

NOTICE # 2 TO THE BAR AND THE PUBLIC

Electronic/Fax/Paper Filing Guidelines for Family Division (Covid-19)

(An earlier notice-copy accompanying, explained what matters the court would consider)

March 27, 2020 at 10:00 a..m.

Until further notice electronic and fax filings should be limited to urgent matters or those determined an emergency as set out in Notice #1 (copy accompanying).

Filings related to non urgent matters will be suspended effective Monday, March 30. As of Monday, March 30 all filings whether electronic / fax or paper will not be processed if they relate to non urgent matters. This decision will be reviewed on Thursday, April 9. This is a change from current practice and is made necessary because staff to do work related to processing these non urgent matters are not available to perform this function. For example applications for an uncontested divorce will not be accepted until further notice. Consent orders, however, will be accepted.

Unless a Judge directs otherwise, the court will no longer accept paper copies of documents at courthouses due to the risk of transmission of COV-19. All filings must be made electronically (by e mail) or by fax. The site email and fax delivery addresses/numbers are noted below. A phone number is also provided for inquiries as to whether a paper document will be accepted by the Court. **Generally, to persuade the court to accept a paper document, it must be demonstrated that a requirement to file only by fax or e mail will deny an individual access to the court.**

Please be assured the Court is considering novel role(s) it may assume as parties continue to manage important family issues that do not meet the threshold of being urgent or an emergency.

The Court will provide ongoing guidance to the Bar and the public as to what matters the Family Division will address as urgent or an emergency, how the pleadings and related documents may be filed and how the Family Division will schedule matters. Currently a list of frequently asked questions with answers is being prepared for distribution at the beginning of business, Friday March 27.

Halifax please fax to 902-424-0562 or email to scfamilyhfx@courts.ns.ca
telephone inquiries 902-424-3990

Sydney please fax to 902-563-2224 or email to
sydneyfamilydivision@courts.ns.ca telephone inquiries 902-563-2200

Port Hawkesbury please fax to 902-625-4271/4084 or email to
porthawkesburyfamily@courts.ns.ca telephone inquiries 902-625-2665

Truro please fax to 902-896-4333 or email to truropfamilycourt@courts.ns.ca
phone inquiries 902-893-5840

Yarmouth/Digby/Shelburne please fax to 902-742-0678 or email to
yarmouthfamilycourt@courts.ns.ca telephone inquiries 902-742-0550

Amherst please fax to 902-667-1108 or email to AMHFC@courts.ns.ca
telephone inquiries 902-667-2256

Antigonish please fax to 902-863-7479 or email to
AntigonishFamilyCourt@courts.ns.ca phone inquiries 902-863-3676

Associate Chief Justice O'Neil
Supreme Court of Nova Scotia (Family Division)

Notice#2-e-filing