



## **SUPREME COURT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR**

### **NOTICE TO THE PROFESSION AND GENERAL PUBLIC**

#### **COVID-19: PREVENTATIVE MEASURES**

**Issued: March 20, 2020**

#### **Criminal Matters**

1. If an accused is not in custody and has an appearance scheduled in the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador after March 18, 2020, the Court will adjourn the matter without the accused being present using a Court Order called a “bench warrant with discretion” which will require the accused to attend Court on a later date. The accused and the Crown will be advised by the Court of the new court date.

#### **Further Information on Urgent and Emergency Filings**

2. Pursuant to the Court’s March 18 Notice the Court has suspended normal operations. Applications are limited to urgent and emergency matters only. The Court calls upon the cooperation of counsel and parties to restrict use of Court resources to urgent and emergency matters.
3. Electronically filed documents will be issued as of the date they are received by the Court.
4. Where it is not possible to obtain a signature from a person authorized to administer oaths, parties may file unsworn/unaffirmed affidavits or documents without that signature. The Court may require that a party/affiant participate in a telephone or videoconference hearing to swear/affirm to facts contained in an affidavit or other document. The Court may require original documents to be filed before granting any order.

#### **Statutory Filing Deadlines and Limitation Periods**

5. The Court registry will accept electronic filings (via email or fax) where a statutory deadline, or limitation period under the *Limitations Act*, S.N.L. 1995, c. L-16.1, is imminent.

**Further Notices/Announcements from the Court**

6. The procedures described in this notice are subject to change as the situation regarding COVID-19 develops.
7. The Court will continue to post further notices as information becomes available. Please continue to check the Supreme Court website at [www.court.nl.ca/supreme](http://www.court.nl.ca/supreme) for updates.

**RAYMOND P. WHALEN**  
**Chief Justice**