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Update regarding Criminal Case Management Appearances – Province-Wide Implementation of Virtual Case Management Courts (Published August 19, 2020)

The Ontario Court of Justice will begin province-wide implementation of virtual criminal case management court on August 24, 2020. Starting Monday August 24, 2020, virtual criminal case management court appearances for out of custody accused will resume, using remote technology (videoconference or audioconference), in the following locations: Cayuga, Goderich, Guelph, Orangeville, L'Original, Pembroke, Saint Thomas, Simcoe, Stratford, Windsor, Woodstock.

Starting Monday August 31, 2020, criminal case management court appearances for out of custody accused will resume, using remote technology, in Oshawa Thunder Bay, Timmins and Toronto East (1911 Eglinton Ave. E.).

This Notice provides an update regarding criminal case management appearances in the Ontario Court of Justice by accused persons who are out of custody.

The Ontario Court of Justice is implementing virtual criminal case management courts, in which criminal case management appearances will be conducted by videoconference or audioconference. On Monday August 10, 2020, a virtual criminal case management court pilot was launched in Ottawa and Kitchener. Province-wide implementation of virtual criminal case management courts will occur in stages over the next several weeks. The first stage of province-wide implementation begins on August 24, 2020.

Further information about criminal proceedings in the Ontario Court of Justice, including the definition of “case management appearances”, is available in the [COVID-19: Notice to Counsel and the Public re: Criminal Matters in the Ontario Court of Justice](#).

Please continue to check the [Ontario Court of Justice website](#) for updates.

1) Virtual Criminal Case Management Courts Launching Monday August 24, 2020

Commencing Monday August 24, 2020, criminal case management court appearances for out of custody accused will resume, using remote technology, at the following fourteen locations:

Central West: Cayuga, Orangeville, Simcoe

East: L'Original, Pembroke

West: Goderich, Guelph, St. Thomas, Stratford, Windsor, Woodstock

Beginning Monday August 24, 2020, counsel and accused persons who are out of custody will be able to attend for criminal case management appearances at these locations by videoconference or audioconference (telephone) using Zoom.

Criminal case management appearances will be conducted by remote appearance (audioconference or videoconference) only. If you have a case management criminal court appearance at one of these locations, do not attend court in person.

Further details, including information about how counsel and accused persons can connect to the court by videoconference or audioconference, will be published shortly.

2) Virtual Criminal Case Management Courts Launching Monday August 31, 2020

Commencing Monday August 31, 2020, criminal case management court appearances for out of custody accused will resume using remote technology, at the following fourteen locations:

Central East: Oshawa

Northeast: Timmins

Northwest: Thunder Bay

Toronto: Toronto East (1911 Eglinton Ave East).

Beginning Monday August 31, 2020, counsel and accused persons who are out of custody will be able to attend for criminal case management appearances at these locations by videoconference or audioconference (telephone) using Zoom.

Further details, including information about how counsel and accused persons can connect to the court by videoconference or audioconference, will be published shortly.

3) Criminal Case Management Court Appearances in Other Court Locations

Province-wide implementation of virtual criminal case management courts will continue over the next several weeks.

In the meantime, the automatic adjournment of criminal court appearances for accused persons who are not in custody will continue at other court locations until the virtual criminal case management court is implemented at that particular location.

If you have a case management criminal court appearance in the Ontario Court of Justice, on or before September 4, 2020, in a location other than those listed above, do not attend court. The court will adjourn your matter without you being present, using a court order called a “[bench warrant with discretion](#)”, which will require you to attend court on the new date.

Appearances between or after August 24, 2020 and September 4, 2020 will be adjourned to a date approximately five (5) weeks from the original date. To find out what date your matter is being adjourned to, see the [list of adjournment dates](#).

4) Accused persons who are in custody

Criminal case management appearances for accused persons who are in custody will continue to be conducted by remote appearance (audioconference or videoconference), in accordance with the procedures in place since March 2020.