

SUPREME COURT OF YUKON

PRACTICE DIRECTION
GENERAL-6

*Use of Courtrooms, Court Registry, Atrium and
Courthouse Property, including Use of Cameras*

This practice direction adopts the attached *Policy Governing the Use of Courtrooms and the Adjacent Atrium and Contiguous Property* dated April 7, 2021, and signed by Chief Justice S.M. Duncan and Chief Judge P. Chisholm.



Duncan C.J.
April 7, 2021

Policy Governing the Use of the Courtrooms, the Adjacent Atrium and Contiguous Property

The Law Courts

Courtrooms shall be used exclusively by the Courts of Yukon, subject only to what follows:

With the permission of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Chief Judge of the Territorial Court, exceptions may be made for the following uses:

- Education programs for judges, justices of the peace and lawyers;
- Programs sponsored by the Law Society of Yukon and the Canadian Bar Association (Yukon Branch);
- Moot court programs for education and training purposes;
- Ceremonial occasions, such as the swearing-in of new judges, justices and lawyers;
- Other activities which do not detract from the dignity of the Court.

The following considerations will apply in considering any of the exceptions enumerated above:

- Impact on the public perception of the administration of justice and the independence of the judiciary;
- Wear and tear on the physical facilities;
- Security;
- Convenience of the Court.

The Atrium

The atrium in the Law Courts building provides direct access to the courtrooms and is used to post court lists of interest to those persons attending court. It is used by victims, witnesses and accused persons in court proceedings as a waiting area. Their expectations of peace, comfort and privacy must be respected. Moreover, for the above reasons, the atrium is a functional extension of the courts, where appropriate quiet and decorum must be maintained.

The media may use the atrium for the purposes of gaining access to the courts and for other purposes as members of the general public. The atrium may not be used by anyone for any special purpose or function, without the prior written permission of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Chief Judge of the Territorial Court.

Pamphlets and signage related to court processes and the justice system may be displayed with prior approval of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Chief Judge of the Territorial Court.

Cameras, Audio and Video Equipment and other Devices

Except in accordance with Court Rules, Practice Directions and policy, or with permission of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Chief Judge of the Territorial Court, visual or audio recording is not permitted within the Law Courts, including, but not limited to, the courtrooms, the Court Registry, the Law Library, the atrium, the front and rear pedestrian steps and ramps or the vehicle ramp. Media personnel must not impede the access of persons or vehicles to or from the building.

All enquiries for exceptional use should be directed to the Director of Court Services at 667-3440. The fax number is 393-6212.



Chief Justice S.M. Duncan
Supreme Court



Chief Judge P. Chisholm
Territorial Court

07/04/21

Date

April 7, 2021

Date