



The Provincial Court of Saskatchewan

PRACTICE DIRECTIVE X

Safe Handling of Trial and/or Hearing Exhibits

1. In order to promote the safe handling of exhibits and the efficiency of court proceedings, counsel are encouraged to reach agreement on the filing of exhibits prior to trial or hearing.
2. Whenever possible, bulky exhibits such as large quantities of stolen property or controlled substances should be tendered by way of photos rather than actual filing.
3. Firearm exhibits should be trigger locked and/or otherwise rendered inoperable and whenever possible, such exhibits should be tendered into evidence through a witness trained in the handling of firearms. In the case of dangerous exhibits, consideration should be given to tendering these exhibits by way of photos and/or expert reports.
4. Any party wishing to introduce evidence that contains or may contain high potency narcotics (HPN), including fentanyl and carfentanil, shall obtain leave of the Court prior to the HPN exhibits being brought to the court house. In the event the presiding judge grants leave and admits HPN exhibits into evidence, they shall be brought into the court house only in the manner and with the safeguards for public safety as ordered by the Court. The court clerk will notify the court manager in the event the HPN exhibits are admitted into evidence. An application to bring HPN exhibits into the court house shall be made in writing no less than 14 days before the proceeding in question. A copy of the written application shall be provided to the presiding judge and to all the parties to the proceeding.
5. Counsel are reminded of the applicability of the following provisions of the *Criminal Code*:

Section 603(a) of the *Criminal Code* permits the accused, after he has been ordered to stand trial or at his trial, to inspect the evidence and the exhibits.

With respect to proceedings pursuant to section 334, 344, 348, 354, 355.2, 355.4, 362 or 380 of the *Criminal Code*, section 491.2(2) permits the use of photographs. Notice is required pursuant to section 491.2(5).