



## National Day for Truth and Reconciliation September 30, 2021

September 30th is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a day to reflect on the ongoing impact of the residential school system in Canada and to honour survivors, their families, and communities. This is an important opportunity to acknowledge these experiences as part of the reconciliation process.

**The Ontario Court of Justice will be closed on Thursday September 30, 2021 in recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation** (<https://www.ontariocourts.ca/en/public-statement.pdf>). Only Weekend and Statutory Holiday (bail) courts will operate on that date.

### **CRIMINAL MATTERS**

This directive applies to all criminal matters, including matters under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, scheduled in the Ontario Court of Justice on September 30, 2021.

If you are impacted by the court closure, you are strongly encouraged to have your matter brought to court on a date *before* September 30, 2021. Criminal matters will not be heard on September 30, 2021, even if you have a lawyer. Matters can be brought to court before September 30 using a “bring forward form” which you can find by [contacting the courthouse](#) where your case is being heard.

If you have a criminal court appearance on September 30, 2021 **do not attend court**. Your matter will be presumptively adjourned to another court date. The court will adjourn your matter without you being present, using a court order called a “bench warrant with discretion”. The presumptive next court date will be determined regionally and all matters on September 30, 2021 will be adjourned to the same next court date. **The new court date your matter will be adjourned to will be posted on the Ontario Court of Justice website shortly.** Please continue to check the Ontario Court of Justice website (<https://www.ontariocourts.ca/ocj/>) for any updates.

### **FAMILY MATTERS**

All family and *Child, Youth and Family Services Act (CYFSA)* matters scheduled on September 30, 2021 will be adjourned by the trial coordinators to the earliest next available date for the matters to proceed as originally scheduled. If you require further information, please contact your local court office.

## **PROVINCIAL OFFENCES ACT (POA) MATTERS**

All *Provincial Offences Act* matters scheduled for September 30, 2021 will be adjourned and rescheduled to a later date. If you have a matter scheduled on September 30, 2021, **do not attend court.**

A notice of your new court date will be sent to you by mail to the address on file with the court. For more information, please contact your local Provincial Offences court.

Contact information for all municipal courts is available here:

[https://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/courts/Court\\_Addresses/poa/](https://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/courts/Court_Addresses/poa/)

### **POA Appeals**

*Provincial Offences Act* appeals to a judge of the Ontario Court of Justice scheduled for September 30 will be adjourned. A new notice of hearing date will be sent to you.

If you need to update your address with the court, please contact the courthouse where the appeal is scheduled to be heard. A listing of all court addresses is available here:

[https://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/courts/Court\\_Addresses/](https://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/courts/Court_Addresses/)

### **POA Young Persons**

Provincial Offences Act matters where the defendant is a young person (individual under 16 years of age) are scheduled to appear and be heard in a provincially-administered Ontario Court of Justice. As a result, these matters will be dealt with consistent with matters in criminal court (see above “Criminal Matters”).

Up to date information about cases in criminal court, which applies to POA young person matters, is available on the Ontario Court of justice website at

<https://www.ontariocourts.ca/ocj/>.