Nova Scotia Court of Appeal Practice Directive

Hague Convention Appeals

Protocol for Appeals Regarding the Inter-jurisdictional Abduction of Children, including international abductions engaging The 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (the "Hague Convention")

In recognition of the importance of fast-tracking appeals involving the interjurisdictional abduction of children, including international abductions which engage the Hague Convention, this Court has adopted the following protocol for expediting appeals raising this issue:

> Any appellant who proposes to raise an issue regarding the interjurisdictional abduction of children, including international abductions engaging the Hague Convention, is requested to provide a letter to the Registrar of the Court of Appeal when filing the Notice of Appeal/Application for Leave to Appeal, advising that the appeal raises this issue and asking that the appeal be expedited.

> If an appellant does not raise the issue and the respondent is of the view that the issue should be raised, then, on receiving the Notice of Appeal/Application for Leave to Appeal, the respondent is requested to, forthwith, file a letter with the Registrar, advising of the issue and asking for an expedited appeal.

> Upon receiving such letter, the Registrar shall refer the matter to the presiding Court of Appeal Chambers Judge or such other Judge as the Chief Justice may designate, for a pre-hearing conference. A pre-hearing conference with counsel (or with the parties, if unrepresented) will be scheduled without delay. The pre-hearing conference may be conducted by teleconference. The goals of the conference will be: to ensure an early hearing date; to arrange for the orderly filing and format of materials; and to make any ancillary orders required.

Every effort will be made to provide a hearing date as soon as practicable following the receipt of the letter requesting an expedited hearing.

Chief Justice Michael MacDonald
April 10, 2010