

BC Corrections – Lower Mainland Centre Information – July 2023

SPSC – NFPC – FRCC – ACCW

Not to be distributed further or posted on a public website.

Description	Process
Where can legal messages be left?	<p>During normal business hours, calls are answered by the administration. Messages are then relayed to unit officers, who provide the message. This is recorded in the client log.</p> <p>Outside of business hours, messages are checked regularly, and messages are delivered.</p> <p>We do not call the lawyer back to confirm the message has been delivered.</p> <p>Criminal Justice Navigators can also leave messages with a call back to the Legal Intake Line: 1-888-839-8889 only.</p> <p>Note: Corrections officers can only relay the message and cannot compel the inmate to return the call. The onus is on the inmate to call back.</p>
	<p>SPSC - Main Number 604-599-4110, Option 4. E-mail legalaccessspsc@gov.bc.ca. SPSC does not send acknowledgment emails; messages are checked regularly.</p>
	<p>NFPC - Main Number 604-468-3500 (press 0). Can also fax it to the program office (604-468-3481) where the programs officer will deliver it when they are able to.</p>
	<p>FRCC – Main number 604-462-9313 (option 8)</p>
	<p>ACCW - Main number 604-476-2660 (option 3)</p>
Unknown inmate location	<p>Call 250-387-1605 to leave a message for the client (checked Monday – Friday 8 AM- 4 PM).</p> <p>The message will be relayed to the centre for the client and documented in the client log.</p>
Dropping off legal documents	<p>Mail that is being dropped off must be in a sealed, addressed (sender and receiver information) envelope.</p> <p>If a lawyer drops off mail, we will check their driver's license and Law Society ID at the time.</p> <p>If the mail is dropped off by an articling student, we will check their driver's license and Law Society Articling identification (with active time frame), or in lieu of the card, a letter provided directly to the centre from the law firm confirming articling student status and time frame.</p>
What identification is required at reception?	<p>Drivers License and Law Society ID – reception will also verify with the Law Society website to confirm if they are actively practicing.</p>

Access to recovery community services.	<p>All centres have recovery house, detox, and treatment centres lists. These lists are generated from Health Authority information. Available on units and from various staff. Updated regularly.</p> <p>Release planning officers (including ITRP), Community Transition Teams, healthcare staff (i.e., concurrent disorder counsellors), and others assist inmates in accessing these resources.</p> <p>SPSC – Community Integration Worker through Pacific Women’s Society.</p> <p>NFPC – Community Integration Worker through Connective Society</p> <p>FRCC –Community Integration Worker through Connective Society</p> <p>ACCW - Community Integration Worker through Elizabeth Fry Society.</p>
Legal disclosure - what can be sent in and how?	<p>We accept disclosure through mail, courier, and drop-off. Sender verification will be done prior to dissemination.</p> <p>eDisclosure material is permitted only in CD or DVD formats, or on an external hard drive. Please note CD drives will be phased out in the next year.</p> <p>USB devices are not permitted for security reasons.</p> <p>Any unprotected drives can be misused – we would encourage some form of password.</p> <p>Paper disclosure is extremely problematic as it can be passed on to and viewed by anyone.</p>
Current COVID-19 Protocols	<p>All inmates are seen by a nurse and mental health screener upon intake. Induction ceased in December 2022.</p> <p>Difficult to distinguish between communicable illness and withdrawal, individuals can be extremely sick.</p> <p>Only those showing symptoms of communicable illness as determined by healthcare are medically isolated and tested using one PCR that tests for COVID-19, influenza, and RSV. Induction of all intakes ceased in December 2022. In general:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Positive are kept separate for 5-7 days based on diagnosis and symptomology. ○ Negative medically cleared if well enough. <p>Update of Provincial Health Orders in April 2023 resulted in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mask mandate lifted in congregate living settings. ○ Vaccine mandate lifted for those working in/visiting a correctional centre.
Video Appearances	<p>BC Corrections provides the space. However, as virtual appearances have increased, space capacity has not.</p> <p>All video court technology is the property and responsibility of Court Services.</p>

	<p>78% remand populations and the increased use of virtual technology has put a strain on video appearance capacity in the centres. This churn also has been exacerbated with many appearances being put over repeatedly.</p> <p>The key is for counsel to make contact well before appearances, so appearances are as meaningful as possible and help reduce the churn.</p> <p>Aggression and frustration can be directed at correctional officers when hearings are put over.</p>
Court movement challenges	<p>All centres have dedicated resources to assist with court movements. Movements in some centres are easier than others (i.e., individuals, the footprint of the building).</p> <p>Court lists are known in advance and proactive movement is coordinated and requested by sheriffs.</p> <p>Violence or healthcare codes can impact movements within the centre, but only <u>during</u> the response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Once the situation is isolated, centres return as soon as possible to regular movement. ○ Even if a unit is affected by a code, clients would be moved to court if there are no imminent over-riding safety concerns. <p>Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT) – once taken must be directly monitored for a set time to prevent diversion.</p> <p>Physically and/or mentally unwell inmates. Often require a lot of encouragement to attend.</p> <p>Refusal to attend court. Takes time and often several attempts to convince to attend.</p> <p>The complexity of clients. Contact concerns, safety risks to officers, unpredictable.</p> <p>*There are two 15-minute windows a day only at NFPC where there is no movement to conduct a formal count. These windows are known in advance and corrections and sheriffs move clients ahead of the downtime to avoid delays.</p>