



COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH FOR
SASKATCHEWAN

FAMILY PRACTICE DIRECTIVE #1
FAMILY PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCES

REFERENCE: FAM-PD #1

Former Reference: Practice Directive #5 issued May 1, 2009

Effective: July 1, 2013

1. Pursuant to Rule 15-21 of the Court of Queen`s Bench Rules, a Joint Request for Pre-Trial Conference Form 15-21 form must be completed, signed by all counsel, and filed before the Local Registrar will assign a pre-trial conference date. There will be no more bifurcated pre-trials where parties seek to have a pre-trial on one aspect of the matters in issue and leave the balance in abeyance. A pre-trial will address all issues. The exception to this requirement is pre-trials ordered for a specific purpose from Chambers.
2. Where one of the parties neglects or refuses to join in a joint request for a pre-trial conference recourse may be had to Rule 4-11(2). Where no reason is offered for the neglect or refusal Rule 4-11(3) is the appropriate rule. In addition to the information required by Rule 4-11(1) the application should include the information contained in paragraph (g) and (h), of the Joint Request Form 15-21.
3. Form 15-21 requires the lawyers to confirm that efforts at settlement have been made and requires the dates settlement was discussed be identified. In the absence of dates being identified, a pre-trial date will not be assigned.
4. The goals of a pre-trial conference are:
 - (a) to allow the parties to participate in the problem solving process;
 - (b) to allow settlement options to be presented which would not necessarily be available at trial;

- (c) to allow the parties to receive the benefit of a trial judge's views on issues that remain unresolved;
 - (d) if settlement is not achieved to narrow the issues that remain to be litigated, and arrive at all reasonable agreements that will minimize time at trial;
 - (e) to take any other steps which will improve the efficiency of the trial and save time and costs for parties and witnesses.
5. Parties to family law proceedings are required to be present personally at the pre-trial conference unless otherwise ordered by the pre-trial judge on prior application by telephone through the local registrar.
 6. At the pre-trial conference, the pre-trial conference judge may make any orders outlined in Rule 4-18 including orders as to costs.

Chief Justice M. D. Popescul