



THE SUPREME COURT  
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

THE LAW COURTS  
800 SMITHE STREET  
VANCOUVER, B.C.  
V6Z 2E1

## Notice to the Profession

### Changes to Booking Practice for Civil and Family Trials Vancouver and New Westminster

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Beginning in October, 2016, changes to the practice for booking Civil and Family Trials in Vancouver and New Westminster will be implemented. Under the new regime, three booking days will be established at the beginning of each month as noted below. As before, trials will be booked not more than 18 months in advance, and early dates will continue to be available for family cases and urgent civil matters.

Our trial scheduling statistics indicate that MVA trials settle at a higher rate than other trials. It is anticipated that separating the booking of family and civil non-MVA trials, and MVA trials, and allowing for this differential in our booking process will serve litigants well by permitting an increase in trial bookings.

#### BOOKING SCHEDULE

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>First Business day of month</b>  | Booking opens for <b>family and civil non MVA trials only</b>               |
| <b>Second Business day of month</b> | Booking opens for <b>MVA trials with estimates of 1-5 days only</b>         |
| <b>Third Business day of month</b>  | Booking opens for <b>MVA trials with estimates of 6 days or longer only</b> |

- As before, bookings will be made by calling Supreme Court Scheduling at 604-660-2853 in Vancouver and 604-660-8551 in New Westminster.
- Booking commences at 8:30 a.m. in Vancouver and at 9:00 a.m. in New Westminster. To equalize litigants' ability to obtain trial dates, the number of bookings per call will be limited to two trial dates per call.
- Trials with estimates of **1-5 days must complete within the week they are booked**; hence a 5 day trial cannot be booked for a week that includes a statutory holiday and a 3 day trial cannot be booked to start on a Thursday.
- As before, trials with estimates **of 6-9 days are only booked to commence on Mondays** (or Tuesdays if Monday is a statutory holiday).
- Trials estimated to take **10-15 days are not booked into 'short weeks'** or a timeframe that overlaps a statutory holiday or Judges' Conference week.