



COURT OF KING'S BENCH  
FOR SASKATCHEWAN

## CRIMINAL PRACTICE DIRECTIVE #15

### BENCH WARRANTS

**REFERENCE: CRIM-PD #15**

**Effective:** May 1, 2026

1. When an accused fails to appear for trial before the Court of King's Bench, which includes pre-trial motions and sentencing, a judge may issue a warrant for their arrest pursuant to s. 597 of the *Criminal Code*, RSC 1985, c C-46.
2. A warrant issued pursuant to paragraph 1 shall be endorsed "not to be released except by a judge of the Court of King's Bench for Saskatchewan". Upon execution the accused shall be brought before the Court of King's Bench at the earliest possible date.
3. Notwithstanding the filing of a designation of counsel, a judge may, pursuant to s. 650.01 of the *Criminal Code*, issue a summons or warrant to compel the personal attendance of the accused, Similarly, a justice may issue a summons or warrant, pursuant to s. 512 of the *Criminal Code*, where there are reasonable and probable grounds to believe it may be necessary in the public interest. Generally, these warrants will be issued by a pre-trial judge to compel the attendance of an accused who has lost contact with designated counsel, or if counsel has sought leave or been granted leave to withdraw.
4. A warrant issued pursuant to paragraph 3 shall be endorsed "not to be released prior to appearing before a judge of the Court of King's Bench for Saskatchewan and thereafter to be dealt with according to law". Upon execution of the warrant, the accused shall be brought before the Court of King's Bench at the earliest possible date.
5. Where the Crown applies to revoke the accused's previous release following the execution of a warrant issued pursuant to paragraph 1 of this practice directive (failure to appear at trial) or if the accused is charged with a s. 469 offence or is the subject of a direct indictment, the revocation hearing shall be held in the Court of King's Bench for Saskatchewan. All other revocation hearings shall be held in Provincial Court after the accused has appeared in the Court of King's Bench for Saskatchewan pursuant to the warrant.

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