



COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH FOR SASKATCHEWAN DIRECTIVE UPDATE

As of September 15, 2021

This Directive **updates** the Directive that became effective September 7, 2021. The Saskatchewan Court of Queen's Bench continues to monitor and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Court is mindful of its responsibility, as an essential service, to continue to operate while simultaneously ensuring that appropriate safeguards are put in place to protect those who work within, and interact with, the Court.

Accordingly, as a result of the worsening of the spread of COVID-19 within the Province, the Court will reintroduce some measures that were removed in the most recent Directive that came into effect September 7, 2021. In particular, the Court will, effective immediately, revert to hearing all Civil and Family Chambers matters, presumptively, by telephone. New applications should contain the "notice" advising the parties that all chambers appearances will be by telephone, unless otherwise ordered. This Directive stands as an amendment to the practice in Civil and Family Chambers only. Child Protection Chambers continue to proceed by telephone only, in accordance with the process outlined in the September 7th Directive. Specific details are set out below.

CONTENTS

PART 1 - EFFECTIVE DATE

PART 2 - CIVIL AND FAMILY CHAMBERS APPLICATIONS

PART 3 - UPDATES TO THE DIRECTIVE

PART 1 - EFFECTIVE DATE

This Directive update, subject to the specific dates mentioned herein, takes effect September 15, 2021.

PART 2 – CIVIL AND FAMILY CHAMBERS APPLICATIONS

Civil and Family Chambers Presumptively by Telephone

All Civil and Family Chambers applications shall be heard by telephone, unless the presiding judge grants permission or directs a party or parties to appear in person. A party who wishes to appear in person must notify the local registrar of their request to appear in person at least two business days prior to the hearing date, after which the presiding judge will determine whether the party will be permitted to appear in person rather than by telephone.

All parties appearing by telephone shall provide to the local registrar the telephone number where they can be reached on the date and time scheduled for their chambers attendance and shall remain available by telephone at that number on that date until their matter is heard.

Amendment to Notice of Application Forms for Civil and Family Chambers

Until further notice, all Notices of Application, Originating Applications, Applications for Variation or any other hearing notices returnable to chambers (other than Child Protection applications) must contain the following notice immediately below the date and time set for the chambers appearance:

“Due to the health risks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, all chambers applications will be heard by telephone unless the presiding judge has decided otherwise. To confirm the telephone number where you can be reached on the date of the application, **you must immediately** contact the office of the local registrar at **(306)** (insert telephone number of local registrar) and provide your telephone number. You must remain available by telephone at that number on that date until your matter is heard.”

Chambers by Video Conferencing

Where counsel or a party requests that a chambers application be conducted by video conference, they must notify the local registrar of their request at least two business days prior to the chambers date, after which the presiding judge will determine whether the party will be permitted to appear by video conferencing rather than by telephone. The use of video conferencing is subject to the discretion of the chambers judge.

Civil and Family Chambers Lists

Civil and Family Chambers lists will be available to parties or counsel, on request, the morning of the chambers date, in a manner to be determined by the local registrar.

PART 3 - UPDATES TO THE DIRECTIVE

As the circumstances of the operational challenges posed by COVID-19 change, the terms of this Directive may be amended. Please check the “Covid Message” tab at the Court’s web page for amendments:

<https://sasklawcourts.ca/home/covid-19-update/>

CHIEF JUSTICE M.D. POPESCU