



FEDERATION OF ONTARIO
LAW ASSOCIATIONS

FÉDÉRATION DES ASSOCIATIONS
DU BARREAU DE L'ONTARIO

There are three items here: 1) re: Family Law and Bill C-78; 2) Legal Aid Ontario update re: Duty Council; and 3) a reminder to complete the LiRN survey (deadline extended to Feb 5th).

1. Family Law - Bill C-78 *Divorce Act* Changes: What you need to know

Substantial changes to the *Divorce Act* come into force on March 1, 2021. Experts from the Family and Children's Law Team, Department of Justice Canada, are offering free virtual training to provide you with an overview of the amendments. This course will be helpful to those who need an introduction to the amendments and to those who need a refresher on the eve of implementation. It is likely to be of interest to lawyers, courts and dispute resolution practitioners, as well as other family justice professionals.

The course will cover the following:

- Status of Act, objectives
- Language of parenting, parenting orders
- Best interests, family violence
- Relocation: process, substantive law
- New duties: courts, parents, lawyers
- Jurisdiction for parenting orders
- Official Languages amendments
- Inter-jurisdictional support
- FOAEA Act changes
- Regulations, consequential changes, etc.

Courses Dates and Times:

February 22, 2021 – 11 am to 2 pm (English):

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/138501899911>

February 23, 2021 – 12 pm to 3 pm (English):

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/138514728281>

February 24, 2021 – 9 am to 12 pm (French):

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/138660672805>

February 24, 2021 – 1 pm to 4 pm (English):

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/138517119433>

February 25, 2021 – 11 am to 2 pm (English):

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/138519163547>

February 26, 2021 – 9 am to 12 pm (French):

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/138665168251>

For Department of Justice employees: A limited number of seats will be reserved for Department of Justice employees in each session. You must also register through People Soft using course code: 017757

Accreditation by Law Society of Ontario: This activity is eligible for up to 3 hours of Substantive content (but ultimately it is the lawyer's responsibility to determine whether the activity qualifies under the LSO's CPD Requirement regarding the Substantive content)

Please also note that the Department of Justice Canada is offering online courses related to Bill C-78. You can find the first one **Introduction to Federal Family Law Amendments at: <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/fl-df/cfl-mdf/traiform/index.html>

2. Legal Aid Ontario – bail coverage increase to address COVID challenges

Legal Aid Ontario is about to announce - probably Tuesday of next week - another COVID emergency measure to increase LAO's coverage for bail hearings from two to four hours. The details are set out below. A key point for your members is that while it will apply to bail hearings on certificates issued on or after January 1, and counsel are encouraged to conduct bail hearings with those additional hours in mind, counsel should not bill on those matters to obtain the additional hours until we have made the necessary changes to our portal billing system. These changes will be in place by February 28, 2021. For further information, please contact LAO policy counsel Simone Bern at berns@lao.on.ca

Key Details

- LAO to double compensation for bail hearings for block fee and tariff matters in recognition of longer bail hearings
- With the move to virtual hearings during COVID-19, Legal Aid Ontario recognizes bail hearings are taking significantly longer to prepare for and conduct.
- To account for this increase in time, LAO will double compensation for bail hearings for block fee and tariff matters on certificates issued on or after January 1, 2021.
- This temporary support is part of LAO's COVID-19 response and not intended as a permanent increase.
- The increase acknowledges counsel's important work and dedication to effective representation of LAO clients at bail, and highlights our commitment to vulnerable, Indigenous and racialized clients who are overrepresented in custody and on remand.
- LAO will make the necessary updates to their billing system to accommodate the change and they encourage counsel to take on bail matters at the new 4-hour rate. However, they ask that counsel not to bill the matters until February 28, 2021 to permit them the time to make the necessary changes to their billing system.

3. LiRN survey

As you know, LiRN has been conducting a survey re: Law Library use and needs. They have decided to keep the survey open until February 5th. If

you haven't already done so, please take a moment to complete the survey and encourage your members to do this too! [Here's the link.](#)