



Alberta Court of Justice

Traffic Court Court Resumption Protocol – Part 11

Effective: February 22, 2022

Effective February 22, 2022, and until further notice of the Court, in-person trials for adult and youth matters will resume. However, in-person docket appearances will continue to be heard remotely through Webex or telephone.

In addition to in-person trials, virtual trials scheduled in Medicine Hat, Brooks, Lethbridge and Fort MacLeod will also continue.

Commercial legal agents and Defence Counsel will continue to appear remotely by Webex (where available) or telephone for mandatory docket appearances. Defendants will be required to contact the respective base court office to deal with their matters.

Defendants also have the option of going online at traffictickets.alberta.ca if they wish to plead guilty to their ticket and request time to pay; plead not guilty and request a trial date; or change their previous not guilty plea to guilty and request time to pay. This website can be accessed through Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge by typing the URL directly in the address bar. **PLEASE NOTE: This new service may not be available in all areas of the Province and may not be available for certain types of tickets. Use the other procedures specified in the Protocol in these cases.**

Adjournment requests and time to pay applications/extensions and set aside applications will continue to be handled as desk top applications.

Warrants to Hold will only be considered in those situations where the Justice of the Peace (JP) or Justice determines there was a likelihood that the accused was unable to contact the requisite court location.

There will be no presumptive adjournments during this time.

Docket Courtroom Appearances for Part 2 Tickets

1. Files at Warrant Status

a. Warrants to Hold – Defendant Contacts the Court Office

- i. Where a Defendant contacts the court location by email or telephone and wishes to deal with their warrant to hold by telephone, and it is the intention of the Defendant to plead guilty to the matter, the matter will be scheduled in a courtroom in the respective court before a JP or Justice in accordance with local scheduling protocols.
- ii. The Crown will attend the court remotely for these appearances, unless the Crown determines that an in-person appearance is required.

b. Warrant to Hold – Defendant Does Not Contact the Court Office

- i. If the Defendant does not contact the court office by the scheduled court date, the JP or Justice will determine whether the warrant will be released, extend the hold, and if released, whether the warrant should be endorsed or not.

c. Appearances on Outstanding Warrants

- i. If a Defendant attends the courthouse and advises the sheriffs at perimeter security that they have an outstanding warrant they wish to deal with, they will be directed to call or email the court office for further information.

d. Releases on Outstanding Warrants

- i. Where Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA) or a bail JP releases a person arrested on a Traffic warrant, the accused should be released to appear at a date (February 22, 2022 or later), place and time in accordance with local scheduling protocols then in effect.

- ### **2. In-Custody Appearances**
- a. Accused persons who are in custody exclusively for traffic matters will appear in the respective traffic courtroom at the court location. For court locations that don't have regularly scheduled traffic sitting days, the accused will appear in a criminal courtroom.

3. Mandatory Court Appearances for Self-Represented Defendants

- a. If a Defendant attends the courthouse and advises the sheriffs at perimeter security that they have a ticket with a mandatory court appearance they wish to deal with, they will be directed to call or email the court office for further information.
- b. Where the Defendant contacts the court office by email or telephone and advises they wish to plead guilty to their matter and there is a mandatory court appearance required (e.g. no insurance, suspended driving, etc.), the court office will provide the Defendant the opportunity to adjourn their matter into a courtroom for personal appearance.
- c. The matter will be heard in the scheduled courtroom on the date and time scheduled by the court, in “c” above, as per the local scheduling protocol.

Sentencings/Decisions/Trial Continuations

Effective February 22, 2022, these matters will be treated as a priority and will be scheduled into the earliest available trial slot, taking into consideration the availability of the seized JP or Justice.

Guilty Pleas

Effective February 22, 2022, any guilty plea on a mandatory court appearance ticket will be scheduled for personal appearance on the earliest available trial date or other in-person appearance court in accordance with local scheduling protocols.

Trial Courtrooms

Effective February 22, 2022, Traffic Courts resume hearing of trial matters in person.

Justice of the Peace Counters (Non-Presiding)

Justice of the Peace Counters (Non-Presiding) will remain closed and all tickets will continue to be handled through the remote process.