



Alberta Court of Justice

Practice Directive

Edmonton Region

Bonnyville, Cold Lake and St. Paul Additional Sitting Dates

Effective: April 1, 2026

Purpose

To address lengthy Criminal dockets (Cold Lake and St. Paul) and lengthy Family and Child Protection dockets (Cold Lake and Bonnyville), additional sitting dates will be added in these locations for the months of April, May and June 2026 respectively.

Procedure and Guidelines

Criminal Matters

Additional sittings are being added for scheduled judicial interim release hearings and summary dispositions only.

1. The following Court of Justice sittings will be added in St. Paul:
 - a. April 7, 21
 - b. May 5, 19
 - c. June 2, 16.

Each session will include a morning session (9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) and an afternoon session (1:30 p.m. until completion).

2. The following Court of Justice sittings will be added in Cold Lake:
 - a. April 13
 - b. May 11
 - c. June 8.

Each sitting will include a morning session (10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) and an afternoon session (1:30 p.m. until completion).

3. All matters must be booked in advance through the Case Management Office. Counsel are required to submit their booking request to COJStPaul@just.gov.ab.ca, at least 48 hours in advance of their scheduled court appearance.
4. All matters prosecuted by the Public Prosecution Service of Canada are to be scheduled in the afternoon sessions of these additional sittings only.

5. Counsel are expected to arrive on time, to have discussed the matter in advance with opposing counsel and be prepared to complete the matter as scheduled. Subject to judicial discretion, further adjournments will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.
6. Counsel will be expected to appear in person for the scheduled judicial interim release hearings and summary dispositions unless prior permission has been obtained from the Assistant Chief Justice or their designate to appear virtually. Permission requests should be submitted in writing to the Assistant Chief Justice at least one week in advance of the appearance.

Family and Child Protection:

7. The following Court of Justice sittings will be added in Cold Lake:
 - a. April 23
 - b. May 28
 - c. June 23
8. The following Court of Justice sittings will be added in Bonnyville:
 - a. April 22
 - b. May 27
 - c. June 24
9. Additional sittings for Family and Child Protection are for docket matters only.
Each sitting will include a morning session (10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) and an afternoon session (1:30 p.m. until completion).
10. All matters are to be booked into the additional sittings in accordance with the usual booking process for Family and Child Protection docket matters.
11. Counsel will be expected to appear in person unless prior permission has been obtained from the Assistant Chief Justice or their designate to appear virtually. Permission requests should be submitted in writing to the Assistant Chief Justice at least one week in advance of the appearance.

Remote Appearance:

Counsel who appear by Webex will be expected to sign in with the clerk of the Court by 9:15 a.m. for a matter scheduled on the morning docket and by 1:15 p.m. for a matter scheduled on the afternoon docket and remain available until their scheduled matter is completed.

All counsel appearing remotely will conduct themselves in accordance with the [Conduct Guide for Remote Appearances](#).

Assistant Chief Justice Gordon Putnam

Edmonton Region

Date: March 27, 2026