

**PROVINCIAL COURT OF ALBERTA
REMOTE FAMILY AND CHILD PROTECTION APPLICATIONS
GUIDELINES**

April 22, 2020

BACKGROUND

1. As the Provincial Court of Alberta moves towards stage 5 of the Court's Pandemic Plan and begins to implement a staged resumption of normal operations, the Court will develop protocols that permit the Court to remotely hear Family and Child Protection applications that would not otherwise have been considered "urgent". It is anticipated that these protocols will be in place in early May, 2020.
2. These guidelines are intended to provide the framework for the development of protocols in each of the regions. These protocols may vary depending on the resources available and the needs of the region.

APPLICATION

3. These guidelines apply to all Family and Child Protection applications presently filed with the Court.

GUIDELINES

4. Protocols will be developed in each region to accommodate the hearing of Family and Child Protection applications remotely by telephone or by video conference. The protocols will address the following:
 - a. Remote applications by telephone or by video conference where: the application and supporting affidavits are filed and served in advance; an order can reasonably be granted from the evidence on the record; and where the application including decision is expected to take less than 30 minutes. (In exceptional circumstances the Court is prepared to hear applications anticipated to take longer than 30 minutes where leave is granted);
 - b. Conducting remote Judicial Dispute Resolutions, Case Management Meetings, Case Conferences, and Pre-Trial Conferences.

5. For clarity, the protocols are not intended to consider lengthy or complicated matters nor are they intended to replace hearings that require viva voce evidence.