



March 20, 2020

## COURT OF APPEAL FOR SASKATCHEWAN

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

#### **Introduction**

The Court of Appeal for Saskatchewan is actively monitoring the COVID-19 situation and is acting on the advice of public health authorities. It will adjust its operations as necessary in order to protect the health of its staff, the individuals involved in its proceedings and the public at large while, at the same time, maintaining those operations to the extent safely and reasonably possible.

#### **Appeals and Applications to the Court**

Effective March 23, 2020, all matters before a panel of three judges (appeals or applications) will be heard either by teleconference, or by videoconference if videoconferencing is available. If a party believes an in-person oral hearing is necessary, he or she shall explain the reasons for so believing in a letter or email to the Registrar. The Chief Justice or his designate will then make a ruling on how and when the matter will proceed.

The parties may consent to having an appeal or application decided on the basis of written materials only.

The parties may consent to adjourn an appeal or application sine die. The Registrar must be advised as far in advance of the scheduled hearing date as possible if there is to be a consent adjournment.

#### **Chambers Applications**

Effective March 23, 2020, all matters heard by a single judge in Chambers will be heard by teleconference or videoconference if videoconferencing is available. If a party believes an in person oral hearing is necessary, he or she shall explain the reasons for so believing in a letter or email to the Registrar. The Chambers judge will then make a ruling on how and when the matter will proceed.

The parties may consent to having a Chambers application decided on the basis of written materials only.

The parties may consent to adjourn an application sine die. The Registrar must be advised as far in advance of the scheduled hearing date as possible if there is to be a consent adjournment.

### **Limitation Periods**

Limitation periods prescribed by statute have not changed. Notices of appeal and applications for leave to appeal must be filed within the applicable timelines.

### **Filing Deadlines**

Anyone who is unable to meet a filing deadline that is not prescribed by statute (such as the ones relating to the filing of factums and appeal books) because of issues related to COVID-19 or the efforts being made to contain it, may write to the Registrar by letter or email in advance of the deadline to request an extension.

### **The Registry Office and the Mechanics of Filing**

In order to maintain social distancing, the door of the Registry office will be closed. However, Registry staff will continue to offer assistance to lawyers and self-represented litigants by telephone at (306) 787-5382 and by email at [caregistrar@sasklawcourts.ca](mailto:caregistrar@sasklawcourts.ca).

Documents can be delivered to the Registry office via eCourt or by regular mail, email or fax at (306) 787-5815. For documents delivered via eCourt, automatic notification is sent to the filing party when the document is approved for filing or rejected. For documents delivered by regular mail, email or fax, Registry staff will notify litigants by telephone or email if the documents are not approved for filing. For litigants who are unable to use regular mail, email or fax and who need to file documents in person at the Registry office, there is a drop box available. Registry office staff will check the drop box several times each day. They will notify litigants by telephone or email if the documents are not approved for filing.

### **COVID-19 Protocols**

Everyone who enters the court house or attends Court of Appeal proceedings in person must act in accordance with the applicable [COVID-19 protocols](#).

*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](mailto:dblaus@sasklawcourts.ca)