



Measures Applicable to the Supreme Court (including Family Division)

Jury Trials

Upcoming jury trials in the Supreme Court are postponed for a period of 60 days. This applies to all jury trials that have not yet commenced in court. The situation will be re-evaluated after the 60-day period.

Members of the public who have received a jury summons requiring them to come to court for jury duty within the next 60 days, and who are not presently sitting on a case, are officially released from that summons.

Jurors presently participating in a jury trial, are required to report to court as usual. Anyone exhibiting signs of the coronavirus should contact the Court immediately to seek further instructions from the judge presiding over the case they are involved with.

Pending Trials or Hearings

Where a matter has been set down for a hearing and the trial judge is known, all inquiries as to the conduct of future hearings are to be directed to the assigned judge.

Crownside

Where the prosecutor and the accused or their lawyer agree that a matter can be conducted by either telephone or videoconferencing, they must make a request to the Criminal Scheduling office at 902-424-7967 or 902-424-7963. Requests must be made by 10 a.m. the day before Crownside.

If counsel cannot agree on how the case should be heard, the presiding judge will provide that direction. In all cases, the presiding judge will make the final determination of how a matter will be heard.

Counsel can appear on behalf of an accused individual, provided that a Designation of Counsel form has been filed with the Court.

Where an accused individual is in custody and required to participate in court, arrangements will be made for the accused to participate via video from the correctional institution.

Where an accused individual is ordered to appear in Crownside, is not in custody and does not have counsel, they must call the Criminal Scheduling office at 902-424-7967 or 902-424-7963 to get directions on how to participate in their hearing.

Pretrial Conferences

Initial pre-trial conferences will be conducted by telephone unless otherwise directed.

General and Special Time Chambers

General and Special Time Chambers matters, including in the Family Division, will be conducted by telephone, unless cross-examination of a witness is required. This is a temporary arrangement only.

Whenever possible, counsel are asked to use a secure landline for these appearances, however, the Court recognizes that may not always be possible. If you must use a cell phone, please do so in a stable location with good cellular reception.

Foreclosures and Public Auctions

All foreclosure matters and public auctions inside courthouses are suspended until further notice.

Weddings

Until further notice, all civil weddings at the courthouses are cancelled. Individuals looking to get married outside a courthouse can find a list of Justices of the Peace who perform wedding ceremonies on the [Department of Justice website](#).

-30-

Media Contact:

Jennifer Stairs
Communications Director
Nova Scotia Judiciary
902-221-5257
stairsjl@courts.ns.ca

Court Contact:

Contact Information for all Supreme Court locations in Nova Scotia is available online at https://www.courts.ns.ca/Courthouse_Locations/Courthouse_Locations_Map.htm/.