

**Daily Phone call check in -Ontario Law Organizations  
& 2 LAO Calls - March 18, 2020 (notes combined)  
Summary**

**Present on call (could not keep track of names – Betsy from OBA Chairs)**

OBA

Advocates' Society

LAO

Court of Appeal for Ontario

OCJ

SCJ

Iarusso, Amanda, MAG

Legal Aid Calls – key points from all three calls

- ❖ Goal is to keep as many people out of the courts as possible
- ❖ Defence Counsel Association of Ottawa (DCAO) is running a virtual central operations base in Ottawa.
- ❖ Goal is to run a similar initiative through the CLA regionally throughout the province.
- ❖ FOLA is working to see if we can ensure more than one hour of work for private bar if/when called in.

DAILY CALL SUMMARY

1. Courthouse issues

FOLA and the OBA are working on drafting an email for FOLA's Presidents and librarians (to share with members) that asks all members to forward local concerns and issues onto FOLA (Katie and/or regional rep) so that Katie can bring to the attention of OCJ, SCJ, and Appeal Court staff who are on our daily call.

2. Compliance Issues – LSO & MAG

MAG is in the process of drafting legislation (and a communique) that would be done under the emergency measures guidelines to deal with extensions of limitation periods. This is in regards to administrative dismissal regime in Ontario (48.14). I understand that the LSO and LawPro are working with the minister's office on this. The OBA has asked to see the draft communique so that they can share this with the group. MAG was unsure if this would be possible. Sounds like something is coming very soon.

3. Family Law and Self Reps – STILL IN PROGRESS – NO UPDATE

Self reps need advice from a lawyer to determine the urgency of their matter. FOLA, the LSO, the Advocates Society, LAO, and the OBA are going to be working on a roll out strategy regarding that would combine lawyer referral services. The OBA will provide a number where a self rep can be referred to a lawyer who can then review the matter (pro bono) to let them know if their matter is likely to be deemed "urgent". As this may differ from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, the OBA will be calling on FOLA, the LSO, the Advocates' Society, and the LAO to help recruit lawyers to staff these lines. Basically, we will be looking to create an "army of

family law lawyers. The LSO would work to message this out to the public via their public web section. Courts to also message out this service.

#### 4. Other issues

Issues of unique concern to COVID-19 inside correctional facilities

Teleconference access in institutions where client has no phone or internet access

Definition of Urgency in child custody, child protection, and restraining issues

Materials for parents (materials for public)

E-filing in courts (DropBox testing underway - expect an update soon)

Province-wide notice with contact info and special procedures for each Courthouse - underway

OCJ and SCJ counters still open - staffed by one trial coordinator (vs. usual three). Plans for when (if?) they close?