



THE PROVINCIAL COURT
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Effective Date: *19 December 2024*

FAM 03

PRACTICE DIRECTION SCHEDULING OF CONTINUATIONS IN FAMILY MATTERS

Purpose

To ensure family trials or hearings, once commenced, are concluded within a reasonable time.

Application

This practice direction applies to family law and child protection matters in all court locations in the Province.

Directions

1. When a scheduled family trial or hearing has not been completed in the time provided, the court will schedule the continuation of the matter as soon as possible and without undue delay, having regard to the nature of the proceeding (including the best interest of the child), the age of the case and any other factors which impact the urgency of the matter.
2. The Judicial Case Manager has the discretion to put the matter before the trial judge, Regional Administrative Judge or Local Liaison Judge (where applicable) for direction by a judge.

History of Practice Direction

- Original practice direction dated February 09, 2007.
- Amended practice direction dated February 23, 2015 (changes to wording and formatting only).
- December 19, 2024: revised to speak to the court's expectation of how these cases will be scheduled as soon as possible and without undue delay.

I make this practice direction pursuant to my authority under the *Provincial Court Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 379, and the *Provincial Court Family Rules*, B.C. Reg. 120/2020.

Melissa Gillespie
Chief Judge
Provincial Court of British Columbia