



CALGARY (CRIMINAL DIVISION) COURTS,

Effective June 14, 2021

COVID-19 Measures:

On June 8, 2021, the Provincial Court of Alberta announced further measures to respond to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. These measures are designed to gradually resume the safe operation of the Court. While the Court will consider government and health decisions applicable in the broader community, the court system is unique. People do not voluntarily choose to attend criminal court. They are required by law either as witnesses or persons charged with offences to come to court. A cautious approach is warranted in recognition of that fact.

That caution is reflected in two aspects of the plan. First, it provides for a gradual resumption of normal operations. This allows us to limit the number of people who must come to the courthouse. Second, it allows the Court to adjust the timing of other stages of re-opening based on the progress of vaccination, and the data relating to the prevalence and transmission of COVID in the community.

Beginning June 14, 2021

All trials, preliminary hearings, Fatality Inquiries, and other proceedings where witnesses are called will resume on an in-person basis. All of the participants in the trial process will appear in person. Applications for remote participation through the use of video technology must be made 30 days in advance of the trial date wherever possible. All safety measures – masking, physical distance, capacity limits, and plexiglass remain in place.

Traffic Trials June 28, 2021.

Scheduled trials for Traffic Tickets will resume as of June 28, 2021.

All other proceedings

All other scheduled docket and disposition court proceedings will be conducted by way of remote appearance by Webex or telephone, in accordance with existing Practice Notes.

Whether a disposition matter will be adjourned to permit or require personal appearance by the accused individual will be at the discretion of the presiding Judge, exercised in accordance with the law and existing Practice Notes.

Drug Treatment Court

The Calgary Drug Treatment Court can resume in person as appearance times are set to permit social distancing and capacity limits.

Calgary Indigenous Court

The Calgary Indigenous Court will continue, but all parties will appear remotely by Webex or telephone for docket appearances and in person for dispositions at the discretion of the presiding judge. Social distancing and capacity limits apply.

Pre-trial conferences

Pre-trial Conferences will continue remotely as scheduled by Judges Chambers.

Trial Confirmation Hearings

In-custody Trial Confirmation Hearings will continue, but all parties will appear remotely by Webex or telephone.

For out-of-custody Trial Confirmation hearings in which:

- a trial date has been previously set, the matter will be returned to the trial date with an endorsement on the court file that no trial confirmation hearing was held due to COVID-19 restrictions; or
- no trial date has been set, the matter will remain in the courtroom scheduled for the Trial Confirmation Hearing on the scheduled date for the sole purpose of adjourning to a future Trial Confirmation Hearing date and issuing a warrant to hold to maintain jurisdiction.

As per: Assistant Chief Judge Joshua B. Hawkes
Calgary Criminal and Regional Courts

Date: June 14, 2021