



April 17, 2020

COURT OF APPEAL FOR SASKATCHEWAN

NOTICE TO THE PROFESSION, THE PUBLIC
AND THE MEDIA CONCERNING ELECTRONIC HEARINGS

Introduction

Since March 23, 2020, the Court of Appeal for Saskatchewan has heard all appeals and applications electronically, either by teleconference or by videoconference.

This Notice is intended to clarify various issues relating specifically to electronic appeals and applications.

Counsel and Self-Represented Litigants

The Court's registry office will arrange for the participation of counsel and self-represented litigants by extending an invitation to an electronic hearing, either by providing call-in information for a hearing by teleconference or by sending a WebEx meeting invitation for a hearing by videoconference.

Counsel who wish to have their clients observe a hearing must provide the Court's registry office (caregistrar@sasklawcourts.ca) with contact information, specifically a telephone number (for a hearing by teleconference) or an email address (for a hearing by videoconference) for the client at least one clear day before the hearing date. The registry office will send all necessary invitations. Counsel are not to share their invitation link or conference call passcode with their clients.

Counsel and self-represented litigants will not be able to file documents with the Court during an electronic hearing. Any documents that have not already been provided to the Court and that counsel or self-represented litigants wish to file must be provided to the other party(s) and the Court's registry office at least one clear day before the hearing date.

Counsel are expected to gown for electronic hearings before a panel of the Court in the same way as they would if the proceeding was conducted in person.

Media and Public

The Court recognizes the important role that members of the media play in informing the public about what takes place in court. Accredited members of the media may listen to or observe electronic hearings as they occur by contacting the Court's registry office in advance for instructions. Members of the public who wish to listen to or observe electronic hearings should also contact the Court's registry office. Registry office staff, in consultation with the Court, will determine whether public access is possible on a case by case basis.

Technological Requirements for All Participants in WebEx Video Conferences

Participants must install WebEx Meetings on their computers or devices prior to the hearing. It is the responsibility of each participant to ensure that their equipment is functioning correctly and that their internet service can accommodate the bandwidth video conferencing requires. WebEx provides a web-based tool to test an internet connection. A participant who wishes to schedule a test call with Court staff prior to the hearing date should contact the Court's registry office at least one clear day before the hearing at the email address above.

Prohibition on Recording or Saving a Recording of an Electronic Hearing

The usual courtroom guidelines (which can be found at www.sasklawcourts.ca) continue to apply to the audio and video of an electronic hearing. Participants may not record or save still images or audio or video of the hearing unless they are accredited members of the media. Accredited members of the media may use recording devices or save audio recordings for the purpose of ensuring the accuracy of their reporting but not for broadcast or publication.

The Honourable Robert G. Richards
Chief Justice of Saskatchewan

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Watch the COVID-19 Update webpages for each of Saskatchewan's three courts to keep up to date on their response to the challenges posed by COVID-19.

- Court of Appeal: <https://sasklawcourts.ca/index.php/home/court-of-appeal/covid-19>
- Court of Queen's Bench: <https://sasklawcourts.ca/index.php/home/court-of-queen-s-bench/covid-19-update>
- Provincial Court: <https://sasklawcourts.ca/index.php/home/provincial-court/covid-19-update>

COURTS COMMUNICATIONS: desk 306-787-9602; cell 306-533-1114; email dblaus@sasklawcourts.ca