

NOTICE

PROVINCIAL COURT OF MANITOBA

RE: FURTHER SUSPENSION AND RESTRICTION OF HEARINGS RETURN TO SITTING FOR SOME TRIALS AND SPECIAL SITTINGS IN CERTAIN CIRCUITS

December 30, 2020

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic all levels of Court have taken proactive preventative measures to protect the health and safety of all court users to help contain the spread of COVID-19. Further to our earlier Notices, and due to the on going pandemic situation in Manitoba and the uncertainty as to whether the current restrictive public health orders will be extended beyond January 8, 2021, and in order to bring some predictability to the court schedule, beginning January 11, 2021, the Provincial Court of Manitoba will be further suspending out of custody court operations until January 29, 2021 in most of its centres, while resuming limited operations in some circuit locations and holding virtual dockets for other circuit locations.

The Provincial Court of Manitoba remains open to deal with **in custody** matters in all court centres (Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie, Brandon, Dauphin, The Pas and Thompson), and is available to hear applications with respect to other urgent matters. This includes any urgent matters regarding out of custody proceedings and where the matter can be dealt with remotely.

Adult and youth **in custody** bail and disposition courts will continue to sit, with accused persons appearing by telephone or video if available. Efforts will be made to facilitate counsel appearing by telephone when requested (for matters scheduled up to half a day).

Child Protection proceedings are considered to be a priority in the essential services provided by the Court during this time and therefore Child Protection dockets from the courts circuit points will occur in the court centres of Winnipeg, Thompson, The Pas, Dauphin and Portage la Prairie, on the same date the child protection docket was to take place in the circuit court. The practices set out in our Notice of April 16, 2020 will be in place again. Parents, guardians, parties to the proceedings and social workers will not be allowed to attend court in person. Counsel may attend but are encouraged to appear by telephone for the child protection dockets.

Child Protection trials are cancelled until and including January 29, 2021, unless an application is made for the matter to be heard by video appearance. Counsel are encouraged to contact the appropriate court centre to arrange teleconference case management meetings to discuss alternative options. The court remains available to

hear applications with respect to urgent matters, especially where those can be arranged with the parties attending remotely.

Protection Order applications will continue to be heard by Judicial Justices of the Peace.

Case Management Conferences will continue as scheduled, but will be conducted by teleconference.

Subject to the below list, all adult and youth **out of custody** appearances in Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie, Brandon, Dauphin, The Pas, Thompson, and all circuit locations, including first appearances and trials set between now and January 29, 2021 are cancelled. The adjournment dates for the out of custody matters in Winnipeg and the Regional Centres will be released in separate Notices. Virtual dockets will be held for all circuit locations. A virtual docket is intended to be an opportunity to discuss or review the status of the matter, however accused persons should not be attending court in person. If a matter can be dealt with remotely, the matter can proceed.

A limited number of trials and special sittings will proceed in drive-in circuit locations. There will be no trials or special sittings taking place in fly-in circuit points. In the circuit locations where we can proceed with trials and special sittings, it has been determined the facilities have the space capacity and the reduced number of people attending Court will allow the COVID-19 health protocols, to be implemented so the matters can proceed safely and within the public health guidelines. The Courts will only be open to those people necessary to the proceedings before the courts. The Courts will remain closed to the general public. Those people attending as an accused or a witness may have a maximum of two support people in attendance with them. This Notice is subject to amendment if there are changes in the COVID-19 situation in Manitoba.

Sheriff Officers will be assuming significant extra duties related to maintaining and enforcing COVID-19 safety protocols. As a result, it is necessary that the only people transported, in custody, are those people who will have trials proceeding in these communities. If a matter resolves in advance, it should proceed to disposition in the nearest open court centre and the transport should be cancelled. It is imperative that counsel communicate in advance regarding the trial proceeding. Counsel must confirm with Sheriff Services at least 48 hours in advance that the transport of the person for court is required. If such confirmation is not received by Sheriff Services, the person will NOT be transported to the community, to prevent the prisoner from being isolated for 14 days.

Please note, any in-custody accused who is transported to attend a trial outside a court centre (Winnipeg or Brandon), if they are returning to custody after the appearance, will have to isolate for 14 days.

In all other cases, as noted below, the matters will be addressed during the virtual dockets or adjourned to the next sitting of that court in February, and may be subject to further notices based on changes to public health directives.

ALTONA

The January 25, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in Winnipeg, all parties may appear remotely.

ARBORG

The January 15, 2021 Special Sitting will proceed as scheduled.

ASHERN

The January 13, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in Winnipeg, all parties may appear remotely.

The five day special sitting trial set for January 18-22, 2021 will proceed as scheduled.

BEAUSEJOUR

The January 12, 2021 docket be heard virtually in Winnipeg, all parties may appear remotely.

The January 19, 2021 child protection docket will take place remotely in Winnipeg. The remaining criminal matters on the criminal docket will be heard virtually in Winnipeg, all parties appearing remotely.

BERENS RIVER

The January 11, 2021 Special Sitting will be administratively adjourned to February 9, 2021.

The January 12, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in Winnipeg, all parties may appear remotely.

BLOODVEIN

The January 13, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in Winnipeg, all parties may appear remotely.

BOISSEVAIN

The January 27, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in Brandon, all parties may appear remotely.

CROSS LAKE

The January 11, 2021 docket will be administratively adjourned to February 11, 2021.

The January 14, 2021 JJP docket will be heard virtually in Thompson, all parties may appear remotely.

The January 19, 2021 docket will be remanded February 11, 2021 JJP docket.

The January 25, 2021 docket will be administratively adjourned to February 11, 2021 JJP docket.

The January 28, 2021 JJP docket will be heard virtually in Thompson, all parties may appear remotely.

EASTERVILLE

The January 21, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in The Pas, all parties may appear remotely .

EMERSON

The three day Child Protection trial scheduled for January 11-13, 2021 will proceed as scheduled.

The January 14, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in Winnipeg, all parties may appear remotely.

The January 20, 2021 child protection docket will take place remotely in Winnipeg. The criminal docket will be heard remotely in Winnipeg.

The January 28, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in Winnipeg, all parties may appear remotely.

FLIN FLON

The January 14 and 20, 2021 trials have already been adjourned, any docket matters will be administratively adjourned to February 4, 2021.

GARDEN HILL

The January 27, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in Winnipeg, all parties may appear remotely.

The January 28, 2021 child protection docket will proceed remotely in Winnipeg. The criminal docket will be heard virtually in Winnipeg, all parties may appear remotely.

GIMLI

The January 18, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in Winnipeg, all parties may appear remotely.

The January 19, 2021 trials will proceed as scheduled.

GODS LAKE

The January 13, 2021 JJP docket will be heard virtually in Thompson, all parties may appear remotely.

GODS RIVER

The January 20, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in Thompson, all parties may appear remotely.

GRAND RAPIDS

The January 27, 2021 docket will be administratively adjourned to February 25, 2021.

The January 28, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in The Pas, all parties may appear remotely.

LITTLE GRAND RAPIDS

The January 27, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in Winnipeg, all parties may appear remotely.

LYNN LAKE

The January 26, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in Thompson, all parties may appear remotely.

MINNEDOSA

The January 19, 2021 trials will be proceed as scheduled. The docket will be heard virtually in Minnedosa, all accused persons to appear remotely.

The January 26, 2021 trials will proceed as scheduled. The docket will be heard virtually in Minnedosa, all accused persons to appear remotely.

MORDEN

The January 12, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in Winnipeg, all parties may appear remotely.

The January 19, 2021 trials will proceed as scheduled.

The January 21, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in Winnipeg, all parties may appear remotely.

The January 26, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in Winnipeg, all parties may appear remotely.

NELSON HOUSE

The January 27, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in Thompson, all parties may appear remotely.

NORWAY HOUSE

The January 14, 2021 docket will be administratively adjourned to February 4, 2021.

The January 18, 2021 docket will be administratively adjourned to February 4, 2021.

The January 28, 2021 docket will be administratively adjourned to February 4, 2021.

The January 29, 2021 JJP docket will be heard remotely in Thompson, all parties may appear remotely.

PAUINGASSI

The January 28, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in Winnipeg, all parties may appear remotely.

PEGUIS

The January 11, 2021 Special Sitting will be administratively adjourned to February 2, 2021.

The January 19 docket will be heard virtually in Winnipeg, all parties may appear remotely.

The January 20, 2021 trials will be administratively adjourned to February 16, 2021.

PINE FALLS

The two day continuation set for January 13 and 14, 2021 will be proceed as scheduled. (The first day of the trial will proceed as scheduled on January 12th in Winnipeg, Courtroom 412.)

The January 20, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in Winnipeg, all parties may appear remotely.

The January 21, 2021 trials will proceed as scheduled.

The January 27, 2021 trials will proceed as scheduled.

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE

The January 11, 2021 eight day special sitting trial (continued on January 22, 25, 26, February 3, 5, 8, March 22, 2021) will proceed as scheduled.

The January 15 and 18, 2021 two day special sitting will proceed as scheduled.

The January 29, 2021 special sitting trial will proceed.

PUKATAWAGAN

The January 13, 2021 docket will be heard remotely in The Pas, all parties may appear remotely.

The January 19, 2021 docket will be administratively adjourned to February 10, 2021.

The January 26, 2021 docket will be heard remotely in The Pas, all parties may appear remotely.

ROSSBURN

The January 13, 2021 special sitting trial will be administratively adjourned to January 20, 2021.

The January 20, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in Brandon, all parties may appear remotely.

RUSSELL

The January 27, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in Brandon, all parties may appear remotely.

SANDY BAY

The January 19, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in Portage, all parties may appear remotely.

The January 26, 2021 docket will be administratively adjourned to February 16, 2021.

SELKIRK

The January 12, 2021 trial will proceed as scheduled.

The January 15, 2021 dockets will be heard remotely in Winnipeg, all parties may appear remotely.

The January 19, 2021 trial will proceed as scheduled.

The January 22, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in Winnipeg, all parties may appear remotely.

The January 25, 2021 trials will proceed as scheduled.

The January 26, 2021 trials will proceed as scheduled.

The January 29, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in Winnipeg, all parties may appear remotely.

SHAMATTAWA

The January 12, 2021 JJP docket will be heard virtually in Thompson, all parties may appear remotely.

SPLIT LAKE

The January 19, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in Thompson, all parties may appear remotely.

SIOUX VALLEY

The January 13, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in Brandon, all parties may appear remotely.

SOUTH INDIAN LAKE

The January 25, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in Thompson, all parties may appear remotely.

ST. PIERRE

The January 26, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in Winnipeg, all parties may appear remotely.

ST. MARTIN

The January 20, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in Winnipeg, all parties may appear remotely.

The January 21, 2021 child protection docket will be heard virtually in Winnipeg, all parties may appear remotely. The criminal trials will be administratively adjourned to February 17, 2021.

ST. THERESA POINT

The January 13, 2021 Special Sitting will be administratively adjourned to February 11, 2021.

The January 14, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in Winnipeg, all parties may appear remotely.

STEINBACH

The January 14, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in Winnipeg, all parties may appear remotely.

The January 15, 2021 trials will proceed as scheduled.

The January 21, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in Winnipeg, all parties may appear remotely.

The January 22, 2021 trials will proceed as scheduled.

The January 28, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in Winnipeg, all parties may appear remotely.

The January 29, 2021 trials will proceed as scheduled.

STONEWALL

The January 18, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in Winnipeg, all parties may appear remotely.

The January 25, 2021 trials will proceed as scheduled.

The January 27, 2021 trial continuation will proceed as scheduled.

SWAN RIVER

The January 11 and 13, 2021 trials will proceed as scheduled.

VIRDEN

The January 22, 2021 docket will be administratively adjourned to January 29, 2021.

The January 29, 2021 docket will be heard virtually in Brandon, all parties may appear remotely.

ISSUED BY:

“Original signed by:”

**The Honourable Chief Judge
Margaret Wiebe**

DATE: December 30, 2020