



COVID-19: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT IN HALIFAX TO RESUME REMOTE HEARINGS

Thursday, May 21, 2020

Effective June 10, 2020, the Domestic Violence Court will resume weekly telephone hearings for scheduled matters in Halifax. New applications to the Halifax program will be put on the docket for consideration starting July 8, 2020.

A separate notice will be issued soon with an update regarding Domestic Violence Court matters in Sydney.

Throughout the pandemic, accused individuals and their families already accepted in the Domestic Violence Court Program have had access to all the government and community supports and services they need to fulfill their individualized support plans. That work is continuing without the individuals having to appear physically in court.

To respect public health advice regarding social distancing, starting in June, the Halifax court team will meet Wednesday mornings by telephone to discuss the upcoming docket, including those already in the program, as well as new admissions. Private defence counsel will be able to join this call to discuss their client's matter.

Following the morning meeting, the Court will go on the record to deal with that day's matters as a recorded teleconference. Participants who need to call into the court proceedings will receive instructions from their lawyer on how to do so; however, most participants should not need to phone in at all. Counsel will appear on their behalf, whenever possible.

Counsel who have questions about this process should contact Carolyn Baker, the Domestic Violence Court Program Coordinator, at Carolyn.Baker@novascotia.ca or by telephone at 902-233-0386.

Government and community supports and services are also available to anyone who may be experiencing domestic violence, who is not involved with the Courts.

- If you are in immediate danger, call 911
- If you need help or information, you can call the 24-hour toll-free line at 1-855-225-0220

- To connect with community resources across Nova Scotia, call or text 211, or visit the Nova Scotia 211 website at <https://ns.211.ca/>

For a list of domestic violence resources specific to the Halifax Regional Municipality, visit https://www.courts.ns.ca/Provincial_Court/NSPC_domestic_violence_court.htm.

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