



COVID-19 & THE PRACTICE OF LAW

WEEKLY UPDATE

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COVID-19 - WEEKLY CHECK IN LOG #44

February 10, 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

- ❖ Naming conventions of electronically filed documents with the Ontario Court of Appeal conventions can be found [here](#) and naming conventions of electronically filed documents with the SCJ can be found [here](#).

2. MAG

- ❖ Many forms related to the Divorce Act and the Childs Law Reform Act have been updated (and some continue to be updated). You can find all information (including links to forms, materials, and training) [here](#).
- ❖ MAG is working with the Vaccine Secretariat to plan the distribution/rollout of vaccine distribution to all those deemed essential workers. It has yet to be determined if Court Staff will be categorized as "essential workers" for Phase II scheduling of vaccinations. More information is expected in the coming weeks.
- ❖ CaseLines will be hosting another online demonstration for the Criminal Bar on **February 24 at 12:00 noon**. Please click [here](#) to join the webinar: Passcode: 093675. If you experience any difficulties, please contact Norine Nathanson at Norine.Nathanson@ontario.ca

3. RECOVERY SECRETARIAT

- ❖ The Recovery Secretariat is finalizing protocols for positive COVID cases at POA locations and continues to work on ensuring they are ready for in-person matters when the Province allows.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **REMINDER:** Questions about Courthouse operations during COVID-19 can be directed to Samantha Poisson at MAGrecoverysecretariat@ontario.ca.

4. FOLA

- ❖ **DIVORCE ACT ONLINE TRAINING SESSIONS (FEDERAL):** The Department of Justice's Centre for Legal Education Services is offering courses related to Bill C-78 Divorce Act Changes on the following dates:
 - Monday, March 1st, 2021 - 12pm to 3pm EST: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/140379208993>

- Thursday, March 4th, 2021 – 12pm to 3pm EST: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/140385098609>
- Friday, March 5th, 2021 – 12pm to 3pm EST: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/140389315221>

If these sessions fill up, please look for updates for additional sessions at <http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/cj-jp/yj-jj/dac-ml.d.html>

- ❖ **LAW LIBRARY FUNDING #1:** FOLA has been encouraging all lawyers and Law Associations to send letters to Benchers showing how their recent cuts to LiRN funding have affected their law libraries. Has your association written one yet? Have you? You can read our letter [here](#) and some FOLA regional letters [here](#). Please send FOLA a copy of your letter and we will add it to our website!
- ❖ **LAW LIBRARY FUNDING #2:** Have your library revenues been affected by COVID? Have a look at funding options from the federal and provincial governments [here](#). Also, while there are no open calls for funding at present, you may wish to consider a future grant from the [Law Foundation](#).
- ❖ **2021 BUDGET CONSULTATIONS:** The Ontario government has launched their 2021 Budget consultations and is seeking input from residents. You can participate in this year's budget consultations by sharing ideas online and by participating in the online survey, by email/mail, and/or by attending a virtual consultation session. Budget Consultations will close on February 12, 2021. [Learn more](#).
- ❖ **GOVERNMENT DIGITAL ID CONSULTATIONS:** The Ontario government is consulting on the development of a new electronic government-issued ID that lets people and businesses prove who they are online. You can provide comment [here](#).

5. LEGAL AID ONTARIO

- ❖ Reminder to complete your annual panel lawyer self-report by March 31, 2021 to renew your legal aid panel membership, confirm ongoing compliance with panel standards, and to update your panel standing. LAO's reminder can be found [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 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.