

## NOTICE

### PROVINCIAL COURT OF MANITOBA

#### Re: COVID-19 SUSPENSION AND RESTRICTION OF HEARINGS

**MARCH 16, 2020**

In order to take proactive preventative measures to protect the health and safety of all court users and to help contain the spread of COVID-19, The Provincial Court of Manitoba is reducing court operations while ensuring meaningful access to those with urgent matters.

Effective immediately, all circuit courts sittings throughout Manitoba are cancelled until and including May 1, 2020 or until further notice. All circuit court matters will be adjourned to the first scheduled sitting of that circuit following May 1, 2020.

For all adult and youth **in custody** circuit matters counsel are encouraged to schedule teleconference case management meetings to discuss alternative options for hearings.

In addition to all circuit locations being cancelled, all adult and youth **out of custody** appearances in Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie, Brandon, Dauphin, The Pas, Thompson, Selkirk, Steinbach, Swan River, Minnedosa, Morden, Flin Flon and Virden including first appearances and trials between March 17, 2020 and May 1, 2020 are cancelled. Those having an appearance between these dates are encouraged to contact their lawyer, check the Manitoba Courts website or contact the court centre for specific appearance dates. Efforts will be made throughout the province to increase the number of telephone points of contact for the public to access information.

The Provincial Court of Manitoba remains open to deal with **in custody** matters in all court centres (Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie, Brandon, Dauphin, The Pas and Thompson), and is available to hear applications with respect to other urgent matters.

Adult and youth **in custody** bail and disposition courts will continue to sit, with accused persons appearing by video if available. Efforts will be made to facilitate counsel appearing by telephone when requested.

Child Protection sittings including scheduled hearings are cancelled until and including May 1, 2020. Counsel are encouraged to contact the appropriate court centre to arrange teleconference case management meetings to discuss alternative options. The court remains available to hear applications with respect to urgent matters.

Protection Order applications will continue to be heard by Judicial Justices of the Peace.

Please be advised that the Provincial Offences Court Office at 373 Broadway Avenue, Winnipeg, will be closed to the public from March 17, 2020 to and including May 1, 2020. *Provincial Offences Act* matters (Winnipeg and Regional) including *Highway Traffic Act* matters scheduled to appear between March 17, 2020 and May 1, 2020 will be adjourned without you being present and rescheduled for a later date. Notification of the new date and time will be sent to you. If you have any questions regarding your ticket please call 204-945-3156 or 1-800-282-8069 EXT 3156 or by email to [POC@GOV.MB.CA](mailto:POC@GOV.MB.CA)

Case Management Conferences will continue as scheduled, but will be conducted by teleconference.

The Provincial Court of Manitoba will continue to assess the situation on an ongoing basis.

**ISSUED BY:**

***“Original signed by:”***

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**The Honourable Chief Judge  
Margaret Wiebe**

**DATE: March 16, 2020**