



# COVID-19 & THE PRACTICE OF LAW

## WEEKLY UPDATE

Fola.ca

### COVID-19 - WEEKLY CHECK IN LOG #59

May 26, 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

- ❖ The SCJ (Toronto Region) has adopted a new Estates List Confirmation form. It replaces two forms:
  - Confirmation: Scheduling Appointment
  - Confirmation: Hearing Matter

Users can access it at paragraph 35 of the [Consolidated Practice Direction Concerning the Estates List in the Toronto Region](#).

- ❖ The Court of Appeal is working on a "new & improved" website! They hope to unveil the new site by the end of June. Stay tuned!!!
- ❖ Also at the Court of Appeal, Shannon Chace is the new Senior Legal Officer. Her contact information (and all CAO contact info) can be found [here](#).
- ❖ The OCJ has an Update regarding Family Law and standardized naming protocols coming out this afternoon. It will be circulated once received.

#### 2. MAG

- ❖ 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 to apply is June 11<sup>th</sup>. More information can be found [here](#).

#### 3. RECOVERY SECRETARIAT

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

#### 4. FOLA

- ❖ **SUBMISSIONS:** This past week, FOLA made two Submissions. The first was to LAO on the Draft Rules re: the Legal Aid Services Act. That is available [here](#). The other was to MAG on Family Law Rules. You can view that [here](#). Also, the Chair of the Expert Evidence Subcommittee of the Civil Rules Committee is requesting input from FOLA on expert reports in civil matters. FOLA is in the process of consulting members and are requesting comments by June 7<sup>th</sup>. You can learn more [here](#).

- ❖ **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](mailto:jajadiver@bellnet.ca)

## 5. LAWPRO

- ❖ **FREE CPD:** LAWPRO is offering two free CPD events scheduled in June, being delivered in partnership with the 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.
  - i. On June 15th, [Continuing to Manage - Mental Health, Resilience and Resources](#) follows up on LawPRO's February 5th mental health event.
  - ii. 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

- ❖ Legal Aid Ontario is planning on posting a summary of submissions to their call for comment on the Draft Rules re: the Legal Aid Services Act. Those will be posted to the special [Draft Rules/LASA website](#) once available.
- ❖ FOLA's Submission on the Draft Rules can be found [here](#). Also on that page are other Association Submissions, including the Alliance for Sustainable Legal Aid's Submission - on which FOLA collaborated.

## 7. LSO

- ❖ **MAY CONVOCATION:** May's Convocation will be tomorrow (May 27, 2021). Materials are up and the link to livestream will be posted [here](#) on Thursday morning.
- ❖ **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](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).