



Alberta Court of Justice

Edmonton Criminal Division Seized Matters Practice Directive

Effective: March 17, 2022

This Practice Note is to be read in conjunction with the [January 18, 2022 COVID-19 COURT MEASURES UPDATE](#).

The Update states that “all non-urgent out-of-custody trials preliminary inquiries and other hearings requiring viva voce evidence will be adjourned, subject to an application to the Assistant Chief Justice.”

The Update also states, “All other proceedings including docket applications and pre-trials will be conducted virtually.” This includes seized sentencings and cases scheduled for decision.

Should you wish to have an out-of-custody sentencing or decision proceed, you must write to the seized Justice, or if the seized Justice is unavailable, the Assistant Chief Justice, outlining why the matter should proceed. Opposing counsel should be copied; the letter should be sent to the seized Justice, or the Assistant Chief Justice, and opposing counsel at least three business days (where possible) prior to the scheduled date.

It is within the sole discretion of the seized Justice (or ACJ if applicable) to decide if the matter should proceed, with or without an application from counsel.

On approval to proceed by the seized Justice, counsel should immediately send an email to the Remote Appearance proxy email at RArequests@albertacourts.ca to book a Remote Access courtroom. Remote Access courtrooms are limited in number and subject to availability.

If a Remote Access Courtroom is unavailable, it is in the discretion of the seized Justice to direct that the matter proceed in-person.