



THE PROVINCIAL COURT
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Effective date: *16 May 2017*

CRIM 10

PRACTICE DIRECTION

INTRODUCING EVIDENCE CONTAINING HIGH POTENCY NARCOTICS

Purpose

To set out the procedure for introducing evidence that contains or may contain high potency narcotics, including fentanyl and carfentanil (“HPN Exhibits”).

Application

This practice direction applies to all Provincial Court locations in the Province.

Directions

1. In the event HPN Exhibits are required to be introduced in a proceeding, the party shall endeavour to do so by admission, statement of fact, photographs, and certificate of analysis.
2. No HPN Exhibits shall be introduced without obtaining leave of the Court. Leave shall be obtained prior to the HPN Exhibits being brought to the courthouse.
3. In the event the presiding judge grants leave and admits HPN Exhibits into evidence, the HPN Exhibits shall be brought to the courthouse double bagged, sealed and clearly labelled in accordance with policies established by Court Services Branch, which may be amended from time to time¹, to ensure the safety of all court participants.
4. The court clerk will notify the court manager in the event the HPN Exhibits are admitted into evidence.

¹ Please contact Court Services Branch to confirm or to clarify current applicable policies.

History of Practice Direction

- Original practice direction dated May 16, 2017.
- January 8, 2020: Housekeeping update to remove “duration” section as contained information duplicated in “History of Practice Direction” section.

I make this practice direction pursuant to my authority under the *Provincial Court Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 379 and Rule 3 of the *Provincial Court of British Columbia Criminal Caseflow Management Rules*, SI/99-104.

Thomas J. Crabtree
Chief Judge
Provincial Court of British Columbia