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BC Prosecution Service announces policy updates

Victoria – The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) announces updates to the *Crown Counsel Policy Manual* effective July 17, 2026 in response to legislative changes made by the federal Bills C-9, C-16, and C-225 and other developments in law and practice. The updated policies include:

- *Alternatives to Prosecutions* ([ALT 1](#)) has been substantially rewritten to reflect the new Part XXII.2 of the *Criminal Code* and amendments to the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* in Bill C-16. It streamlines existing guidance and incorporates advice previously contained in *Youth Criminal Justice Act – Extrajudicial Sanctions* (YOU 1.4)
- *Consent of the Attorney General* ([CON 1](#)) has been updated to reflect new offences in Bill C-16 and Bill C-9
- *Hate Crimes* ([HAT 1](#)) has been rewritten to reflect changes in Bill C-9, principally the new definition of hate crime and new hate-related offences
- *Intimate Partner Violence* ([IPV 1](#)) has been substantially rewritten to reflect changes in Bill C-16 and Bill C-225, and updates current practice advice including guidance on bail and its revocation
- *Recognizances and Peace Bonds* ([REC 1](#)) has been revised to reflect changes in Bill C-16
- *Resolutions* ([RES 1](#)) policy has been revised and renamed, in part to reflect changes in Bill C-16 and Bill C-225, and updates current practice advice
- *Sexual Offences* ([SEX 1](#)) has been revised and renamed to reflect new provisions in Bill C-16 and current practices. Advice relating to offences against children has been incorporated instead of being in a stand-alone policy, and guidance on private and therapeutic records and evidence of other sexual activity has been revised to align with Bill C-16 amendments
- *Vulnerable Victims and Witnesses* ([VUL 1](#)) policy has been revised, in part to reflect changes in Bill C-16 and Bill C-225 and to incorporate guidance previously contained in *Child Victims and Witnesses* (CHI 1) and *Elder Abuse – Offences Against Elders* (ELD 1)

The following policies will be rescinded on July 17, 2026, because their advice has been consolidated into the revised policies:

- *Child Victims and Witnesses* (CHI 1)
- *Elder Abuse – Offences Against Elders* (ELD 1)
- *Youth Criminal Justice Act – Extrajudicial Measures* (YOU 1.4)

The BCPS reviews policies on an ongoing basis to ensure they accurately reflect developments in Canadian criminal law, respond appropriately to emerging issues or community needs, including scientific developments, and reasonably balance individual rights and the public interest.

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