



COVID-19: PROVINCIAL COURT SUSPENDS IN-PERSON PROCEEDINGS IN HALIFAX AND DARTMOUTH

Friday, April 23 2021 (Halifax, NS) – In response to rising case numbers and new health restrictions imposed yesterday in the Halifax Regional Municipality, the Chief Judge of the Provincial and Family Courts is suspending all in-person court proceedings in HRM for a four-week period, starting Monday, April 26, 2021.

This directive applies to the Provincial Courts in Halifax and Dartmouth only. In-person proceedings in Provincial Courts outside HRM will proceed as scheduled, unless the presiding judge orders otherwise. The suspension will be re-evaluated at the end of the four-week period.

“Our Bench has been in touch with public health officials about the developments in the Halifax region this week,” said Chief Judge Pamela Williams. “We agree this step is a necessary precaution to ensure the safety of everyone working in or appearing before these Courts. We appreciate this is a difficult and stressful situation, but with patience and cooperation, we will get through it together.”

In-person appearances in Halifax and Dartmouth that were scheduled between April 26 and May 21 will be adjourned and rescheduled. Court staff will be in touch with counsel who have matters scheduled during that period with further information.

Self-Represented Individuals

If you are not in custody and you have a criminal court appearance in the Provincial Court in Halifax or Dartmouth between April 26 and May 21, you should not come to the courthouse. The Court will adjourn your matter without you needing to be present. Court staff will be in touch with you about rescheduling. You will be required to attend court in person on the new date you are provided.

Individuals who do not have a lawyer are encouraged to contact duty counsel at Nova Scotia Legal Aid. You can apply online using the Legal Aid [Adjournment Request](#) form or call 902-420-7800.

For more information on the COVID-19 directives issued by the Provincial Court, please visit https://www.courts.ns.ca/News_of_Courts/COVID19_Preventative_Measures.htm.

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