

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE PAUL R. SWEENY
REGIONAL SENIOR JUDGE – CENTRAL SOUTH REGION
SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE



L'HONOURABLE JUGE PAUL R. SWEENY
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Notice to the Public and Profession

Change to the Presumptive Mode of Short Motions in the Central South Region

Pilot Project: Change to the presumptive mode for short motions in Brantford, Hamilton Sopinka, and St. Catharines

Commencing March 30, 2026, the mode of appearance for both civil and family short motions lists in Brantford and St. Catharines, and for civil motions at Hamilton Sopinka will change from presumptively virtual to presumptively **in person appearances**. Motion dates for each location will remain as listed in the Consolidated Practice Direction for the Central South Region – Ontario Superior Court of Justice. There will no longer be a “hold” date for motions in any of the above noted locations.

Parties will serve and file materials with the designated short motion date of their selected courthouse. Parties should expect to attend in person to argue the motion on that date. If there are more contested motions than time permits, the motions judge will determine which motions are heard and in what order.

Counsel or self-represented litigants may request a virtual appearance. The request should be made by completing the Virtual Hearing Request Form and submitting to the appropriate Trial Office as soon as possible. The request will be considered by the Local Administrative Judge or his/her designate. **Leave for virtual appearances will not be granted routinely. Requests based solely on travel and inconvenience will not likely be granted.**

Mr. Justice Paul R. Sweeny
Regional Senior Judge - Central South Region
Superior Court of Justice