



COURT OF KING'S BENCH FOR  
SASKATCHEWAN

## GENERAL APPLICATION PRACTICE DIRECTIVE #5

### GOWNING POLICY FOR COUNSEL

**REFERENCE:** GA-PD #5

**Effective:** July 17, 2023

**Revised:** Practice Directive GA-PD #5 issued May 1, 2020, is repealed and replaced with this revised Practice Directive GA-PD #5 effective July 17, 2023.

#### Information Note

Gowning is part of our legal heritage. It reminds lawyers of their special privilege to represent parties before His Majesty's superior courts. It is also a uniform that removes visual distinction between counsel and symbolically places all counsel on the same level at the Bar, excepting only the distinction between barrister and King's Counsel robes. Proper attire and wearing that attire in a proper manner is a mark of professionalism.

Unless the presiding judge otherwise directs:

1. Counsel are required to gown for all appearances before the Court of King's Bench, except for the appearances described in paragraph 2.
2. Counsel are not required to gown for:
  - a) chambers;
  - b) pre-trial conferences;
  - c) *The Residential Tenancies Act, 2006* appeals heard in chambers;
  - d) bail reviews; and
  - e) in detention review chambers under s. 525 of the *Criminal Code*.
3. Gowning means court shirt, court vest, tabs and robe, without additional adornment. Dress pants or skirts are black, charcoal gray or morning stripe. Shoes or pumps are black.

4. King's Counsel robes, vest and tabs are to be worn only by the barristers so appointed.
5. Counsel may modify their traditional court attire in order to accommodate their personal circumstances. Counsel wearing altered attire are requested to advise the court clerk or the local registrar in advance of the appearance to ensure that they do not need to discuss their personal circumstances or modified attire on the record or in open court.

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

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