



The Supreme Court of British Columbia
NOTICE
Chambers Assize in Vancouver

There continues to be a significant volume of lengthy chambers applications (over 2 hours) in civil chambers in Vancouver with the result that matters are frequently bumped or counsel adjourn as it becomes apparent from the state of the list that a matter may not get heard. In 2013 a chambers assize was initiated on a pilot basis to deal with the volume and ensure matters get heard. The chambers assize is now being continued indefinitely.

Matters on the assize list will be scheduled to be heard sometime during the one week time frame of the assize week. It is not guaranteed that every matter on the assize list will be heard, and counsel must be available to proceed on short notice during the assize week.

Criteria for placement of applications on the assize list

Applications may be placed on the assize list if all of the following criteria are met:

1. the application will require more than 2 hours but less than 2 days for hearing;
2. all counsel and self represented parties consent to the application being placed on the assize list;
3. all counsel and self represented parties are available to proceed on at least 2 of the 5 days of the assize week;
4. The application arises in a civil (non-family) proceeding and is not a judicial review.

Booking matters on the assize list

The weeks available for booking applications to the chambers assize will be posted on the “Scheduling” section of the Court’s website which is available [here](#). The booking of

matters to the assize list will be done by SC Scheduling in the usual way. At the time of booking, counsel will be required to indicate whether the matter is within the jurisdiction of a master or must be heard by a judge. Placing an application on the assize list does not guarantee that the application will be heard. If the application is not heard, it will not be treated for scheduling purposes as having been bumped.

It is anticipated that SC Scheduling will be able to confirm the assize list a day in advance, and counsel and self represented litigants will be contacted to confirm which matters will proceed for hearing on the following day.

Application Records

Applications records for matters set on the assize list must be provided to the chambers registry at VLC, no later than 4 p.m. on the Thursday¹ before the assize week, and must be served as required by the Rules of Court.

Chief Justice Hinkson

22 October 2018

¹ Unless Friday is a statutory holiday in which case the application record must be filed no later than 4 p.m. on the Wednesday before the assize week