



COVID-19 & THE PRACTICE OF LAW

WEEKLY UPDATE

Fola.ca

COVID-19 - WEEKLY CALL CHECK IN LOG #3

April 1, 2020

Summary

Invited participants on calls

OBA, FOLA, LSO, LAO, the Advocates' Society, & OTLA

Superior Court of Justice in Ontario, Court of Appeal for Ontario, & Ontario Court of Justice

MAG - Political and Department staff

Issues discussed:

1. Law Society

- ❖ The LSO has been addressing FOLA members' LSO-related questions daily and has been updating their FAQ section of the website to ensure responses from common questions are available to all.
- ❖ A list of some specific responses was prepared and sent to FOLA on March 30th and was distributed to members on April 1st. If you did not receive it and would like to view it, please contact Katie Robinette and it can be shared with you. Katie.robinette@folo.ca
- ❖ A reminder that the LSO's FAQ page is updated frequently and is available [here](#).

2. Courts

- ❖ The Courts have been addressing FOLA members' Court-related questions daily and have been providing responses either directly through FOLA's Rapid Response reporting structure and, when possible, addressing them internally.
- ❖ Electronic filing continues to be an ongoing challenge right now and the courts are working tirelessly with MAG to address this issue and expect to have a solution worked out with MAG's Court Services Division next week. It is worthwhile noting that Judges meet daily and that, in addition to discussing this matter over the weekend, expansion of matters is also a daily discussion topic.
- ❖ While the LSO has issued information around remote/virtual affidavits, Courts still do not have a directive on this matter and are working with MAG for direction/guidance. Likely requires an Order in Council.

3. MAG

- ❖ MAG is aware of issues related to corrections facilities and Corrections is exploring a number of measures to expand access to clients for the bar.
- ❖ They are in the process of improving access to help manage the flow of appearances at the two largest Detention Centres: The Toronto South Detention Centre and the Maplehurst Correctional Complex.
- ❖ FOLA is working with MAG to get clarification regarding limitation periods - especially as they relate to real estate law.

NOTE: Law Association members are welcome to send any issues/concerns related to the practice of law caused by the COVID-19 epidemic to FOLA 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 government's website, the Courts' websites ([Superior Court of Justice](#), [Ontario Court of Justice](#), [Court of Appeal](#)), and the [Law Society's FAQ](#) page. These websites are all updated daily. You may find your question/issue/concern has already been addressed. Links to all above sites can also be found on FOLA's [COVID-19](#) page.

Questions can be sent to Katie Robinette at katie.robinette@fola.ca. No phone calls please.