



Notice to Profession and Public regarding court proceedings – January 19, 2022 UPDATE

January 19, 2022 update

In response to the continuing public health situation in respect of COVID-19 and the highly transmissible Omicron variant, effective Monday, February 7, 2022, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice will extend the following temporary adjustments to its operations announced on December 17, 2021, until February 28, 2022, subject to further direction from the Court,

Jury Trials scheduled in January and February:

The Court will not commence any new jury selection in any court location until February 28, 2022.

In-progress jury trials and non-jury trials and proceedings:

The decision to continue matters that are in progress, including jury trials, will be made by the presiding judge taking into account the positions of the parties and making any adjustments as necessary to accommodate those who do not wish to attend in person.

Access to participate in a virtual hearing:

For all matters, where a party has a lawyer they are encouraged to explore the technology supports that their lawyer may be able to provide, such as attending at the lawyer's office or another location to participate in their hearing virtually. Where a litigant does not have access to the necessary technology to participate in a virtual hearing, and does not have a lawyer who is able to provide supports or resources, they should reach out to their local court office immediately so that arrangements can be made to facilitate their participation in the hearing.

Criminal trials and other Criminal Matters

Criminal judge alone trials and other criminal matters may proceed in-person or hybrid at the discretion of the presiding judge taking into account the positions of the parties and making any adjustments as necessary to accommodate those who do not wish to attend in-person. Efforts should be made to hear these matters remotely where possible.

Civil Matters

All Civil matters will proceed virtually. Where necessary, particularly in situations of urgency, the Court may direct that these cases proceed as hybrid hearings.

Family Matters

All Family and Child Protection matters will also proceed virtually. Where necessary, particularly in situations of urgency, the Court may direct that these cases proceed as hybrid hearings.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Morawetz', with a large, stylized flourish above the name.

Geoffrey B. Morawetz
Chief Justice.
Ontario Superior Court of Justice