



FORM 1: REQUEST TO IMPLEMENT PROTOCOL FOR MEDIA ACCESS TO EXHIBITS

Members of the public, including accredited media, do not have an automatic right to access Court Exhibits. Access falls under the supervisory responsibility of the Court. In order to balance the public interest in open and accessible justice with practical constraints on legal counsel and court registry staff, the British Columbia Supreme Court encourages accredited members of the media to use FORM 1 to request the implementation of a protocol for access to court exhibits at the commencement of any criminal or civil proceedings where several court exhibits may be of particular interest to the media.

An accredited member of the media completes section A and submits FORM 1 to the Registry where the proceedings are underway or to the court clerk in the courtroom where the proceedings are underway. The Registry or the court clerk ensures that the presiding judge receives the form. The presiding judge then considers the request and obtains input from the parties in section B.

The presiding judge then makes a determination about the request and records the details of their determination in section C. The presiding judge may also determine that a formal application for access with in-person submissions from counsel, self-represented parties, or third parties (with an apparent or potential interest in the subject matter of the application) is necessary.

Below, for reference, are links to examples of exhibit access protocols used previously by the Court:

1. [R. v. Huth, 2013 BCSC 2123, at Schedule "A"](#).
2. [R. v. Pickton, 2007 BCSC 78, at paras. 8 to 15](#).
3. [Blue Line Hockey Acquisition Co., Inc. v. Orca Bay Hockey Limited Partnership, 2007 BCSC 651, at paras. 17 to 21 and Appendix "A"](#).

NOTE: The above examples may not be workable at all court registries in British Columbia. The processes of a specific exhibit access protocol will depend in part on the resources of the courthouse where a proceeding is being held.

Accredited **MEDIA APPLICANT** to fill out Section A only:

SECTION A: MEDIA REQUEST TO IMPLEMENT PROTOCOL FOR MEDIA ACCESS TO EXHIBITS

Case Name and File No:

Request Date:

Request Made By:

Agency:

Contact Phone No:

Exhibit Access Protocol Requested *(Please check and provide details in "Comments" section):*

Model protocol used in previous case Other

Comments: (200 characters)

Signature: _____

COUNSEL or **SELF-REPRESENTED PARTIES** to fill out Section B only:

SECTION B: RESPONSE TO MEDIA REQUEST FOR EXHIBIT ACCESS PROTOCOL

Case Name and File No:

Name of Counsel *(leave blank if self-represented):*

Representing *(provide name of party and indicate if self-represented):*

Exhibit Access Protocol Requested by Member of Media: Model protocol used in previous case Other

Exhibit Access Protocol Requested by Counsel or Self-Represented Litigants *(Please check one. If you are opposed to an exhibit access protocol, check "Other" and provide details in "Comments" section):*

Protocol requested by member of media Other

Comments: (200 characters)

Signature: _____

COURT to fill out Section C only:

SECTION C: COURT'S DECISION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF MEDIA ACCESS PROTOCOL

Case Name and File No:

Exhibit Access Protocol to be Implemented (*Please check one. If "Other" or "Formal application is necessary", provide details in "Comments" section*):

Protocol as requested by member of media Other Formal application necessary

Comments:

Signature: _____