



NORTHERN REGION COURT RESUMPTION PROTOCOL

Effective: January 4th, 2022

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 re-opened in the Northern Region, whether circuit point dockets will be run remotely from a base point or will be run from the circuit point will depend if trials are running after docket on that day. Because the latest Province-wide informational posting directs that only in-custody or other urgent matters will proceed to hearing between January 4th and 21st, all participants who have a scheduled appearance at a circuit point must contact the court at the relevant base point to confirm where they are to appear, remotely or in person (noting that in person appearances are limited to in-custody trials or other matters ruled urgent between January 4th and 21st).

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 will be permitted entry to the Courthouses, whether base point or circuit point, subject to the discretion of the presiding judge.

Counsel on hearings of all varieties are directed to communicate *promptly* with one another, and to promptly and on notice make any application to have an out-of-custody or other hearing ruled urgent, 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 arrangements for Court staff and participants can be confirmed. As always, counsel communicating with the Court are expected to copy opposing counsel and parties and make clear in their correspondence that they have done so.

Applications to have a matter ruled urgent may be made in writing, including by email, to the ACJ Northern or to the scheduled trial judge (all northern judges are the ACJ's designate for the purposes of the Court's latest Province-wide informational posting). Correspondence may be directed to the Northern Region Judicial Assistant, Shannon Syrja, for forwarding to the ACJ or scheduled trial judge.

Contacts are set out below.

Judicial Assistant Northern Region: (780) 833-4950 Shannon.Syrja@albertacourts.ca

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