



COURT OF KING'S BENCH FOR
SASKATCHEWAN

CRIMINAL PRACTICE DIRECTIVE #3

SAFE HANDLING OF ADMISSIBLE LARGE OR SENSITIVE EXHIBITS

REFERENCE: CRIM-PD #3

Effective: April 1, 2017

Revised: November 1, 2023

1. In order to promote the safe handling of exhibits and the efficiency of court proceedings, counsel are encouraged to reach agreement on the filing of exhibits prior to trial.
2. Whenever possible, photographs of drugs, money, weapons, or large or bulky exhibits, should be tendered instead of the actual exhibit. In drug cases, this extends to tendering a photograph of the drug instead of the drug, as well as tendering a photograph of the H envelope containing the sample of the drug instead of the H envelope.
3. In the event a firearm is tendered as an exhibit, the firearm should be trigger-locked or otherwise rendered inoperable. Whenever possible, firearms should be tendered into evidence through a witness trained in the handling of firearms.
4. This directive is intended to address how large and sensitive exhibits might be tendered as evidence and does not affect the admissibility of exhibits.
5. Counsel are reminded of the applicability of the following provisions of the *Criminal Code*:

Section 603(a) of the *Criminal Code* permits the accused, after he has been ordered to stand trial or at his trial, to inspect the evidence and the exhibits.

With respect to proceedings pursuant to ss. 334, 344, 348, 354, 355.4, 355.4, 362 or 380 of the *Criminal Code*, s. 491.2(2) permits the use of photographs. Notice is required pursuant to s. 491.2(5).

Chief Justice M.D. Popescul
Court of King's Bench for Saskatchewan