



# COVID-19 & THE PRACTICE OF LAW

## WEEKLY UPDATE

*Fola.ca*

### COVID-19 - WEEKLY CHECK IN LOG #12

June 3, 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**

- ❖ We are expecting an updated Small Claims Courts Notice later this week or early next week likely to address settlement conferences.
- ❖ The Working Groups (Family, Criminal, Civil, Bankruptcy, and Small Claims) continue to meet regularly as do the e-Task Force Groups (e-Hearings and e-Filings).
- ❖ The Criminal Working Group is working with the Courts on in-person hearing protocols.
- ❖ The Civil Working Group is working on identifying rule amendments that will be required to accommodate e-Hearings and e-Filings.
- ❖ The Superior Court Chief Justice is working with Public Health to assist with instituting health and safety measures as the Courts consider expansion of in-person services.
- ❖ Courts Services Division is working on planning for the training of Zoom moderators to assist Judges during Remote Hearings. Discussions are underway with OPSEU to review job descriptions.

##### **2. MAG**

- ❖ Although no one from MAG was able to join the call, we heard that the Pilot "Special Bail Hearing" with the OCJ at Toronto's East Detention Centre went well despite a few technological glitches and the fact that the trial did not allow for cross examination with evidence.

##### **3. ASSOCIATIONS**

- ❖ The OTLA has created Best Practices for Remote Discoveries and Mediations which also contains suggested legislative amendments. FOLA is expected to receive their final copy and we will post in online and include a link to that in next week's update.

##### **4. FOLA**

- ❖ Are you aware that the e-Hearings Task Force (of which FOLA is a member) has drafted some documents that have been designed to help you prepare for Remote Hearings. You can find those [here](#). If you've

participated in a remote hearing and have some additional suggestions, we'd love to hear them! Please email Katie Robinette at [katie.robinette@fola.ca](mailto:katie.robinette@fola.ca) and put "REMOTE HEARINGS" in the subject line.

- ❖ **UPCOMING FREE LIVE WEBINARS!** FOLA has partnered with Korbitec to offer you two free live webinars this month. One is on Korbitec's xchangedocs (June 17), which is a portal for exchanging documents with opposing parties, process servers, clients, experts, and others through a secure Canadian environment. And you can send or retrieve documents directly from within ACL5. The other webinar will be held on June 18<sup>th</sup> and will cover Automated Civil Litigation (ACL). ACL assembles court forms and other documents over ten times faster – error free and properly formatted – using your own precedent templates and thousands of up-to-date court forms. You can find links to both of those [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 and the Courts will NOT provide clarification on any Notice to the Profession.