

Attached is an overview from my daily call with courthouse staff and provincial law organizations.

Note that while we did not discuss issues sent to me today as a result of this morning's email, Betsy from the OBA, Vicky White from the Advocates' Society, and Sheena Weir and I will be discussing them today and will ensure that they get dealt with by the appropriate person at the courts. I will be responding to every concern in due time. There have been a lot and we're on them all!

Enjoy the first day of spring!!

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Executive Director  
[FOLA.ca](http://FOLA.ca)

### **Daily Phone call check in - Ontario Law Organizations - March 19, 2020 Summary**

#### **Present on call**

OBA  
Advocates' Society  
LAO  
Superior Court of Justice in Ontario

#### **Absent**

MAG  
Court of Appeal for Ontario  
Ontario Court of Justice

NOTE: Most of the call was around human health and safety at courthouses in light of the issues at the College Courthouse and Legal Aid. See article in the [Toronto Star](#).

Issues discussed:

#### 1. Bail Hearings

Efforts are currently underway to move these entirely online. OBA will coordinate with SolGen and MAG and courts to create online virtual courtrooms.

#### 2. Family Matters

Lawyers and clients are urged to NOT appear at courthouses for non-urgent matters! A new updated notice is being prepared. To view what constitutes an urgent matter, people are directed to [this notice](#). Lawyers are also asked to avoid filing for non-urgent matters.

#### 3. Compliance Issues - LSO

There are many concerns right now - mostly regarding real estate. For now, if an Affidavit cannot be witnessed, lawyers are STRONGLY encouraged to ensure their client is available via phone when the matter is discussed before the courts. They will be required to be affirmed over the phone (however, no decision has been finalized yet on this). This is a challenge because judges cannot be "ordered" what to do in their courts.

#### 4. Limited Period & Rules Around Filings

MAG is working on solutions for litigants with deadlines.