



## COVID-19: UPDATE ON NIGHT COURT MATTERS DURING THE PANDEMIC

Thursday, Aug. 20, 2020

Starting Sept. 1, 2020, some Night Court matters in Halifax will be proceeding to trial in person, if the hearing can proceed safely and provided the trial involves only one police witness. Others Night Court matters not proceeding in person will continue to be dealt with by telephone or adjourned.

Night Court deals primarily with summary offence matters, such as parking tickets and charges under the *Motor Vehicle Act*, the *Liquor Control Act*, municipal bylaws and some federal laws. Peace bond applications can also be heard in Night Court, however, most of those matters are being dealt with through a virtual process during the pandemic.

Court staff are contacting individuals who have a summary offence matter scheduled for trial in Halifax on Sept. 1, 2020, or later to advise whether the matter be proceeding and when it will happen. The dockets for Night Court in Halifax are also available on the [Dockets Page](#) of the Courts' website.

### Summary Offence Fines

Public access to courthouses continues to be restricted to those who work in the building, who are involved in a court hearing or those who have an appointment. No front counter services are available.

Individuals who want to pay a fine have the option to [pay online](#). Please note that you will need a debit card or credit card and your ticket number to complete an online payment.

For those who may need more time to pay, the Provincial Court has extended payment deadlines a further 90 days from the original due date on the ticket. That directive was first issued in March and has been extended twice, each time an additional 90 days, to help reduce the number of people that need to visit a courthouse during the pandemic.

For more information on changes to court operations and services in the Provincial Court and Youth Justice Court during the COVID-19 pandemic, please refer to the [Consolidated Directive](#) on the Courts of Nova Scotia website.

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