



COURT OF KING'S BENCH  
FOR SASKATCHEWAN

## CRIMINAL PRACTICE DIRECTIVE #16

### WITNESS WARRANTS

**REFERENCE: CRIM-PD #16**

**Effective:** May 1, 2026

1. Where a witness has been served with a subpoena or is bound by a recognizance to give evidence in a proceeding before the Court of King's Bench, fails to attend or remain in attendance, a judge may issue a Form 17 warrant for their arrest pursuant to s. 705 of the *Criminal Code*, RSC 1985, c C-46, and such warrant shall be endorsed "not to be released except by a judge of the Court of King's Bench for Saskatchewan".
2. Where the proceeding concludes before execution of the warrant, it is the Crown's obligation to determine whether to seek cancellation of the witness warrant having regard to s. 706 of the *Criminal Code*.
3. An application to cancel a witness warrant issued pursuant to this practice directive shall be made to the Court of King's Bench.
4. This practice directive does not limit the Crown's ability to proceed under s. 708 of the *Criminal Code* [contempt of court].

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