



## **Provincial Court Updates Peace Bond Process**

**Friday, July 8, 2022**

Individuals applying for a peace bond in Nova Scotia are once again able to do so at the courthouse nearest to them, rather than having to go through the Dartmouth courthouse.

In May 2020, the Provincial Court had adopted a virtual process for dealing with applications for peace bonds during the COVID-19 pandemic. That process required individuals to email their applications to the Dartmouth Provincial Court. Presiding Justices of the Peace then triaged the applications by telephone on Wednesday evenings in Dartmouth. If the parties could not reach an agreement, a virtual hearing was scheduled at a later date.

Applications for peace bonds will now be heard by telephone from all locations in the province. Applications will be scheduled on the respective location's designated day for summary offence and peace bond matters. If the parties cannot reach an agreement, a peace bond hearing will be scheduled.

Under Sec. 810 of the Criminal Code, an individual can apply for a peace bond if they have reasonable grounds to believe that someone will cause personal injury to them, their intimate partner or child, or will damage their property, or will commit an offence under Sec. 162.1 of the Criminal Code.

The peace bond application form, also referred to as an Information, and the Statement of Complaint can be accessed and filled out on the Courts' website [here](#). Individuals can submit these documents by mail, email or in person at the courthouse nearest to them. Please note that full names, birth dates, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses are required for both the applicant and the defendant. Applicants are encouraged to contact court staff in advance for further instructions on filing. Contact information for all courthouses is available online [here](#).

### **Assistance from Nova Scotia Legal Aid**

Nova Scotia Legal Aid (NSLA) is committed to assisting people applying for peace bond orders. This can be a difficult process and NSLA Staff Lawyers can assist by explaining the steps required to begin a peace bond application and then explaining the court process.

If you are seeking assistance to apply for a peace bond order, you can contact Nova Scotia Legal Aid at 902-420-7800 or apply online at <https://www.nslegalaid.ca/online-application/>. A lawyer will contact you and provide you with confidential advice and assistance.

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