



Provincial Court
of British Columbia

2026

Notice 35

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Provincial Court Operations
During FIFA World Cup 2026

Expires

Background

The Provincial Court of British Columbia has been advised that many police officers will be deployed for public safety, traffic control and crowd management during FIFA World Cup 2026. This will limit the police's ability to participate in criminal and traffic proceedings. In addition, it is anticipated that travel to the downtown core may be impacted during the World Cup.

The most significant impacts are expected from June 12 to July 8, 2026 (the “**FIFA period**”), which encompasses the matches that will be held in Vancouver. While Vancouver is only hosting seven matches, World Cup related activities and security measures will be continuous throughout this period of time. Five of the matches fall on weekdays: **Thursday June 18, Wednesday June 24, Friday June 26, Thursday July 2, and Tuesday July 7** (“**Match Days**”).

While the Court will remain open during the FIFA period, there will be scheduling adjustments at some court locations.

Notice

Impacted court locations

Court scheduling adjustments during the FIFA period will be made at these Provincial Court locations in the Vancouver and Fraser Regions:

- Abbotsford
- Chilliwack
- New Westminster
- North Vancouver
- Pemberton
- Port Coquitlam
- Richmond
- Sechelt
- Surrey
- Vancouver Criminal Court (222 Main St.)
- Vancouver Civil Court (Robson Square)

Vancouver Criminal Court (222 Main St.) and Vancouver Civil Court (Robson Square) will be the most impacted. Vancouver Criminal Court will continue to have a single point of entry. Vancouver Civil Court will have a single point of entry during the FIFA period to better direct access and streamline operations.

The current plan is that all court locations not listed above will operate in the normal course.

Please be aware that the Court's ability to proceed as outlined below may change as we receive further information about measures adopted because of the World Cup.

Scheduling adjustments in impacted court locations

1. Criminal proceedings

a. Pre-FIFA period: April 27 to June 11

There will be increased criminal trials provided there are available courtrooms, staff, counsel and other court participants. No other changes are anticipated.

b. FIFA period: June 12 to July 8

When police attendance is required: Adult criminal trials requiring police attendance will generally not be scheduled to proceed during the FIFA period due to police officer unavailability.

When police attendance is not required: Criminal proceedings and trials (including sentencing/dispositions) not requiring police attendance can be scheduled to proceed during the FIFA period. The exception is that at the Vancouver Criminal Court (222 Main Street) there will be no in-person trials on Match Days.

The Court will continue to conduct virtual hearings that do not require police attendance during the FIFA period.

At the Vancouver Criminal Court (222 Main Street) some files may need to be moved to different locations, after consultation with legal counsel and based on direction from a Regional Administrative Judge or other designated judge, so that the matter concludes within the timeframe set out by the Supreme Court of Canada in *R. v. Jordan*, 2016 SCC 27.

Bail (judicial interim release): Bail courtrooms in the Fraser and Vancouver Regions that are hybrid (listed in [CRIM 05](#)) will continue to be hybrid. However, should the need arise, the Court may use virtual bail by default in the Vancouver Region and possibly the Fraser Region.

For greater clarity, no changes are anticipated for the following which will proceed as usual:

- Initial appearance court
- Desk orders and judicial authorizations
- Youth criminal proceedings (The exception is that at Vancouver Civil Court (Robson Square) there will be no in-person youth court trials that require police attendance.)
- Downtown Community Court and Drug Treatment Court

2. Traffic and bylaw proceedings

a. Pre-FIFA period: May 2 to June 12

Traffic proceedings will be reduced at Vancouver Civil Court (Robson Square) because of reduced availability of Vancouver Police Department traffic members. Other court locations are expected to operate as usual.

b. FIFA period: June 12 to July 8

There will be no traffic or bylaw proceedings at the Vancouver Civil Court (Robson Square), in part to limit travel into the downtown core.

At other court locations, the Court will schedule traffic and bylaw matters based on enforcement officer availability as indicated to the Court.

3. Civil and family proceedings

a. Pre-FIFA period: April 27 to June 11

There may be decreased family and civil trials and family management conferences at impacted court locations to allow for increased criminal trials.

b. FIFA period: June 12 to July 8

Due to reduced police availability, the Court anticipates an emphasis on scheduling family and small claims proceedings rather than criminal proceedings, provided there are available courtrooms, staff and lawyers. These proceedings will generally occur in the normal course, including in person.

The exceptions are that at the Vancouver Civil Court (Robson Square), for civil and family proceedings:

- There will be no in-person court appearances on Match Days (virtual appearances can proceed)
- Simplified trials will not be scheduled
- The following proceedings will be virtual only (during the FIFA period, these hearings will be held virtually by default, so there is no need to apply to attend remotely):
 - family and *Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA)* list days
 - family management conferences (virtual as usual)
 - civil applications
 - civil settlement conferences (virtual as usual)
 - payment hearings

c. Urgent matters and emergency hearings

The Court will be available for urgent matters and emergency hearings, including protection order applications, priority parenting matters, time sensitive relocation applications and CFCSA matters. The Court will hold virtual hearings when possible, but in-person hearings at courthouses will also be available if needed.

Updated information

The Court will communicate updates at provincialcourt.bc.ca as further information becomes available.

History

- Original Notice dated July 7, 2025.
- February 6, 2026: Multiple updates made to scheduling adjustments as further information has become available about the World Cup.

Melissa Gillespie
Chief Judge
Provincial Court of British Columbia

Expired February 10, 2026