



**COVID-19 &
THE PRACTICE OF LAW**
WEEKLY UPDATE

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COVID-19 - WEEKLY CHECK IN LOG #58

May 19, 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 May 18th, the OCJ issued a new Notice re: Scheduling of Family Matters. In essence, the May 4, 2021 Notice adjourning all in-person and hybrid (a combination of in-person and virtual) family and CYFSA trials continues until May 21, 2021. Beginning Tuesday, May 25, 2021, all in-person and hybrid family and CYFSA trials may proceed as scheduled. You can read that [here](#).
- ❖ The OCJ also issued an Update on May 18th regarding the resumption of out-of-custody trials and preliminary inquiries as of May 25, 2021. That announcement is [here](#).
- ❖ On May 17, 2021, a regulation was filed to amend court rules and forms for civil proceedings in the Superior Court of Justice: [O. Reg. 343/21](#), amending the Rules of Civil Procedure. The regulation amends three rules of the Rules of Civil Procedure to: 1) eliminate the 60-day delay between a party setting down a defended action for trial and the action being placed on the trial list and make consequential amendments to this rule change; and 2) revoke two obsolete provisions regarding the time for trial listing for matters outside Toronto, to reflect existing practice across the province.
- ❖ The SCJ issued an [Amendment to a Notice to the Profession](#) (Toronto Region). Effective May 17, 2021, Section C Civil Matters is amended in paragraph 6 to provide a link to the new [Requisition to Attend Civil Practice Court](#) form. This form replaces the existing Civil Practice Court: Long Motions & Summary Judgment form. The new form contains a section for the judge to endorse and a checklist of required steps.

2. MAG

- ❖ MAG has an opening for a Case Management Master at their University Ave. location. The deadline to apply is May 21st. See details [here](#).
- ❖ MAG is seeking applications from qualified lawyers to serve on family law legal panels across the province. Each year, Ontario's Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services counsel and the panel of lawyers appear in courts across the province in response to Motions to Change and in related proceedings with respect to assignments made by support recipients. Deadline is June 11th. More information can be found [here](#).

1. RECOVERY SECRETARIAT

- ❖ **REMINDER:** Questions about Courthouse operations during COVID-19 can be directed to Samantha Poisson at MAGrecoverysecretariat@ontario.ca.

2. FOLA

❖ **CASELINES TRAINING:** CaseLines is offering 2 in-depth “discussion & demonstration” sessions for Law Association members! Hosted by Betty Montoni of Thomson Reuters, learn how to use CaseLines from start to finish. In these sessions, you will get practical insights into CaseLines’ features in preparing for and sharing your evidentiary material, both at virtual hearings and when we can eventually return to the courtroom in person. There are two dates/times for you to choose from. They both cover the same material and are one hour in length:

3. May 25 at 2:30 pm (EST): <https://event.thomsonreuters.com/profile/23656>
4. May 26 at 10:00 am (EST): <https://event.thomsonreuters.com/profile/23694>

❖ **LIBRARY ACTION CENTRE:** FOLA has created a [Law Library Action Centre](#) -complete with curated social media posts and some images for you to share. Please take a moment to visit and send a tweet or two. Tag FOLA (@Ont_Law_Assoc) and we will share all your Law Library advocacy posts! [Here's the link!](#)

❖ **SMALL CLAIMS COURT WORKING GROUP - COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS WELCOME:** Jane Robertson is FOLA’s representative on the Small Claims Court Working Group, whose mandate is to assist with formulating revisions to forms and process given the impact of the Covid-19 epidemic on the operations of the Small Claims Court. Jane is welcoming feedback and insight from the perspective of both the practicing bar and the per diem Deputy Judges who practice and preside in the Small Claims Court, Superior Court of Justice, Ontario. Feel free to contact her with suggestions and/or queries that you wish to come to the attention of the Small Claims Court Working Group. Please be advised that while she may not be able to answer your questions directly, she will bring your queries and comments to the attention of the working group. Jane can be reached by email at: jajadiver@bellnet.ca

5. LAWPRO

❖ **FREE CPD:** LAWPRO is offering two free CPD events scheduled in June, being delivered in partnership with Toronto Lawyers Association. Both are eligible for Law Society professionalism content, and LAWPRO’s Risk Management Credit. The links below take you straight to the registration page.

- ❖ On June 15th, [Continuing to Manage - Mental Health, Resilience and Resources](#) follows up on LawPRO’s February 5th mental health event.
- ❖ On June 22nd, [Working Together, Remotely - Managing and Leading Through COVID-19 and Beyond](#) will focus on a host of practice management issues lawyers and firms need to address given the current environment.

6. LAO

❖ **CONSULTATIONS:** Legal Aid Ontario’s consultations on the Draft Rules under the Legal Aid Services Act are open until Thursday, May 20th at midnight. FOLA is currently finalizing our Submission but you still have time to send your own comments directly to LAO. More information (including a link to the Draft Rules) can be found [here](#).

7. LSO

❖ **MAY CONVOCATION:** May’s Convocation will be on May 27, 2021. Materials and the link to livestream will be posted [here](#) shortly.

❖ **CONTINGENCY FEES REFORMS:** A reminder that on July 1, 2021, amendments to the lawyer and paralegal conduct rules as well as amendments to the Solicitor’s Act and new regulation O. Reg. 563/20 will come into force. In accordance with the amendments, lawyers will be required to provide potential clients with the consumer guide, [Contingency Fees: What you need to know](#), and will be required to use the new standard form Contingency Fee Agreement. The Law Society has developed [Frequently Asked Questions](#) to support members with understanding and implementing these new requirements. The resources are available [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.