



# COVID-19 & THE PRACTICE OF LAW

## WEEKLY UPDATE

Fola.ca

### COVID-19 - WEEKLY CHECK IN LOG #11

May 27, 2020

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 and Department staff

#### **Issues discussed:**

##### **1. Courts**

- ❖ The SCJ noted that many judges are reporting experiencing challenges associated with both managing/moderating video hearings. Not issues with the technology but more with needing assistance from Court Services Staff on help with the various tasks associated with hearing matters (ie: pulling visuals up during proceeding). Senior Regional Judges in each region have shared this concern and the Courts are working with MAG to address the issue of staffing video conferencing procedures.
- ❖ The Courts are working with MAG staff to discuss the reopening of the physical Courts and have requested participation from public health officials to ensure they are following public health guidance and directives. Efforts are being coordinated under a newly appointed MAG Recovery Secretariat.
- ❖ The OCJ issued an update on Criminal Matters on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. That update can be found [here](#).

##### **2. ASSOCIATIONS**

- ❖ FOLA and other associations have provided input from members who practice Family or Criminal law on what they see as priorities regarding expansion of services/procedures to help keep client matters moving forward. Suggestions are being compiled and reports are to be sent to the OCJ for consideration.

##### **3. MAG**

- ❖ MAG is in the middle of running a Pilot "Special Bail Hearing" with the OCJ at Toronto's East Detention Centre. The hearing is being run through ZOOM. The Pilot will continue on Friday and we hope to have a report on how it went next week.

#### **REMINDER:**

Law Association members are welcome to send any issues/concerns related to the practice of law caused by the COVID-19 epidemic to FOLA ([katie.robinette@fola.ca](mailto:katie.robinette@fola.ca)) and we will continue to address them in as timely a manner as is humanly possible. Please note that prior to submitting a question, you are requested to visit the [Ontario government's website](#), the [Courts' websites](#), and the [Law Society's FAQ](#) page. These links can all be accessed on FOLA's [COVID-19](#) page. Please also note that FOLA cannot assist in issues related to a specific case.