



# COVID-19 & THE PRACTICE OF LAW

## WEEKLY UPDATE

Fola.ca

### COVID-19 - WEEKLY CHECK IN LOG #10

May 20, 2020

Summary

#### **Invited participants: Sector calls**

OBA, FOLA, LSO, LAO, the Advocates' Society, & OTLA

Superior Court of Justices in Ontario, Court of Appeal for Ontario, & Ontario Court of Justice

MAG - Political and Department staff

#### **Issues discussed:**

##### **1. Courts**

- ❖ The SCJ is now operating under the consolidated practice direction issued last week ([available here](#)) and they expect to operate under those directives for the next 5-6 weeks while MAG decides on an e-Filing system (currently in the procurement process).
- ❖ Both the SCJ and the OCJ continue to work with the various Task Forces (Family, Civil, Criminal, Bankruptcy, and Small Claims) as well as the e-Hearings Task Force to review processes and procedures related to adding new matters to the Courts' operations.
- ❖ The OCJ has issued a new notice regarding Provincial Offences Act Matters ([available here](#)) as well as a new directive for public and media access ([available here](#)).
- ❖ The OCJ is in the process of drafting a new notice related to Criminal Matters, which we can expect early next week.
- ❖ MAG and the OCJ are exploring ways of piloting video conferencing in jails (perhaps using the Toronto East Detention Centre).
- ❖ The Courts continue to work with all working groups (FAST Action, e-Task Force, and others) and are in the process of drafting e-Filing conventions once the e-Filing platform is rolled out.

##### **2. LSO**

- ❖ The Law Society is requesting that members of the public who wish to watch future Convocations to fill out a form as online attendance will be limited. This process will last until Convocation begins to meet again in person. You can download the form [here](#).

#### **REMINDER:**

Law Association members are welcome to send any issues/concerns related to the practice of law caused by the COVID-19 epidemic to FOLA ([katie.robinette@fola.ca](mailto:katie.robinette@fola.ca)) and we will continue to address them in as timely a manner as is humanly possible. Please note that prior to submitting a question, you are requested to visit the [Ontario government's website](#), the [Courts' websites](#), and the [Law Society's FAQ](#) page. These links can all be accessed on FOLA's [COVID-19](#) page. Please also note that FOLA cannot assist in issues related to a specific case.