



# COVID-19 & THE PRACTICE OF LAW

## WEEKLY UPDATE

Fola.ca

### COVID-19 - WEEKLY CHECK IN LOG #39

January 6, 2021

#### 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, Department staff, and the Recovery Secretariat

#### Issues discussed:

##### 1. COURTS

- ❖ On December 17<sup>th</sup>, the SCJ issued a [Notice to the Profession](#) outlining standard document protocols as required by CaseLines.
- ❖ On December 23<sup>rd</sup>, the SCJ issued amendments to Part C (section 8) of the [Consolidated Notice to the Profession, Litigants, Accused Persons, Public and the Media](#) which set out a standard document naming protocol for all documents submitted to the court in electronic format.
- ❖ Also on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, the SCJ issued amendments to paragraph 24 of the Toronto Region's [Consolidated Practice Direction for Civil Actions, Applications, Motions and Procedural Matters in the Toronto Region](#) to require parties or their representatives to provide their email addresses to the Civil Motions Coordinator 30 days prior to the motion date. Email addresses are required for the CaseLines document sharing platform. These are effective January 11, 2021.
- ❖ On December 31<sup>st</sup>, the SCJ issued updates regarding notices to the profession in two regions:
  - The Central East Region has new [civil](#), [criminal](#) and [family](#) notices, all effective January 4, 2021.
  - The [Central West Region's notice](#) was updated with a new protocol for long motions in civil and family matters.
- ❖ Unfortunately, representatives from the OCJ and the CAO were unable to join the meeting.

##### 2. MAG

- ❖ Unfortunately, representatives from MAG were unable to join the meeting.

##### 3. RECOVERY SECRETARIAT

- ❖ **REMINDER:** Version 5 of the Recovery Secretariat's Guidebook, "COVID-19: Recommended Precautionary Measures for Resuming Court Operations" is now available on [Ontario.ca](#), in both [English](#) and [French](#). *As a reminder, the Guidebook is a living document and may continue to be updated over time, in response to feedback and/or evolving provincial guidance regarding COVID-19.*
- ❖ **REMINDER:** Site-specific Courthouse HVAC data will no longer be collected by FOLA. If you wish to receive regular HVAC data from the Recovery Secretariat, please email: [MAGrecoverysecretariat@ontario.ca](mailto:MAGrecoverysecretariat@ontario.ca).
- ❖ **REMINDER:** Questions about Courthouse operations during COVID-19 can be directed to Samantha Poisson at [MAGrecoverysecretariat@ontario.ca](mailto:MAGrecoverysecretariat@ontario.ca).

#### 4. FOLA

- ❖ **IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:** FOLA's January 2021 Newsletter was sent out last week. You can read it [here](#).
- ❖ **REMINDER:** During the entire month of January, FOLA is running a [#BellLetsTalk awareness campaign](#) on [Twitter](#) to help raise awareness about mental health and wellness in the legal community, highlight resources, and remind lawyers with personal and family mental health issues they are not alone. Please do [follow us](#) and join the discussion! If you want to check out our #BellLetsTalk resources, please visit [here](#).

#### QUESTIONS/CONCERNS?

Law Association members are welcome to send any issues/concerns related to the practice of law caused by the COVID-19 epidemic to FOLA at [katie.robinette@fola.ca](mailto:katie.robinette@fola.ca) and we will continue to address them in as timely a manner as possible. 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. If your concerns are related to issues surrounding health and safety measures as the Courts expand in person operations, please indicate the name of the Courthouse and the steps you have already taken to address your concerns to:

[MAGrecoverysecretariat@ontario.ca](mailto:MAGrecoverysecretariat@ontario.ca).