



COVID-19 & THE PRACTICE OF LAW

WEEKLY UPDATE

Fola.ca

COVID-19 - WEEKLY CHECK IN LOG #41 January 20, 2021 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

- ❖ On January 14th, the SCJ amended the [Consolidated Notice to the Profession and Public Regarding the Small Claims Court](#) to: include the document naming protocol that took effect for Superior Court of Justice and Small Claims Court matters on January 11, 2021; provide that the Court will, as of January 18, 2021, accept all requests to clerk for assessment hearings; and consolidate the two types of settlement conferences (on consent of all parties, and on one party's request) into one.
- ❖ The SCJ issued a [Notice to the Profession Regarding CaseLines in Criminal Matters](#), (also on January 15th) and announced that CaseLines will be hosting an online demonstration on **January 25th at 1pm** for lawyers (which will be recorded for those unable to attend). Future sessions will be announced as they are scheduled. It is recommended that Criminal lawyers practicing in Toronto attend. **Please [click here](#) to join the webinar; Passcode: 921034**

2. MAG

- ❖ POA Courts and municipalities are working to ensure their sites are up to proper health and safety standards so that they can resume matters in person when provincial legislation allows.
- ❖ MAG is working to have the e-filing portal for Small Claims Courts functioning and expect to be able to announce something late this month or early next month.

3. RECOVERY SECRETARIAT

- ❖ **REMINDER:** Version 5 of the Recovery Secretariat's Guidebook, "COVID-19: Recommended Precautionary Measures for Resuming Court Operations" is now available on [Ontario.ca](#), in both [English](#) and [French](#).
As a reminder, the Guidebook is a living document and may continue to be updated over time, in response to feedback and/or evolving provincial guidance regarding COVID-19.
- ❖ **REMINDER:** Site-specific Courthouse HVAC data will no longer be collected by FOLA. If you wish to receive regular HVAC data from the Recovery Secretariat, please email: MAGrecoverysecretariat@ontario.ca.
- ❖ **REMINDER:** Questions about Courthouse operations during COVID-19 can be directed to Samantha Poisson at MAGrecoverysecretariat@ontario.ca.

4. FOLA

- ❖ **CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS:** The Provincial Human Services & Justice Coordinating Committee (HSJCC) is looking for members to join a Community of Practice focused on addressing release from custody issues across Ontario. [Learn more.](#)
- ❖ **2021 BUDGET CONSULTATIONS:** The Ontario government has launched their 2021 Budget consultations and is seeking input from residents. You can participate in this year's budget consultations by sharing ideas online and by participating in the online survey, by email/mail, and/or by attending a virtual consultation session. Budget Consultations will close on February 12, 2021. [Learn more.](#)
- ❖ **REMINDER:** During the entire month of January, FOLA is running a [#BellLetsTalk awareness campaign](#) on [Twitter](#) to help raise awareness about mental health and wellness in the legal community, highlight resources, and remind lawyers with personal and family mental health issues that they are not alone. Please do [follow us](#) and join the discussion! If you want to check out our #BellLetsTalk resources, please visit [here](#).

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@folo.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.