



COVID-19 & THE PRACTICE OF LAW

WEEKLY UPDATE

Fola.ca

COVID-19 - WEEKLY CHECK IN LOG #20

August 5, 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

- ❖ The COA noted that, as expected, there will be no in-person Opening of the Courts this year. Associations who are usually invited to these (like FOLA) are expected to receive a Notice about this shortly.
- ❖ The SCJ is expected to issue supplementary documents related to the e-Filing system shortly. It is hoped that this will clarify some questions around last week's announcement regarding CaseLines.
- ❖ The OCJ is currently drafting a Notice regarding Family Law Submissions. We are told to expect something by Monday, August 10th.

2. RECOVERY SECRETARIAT

- ❖ On August 1st, 2020, a new regulation was made under the Commissioners for Taking Affidavits Act to set out the framework for commissioners who wish to exercise their powers without being in the physical presence of the deponent or declarant. That regulation is available [here](#).

3. MAG

- ❖ All small Courthouses planned to be re-opened in Phase 2 (September). These will be full Courthouse openings (as opposed to partial Courthouse openings that is currently the process during Phase 1).
- ❖ Virtual tours and/or photos of Courthouses will not be available. However, the Health & Safety Verification Checklist and all HVAC data for buildings will be accessible for the public.
- ❖ Timmins, Kenora, and Peterborough are the next Courthouses on the list for site assessments & opening.
- ❖ Offsite jury considerations are underway as are considerations for Agencies, Boards & Commissions, and for Tribunals.
- ❖ As always, questions about Courthouse re-openings can be directed to Samantha Poison at MAGrecoverysecretariat@ontario.ca.

4. LSO

- ❖ The Law Society's Annual General Meeting will take place online at 5:15 p.m. on August 10, 2020. Licensees may participate in the meeting by logging in to the [Law Society Portal](#) and clicking on the link to the Law Society 2020 Annual General Meeting. A link to the meeting website and unique password will then appear. This information will be available in the portal on August 5, 2020.

5. FOLA

❖ **RE-OPENING OF THE COURTS:**

Wondering what to expect when visiting a courthouse? Visit our [Courts](#) page on our website to access a link to get pre-screened, a video, and a guidebook.

❖ **SUBMISSIONS:**

1. **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. The proposed scope of permissible activities, required competencies, and outline of the training program are detailed in the Access to Justice Committee's FLSP Licence Consultation Paper. FOLA is preparing a submission and if you would like to offer input for our Submission, please email Katie.Robinette@fola.ca and put "FLSP" in the subject line by October 15, 2020. [See more.](#)
2. **REMOTE HEARINGS:** The e-Hearings Task Force (of which FOLA is a member) has drafted some documents that have been designed to help you prepare for Remote Hearings (which you can find on our Courts page [here](#)). If you have participated in a remote hearing and have some additional suggestions, FOLA would love to hear them! Please email Katie Robinette at katie.robinette@fola.ca and put "REMOTE HEARINGS" in the subject line.

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.