



NORTHERN REGION COURT RESUMPTION PROTOCOL – PART 4

Effective: May 6, 2021

This applies to Criminal and Youth, Family and Child Protection, Civil Claims, and Traffic matters.

Court participants are directed to the most recent province-wide informational postings referencing Court operations throughout the province, and are to be guided by them, bearing in mind the following:

While circuit points have been reopened in the Northern Region, the province-wide Court posting has specified that between May 10th and 28th inclusive, circuit point dockets will be run remotely from base points; this directive may be subject to extension by a further Province-wide Court posting. Participants are encouraged to appear remotely with the assistance of duty counsel whenever possible, and *must* appear remotely during the noted time frame and any extensions of it, using the existing [Out-of-Custody Remote Docket Protocol](#) posted on the Court's website, subject only to the discretion of the presiding judge.

However, northern circuit points commonly include mixed docket/trial proceedings. Because in-custody and urgent hearings of all varieties will run at the circuit point for which they are scheduled during the above-noted time frame, a circuit docket/trial day on which hearings are running will occur at the circuit point, including the docket proceedings. All participants are advised to contact the Clerk of the Court *promptly* at the relevant base point to determine the method for their remote appearance; participants whose circuit point hearings may be proceeding are likewise advised to contact the Clerk of the Court *promptly* at the relevant base point to confirm that their attendance at the circuit point is required. Only participants who are counsel or parties to a hearing that is proceeding, whether they are counsel or witnesses, will be permitted entry to the Courthouses, whether base point or circuit point, during the above-noted time frame and any extensions of it.

Counsel on hearings of all varieties are directed to communicate *promptly* with one another, and to advise the Clerk of the Court, regarding whether their hearing is proceeding; this is particularly important in relation to circuit point hearings, so that travel arrangement for Court staff and participants can be confirmed. Counsel who wish to seek a ruling that a matter is urgent are to do so *forthwith*, after discussions with opposing counsel, and must contact Ms. Syrja, the Northern Judicial Assistant, to arrange that application. Counsel are to be mindful that any delay in making such an application may prejudice parties and witnesses in relation to travel arrangements, and may affect the outcome of the application.

Contacts are set out below.

Grande Prairie (for circuit appearances in Valleyview and Fox Creek):
(780) 538-5360
grpp@csadm.just.gov.ab.ca

Peace River (for circuit appearances in Peace River, Falher, Fairview):
(780) 624-6256
peap@csadm.just.gov.ab.ca

High Level (for circuit appearances in High Level, Chateh, Ft. Vermilion):
(780) 926-3715
hilp@csadm.just.gov.ab.ca

High Prairie (for circuit appearances in High Prairie, Red Earth Creek, Slave Lake and WabascaDesmarais):
(780) 523-6600
hipp@csadm.just.gov.ab.ca