



## **COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH OF ALBERTA**

### **NOTICE TO THE PROFESSION AND PUBLIC**

#### **EXPEDITED DATES FOR FAMILY, CIVIL AND SURROGATE LAW HEARINGS**

1. This Notice to the Profession and Public confirms the requirements for seeking expedited dates in family, civil and surrogate law hearings (including Special Chambers applications and trials) in any judicial centre in the Province of Alberta.
2. Expedited dates are available only in cases where the Court accepts there is a strong *prima facie* case that serious consequences to persons or harm to property may arise if the hearing does not proceed on an expedited basis.
3. Whether or not a strong *prima facie* case exists will be determined by the Chief Justice or designated Associate Chief Justice or their delegates (including Regional Supervising Justices in regional court centres<sup>1</sup>).
4. No counsel or a party should request an expedited date from a Court staff member or from a Justice not delegated to approve such dates. Consent of the parties alone will not suffice for the ordering of an expedited hearing.
5. Any request for an expedited date must be made in writing to the Chief Justice, Associate Chief Justice, or their appointed delegate. Copies of any request for an expedited date in a regional court centre shall be directed to the Regional Supervising Justice.
6. Subject to any order, any such requests must be on notice to all parties to the matter.
7. All requests must:
  - a. Include any filed application/cross-application, sworn evidence, and, if applicable, filed or proposed oral hearing order pursuant to Notice to the Profession and Public NPP 2014-02;

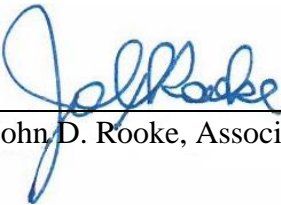
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<sup>1</sup> Drumheller, Hinton, Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge/Medicine Hat, Peace River/High Level, St. Paul, Red Deer/Wetaskiwin.

- b. Comply with applicable civil, family or surrogate law Practice Notes particularly regarding pre-hearing steps, failing which the request must include proposed detailed alternate dates for steps leading up to the requested expedited date;
  - c. Specify the parties' agreement, if any, regarding the time required for the hearing, with or without oral evidence;
  - d. Provide all parties' detailed availability for an expedited date.
8. This notice does not dispense with the obligations of counsel or parties to confirm that necessary forms have been filed and that any necessary hearing fees have been paid.



Mary T. Moreau, Chief Justice



John D. Rooke, Associate Chief Justice



Kenneth G. Nielsen, Associate Chief Justice