

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?	Drivers License and Law Society ID – reception will also verify with the Law Society website to confirm if they are actively practicing.

Access to recovery community services.	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. Release planning officers (including ITRP), Community Transition Teams, healthcare staff (i.e., concurrent disorder counsellors), and others assist inmates in accessing these resources. SPSC – Community Integration Worker through Pacific Women's Society. NFPC – Community Integration Worker through Connective Society FRCC –Community Integration Worker through Connective Society ACCW - Community Integration Worker through Elizabeth Fry Society.
Legal disclosure - what can be sent in and how?	We accept disclosure through mail, courier, and drop-off. Sender verification will be done prior to dissemination. 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. USB devices are not permitted for security reasons. Any unprotected drives can be misused – we would encourage some form of password. Paper disclosure is extremely problematic as it can be passed on to and viewed by anyone.
Current COVID-19 Protocols	All inmates are seen by a nurse and mental health screener upon intake. Induction ceased in December 2022. Difficult to distinguish between communicable illness and withdrawal, individuals can be extremely sick. 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: <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. Update of Provincial Health Orders in April 2023 resulted in: <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	BC Corrections provides the space. However, as virtual appearances have increased, space capacity has not. All video court technology is the property and responsibility of Court Services.

	<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>