

Practice Direction – January 21, 2026

Brantford Ontario Court of Justice

TRIAL SITTINGS 2026

The Ready Lists for February 2, 2026 and February 25, 2026 will continue as scheduled. Any trial dates that have been scheduled will proceed.

Brantford OCJ is changing trial scheduling to a running list for trials as of March 11, 2026.

For the remainder of the year, there will be 3 Trial Assignment Courts: March 11, 2026, August 11, 2026, and November 25, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. hybrid.

All matters scheduled for trial will be spoken to at the next Trial Assignment Court. For example, if a matter is on the March 11, 2026 Trial Assignment Court and is not reached, it will be on the August 11, 2026 Trial Assignment Court.

Materials for trial such as Trial Record, Document Briefs must be uploaded to Frank, Case Center (if being used) and hard copies delivered to the Court (at least 2 copies – for Judge and witness).

Matters on the Running List will be scheduled for trial by the Trial Coordinator based on priority, age etc. The contact [Mary.Elizabeth.VanAlphen@ontario.ca](mailto:Mary.Elizabeth.VanAlphen@ontario.ca)

2026 Schedule

Trial Assignment Court: March 11, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. courtroom # 5

Sittings: March 23-26, 2026

April 13,14,15 and 17, 2026

May 11-15, 2026

June 8-12, 2026

July 14-17, 2026

Trial Assignment Court: August 11, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. courtroom # 2

Sittings: September 8-11, 2026

November 16-20, 2026

Trial Assignment Court: November 25, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. courtroom #5

Sittings: December 7,8,10, and 11, 2026

#### FIRST APPEARANCE COURTS and INITIAL CASE CONFERENCE DATES

Since July 2025, Rule 40 Courts have been scheduled for 9:00 a.m. In person or zoom attendances at 9:00 a.m. sharp are permitted. Case conferences are being scheduled for specific Initial Case Conference days. If a matter is on the Rule 40 list more than 2 dates, the matter may be adjourned by the Clerk to the 10:00 a.m. list to be addressed before the Judge.

#### Requirement to Confer and Make Disclosure PRIOR to Case Conference

Prior to attending at a Case Conference, the Family Law Rules require the parties to confer and discuss resolution of the outstanding issues, unless the parties are prohibited from communicating by Court order or terms of recognizance, or there are concerns about family violence and the alleged abusive party is not represented by counsel.

#### Confirmation Form – 17F

When completing the Confirmation Form for a motion or conference, parties shall list the specific issues that need to be addressed at the event. Advising the Court that “All issues” are to be discussed is NOT acceptable. Detail in the 17Fs is appreciated with respect to the specific issues to be discussed (not just identifying child support or parenting), orders sought etc.

The Confirmation Form must list the specific issues that are to be addressed at the event. It must also set out clearly which materials are necessary for the judge to review for all parties.

#### Case Conference Briefs (Max. 8 pages)

#### Settlement Conferences (Max. 12 pages)

If disclosure is not resolved prior to the Case Conference, any party seeking disclosure must include in their materials a detailed list of the outstanding disclosure (can be attached).

The Conference Brief should expressly set out any orders that a party seeks to have the Court make at the Case Conference. The Case Conference judge has jurisdiction to make substantive orders in appropriate cases, where requested, FLR17(8) (b.1).

## Trial Management Conferences (TMC)

### Trial Scheduling Endorsement Form (TSEF)

- The parties are to file a joint, proposed TSEF
- Draft Orders, Opening Statements; and
- Serve Offers to Settle.

## Form 14B Motions and Basket Motions

### Consent and Uncontested Procedural Motions

Simple, procedural, consent and known uncontested matters must be brought by a 14B Motion. A draft Order in WORD format must be filed with a 14B Motion.

Rule 14B Motions should rarely be used for seeking substantive orders, other than on consent, (such as parenting, decision-making) except in the clearest case of urgency.

### Urgent Motions with or without Notice

Urgent motions are those that meet the requirements of Rules 14 (4.2) and 14(12)-(15) of the Family Law Rules, O. Reg. 114/99. Whether with or without notice, a party may seek an urgent motion in advance of a Case Conference only in situations of urgency or hardship, including concerns over an immediate danger of a child's removal from Ontario and immediate danger to the health or safety of a child or of the party making the motion and threats of harm.

A party seeking to bring a motion without notice to the other interested party(s) must also set out why notice is unnecessary, inappropriate, or not reasonably possible in the circumstances.

Any motion filed by a party as an "urgent motion" will first be reviewed by a judge to determine whether it is urgent. If it is determined that the motion is urgent, the reviewing judge will provide directions on when the motion will be heard and/or make temporary orders and set a review date.

If the judge determines that the motion is not urgent, then the party bringing the motion will be advised of this decision, and the party will have to schedule the motion in the normal fashion set out herein. Such a determination may attract costs consequences against the party alleging urgency.

**Contested Motion Materials:**

Except for motions arising from the wrongful removal or retention of a child, each party is restricted to one primary affidavit in support of their position on the motion and cross-motion (if applicable) which shall not exceed 12 pages of narrative.

In addition, exhibits to each party's affidavit shall be limited to only the necessary and relevant evidence and are generally expected not to exceed 10 pages.

Leave is required to file documents beyond these limits.

**Consent to Late file:** Consent to late filing can be consented to by the parties/counsel within 48 hours of the filing deadline, unless a judge has ordered otherwise.

**Late filing:** Without consent, neither the Court staff nor Judicial Assistants can or will accept late documents or documents which do not comply with the restrictions regarding the length of the documents. 14B motion may be considered.

The use of Case Center should be canvassed at the scheduling of Motions and for trials.

Joanne Beasley

Local Administrative Judge – Family - Ontario Court of Justice Brantford

Judicial Assistant: Mary Elizabeth Van Alphen

January 21, 2026