

Action No.:



**PROVINCIAL COURT OF ALBERTA
CIVIL DIVISION**

BEFORE THE HONOURABLE ASSISTANT
CHIEF JUDGE G.W SHAREK
EDMONTON, ALBERTA

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ON WEDNESDAY, THE 1st DAY OF
APRIL, 2020

**MASTER ORDER RELATING TO COURT'S
RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS**

UPON THE COURT'S own motion;

AND UPON it appearing that the WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) has declared COVID-19 (also known as the "novel coronavirus") a public health emergency as an international pandemic;

AND UPON it appearing from the announcements of ALBERTA HEALTH that the presence of presumptive and active cases of COVID-19 have appeared and continue to appear in Alberta, since March 8, 2020, and are in existence and are appearing in other jurisdictions in Canada;

AND UPON it appearing that agencies of the Governments of Canada (CANADA) and Alberta (ALBERTA) have issued public health recommendations and directives, under their legislation and powers, in response to COVID-19, including restricted travel and periods of self-isolation in certain circumstances;

AND UPON it appearing that various Courts and legal institutions across Canada have canceled or modified court proceedings and programs across Canada;

AND UPON the COURT determining that, in these exceptional circumstances, it must alter its court operations, policies and procedures in the Civil Division in exercising its statutory or regulatory jurisdiction in face of and during the emergency arising from this international pandemic of COVID-19, with a view to helping to contain or prevent the spread of COVID-19 and minimizing the risk of and taking reasonable steps to protect the health and safety of persons working in or attending the Court, in balance with maintaining, as much as possible, access to justice within the Court, under the rule of law;

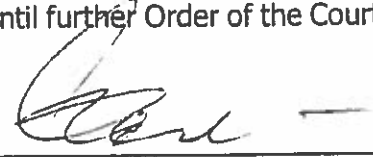
AND UPON it appearing that changes to the COURT'S operations, policies and procedures cannot be altered in the normal course and timing as in non-emergent circumstances;
AND UPON it appearing that this MASTER ORDER is necessary, in the exceptional circumstances of this emergency situation, for the proper administration of justice within the Court's jurisdiction within Alberta;

AND UPON the authority of the Court, pursuant to the *Provincial Court Act*, RSA 2000,c. P-31, including, but not limited to, s. 8 of the *Provincial Court Act*, s. 22 of the *Provincial Court Civil Procedure Regulation* 176/2018 and the *Alberta Rules of Court*, AR 124/10, as amended, including, but not limited to, Rules 1.3 and 1.4.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. All civil matters coming for hearing from March 15, 2020 to and including May 22, 2020, unless otherwise specified, including but not limited to applications, pre-trial conferences, case management conferences, assessments, trials or binding judicial dispute resolution proceedings are adjourned *sine die*.
2. Paragraph 1 does not apply to electronic hearings conducted with prior approval of the Court, including pre-trial and case management conferences.

3. All emergency and urgent matters will be dealt with pursuant to the Provincial Court Announcements dated March 16 and March 23, 2020, or any future Provincial Court Announcement.
4. All matters presently scheduled for May 23, 2020 or thereafter will proceed as scheduled unless otherwise ordered.
5. This Master Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Court.



Assistant Chief Judge G.W. Sharek
Provincial Court of Alberta

Address for Service and Contact Information of the Party Filing this Document:

Clerk of the Provincial Court of Alberta
Judicial District of Edmonton
Law Courts Building, 1A Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, AB T5J 0R2