



COVID-19 ACCOMMODATIONS IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NOVA SCOTIA WILL END ON APRIL 4, 2022

Wednesday, March 23, 2022

In April 2020, the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia announced temporary accommodations that would make it easier and safer for counsel and self-represented individuals to prepare for civil and family matters that were proceeding in the Supreme Court during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On [April 2, 2020](#), the Court issued a Notice that it would allow the commissioning of virtual affidavits in circumstances where it was not possible or was medically unsafe for the deponent to physically attend before a commissioner. Two weeks later, in a Notice issued on [April 17, 2020](#), the Court announced that it would permit personal service to be effected by email, provided the recipient or counsel on behalf of the recipient agreed in advance to receive the documents via email. As well, the party serving the documents had to receive an acknowledgement of receipt.

These temporary accommodations were necessary to enable counsel and others to fulfill necessary steps outlined in the Civil Procedure Rules, while the Province of Nova Scotia was in a State of Emergency.

On March 21, 2022, the Province entered Phase 3 of its reopening plan and lifted the State of Emergency. **As such, the temporary accommodations that were put in place at the start of the pandemic are no longer required and will end, effective Monday, April 4, 2022.**

Until further notice, the Supreme Court will continue to operate under a safe services model, and as per the [March 18, 2022, Notice](#), all current COVID-19 restrictions in place in the Nova Scotia Courts, including masking, will continue. The All Courts COVID-19 Recovery Committee will continue to assess the situation to determine when these restrictions can be further eased or lifted entirely.

For information on the various Supreme Court directives related to COVID-19, please visit https://www.courts.ns.ca/News_of_Courts/COVID19_Preventative_Measures.htm.

Media Contact:

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