

COVID-19 – Newsletter, Tuesday, March 24, 2020

Dear colleagues,

A newsletter was not scheduled for today, however, due to yesterday's prime minister M. Legault announcements regarding essentials services, clarifications are needed today.

- 1) **ESSENTIAL SERVICES:** In time of crisis, the public still needs to have access to an attorney. This is why late last night, "legal services" were added to the list of essentials services, this includes private practices. [Click on this link for the government's list of essentials services and priority activities.](#)

I would like to thank our Justice Department for its diligence and reiterate how fast and hard all actors are working on the present crisis. Public health and our members' health, of course, remains number one priority. It is therefore imperative that we participate as best we can in the government's public health efforts.

Here are some answers to yesterday's most frequently asked questions:

- Whereas, theoretically speaking, your offices can remain open, you can **HOWEVER** certainly decide to close them;
- In any cases we strongly suggest usage of teleworking and, as much as possible, meeting your client remotely. Alternatively, keep a safe distance between all parties present;
- Urgent matters still need to and will continue to be pleaded;

We are working on numerous ethics guidelines in this COVID-19 era and will make them available to you soon.

- 2) **LEGAL AID:** The *Commission des services juridiques*, issued clarifications regarding the issuance of mandates, see [HERE](#)
- 3) **REMOTE FAMILY MEDIATION:** Consult the [Manuel de pratique de médiation familiale à distance](#) and the [directives pour les paiements et production de rapports](#).
- 4) **ÉCOLE DU BARREAU :** you can consult yesterday's message sent to all student, [HERE](#)

For all court practice, please consult our continuously updated website, [HERE](#)

Do not hesitate to join our Facebook group «Avocates et avocats du Québec - Groupe d'entraide - COVID19».

For any questions email: covid19@barreau.qc.ca

Best regards,
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