



Notice to Profession and Public regarding court proceedings – December 17, 2021 UPDATE

December 17, 2021 update

In response to the most recent developments related to the public health situation in respect of COVID-19 and the highly transmissible Omicron variant, effective Monday, December 20, 2021, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice will make the following temporary adjustments to its operations until February 7, 2022, subject to further direction from the Court,

Jury Trials scheduled in January and early February:

The Court will not commence any new jury selection in any court location until February 7, 2022.

In-progress jury trials and non-jury trials and proceedings:

The decision to continue matters that are in progress, including jury trials, will be made by the presiding judge taking into account the positions of the parties and making any adjustments as necessary to accommodate those who do not wish to attend in person.

Access to participate in a virtual hearing:

For all matters, where a party has a lawyer they are encouraged to explore the technology supports that their lawyer may be able to provide, such as attending at the lawyer's office or another location to participate in their hearing virtually. Where a litigant does not have access to the necessary technology to participate in a virtual hearing, and does not have a lawyer who is able to provide supports or resources, they should reach out to their local court office immediately so that arrangements can be made to facilitate their participation in the hearing.

Criminal trials and other Criminal Matters

Criminal judge alone trials and other criminal matters may proceed in-person or hybrid at the discretion of the presiding judge taking into account the positions of the parties and making any adjustments as necessary to accommodate those who do not wish to attend in-person. Efforts should be made to hear these matters remotely where possible.

Civil Matters

All Civil matters will proceed virtually. Where necessary, particularly in situations of urgency, the Court may direct that these cases proceed as hybrid hearings.

Family Matters

All Family and Child Protection matters will also proceed virtually. Where necessary, particularly in situations of urgency, the Court may direct that these cases proceed as hybrid hearings.

Geoffrey B. Morawetz
Chief Justice.
Ontario Superior Court of Justice