

THE PROVINCIAL COURT OF ALBERTA
COVID-19 PANDEMIC PLANNING
NOTICE TO THE LAW SOCIETY REGARDING *FAMILY LAW ACT* APPLICATIONS

During this pandemic, the safety and well-being of all Albertans must be a priority. This needs to be balanced with access to justice by those who need it on a truly urgent basis. In order to protect our court staff, we have implemented the following measures.

From this time until further notice, *Family Law Act* filings will be accepted only if a Judge makes a preliminary determination that leave is granted for a hearing to determine if a matter is urgent. In determining leave as to what may be urgent the court will consider the following criteria:

1. Is there a risk of immediate harm to one of the parties or a child(ren);
2. Is there an imminent risk of removal of a child from the jurisdiction; or
3. For support orders, is severe demonstrable financial hardship

Please prepare the appropriate documents to commence your application. You must address the above criteria in the appropriate statement for your application.

Filing of these documents will be accepted by email only until further notice. See the attached Appendix for the email address for the appropriate court house. The matter will then be reviewed by a Judge in Chambers, who will make the preliminary determination whether or not the application can be filed and heard. If your application is to dispense with service or for substitutional service, you need to prepare and file an affidavit in support of substitutional service so the Judge can make an informed decision about whether or not service will be dispensed with or what form of service is practical under the circumstances. As many counsel are now working remotely, you must provide a phone number at which you can be reached. You will be contacted by phone as to whether or not your application is going to be heard or not, and if it is going to be heard, further instructions as to when, where and how your application will proceed.

If counsel is aware a Family Court Counsellor (FCC) was involved at some point, they must also notify the FCC so they know what is going on.

Dated this 3rd day of April, 2020

The Honourable T.J. Matchett
Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta

APPENDIX of EMAIL ADDRESSES

- Calgary: PCFamilyfiling.Calgary@gov.ab.ca
- Calgary Regional Matters*: PCFamilyfiling.Calgary@gov.ab.ca
- Edmonton**: Edmpcfy.Counter@csadm.just.gov.ab.ca
- Edmonton Region: EdmReg.pcfamilyfiling@albertacourts.ca
- Lethbridge: pc.lethbridge@just.gov.ab.ca
- Red Deer: family.reddeer@csadm.just.gov.ab.ca
- Peace River: peap@csadm.just.gov.ab.ca
- High Level: hilp@csadm.just.gov.ab.ca
- Grande Prairie: grpp@csadm.just.gov.ab.ca
- High Prairie: hipp@csadm.just.gov.ab.ca

*Calgary Regional includes Drumheller, Hanna, Strathmore, Canmore, Siksika and Tsuut'ina

**Edmonton includes Stony Plain, St. Albert, Ft. Saskatchewan, Sherwood Park, Leduc and Wetaskiwin.