance by counsel or self-represented litigants is permitted
- Criminal matters arising from Drumheller will be scheduled on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays of the month and will include the following:
  - Continuous court commencing at 9:30 a.m. and concluding no later than 3:30 p.m.
  - In custody matters and scheduled out of custody matters arising from Drumheller
  - Either in person or remote appearance of accused for dispositions is permitted
  - Remote appearance by counsel for dispositions is permitted
  - In custody and out of custody trials or preliminary inquiries
  - In person attendance for trials and preliminary inquiries by counsel and witnesses is expected unless prior arrangements made with the Court
- Criminal and Traffic Court trials arising from Drumheller will also be scheduled on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday and the 5<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month (when relevant)
- **Counsel will ensure witnesses for trials are staggered/on standby to ensure social distancing compliance and courtroom capacity limits are not exceeded**

### **Hanna**

- Family and Civil Court hearings as well as Criminal and Traffic Court trials arising from Hanna will be scheduled on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month (except for the month of December when it will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month) commencing at 10:00 a.m.
- Criminal in custody docket matters arising from Hanna will **also** be scheduled on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month (except for the month of December when it will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month) **in Drumheller courtroom 101** and will include the following:
  - Continuous court commencing at 9:30 a.m. and concluding no later than 3:30 p.m.
  - In custody docket and scheduled out of custody matters arising from Hanna
  - Consent releases; bail hearings under 20 minutes in length
  - Brief guilty pleas under 15 minutes in length
  - Guilty pleas and bail hearings that will take longer than 20 minutes will be scheduled through the Case Management Office (Drumheller) into hourly time slots beginning at 11:30 a.m.
  - Either in person or remote appearance of accused for dispositions is permitted
  - Remote appearance by counsel for docket and dispositions is permitted
- **Dispositions from Hanna can be scheduled on any day the Drumheller court is sitting for Criminal matters**
- Criminal out of custody docket matters arising from Hanna will be addressed through the Drumheller Clerk's office pursuant to the [Case Management Office and Out of Custody Docket Court Business Resumption Protocol](#).

## **Siksika**

- Family Court hearings and Judicial Dispute Resolution hearings will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.
- Criminal docket matters arising from Siksika will be scheduled on Thursdays and will include the following:
  - Continuous court commencing at 9:30 a.m. and concluding no later than 3:30 p.m.
  - The 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month will address scheduled dispositions, Pre-trial conferences, urgent bail hearings and confirmation hearings
  - The 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of each month will address in custody docket matters and scheduled out of custody dispositions
  - Consent releases; bail hearings under 20 minutes in length
  - Brief guilty pleas under 15 minutes in length
  - Either in person or remote appearance of accused for dispositions is permitted
  - Remote appearance by counsel is permitted.
- Criminal Trials and Traffic Court mandatory appearances and Trials arising out of Siksika will be scheduled on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month.

## **Strathmore**

Civil Court Hearings will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month

Family Court Hearings will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month

Criminal docket matters arising from Strathmore will be scheduled on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday and the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month and will include the following:

- Continuous court commencing at 9:30 a.m. and concluding no later than 3:30 p.m.
- In-custody docket matters and scheduled out of custody dispositions arising from Strathmore
- Consent releases; bail hearings under 20 minutes in length
- Brief guilty pleas under 15 minutes in length
- Guilty pleas and bail hearings that will take longer than 20 minutes will be scheduled through the Case Management Office into hourly time slots beginning at 11:30 a.m.
- Either in person or remote appearance of accused for dispositions is permitted
- Remote appearance by counsel is permitted

Criminal Trials arising out of Strathmore will be scheduled on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month.

Traffic Court mandatory appearances and Trials will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday and 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month.

As per: Assistant Chief Judge Durant  
Calgary Criminal and Regional Courts

Date: August 25, 2020