

NOTICE TO THE FAMILY BAR – STRATFORD (amended April 20th)

ONTARIO COURT OF JUSTICE (FAMILY)

Dear Colleagues:

Further to Notice to the Family Bar dated March 19, 2020, I wish to update you of several new developments.

1. The date for **non-urgent** family matters to be adjourned has been extended to **May 29, 2020**. I have attached a Notice to the Public which outlines when your non-urgent matters will be adjourned to, which date is just to speak to the matter. Court staff will continue to contact unrepresented parties and counsel not provided with this notice to advise them of the next court date. It is anticipated that the Society will advise unrepresented parties of the adjournment date.
2. Until further notice, family court counter services will remain open at this time but with reduced hours from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. However, in-person contact should be avoided whenever possible.

Urgent matters will still be arranged through the trial coordinator, who may be contacted by email at Stratford.OCJ.Criminal.TrialCoordinator@ontario.ca. All urgent matters will be conducted by teleconference, which can be arranged by contacting the trial coordinator by email.

3. Materials for urgent motions/applications may be filed by either faxing the materials to the court office at 519-271-8080, or by sending them to a generic email address at: Stratford.Courthouse@ontario.ca.
4. Applications may be issued electronically by sending the documents to the court office by email at: Stratford.Courthouse@ontario.ca. You need not attend personally at the courthouse.

5. For non-urgent matters, no new Applications/Motions to Change (except for Status Review Applications) will be issued until after **June 1, 2020**. The situation will be reassessed at that time.
6. Form 14B motions attaching Minutes of Settlement may still be received by fax or email.
7. The **in-person** FLIC clinic continues to be suspended until further notice. Clients may contact the Legal Aid Ontario Stratford office at 519-273-8120 to set up a time during FLIC hours on Wednesdays of 9am-12pm and 1pm-3pm to speak with a lawyer with respect to Family Law and Child Protection cases. MIP programs will be arranged by phone. A Pro Bono Ontario hotline will be posted to assist self-represented litigants. The number is 1-800-668-8258. Local duty counsel, Mr. Warman may be contacted by email at warmanr@lao.on.ca.

Once again, thank you all for your cooperation in these challenging times. A further notice will be sent if circumstances change.

March 24, 2020

Justice K. Stacy Neill