



PROVINCIAL COURT OF ALBERTA  
RESPONSE TO RECENT COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS  
IMPOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

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**Effective: December 14, 2020**

**Background**

On November 24, 2020 the Government declared a State of Public Health Emergency. On December 8, 2020, the Province announced significant new restrictions aimed at controlling the further spread of Covid-19.

The Provincial Court of Alberta's Response to Recent Covid-19 Restrictions Imposed by the Government of Alberta covers the period between **December 14, 2020 and January 29, 2021** and outlines the Court's operations for that time period.

Whenever possible, remote appearances are to be undertaken.

Access to Provincial Court Houses in Alberta will be restricted to only those persons necessary to the proceedings before the Court, which includes counsel, litigants and witnesses when advised they must attend in person; in-custody accused; sureties; and members of the media (see [Access to Courthouses Restricted](#)).

Everyone attending court facilities **must** follow all public health guidelines including social distancing protocols and mask wearing (see [Access to Courthouses Restricted](#)).

## **Locations Operating**

The following base Court locations currently continue to operate (on reduced scale):

<b>REGION</b>	<b>BASE LOCATION</b>
Calgary	Calgary
Calgary Region	Calgary; Drumheller
Central Region	Camrose; Red Deer; Wetaskiwin
Edmonton	Edmonton
Edmonton Region	Ft. McMurray; Ft. Saskatchewan; Hinton, Leduc; Sherwood Park; St. Albert; St. Paul; Stony Plain; Vermilion
Northern Region	Grande Prairie; High Level; High Prairie; Peace River
Southern Region	Lethbridge; Medicine Hat

**Court locations other than these (“circuit courts”) will no longer have docket appearances.** Dockets for these circuit courts will be handled remotely out of either the associated base location or circuit location. No personal attendances will be allowed.

Circuit courts will continue to hear trials, either remotely or in person.

The scheduling of court times varies location to location. For Court schedules please refer to the [Provincial Court website](#) or call or email the [base location](#).

## **Civil**

**Edmonton and Calgary:** All civil matters will continue as scheduled. Those trials scheduled between **December 14, 2020 and January 8, 2021** will be assessed and may be adjourned to a future date. Unless advised to the contrary the matters presently scheduled will proceed.

**Regional Courts** will continue to hear civil matters remotely. All trials will proceed unless adjourned by the parties or with leave of the court

## **Criminal (Adult)**

**Edmonton and Calgary** low complexity out-of-custody trials (non-domestic violence) scheduled between **December 14, 2020 and January 8, 2021** will be adjourned. There will be no presumptive adjournments — a new trial date will be set on the currently scheduled trial date. Counsel will obtain new dates before speaking to the matter; and self-represented individuals can appear in person and call the CMO for new dates.

**Matters including bail hearings, dispositions trials, preliminary hearings** and all domestic violence trials will continue to be heard as presently scheduled. Out-of-custody dispositions will also continue.

**Docket Courts at all court locations** will be held remotely. Personal attendance will only be allowed with leave of the Court.

**Regional Courts** will continue to conduct trials, bail hearings and preliminary inquiries for criminal matters.

## **Family and Child Protection**

**Edmonton and Calgary:** All family and child protection matters will continue as scheduled for now. A determination about trials scheduled between January 11, 2021 and January 29, 2021 will be made early in the New Year. Please check this website for further information in early January. Calgary Regional Family and Child Protection matters may be moved to a different court location. Contact the Calgary Regional Court Clerks office for more information.

**Regional Courts** will continue to conduct docket matters in Family and Child Protection but all dockets are proceeding remotely. All trials will proceed unless adjourned by the parties or with leave of the court.

## **Youth**

**Edmonton and Calgary:** All youth matters will continue as scheduled for now. A determination about trials scheduled for January 11 to 29 will be made early in the New Year. Please check this website for further information in early January.

**Regional Courts** will continue to conduct youth matters remotely. All trials will proceed unless adjourned by the parties or with leave of the court.

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

All Circuit courts are closed. Traffic matters (including those from circuit points) can still be heard at Base courts, but **no in person appearances will be allowed. No in-**

**person services will be provided in any Traffic Courts in Alberta between December 14, 2020 and January 29, 2021.**

If you have an appearance, trial or application scheduled during the closure, **do not attend the Court in person.** Contact the Court handling your matter by telephone, email or fax if you:

- Do not dispute your ticket but need time to pay,
- Wish to adjourn your matter, or
- Wish to plead not guilty and set a trial date. Not guilty pleas will also continue to be accepted by mail. Follow the instructions on your ticket for submitting a not guilty plea by mail.

If you fail to contact the Court handling your matter on or before your scheduled appearance date, you may be convicted in absence or a warrant may be issued for your arrest. If you are convicted in absence, you may be subject to a late penalty charge.

Fine payment may be made:

- Online at [fine payments](#): As part of the overall response to Covid-19, the Government of Alberta has temporarily waived the service fee for online fine payments to assist Albertans while traffic courts are closed to the public.
- By mail to the Provincial Traffic Production Centre, 601 – 5 Street S.W., Calgary, Alberta T2P 5P7. Please make your cheque payable to the Government of Alberta.
- Through a [registry office](#). **You must take a copy of your ticket with you. A fee is applicable.**

**All provincial ticket, by-law and other matters scheduled for trial between December 14 and January 29, 2021** will need to be re-scheduled. Please contact the court office noted on the back of your ticket to re-schedule your trial date.

[Court contact information for traffic closure matters.](#)

## **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.