



COVID-19 - WEEKLY CHECK IN LOG #37
December 9, 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

- ❖ Please note that the Daily Court Lists website (www.ontariocourtdates.ca/), which publishes the daily court lists for both the Ontario Court of Justice and the Superior Court of Justice, introduced two enhancements today (Dec 9):
 1. The website now publishes two days of court lists. Case information is provided for both the current day and the next day, and is updated each day at 8am; and
 2. The published case information is updated three additional times during the day.
- ❖ Expect to see a Notice regarding new procedures for filing Probate for matters under \$100,000 shortly
- ❖ Also coming shortly is a Notice regarding some housekeeping changes.
- ❖ The OCJ will begin to roll out CaseLines for Family Law starting in July.
- ❖ **REMINDER:** If you are submitting docs via CaseLines, you are still required to submit with the Courts and be sure to include an email in all originating documents.

3. MAG

- ❖ The Ministry of the Attorney General's Court Services Division issued a Notice advising that on December 8, 2020, a regulation was filed to amend the *Rules of Civil Procedure*, [O. Reg. 711-20](#). The regulation makes administrative amendments to align the *Rules of Civil Procedure* with legislative amendments that were introduced to remove the office of a traditional master. The amendments were made to the *Courts of Justice Act* through the [Smarter and Stronger Justice Act, 2020, Schedule 5](#). The rule amendments and legislative amendments come into force on January 8, 2021. In addition, the regulation makes administrative amendments relating to the new rule for the CaseLines document sharing platform by clarifying the requirements for the naming of a document which is to be submitted (amends rule 4.05.3(6)2). These amendments come into force on January 1, 2021. A summary of the regulation is available on Ontario's Regulatory Registry at: [20-MAG013](#).
- ❖ The Attorney General addressed the Empire Club on December 3rd. If you would like to watch a recording, you can do so [here](#).

4. RECOVERY SECRETARIAT

- ❖ **REMINDER:** Version 5 of the Recovery Secretariat's Guidebook, "COVID-19: Recommended Precautionary Measures for Resuming Court Operations" is now available on [Ontario.ca](https://www.ontario.ca), in both [English](#) and [French](#).

As a reminder, the Guidebook is a living document and may continue to be updated over time, in response to feedback and/or evolving provincial guidance regarding COVID-19.

- ❖ **REMINDER:** Site-specific Courthouse HVAC data will no longer be collected by FOLA. If you wish to receive regular HVAC data from the Recovery Secretariat, please email: MAGrecoverysecretariat@ontario.ca.
- ❖ **REMINDER:** Questions about Courthouse operations during COVID-19 can be directed to Samantha Poisson at MAGrecoverysecretariat@ontario.ca.

5. LSO

- ❖ Look out for this week's Stakeholder newsletter which is expected to contain some important information. Items include information about CPD (including deadlines and EDI requirements), LSO payment and filing requirements, and more.
- ❖ **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:** During November's Convocation, the proposal to amend the LSO's AGM process was tabled for further discussion. If you would like to comment on their proposals, the LSO has indicated they are interested in hearing feedback. The proposed amendments can be found [here](#).
- ❖ **REMINDER:** The LSO Awards are now open for nominations. You can access information [here](#).
- ❖ **REMINDER:** The Law Society also has a [FAQ page on CaseLines](#) on their website.

6. LEGAL AID ONTARIO

- ❖ LAO has begun their consultations with stakeholders regarding tariffs and billing within their portal. Consultations are being undertaken according to area of law. Those will be: Criminal; Family; Child Protection; Immigration & Refugee; and Mental Health Law. If you would like to be included in these consultations, please contact David McKillop at mckilld@lao.on.ca.
- ❖ LAO has received \$250,000 from Heritage Canada to conduct a study on race-based data in the bail system. More information at this time is not available.
- ❖ LAO is in talks with the federal government regarding their announcement in the recent Fiscal Update of \$6.6 million over 5 years to study the impact of race and to do cultural assessments among defendants.

7. FOLA

❖ **FAMILY LAW:**

Federal Department of Justice Canada has been developing online training courses, professional training materials and Public Legal Education and Information (PLEI) resources concerning the recent amendments to the Federal Family Law legislation (Divorce Act). We've added more information and links to our website and you can access those [here](#).

❖ **FOLA CPD CONTENT**

Struggling to get your CPD hours in in advance of the year end deadline? FOLA has a playlist on our YouTube channel of all our accredited content. Check it out [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.