

THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE PAUL T. O'MARRA
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TO: THE PUBLIC AND THE PROFESSION

**FROM: Justice Paul T. O'Marra
Ontario Court of Justice
Local Administrative Justice – Criminal
Brampton Courthouse**

DATE: March 29, 2023

RE: In Custody and Out of Custody Pleas

Effective Monday, April 3rd, 2023, Courtroom 103 will revert to being a Plea Court.

The following parameters will continue to apply to Plea Court appearances (from January 14, 2023**):

Whenever possible Crown, Defence and Duty Counsel are expected to attend in person. Accused will attend in person unless judge orders otherwise.

1) Exceptions for video pleas on consent: subject to a judge ordering otherwise, video pleas do not require prior approval of a judge in the following circumstances:

In-custody accused – if both the Crown and accused consent to the accused attending by video

Out of custody accused – if (i) both the Crown and accused consent to the accused attending by video and (ii) neither party is seeking a custodial sentence

2) Courtroom 103 Applications:

Applications for adjournment of trial or preliminary hearing dates, remote testimony, and removal of counsel from the record can be brought remotely unless otherwise directed.

The current Plea Court zoom coordinates will remain in effect; *i.e.*, those presently used for Courtroom 304 will traverse to Courtroom 103.

Courtroom 304 will revert to a Trial Court.

Thank you for your ongoing assistance and cooperation.

** From the [Notice to the Public and to the Profession – Interim Guidelines re Mode of Appearance for Ontario Court of Justice Criminal Proceedings | Ontario Court of Justice \(ontariocourts.ca\)](#) published March 18, 2022; updated January 14, 2023.