



Practice Direction for non-urgent guilty pleas during COVID-19 pandemic

Effective May 13, 2020, additional plea courts will be added to the Tri-County schedule to deal with non-urgent, out of custody guilty pleas. The schedule for these additional plea courts will be as follows:

- Peterborough – Monday, Tuesday and Friday
- Cobourg – Wednesday
- Lindsay – Thursday

All matters must be scheduled for these courts through the Trial Coordinator. Only matters where the accused is represented by retained counsel will be scheduled.

Further, matters will be scheduled only where both Crown and Defence counsel confirm that the matter has been resolved and can be completed on the scheduled date. Counsel must provide the trial coordinator with a realistic estimate of time for the completion of the matter, including arraignment, facts, submissions and allowing for sufficient time for the imposition of sentence.

Counsel are also expected to provide copies of all materials that they will be relying upon during the sentencing hearing, including criminal records, victim impact statements, medical or psychological/psychiatric reports, letters of support, or other exhibits or caselaw. Where feasible, counsel should also provide an agreed statement of facts to the court in advance. These materials should be sent to the judicial secretary at Sharon.Reynolds@ontario.ca and also sent to the applicable court address:

- Peterborough.ocj.court@ontario.ca
- Cobourg.ocj.court@ontario.ca
- Lindsay.ocj.court@ontario.ca

Matters will be scheduled by the Trial Coordinator on either a morning or afternoon tier. Counsel are expected to call in to the court at the start of the tier at which time the presiding Judge will determine the schedule for the tier.

This Practice Direction remains in effect until further notice.

Stuart W. Konyer

Stuart W. Konyer
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