



## **COVID-19: SUPREME COURT (GENERAL DIVISION) TO ALLOW TELECHAMBERS IN HALIFAX**

**Wednesday, April 29, 2020**

Effective May 4, 2020, the Nova Scotia Supreme Court (General Division) is expanding its essential services model during the COVID-19 pandemic to allow General Chambers matters in Halifax to proceed by telephone, with the judge and judicial assistant participating remotely.

To date, court matters that have gone ahead during the pandemic required a judge and court staff to be physically in the courtroom for the matter to be on the record. Counsel and parties participated by telephone or video. This new setup for General Chambers is the first step toward entirely remote court proceedings, which will enable expanded access to the Courts without compromising the health and safety of staff, judges and the public.

General Chambers in Halifax will be held daily (Monday to Friday) beginning at 9:30 a.m. Appearance Day will be held once a week, on Fridays, beginning at 12:00 p.m. As per the [March 26, 2020, e-filing directive](#), documents for General Chambers and Appearance Day matters should be emailed or faxed to the Court.

A list of email addresses and fax numbers for all Supreme Court locations is available at [https://www.courts.ns.ca/News\\_of\\_Courts/COVID19\\_Preventative\\_Measures.htm](https://www.courts.ns.ca/News_of_Courts/COVID19_Preventative_Measures.htm).

Individuals who need to file documents but do not have access to a computer or fax machine should contact the courthouse for further directions.

Counsel and parties involved in a General Chambers matter must provide the Court with a telephone number when they file their documents. Whenever possible, the number provided should be a secure landline. Counsel and the parties must be available, at that number, anytime between 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. the day their matter is scheduled to be heard to receive the call from the Court. If counsel or the parties cannot be reached at the number provided, the matter will be removed from the docket for that day.

Once telechambers has been tested successfully in Halifax, this setup will be implemented for Chambers matters in the districts.

## **Payment of Fees**

In most instances, payment for filing will be done through an invoicing system. An invoice will be provided once documents are accepted by the Court. In some instances, individuals may be asked to submit the filing fee by another means. Please check with Court Administration staff at the courthouse as to the preferred method for that location.

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