



Justice

Manitoba Prosecution Service
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December 16, 2025

David Richardson
contactme@daverichardson.ca

Dear David Richardson:

Thank you for your email of November 12, 2025, addressed to Honourable Matt Wiebe, Minister of Justice and Attorney General. Your correspondence has been referred to my office for response.

In general, documents filed in court are open to the public for review, unless an order restricts access for valid reasons. In some circumstances, the police can seek a sealing order to prevent disclosure of information in a search warrant or production order that would compromise an ongoing investigation. Before a sealing order expires, police may apply for a new one if necessary. The Crown does not seek extensions, and the Court does not issue orders authorizing media disclosure in this context. When a sealing order expires and is lifted, an edited copy of the production order is placed on the court file and may be provided to the public or media upon request.

The Provincial Court's policy allows release of production orders if the warrant or order has been executed, a report to a justice has been filed (where items were seized), and no sealing orders or other restrictions remain in effect.

To our knowledge, after January 8, 2019, all conditions for disclosure would have been satisfied. The media applied for a copy of the production order and obtained it on January 25, 2019. After the sealing order had expired police applied for a new sealing order. However, that application was denied by the Judicial Justice of the Peace. Disclosure had already been made to the media by the time the application was made. Notice was also provided to the Crown after the sealing order expired that the Court would be releasing a copy of the production order. The Crown did not take a position. In circumstances such as these, the Crown will usually only provide input on redaction of names to protect children, confidential Child and Family Service information, and information that is the subject of a publication ban. None of those categories apply to this case.

As you know, no charges were laid in this matter. However, the absence of charges is not a basis for granting or continuing a sealing order. If you require further information, you may wish to contact the policing agency or court registry for further assistance.

Thank you for writing to the Manitoba government.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Mann
Executive Director

c Honourable Matt Wiebe, Minister of Justice and Attorney General
 Jeremy Akerstream, K.C., Deputy Attorney General