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23-34

BC Prosecution Service policy changes

Victoria – Today the BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) announced several policy changes, undertaken as part of its ordinary policy review process. The changes reflect current developments in law and practice along with additional steps in the implementation of the BCPS Indigenous Justice Framework, which has been ongoing [since 2019](#).

The following policies have been revised or added:

- *Ad Hoc Counsel* ([ADH 1](#)) – this revised policy explains the role of *ad hoc* counsel
- *Complaints Relating to Prosecutions* ([COM 1](#)) – this revised policy provides guidance on handling complaints relating to specific prosecutions (including appeals and other hearings)
- *Disclosure* ([DIS 1](#)) – this revised policy has been amended to align with current best practices, including issues of delay, disclosure requirements, and Crown discretion
- *Jurisdiction to Prosecute* ([JUR 1](#)) – this new policy consolidates guidance about the authority of the BCPS to prosecute offences under the *Criminal Code* and provincial statutes
- *Sexual Assaults – Adult Victims* ([SEX 1](#)) – this revised policy provides guidance regarding sexual assaults against adults
- *Special Prosecutors* ([SPE 1](#)) – this policy has been revised to provide greater clarity about the role of special prosecutors appointed under the *Crown Counsel Act*
- *Standards of Conduct for BC Prosecution Service Employees* ([STA 1](#)) – this updated policy confirms the standards of conduct that apply to all BCPS personnel
- *Victims of Crime* ([VIC 1](#)) – this revised policy provides guidance regarding the obligation to provide information to victims
- *Waiver of Criminal Charges Within Province* ([WAI 1](#)) – this revised policy provides guidance on waiving criminal charges from one location to another within the province
- *Waiver of Criminal Charges Between Provinces* ([WAI 1.1](#)) – this revised policy provides guidance on waiving criminal charges between British Columbia and other provinces and territories

- *Youth Criminal Justice Act – Adult Sentences* ([YOU 1.1](#)) – this revised policy provides guidance on seeking an adult sentence for a young person being prosecuted under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA)
- *Youth Criminal Justice Act – Continuation of Custody Hearings* ([YOU 1.2](#)) – this revised policy provides guidance on seeking orders that a young person remain in custody beyond the expiry of the custodial portion of their youth sentence

With the implementation of the above-noted policy changes – the following policies have been rescinded:

- *Judicial Justice Court – Crown Counsel Responsibilities* (JUD 1)
- *Municipal Bylaw Prosecutions* (MUN 1)
- *Prosecutorial Responsibility for Federal Statutes – Major/Minor Agreement* (PRO 2)
- *Victim Service Programs – Providing Information to* (VIC 2)

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To learn more about BC's criminal justice system, visit the British Columbia Prosecution Service website at: gov.bc.ca/prosecutionservice or follow [@bcprosecution](https://twitter.com/bcprosecution).