



## **NOVA SCOTIA MOVING TO MICROSOFT TEAMS FOR VIRTUAL COURT**

**Thursday, April 29, 2021**

Following the temporary suspension of most in-person court proceedings in Nova Scotia, matters that can be held virtually, and have the approval of the presiding judge to proceed, will be done by telephone, videoconferencing using Microsoft Teams, or a combination of the two.

Although Skype may still be used in some instances, the Nova Scotia Courts will be primarily using Microsoft Teams, both for proceedings with remote aspects and fully virtual matters. Microsoft Teams will be the only platform used after July 31, 2021.

With that in mind, counsel, self-represented individuals and others who anticipate being involved with virtual court proceedings in the coming months are encouraged to prepare accordingly. That includes installing the free Microsoft Teams software on your desktop and mobile devices.

### **[Download Microsoft Teams Desktop and Mobile Apps | Microsoft Teams](#)**

Training for judges and court staff is continuing across the province. Counsel and others are encouraged to review the Teams training materials developed by Microsoft, available online at <https://www.microsoft.com/en-ca/microsoft-teams/download-app>.

When preparing for a virtual proceeding, please remember that practice directives and court protocols established by the Judiciary will apply when Microsoft Teams is used for court purposes.

Counsel and others involved in a virtual proceeding are expected to take part in a short tech-check ahead of most proceedings on Microsoft Teams. Your tech-check should take place in the same space and with the same equipment that you will be using for the actual court proceeding. Any changes you make can affect your ability to connect successfully.

Counsel and other participants should review the [Conduct, Decorum and Expectations for Virtual Court](#) before your virtual proceeding. For virtual proceedings in the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal, participants should also review the [NSCA Best Practices Checklist for Virtual Hearings](#). This will help ensure a better experience for everyone.

For more information on Virtual Court, please visit [www.courts.ns.ca/Virtual Court.htm](http://www.courts.ns.ca/Virtual_Court.htm).

-30-

**Media Contact:**

Jennifer Stairs  
Communications Director  
Nova Scotia Judiciary  
902-221-5257  
[stairsjl@courts.ns.ca](mailto:stairsjl@courts.ns.ca)