

THE DEFENCE GROUP

criminal law

Arun. S. Maini Professional Corporation

Message Concerning the COVID-19 Emergency

The Defence Group remains open for business. We will continue to advise and defend you during this public health emergency, and will keep your cases moving forward.

In light of the continued spread of COVID-19, The Defence Group has shifted all of our communication and consultation online and by telephone. **We continue to offer a [free initial consultation](#)**, as well as further meetings and communications online, or over the phone at 1-877-487-4951.

As a result of the crisis, the court system has had to make sudden, unplanned and significant changes to its day-to-day operations. It will take several weeks for the justice system to sort out how they will be operating while the pandemic remains a concern. The key issue is about "social distancing" and reducing the spread of the illness. To that end, the courts have put in place strict limits on people attending court in person. That includes lawyers and court staff.

At the moment, the courts are operating on an "emergency-only" basis, which means that only in-custody and emergency matters are proceeding. What constitutes an "emergency" is evolving as the crisis evolves.

At the moment, all routine status appearances are being postponed automatically by 10 weeks at a time. That postponement may be extended, based on the state of the emergency.

So what does this mean for your case? For the most part, there will be no change, as we will be continuing to work on your case file, continuing to engage in discussions and negotiations with the Crown, and updating the court. It might well take a bit longer to get answers, because the Crown and court are busy sorting through how to operate in this new environment and have reduced their own staff to limit the spread of the virus. Many judges and prosecutors, as well as lawyers, are working from home or off-site offices. We will be conducting meetings and discussions by phone or online instead of in person, depending on the state of the crisis.

So consider any additional delays in getting responses or disclosure as being part of the bureaucratic process. However, we can assure you that all the courts and Crown's offices are working hard and are being quite diligent and responsive to this unprecedented crisis.

We will continue to stay updated on the latest developments related to this, to be able to obtain the best result for you in your case, including any remedies legally available.

As we work our way through this public health emergency, please stay safe and follow the protocols being recommended by the health agencies that are tasked with looking after our collective well-being.