

Dealing with Urgent Family Matters during COVID-19 Pandemic – Provincial Court



As of March 25, 2020, the Provincial Courts of BC have suspended regular operations. Between **March 18, 2020 and May 16, 2020**, only urgent family matters, as determined by a judge, will be heard, over a telephone hearing. These may include:

- Requests for urgent relief relating to the safety of a child or parent;
- Requests to obtain or set aside **protection orders**;
- Urgent orders involving **parenting time**
- Contact with a child or communication between parties;
- Urgent issues relating to the well-being of the child including:
 - essential medical issues
 - Relocation issues
 - Non-removal of a child
 - Wrongful removal of a child
 - Wrongful retention of a child
- Applications to suspend, change or cancel any order for imprisonment or committal under the Family Maintenance Enforcement Act
- Urgent or mandatory child protection matters.

How to have an urgent matter heard:

You can make an application to a judge for determining if a matter is urgent by emailing your registry a **completed Application for urgent hearing** form available at: <https://bit.ly/3dsuiX6>

If a judge determines that a matter is urgent, a hearing/trial will be scheduled through a hub court (Robson Square in Vancouver, Surrey in Fraser Valley) with everyone appearing by telephone. The hearing/trial will NOT be in person. The hub court will call you on the day of your telephone hearing. You should hear back if your application is denied.

Registry	Telephone	E-mail
Robson Square	604-660-8989	CSBRCS@gov.bc.ca
Richmond	604-660-6900	Richmondcourtregistry@gov.bc.ca
North Van	604-981-0200	NorthVancouverRegistry@gov.bc.ca
Surrey	604-572-2200	SurreyCourtRegistry@gov.bc.ca
New West	604-660-8522	JAGCSBNWestminsterCourtScheduling@gov.bc.ca
Port Coquitlam	604-927-2700	CSBPortCoquitlam.CourtScheduling@gov.bc.ca

Please note, you may receive a call back and (if your matter is very urgent) have a hearing the same day you apply, so stay close to your phone and e-mail and have your materials ready. Be ready to make your case as soon as you apply. If you have a lawyer, make sure your lawyer is available and prepared to speak to the judge.

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