



MEMORANDUM

To: Civil Bar Associations and Legal Organizations

From: Regional Senior Justice S. E. Firestone

Subject: New and Updated Consolidated Regional Practice Direction for Toronto

Date: July 2, 2025

Please be advised that a *new* and updated ***Consolidated Regional Practice for Direction for Toronto*** is now in effect and can be found on the Ontario Superior Court of Justice's new website ***here***.

Counsel should review the new ***Consolidated Regional Practice Direction for Toronto*** and in particular note the following new changes:

Commercial List

The Commercial List Practice Direction is now folded into the Consolidated Regional Practice Direction for Toronto and additional changes include points of clarification about the 90-minute cut off for presumptive remote hearings (anything longer then being presumptively in person); instructions about the use of Trial Hearing Requirements Checklist; directions regarding communications with the Court about last minute adjournments; and some Case Center best practices.

Civil List Matters

Changes to Civil List Matters include:

- i) Motion and application dates will only be assigned in Civil Practice Court once all steps required for the hearing, including exchange of factums, have been completed. This may require two Civil Practice Court attendances: one to set a timetable and a second to set the hearing date.

- ii) Factums shall be limited to **20 pages**, unless leave for a longer factum is obtained in Civil Practice Court.
- iii) Request for urgent motions must be accompanied by an urgent motions request form.
- iv) All motions and applications must be confirmed 10 days before the hearing date.

Scheduling Motions before Associate Judges

Changes to scheduling motions before Associate Judges include:

- i) Clarifying the time limit for express court.
- ii) Confirming that all motions of 20 – 120 minutes must be booked using Calendly.
- iii) Confirmation that all forms for all Associate Judge heard motions must be filed five days prior to the hearing.
- iv) Confirming that 60 minutes is the maximum amount of time permitted to hear motions concerning issues of examinations for discovery on Simplified Procedure matters.
- v) Confirmation that the moving party on any motion shall provide the Case Center invitation and the Zoom link for the hearing to all parties as soon as they become available.
- vi) Expression of the potential for cost consequences or the dismissal of the motion for failure to comply with the practice directions.

Construction Lien Motions & References Before an Associate Judge

Changes here include:

- i) Clarifying evidentiary requirements for motions to transfer lien actions.
- ii) Consolidating and streamlining procedures for motions and hearings. before associate judges, including motions dealing with non-Toronto liens, and lien actions.
- iii) Clarifying procedure and providing additional directions for bringing urgent and time sensitive motions.
- iv) Clarifying procedures and requirements for special motions, including vacating liens, substituting security, and orders for trial.

Estates List:

Changes include:

- i) Streamlining the process for bringing and scheduling an application to pass accounts, and
- ii) Clarifying when a guardianship application should be commenced on the Civil List as opposed to the Estates List.

Family:

Changes include:

- i) The formal introduction and implementation of the Binding Judicial Dispute Resolution Project ("Binding JDR"), and
- ii) The addition of costs consequences for specified actions, including failure to make and accept offers to settle.