



September 18, 2023

**54 - 2023
NOTICE TO THE PROFESSION**

REGIONAL COURT PROTOCOL – TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION

Changes in the regions have been announced by the Provincial Court which establish the implementation of a Regional Adult Pre-Trial Coordination Protocol to address timely access to justice and the efficient progress of cases through the justice system.

https://www.manitobacourts.mb.ca/site/assets/files/2101/regional_adult_pre-trial_coordination_protocol_portage_la_prairie_centre.pdf

Counsel with matters on the PTC dockets are reminded to take a proactive approach to addressing their matters. The protocol provides a cut-off time for the provision of consent adjournment requests and a process for unresolved matters to be spoken to on the record.

Where counsel fail to address their matters before the cut-off time, personal appearance is required.

We wish to remind counsel that time and travel must be authorized by the Area Director as set out in section 9.11 of the Area Director's Manual.

9.11 Where there is no Duty Counsel in a rural court, Duty Counsel is in conflict on a matter, or a special trial sitting has been set, and there is no local private bar available/willing to provide representation, the AD will provide travel time and mileage for non-local private bar to attend court. Such travel time and mileage will be proportionate to the needs of the case but generally will not exceed three trips.

Legal Aid Manitoba considers an appearance as a result of a failure to follow the court Protocol to be avoidable and will not generally approve travel reimbursement for this purpose. Counsel who seek additional travel authorization for this purpose will be expected to explain to the Area Director the reason that they were unable to comply with the Protocol.