

## PRACTICE NOTE 2014 – 2

### CALGARY REGIONAL COURTS

#### DISPOSITION COURT - COURTROOM 507 (WEDNESDAYS)

EFFECTIVE: 02 July 2014

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Purpose: To create a Calgary Regional Disposition Courtroom (CRDC) located at the Calgary Court Centre to hear designated sentencing matters (with crown consent) from Calgary area regional courts. The goal of this project is to free up limited courtroom availability at the regional courts and thereby reduce regional court trial lead times.

#### Guidelines for Transfer of Sentencing Matters to CRDC:

1. Only matters where the accused is represented by counsel would be considered for transfer.
2. Matters may be transferred to the CRDC only with the consent of the Crown.
3. To effect the purpose stated above, it will be important to consider the following in determining whether a given case is appropriate for transfer from a regional court to this Calgary Regional Disposition Court (CRDC):
  - a. Impact to the local community of the proposed transfer for disposition;
  - b. What are the current trial/preliminary inquiry lead times in the local community? (The longer the lead times, the greater the need to consider the option of transfer to Calgary for disposition);
  - c. Will the transfer free up court time in the affected region for trial matters?  
Specifically:
    - Is the matter currently set for trial?
    - If so, can the trial time still be used if the matter is transferred to Calgary for disposition? (Generally, if the trial is less than three (3) months ahead, it may be difficult to reuse the time effectively).
    - Is the matter likely to be set for or continue to trial but for the CRDC disposition opportunity?
4. If after considering the above criteria, the Crown is of the view that the matter is appropriate for transfer to Calgary for disposition, it is expected that Crown counsel will proactively communicate with defence counsel in an effort to effect such transfer and disposition as soon as possible, in order to free up regional court trial time. Similarly, defence counsel are encouraged to contact Regional crown on any matter where resolution by this process may be feasible.

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Procedure:

Effective July 2, 2014 Defence Counsel, **with consent of the Crown**, will be able to schedule regional Court matters from **Airdrie, Canmore, Cochrane, Didsbury, Okotoks, Siksika, Strathmore or Turner Valley** for disposition into **Courtroom 507** at the **Calgary Courts Centre, every Wednesday, on or after September 3, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. or 2:00 p.m.**

The Calgary Regional Case Management Office will have access to the schedule for courtroom 507 on Wednesdays as well as the judicial schedule and will be able to schedule these matters on site at any of the above-noted locations.

Matters can also be adjourned directly to Calgary courtroom 507 from any of the above-noted court locations, again with the consent of the Crown. A matter will be scheduled into Courtroom 507 with enough time given to process the file.

Counsel will be required to provide 2 business days notice to Calgary Regional Court CMO for all matters, with the exception of Siksika and Strathmore. Matters being transferred in from Siksika and Strathmore will require 3 business days notice to ensure the necessary files are before the Court.

If a matter is scheduled into Courtroom 507 and is not resolved on the scheduled date, the matter will be sent back to the original court location to be dealt with, unless ordered otherwise by the presiding Judge.

If a request is made to resolve a matter scheduled for trial at a Regional Court location by a transfer to the Calgary Regional Disposition Court, it is expected that counsel will provide as much notice as possible to case management in the Region. This will allow the re-use of the scheduled trial time previously set aside for that matter in the Region.

The name of the assigned Judge in Calgary Regional Disposition Court 507 on Wednesdays will continue to be posted in advance.

Per: Asst. Chief Judge James J Ogle  
Calgary Criminal & Regional Courts  
Dated June 25, 2014