



EDMONTON CRIMINAL PRACTICE DIRECTIVE

Effective: June 14, 2021¹

Court: Edmonton Criminal

COVID-19 Measures

On June 8, 2021, the Provincial Court of Alberta announced further measures to respond to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. These measures are designed to gradually resume the safe operation of the Court. While the Court will consider government and health decisions applicable in the broader community, the court system is unique. People do not voluntarily choose to attend criminal court. They are required by law either as witnesses or persons charged with offences to come to court. A cautious approach is warranted in recognition of that fact.

That caution is reflected in two aspects of the plan. First, it provides for a gradual resumption of normal operations. This allows us to limit the number of people who must come to the courthouse. Second, it allows the Court to adjust the timing of other stages of re-opening based on the progress of vaccination, and the data relating to the prevalence and transmission of COVID in the community.

All safety measures – masking, physical distance, capacity limits, and plexiglass remain in place.

Beginning June 14, 2021

I. Trials/preliminary inquiries/hearings requiring viva voce evidence

- (a) All trials, preliminary hearings, Fatality Inquiries, and other proceedings where witnesses are called will resume on an in-person basis. This includes all low complexity trials, both domestic and non-domestic. All of the participants in the trial process will appear in person. Applications for remote participation through the use of video technology must be made 30 days in advance of the trial date wherever possible to the remote appearance proxy email address at: RArequests@albertacourts.ca.

¹ Replaces Practice Directive dated May 10, 2021 and updated on May 26, 2021.

(b) 355 Assignment Court

Recommencing June 14, 2021 the Enhanced Trial Assignment Process (ETAP) will be employed for courtroom assignment as per the updated ETAP Practice Directive at: https://www.albertacourts.ca/docs/default-source/pc/edmonton-enhanced-trial-assignment-practice-note.pdf?sfvrsn=6ef77583_21

II. Docket Courts and Seized Dispositions

The following courtrooms on scheduled docket days will continue by way of remote appearance by counsel and accused persons. This includes: 265; 356; 446; 267; and, 268. Exceptions to the remote appearance requirement are as follows: self-represented individuals; seized dispositions; and, dispositions where a further period of incarceration is possible or where a translator is required.

III. Case Management Office (CMO) Appearances

The CMO remains closed for in person appearances. Counsel and self-represented individuals will continue to make remote appearances as outlined in the Court's CMO Out of Custody Docket Protocol found at: <https://albertacourts.ca/pc/resources/covid/covid-19-criminal-and-youth-criminal-matters/CMO>

IV. Drug Treatment Court (267, 2:00 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday)

Will continue remotely. In person appearances for graduations will now be permitted.

V. Mental Health Court (357, Monday, Wednesday and Friday)

Will continue in its current format.

VI. Self-Represented trial confirmation hearings (357, Tuesday)

Will resume normal operations with in-person appearances of accused persons permitted.

VII. Pre-trial Conferences

Pre-trial conferences will continue remotely as scheduled by Judges Chambers.



Ray Bodnarek
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Edmonton Criminal Division
The Provincial Court of Alberta