



PROVINCIAL COURT OF ALBERTA

COVID-19 COURT MEASURES UPDATE

Effective: April 26, 2021

In response to the increase in COVID-19 cases in the province, the Provincial Court of Alberta is implementing the following Court measures:

Regional Locations Except Fort McMurray

In all regional locations outside Edmonton, Calgary and Fort McMurray, the current measures in Criminal, Civil, Family and Youth Courts, and in Case Management Offices where those exist, will continue.

Youth Matters

This notice does not affect Youth matters. All Youth matters throughout the Province will proceed as scheduled.

Traffic, Ticket, By-Law, Provincial Offences and Inquiries

Traffic Court is **not open for in-person appearances until further notice.**

- **For trial matters scheduled up to and including May 28, 2021** — If you have a scheduled trial or are a witness at a trial, you will be required to contact the base court office for the location your trial is scheduled by telephone or email for further information.
- **For all other matters**, you are required to contact the designated court office by telephone or email for further information.

More information at [COVID-19 Traffic Court](#).

Case Management Offices

All case management offices remain closed for in-person attendance until further notice. See the [Case Management Offices \(CMO\) Out-of-Custody Docket Protocol](#) for information about how to appear remotely at the CMO and the advanced duty counsel service.

Edmonton, Calgary and Fort McMurray

Civil

Edmonton, Calgary and Fort McMurray: All in-person matters that are scheduled between April 26 – May 28, 2021, including trials, pretrial conferences, assessments and applications, will be adjourned. The parties will be contacted by the Court to discuss case management issues, including new dates for the matter to proceed. All matters that are presently scheduled to be heard by telephone or Webex will proceed as scheduled.

Criminal (Adult)

Edmonton, Calgary and Fort McMurray low complexity out-of-custody trials (non-domestic violence) scheduled between April 26 and May 28, 2021 will be adjourned. There will be no presumptive adjournments. Counsel will obtain new dates remotely. This can be done in advance of the trial date through remote court scheduling or on the scheduled trial date through the case management office. Self-represented individuals must obtain a new trial date on the currently scheduled trial date by contacting the [Case Management Office](#) remotely or with the assistance of duty counsel at the courthouse.

Family and Child Protection

The following COVID-19 protocol is implemented for Calgary, Edmonton and Fort McMurray Family and Child Protection matters currently scheduled from April 26, 2021 to May 28, 2021.

All family docket appearances, judicial dispute resolutions (JDRs) and pre-trial conferences (PTCs) will proceed strictly remotely, pursuant to the [Calgary, Edmonton and Northern Region Resumption Protocols](#).

All non-urgent interim hearings and trials will be adjourned. Urgent interim hearings and trials will proceed in person in accordance with the following criteria of urgency:

1. There is a risk of immediate harm to parties or child(ren);
2. There is an imminent risk of removal of child(ren) from Alberta;
3. For support orders, there is demonstrable severe financial hardship;
4. For mobility applications there is demonstrable risk to the child(ren) or a demonstrable risk of severe financial hardship to one of the parties; or
5. The hearing has previously been adjourned due to reasons pertaining to COVID-19.

All child protection apprehension applications, docket appearances, case conferences, JDRs, and PTCs will proceed strictly remotely, pursuant to the [Calgary, Edmonton and Northern Region Resumption Protocols](#).

All initial custody applications will proceed in person.

All non-urgent interim hearings and trials will be adjourned.

If the parties do not agree, the determination of whether an interim hearing or trial is urgent shall be made by a judge, in accordance with urgency criteria, including whether the statutory cumulative time in care is exceeded and whether the parents have engaged with the judicial process. All child protection trial continuations shall proceed as scheduled.

For all interim hearings or trials scheduled during the week of April 26, 2021, if the parties agree that the matter does not meet the urgency criteria, they may cancel their witnesses and attend remotely at the scheduled opening of the interim hearing or trial to reschedule. If the parties do not agree that the matter should be adjourned, they should attend court with the first day's witnesses and the assigned judge will determine whether the matter will proceed.

For all interim hearings and trials scheduled from May 3 – 28, 2021, if the parties agree that their matter does not meet the urgency criteria, they shall bring the matter forward with three business days' notice using the existing bring forward process to reschedule the trial. If the parties do not agree that the matter should be adjourned, they are to follow the appropriate protocol for Edmonton, Calgary and Fort McMurray, details of which will be posted shortly.

During this time period, all youth criminal matters will proceed as currently scheduled using the existing protocols. The protocol for Emergency Protection Orders, Mental Health Act Warrants, Protection of Children Abusing Drugs Act applications, Secure Services applications and Protection of Sexually Exploited Children Act applications remains unchanged.