

# MOTIONS AND APPLICATIONS

## RULE 37

### MOTIONS - JURISDICTION AND PROCEDURE

#### NOTICE OF MOTION

**37.01** A motion shall be made by a notice of motion (Form 37A) unless the nature of the motion or the circumstances make a notice of motion unnecessary.

#### JURISDICTION TO HEAR A MOTION

##### **Jurisdiction of a Judge**

**37.02** (1) A judge of the court has jurisdiction to hear any motion in the proceeding.

##### **Jurisdiction of Prothonotary**

- (2) In addition to the duties set forth in the *Supreme Court Act*, the prothonotary has jurisdiction to hear any uncontested motion in a proceeding in the Supreme Court, and has all the jurisdiction of a judge in respect of such a motion, except a motion,
- (a) where the power to grant the relief sought is conferred expressly on a judge by a statute or rule;
  - (b) to set aside, vary or amend an order of a judge;
  - (c) to abridge or extend a time prescribed by an order that the prothonotary could not have made;
  - (d) for judgment on consent in favour of or against a party under disability;
  - (e) relating to the liberty of the subject; or
  - (f) in an appeal.
- (3) The prothonotary shall make an order granting the relief sought on a motion for an order on consent, if,
- (a) the consent of all parties (including the consent of any party to be added, deleted or substituted) is filed;
  - (b) the consent states that no party affected by the order is under disability; and
  - (c) the order sought is for,
    - (i) amendment of a pleading, notice of application or notice of motion,
    - (ii) addition, deletion or substitution of a party,

- (iii) removal of a solicitor as solicitor of record,
- (iv) setting aside the noting of a party in default,
- (v) setting aside a default judgment,
- (vi) discharge of a certificate of pending litigation,
- (vii) security for costs in a specified amount,
- (viii) re-attendance of a witness to answer questions on an examination,
- (ix) fulfilment of undertakings given on an examination, or
- (x) dismissal of a proceeding, with or without costs.

### **PLACE OF HEARING**

**37.03** (1) Unless the court otherwise orders, the place of hearing a motion shall be at the place named in the notice of motion.

#### **Leave to Hear Motion on Notice at Another Place**

- (2) On the ground of urgency or hardship or for another sufficient reason, the court may grant leave for the hearing of a motion on notice at a place elsewhere than provided in subrule (1).
- (3) Where leave is refused on a motion under subrule (2), the court shall fix the costs of any responding party who appeared at the hearing of the motion on a solicitor and client basis, together with travelling expenses, and order the moving party or his or her solicitor to pay those costs and expenses forthwith, unless the court is satisfied that the making of the motion for leave, although unsuccessful, was nevertheless reasonable.

#### **Motions - Whom to be Made**

**37.04** A motion in a proceeding shall be made to,

- (a) the prothonotary, if the motion is within the prothonotary's jurisdiction, or
- (b) a judge, in any other case.

### **HEARING DATE FOR MOTIONS**

- 37.05** (1) Where a motion is to be heard by a judge, a hearing date shall be obtained from the registrar before the notice of motion is served.
- (2) Subrule (1) does not apply if the motion is urgent and a satisfactory date cannot be obtained from the registrar.

## **CONTENTS OF NOTICE**

**37.06** Every notice of motion (Form 37A) shall,

- (a) state the precise relief sought;
- (b) state the grounds to be argued, including a reference to any statutory provision or rule to be relied on; and
- (c) list the documentary evidence to be used at the hearing of the motion.

## **SERVICE OF NOTICE OF MOTION AND MATERIAL FOR USE ON MOTION**

### **Required as General Rule**

**37.07** (1) The notice of motion and a copy of all material to be used on the motion shall be served on any party or other person who will be affected by the order sought unless these rules provide otherwise.

### **Where Not Required**

- (2) Where the nature of the motion or the circumstances render service of the notice of motion impracticable or unnecessary, the court may make an order without notice.
- (3) Where the delay necessary to effect service might entail serious consequences, the court may make an interim order without notice.
- (4) Unless the court orders or these rules provide otherwise, an order made without notice to a person or other party affected by the order shall be served on the person or party together with a copy of the notice of motion and all affidavits and other documents used at the hearing of the motion.

### **Where Notice Ought to Have Been Served**

- (5) Where it appears to the court that the notice of motion ought to have been served on a person who has not been served, the court may,
  - (a) dismiss the motion or dismiss it only against the person who was not served;
  - (b) adjourn the motion and direct that the notice of motion be served on the person; or
  - (c) direct that any order made on the motion be served on the person.

### **Minimum Notice Period**

- (6) Where a motion is made on notice, the party making the motion shall, unless the court otherwise orders, serve a motion record containing a copy of the notice of motion and of all other material to be used on the motion, on every other party to the motion, at least four clear days before the date on which the motion is to be heard.

### **Contents of Motion Record**

- (7) The motion record shall contain in consecutively numbered pages arranged in the following order,
  - (a) a table of contents describing each document, including each exhibit, by its nature and date;
  - (b) a copy of the notice of motion;
  - (c) a copy of all affidavits to be used by the maker of the motion;
  - (d) a list of all relevant extracts from any transcripts of evidence;
  - (e) a copy of any material in the court file that is necessary for the hearing of the motion;
  - (f) a factum, if needed, consisting of a concise statement, without argument, of the facts and law relied on by the party;
  - (g) a memorandum of authorities, if needed, listing any relevant case law, statute, regulation or rule that the moving party intends to rely on or refer to; and
  - (h) a draft of any proposed order.

### **FILING OF MOVING PARTY'S MOTION RECORD**

- 37.08** (1) Where a motion is made on notice, the motion record shall be filed at least three clear days before the hearing date.
- (2) Proof of service of the motion record shall be filed at least one clear day before the hearing date, except where service of the motion record is not required.

### **ABANDONED MOTIONS**

- 37.09** (1) A party who makes a motion may abandon it by delivering a notice of abandonment.
- (2) A party who serves a motion record and does not file it or appear at the hearing shall be deemed to have abandoned the motion unless the court orders otherwise.

- (3) Where a motion is abandoned or is deemed to have been abandoned, a responding party on whom the motion record was served is entitled to the costs of the motion forthwith, unless the court orders otherwise.

## **MATERIAL FOR USE ON MOTIONS**

### **Responding Party's Motion Record**

- 37.10** (1) Where a motion record is served, the responding party may serve on every other party at least one clear day before the date on which the motion is to be heard, a responding party's motion record containing in consecutively numbered pages arranged in the following order,
- (a) a table of contents describing each document, including each exhibit, by its nature and date;
  - (b) a copy of any material to be used by the responding party on the motion and not included in the motion record of the party making the motion;
  - (c) a factum, if needed, consisting of a concise statement, without argument, of the facts and law relied on by the responding party;
  - (d) a memorandum of authorities, if needed, listing any relevant case law, statute, regulation or rule that the responding party intends to rely on or refer to.

### **Filing of Responding Party's Motion Record**

- (2) The responding party's motion record shall be filed with proof of service at least one clear day before the hearing date.

### **Transcript of Evidence**

- (3) A party who intends to refer to a transcript of evidence at the hearing of a motion shall file a copy of the transcript as provided by Rule 34.18.

## **HEARING IN ABSENCE OF PUBLIC**

- 37.11** (1) A motion may be heard in the absence of the public where,
- (a) the motion is to be heard and determined without oral argument.
  - (b) because of urgency, it is impractical to have the motion heard in public;
  - (c) the motion is to be heard by conference telephone;
  - (d) the motion is made in the course of a pre-trial conference;  
or
  - (e) the motion is before a single judge of the appeal division.

- (2) The hearing of all other motions shall be open to the public, except as provided in section 57 of the *Supreme Court Act* in which case the presiding judge or officer shall endorse on the notice of motion leave for a hearing in the absence of the public.

**37.12** Revoked 2000

### **HEARING WITHOUT ORAL ARGUMENT**

#### **Consent Motions, Unopposed Motions and Motions Without Notice**

- 37.12.1**
- (1) Where a motion is on consent, unopposed or without notice under subrule 37.07(2), the motion may be heard in writing without the attendance of the parties, unless the court orders otherwise.
  - (2) Where the motion is on consent, the consent and a draft order shall be filed with the notice of motion.
  - (3) Where the motion is unopposed, a notice from the responding party stating that the party does not oppose the motion and a draft order shall be filed with the notice of motion.

#### **Opposed Motions in Writing**

- (4) Where the issues of fact and law are not complex, the moving party may propose in the notice of motion that the motion be heard in writing without the attendance of the parties, in which case,
  - (a) the motion shall be made on at least fourteen days notice;
  - (b) the moving party shall serve with the notice of motion and immediately file, with proof of service in the court office where the motion is to be heard, a motion record, a draft order and a factum entitled factum for a motion in writing, setting out the moving party's argument;
  - (c) the motion may be heard in writing without the attendance of the parties, unless the court orders otherwise.
- (5) Within ten days after being served with the moving party's material, the responding party shall serve and file, with proof of service, in the court office where the motion is to be heard,
  - (a) a consent to the motion;
  - (b) a notice that the responding party does not oppose the motion;
  - (c) a motion record, a notice that the responding party agrees to have the motion heard and determined in writing under

this rule and a factum entitled factum for a motion in writing setting out the party's argument; or

- (d) a notice that the responding party intends to make oral argument along with any material intended to be relied upon by the party.
- (6) Where the responding party delivers a notice under subrule (5) that the party intends to make oral argument, the moving party may either attend the hearing and make oral argument or not attend and rely on the party's motion record and factum.

### **DISPOSITION OF MOTION**

- 37.13** (1) On the hearing of a motion, the presiding judge or prothonotary may grant the relief sought or dismiss or adjourn the motion, in whole or in part and with or without terms, and may,
- (a) where the proceeding is an action, order that it be placed forthwith, or within a specified time, on a list of cases requiring speedy trial; or
  - (b) where the proceeding is an application, order that it be heard at such time and place as are just.
- (2) A judge who hears a motion may,
- (a) in a proper case, order that the motion be converted into a motion for judgment; or
  - (b) order the trial of an issue, with such directions as are just, and adjourn the motion to be disposed of by the trial judge.
- (3) Where on a motion a judge directs the trial of an issue, subrules 38.11(2) and (3) (issue treated as action) apply with necessary modifications.

### **SETTING ASIDE, VARYING OR AMENDING ORDERS**

#### **Motion to Set Aside or Vary**

- 37.14** (1) A person who,
- (a) is affected by an order obtained on motion without notice; or
  - (b) fails to appear on a motion through accident, mistake or insufficient notice; or
  - (c) is affected by an order of the registrar
- may move to set aside or vary the order, by a notice of motion that is served forthwith after the order comes to the person's attention and names the first available hearing date that is at

least three days after service of the notice of motion.

- (2) On a motion under subrule (1), the court may set aside or vary the order on such terms as are just.

#### **Order made by Registrar**

- (3) A motion under subrule (1) or any other rule to set aside, vary or amend an order of a registrar in a proceeding may be made to a judge or prothonotary at a place in accordance with Rule 37.03 (place of hearing motions).

#### **Order made by Judge or Prothonotary**

- (4) A motion under subrule (1) or any other rule to set aside, vary or amend an order of a judge or prothonotary may be made to the judge or prothonotary who made it at a place in accordance with Rule 37.03 (place of hearing motions).

#### **Order Made in Appeal Division**

- (5) A motion under sub rule (1) or any other rule to set aside, vary or amend an order made by a judge or panel of the Appeal Division may be made,
  - (a) where the order was made by a judge, to the judge who made it or any other judge of the court; or
  - (b) where the order was made by a panel of the court, to the panel that made it or any other panel of the court.

### **MOTIONS IN A COMPLICATED PROCEEDING OR SERIES OF PROCEEDINGS**

- 37.15** (1) Where a proceeding involves complicated issues or where there are two or more proceedings in a court that involve similar issues, the Chief Justice of the Trial Division, or a judge designated by him, may direct that all motions in the proceeding or proceedings be heard by a particular judge.
- (2) A judge who hears motions pursuant to a direction under subrule (1) shall not preside at the trial of the actions or the hearing of the applications.

### **PROHIBITING MOTIONS WITHOUT LEAVE**

- 37.16** On motion by any party, a judge or prothonotary may by order prohibit another party from making further motions in the proceeding without leave, where the judge or prothonotary on the hearing of the motion is satisfied that the other party is attempting to delay or add to the costs of the proceeding or otherwise abuse the process of the court by a multiplicity of frivolous or vexatious motions.



## **MOTION BEFORE COMMENCEMENT OF PROCEEDING**

**37.17** In an urgent case, a motion may be made before the commencement of a proceeding on the moving party's undertaking to commence the proceeding forthwith.

*Bagnall's and Tersteeg v. AWARD and Ors.* 2001 PESCTD 64

The plaintiffs commenced an action against the corporate defendant and a number of other defendants in their personal capacity. Before serving the originating notice on the individuals and without serving them with the notice of motion, the plaintiffs sought a declaration from the court with respect to the liability of the corporate defendant under a contract between it and the plaintiffs. The court dismissed the motion because the individuals had not been served as required by Rules 16 and 37.

*Clark v. Simmonds* (1999), 171 Nfld. & P.E.I.R. 70 (P.E.I.S.C.-T.D.)

On the facts of this case the party affected by the *ex parte* order of the prothonotary could either file an appeal from the order pursuant to Rule 62 or make a motion to set aside or vary, pursuant to Rule 37.14(1).

*Judson Catering Ltd. v. Marine Atlantic Inc.* (1994), 123 Nfld. & P.E.I.R. 68 (P.E.I.S.C.-T.D.)

Plaintiff made a motion before the commencement of a proceeding pursuant to Rule 37.17 (erroneously referred to in the decision as Rule 31.17) seeking an injunction and a declaration for wrongful conduct. The Court stated the motion must fail for the principal reason that it seeks a resolution of the ultimate question in the anticipated proceeding by means of an interim declaration. It is not within the court's authority to make declaratory orders determining the rights of the parties prior to the commencement of the proceeding.

*Huynh v. Mills* (1991), 96 Nfld. & P.E.I.R. 295 (P.E.I.S.C.-T.D.)

Pursuant to Rule 37.02(2)(a) the prothonotary has no jurisdiction to grant default judgment because pursuant to Rule 19 the power to grant default judgment is conferred expressly on a judge.