

Protocol for in-person hearings while COVID-19 health restrictions are in place

Background

This protocol provides information to participants who attend in-person hearings while communities in Alberta are still under COVID-19 health restrictions. During the pandemic the Tribunal has mostly conducted its hearings over Zoom, however, in certain circumstances, in-person hearings may be appropriate and available within a staged return to in-person activities.

Protecting health

Your health and safety is important to us, and therefore we have taken measures to protect those who attend an in-person hearing:

- Space has been provided to observe the 6-foot physical distancing rule;
- Plexiglass barriers have been installed; and
- There is enhanced cleaning of the hearing room and nearby bathrooms.

Plexiglass barriers have been placed in the hearing rooms at the tables for:

- Each party to a complaint;
- The witness;
- The Tribunal Clerk; and
- The Tribunal Chair.

Parties will be asked to confirm the number of people who are attending as their legal counsel, an authorized representative or a support person.

The number of people who will be permitted to be present in a hearing room will be reduced depending on current health restrictions and room limits. A member of the public wishing to attend an in-person hearing must contact the Tribunal Registrar, five days in advance of the hearing, to see if there is enough space in the hearing room for that person to attend.

As rules change and are updated, you will see posted signs in the building to instruct you on applicable laws for mask usage and physical distancing.

We need your help

1. Please do not come to the hearing if you have any COVID-19 symptoms or you have been in contact with someone who has the virus.
2. Bring your own mask to wear.
3. Inform the Tribunal Registrar immediately, at the contact information below, if you are unable to attend due to COVID-19. If you are sick but still able to participate in the hearing, we may be able to use video-conferencing technology to continue with the hearing.
4. We ask that you observe the 6-foot physical distancing rule when entering, exiting, or moving around the hearing room.
5. While the hearing is in session, all participants will be asked to stay seated. If you have a document to present to the Tribunal Chair, the Clerk will come to you to get the document and deliver it to the Tribunal Chair and other parties.
6. No food, coffee, tea, or pop are allowed in the hearing room. However, we encourage you to bring your own water.

Contact information

Tribunal Registrar: AHRCTribunal@gov.ab.ca
Phone: 780-638-4635