



# COVID-19 & THE PRACTICE OF LAW

## WEEKLY UPDATE

Fola.ca

### COVID-19 - WEEKLY CHECK IN LOG #35

November 25, 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, Department staff, and the Recovery Secretariat

#### Issues discussed:

##### 1. COURTS

- ❖ Until further notice, the Court of Appeal for Ontario will no longer be conducting in-person appeals and all appeals will be conducted remotely during this time. See [Notice](#).
- ❖ Yesterday (November 24<sup>th</sup>), the SCJ amended a Consolidated Notice to the Profession, Litigants, Accused Persons, Public and the Media that informs filers in civil and family matters of the appropriate online filing platforms and to provide additional clarity about orders and clarifies requirements related to the subject line and the formats of corrected documents. See [Consolidated Notice](#).
- ❖ Over the weekend, the SCJ sent out a Notice to the Profession and Public Regarding Court Proceedings (covering Jury Trials). You can see that Notice [here](#).
- ❖ The OCJ issued an eight-part Twitter thread on November 21<sup>st</sup> that explains that the Courts have encouraged counsel and parties to be accommodating when requests for virtual hearings or other arrangements are made by opposing counsel or parties and reminded the public about the Courts' health and safety protocols. No official Notice accompanied this Twitter thread, but you can read the thread in its entirety [here](#).

##### 2. RECOVERY SECRETARIAT

- ❖ The Recovery Secretariat continues to assist efforts related to the resumption of services at Ontario Provincial Offences Courts (POAs) and is advising that they mirror the OCJ, SCJ, and CAO protocols and procedures. Verification and re-opening guidelines are being drafted and Notices are expected shortly. The POA's are working towards a target date of January 25<sup>th</sup> for full resumption of in-person services.
- ❖ Additionally, other than the POA's in York (which may continue to use JVN for virtual hearings), the Recovery Secretariat is working to get each one up and running on Zoom PRO.
- ❖ The Recovery Secretariat continues to work on Version 5 of their Guidebook. The most current version can always be found [here](#).
- ❖ **NOTE:** Site-specific Courthouse HVAC data will no longer be collected by FOLA. If you wish to get regular HVAC data from the Recovery Secretariat, please email [MAGrecoverysecretariat@ontario.ca](mailto:MAGrecoverysecretariat@ontario.ca).
- ❖ **REMINDER:** Questions about Courthouse operations during COVID-19 can be directed to Samantha Poisson at [MAGrecoverysecretariat@ontario.ca](mailto:MAGrecoverysecretariat@ontario.ca).

### 3. LSO

- ❖ The next Convocation will be held on November 27<sup>th</sup> and Budget issues will be discussed. The agenda and other materials are available on the LSO's website [here](#).
- ❖ **REMINDER:** The LSO is hosting a virtual Welcome to the Professions Celebration on December 10 at 5:30 p.m. You can register [here](#).
- ❖ **REMINDER:** The Law Society also has a [FAQ page on CaseLines](#) on their website.

### 4. LEGAL AID ONTARIO

- ❖ LAO is preparing to engage in consultations with stakeholders regarding billing within their portal. FOLA will provide more information as it is received.

### 5. FOLA

#### ❖ SUBMISSIONS:

**FAMILY LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDER (FLSP) LICENSING MODEL CALL FOR COMMENT:** The Law Society's Access to Justice Committee is inviting lawyers to provide comments on a FLSP Licensing model. Submissions are due November 30<sup>th</sup>. Please visit [here](#) for more details. FOLA has held extensive meetings with members and received many comments. Our Submission is currently being drafted and, once submitted, will be shared with Law Association members.

#### 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@folo.ca](mailto:katie.robinette@folo.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).