



DID YOU KNOW...

By Victoria Starr

Here is some of what's going on in or related to family law:

1. **Standard Clauses for Family Court Orders** The Ministry of the Attorney General has developed standard clauses for family court orders in order to assist family litigants to obtain their court orders more expeditiously, whether the orders are based on an agreement that has been reached between the parties or an endorsement. Standard clauses have been developed to cover the majority of family law terms including clauses relating to custody and access, child and spousal support, issues relating to the matrimonial home and division of property. These clauses are available at www.ontariocourtforms.ca under the link "other documents related to family law cases".

These clauses are not mandatory but can be used by Duty Counsel, private counsel and the judiciary where appropriate in order to help create clear and enforceable family court orders. Court staff will also have access to the standard clauses to assist them in preparing court orders for self-represented litigants.

2. **Support Supportive Supervised Access at Access for Parents and Children in Ontario:** APCO recently developed a new pilot program titled Supportive Supervised Access (SSA). The objective of this program is to provide non-custodial parents with support, guidance and child-focused education in order to enhance positive parent-child interactions and care-giving skills. They are asking you to support this new initiative by making a donation to assist with its launch. You will receive a charitable tax receipt for any donation greater than \$100.00. More importantly, you will be recognized as a founding sponsor of Supportive Supervised Access. Please make your donation payable to "Access for Parents and Children in Ontario" and send it to their head office at 100 Sheppard Avenue East, Suite 504, North York, Ontario, M2N 6N5. For more information, please contact Fahima Dashti directly at Fahima.Dashti@kinark.on.ca or 416-304-1221 Ext. 108.
3. **Moot Volunteers Needed:** AFCC Ontario will be hosting Canada's first family law moot at Osgoode Hall in Toronto on March 16, 2013. Five law schools in Ontario will be participating in the moot. Following the moot, the Law Society of Upper Canada will be hosting a reception for the students, the judges and the volunteers. AFCC is looking for volunteers for the moot to be timekeepers, registrars, factum markers, judge wranglers, and floaters. Volunteers are required from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Please contact Patti Cross at patti.cross@ontario.ca if you are interested in volunteering.
4. **Research Project - Integrated Domestic Violence Court (IDVC):** Associate Professor Rachel Birenbaum is conducting a review of the IDVC and is still looking for interview subjects. If you are interested or want to find out more please get in touch with her.
5. **Free Access to SIX at LAO's four GTA Family Law Service Centers:** Commencing Monday, October 1st, LAO will be implementing a pilot project with the **Support Information Exchange** ("SIX") at their four GTA Family Law Service Centers (FLaSC's). As part of an Access to Justice initiative, **SIX** originator and President, Michael Marra, has agreed to register Legal Aid eligible clients free of charge

into the program. All clients who access services at a GTA FLASC will be offered this free enrollment option, which should save considerable time and expense for everyone involved in a family law file.

Please contact Tom Kelsey if you have any questions about the pilot program, or contact Mike Marra directly (mjmarra@yoursix.ca) if you require additional information about **SIX**, and please see the **SIX** website at www.yoursix.ca. This is a great program all of us might consider recommending to our clients, including the non-legal aid ones. Like “Our Family Wizard”, some judges are even starting to endorse it.

6. **393 Bench and Bar:** Here are some highlight updates from our Section Chair, Lorna Yates, re the 393 Bench and Bar:
 - case/settlement conference dates are available as of October 31, 2012 but you may be able to get a cancellation date before that time if you call Joanne;
 - long motions are being scheduled for February 11, 2013;
 - short trials are being scheduled for February 25, 2013;
 - regular trials are being scheduled for March 11, 2013;
 - there is now a LAO student in the FLIC office every day to assist;
 - the Office of the Chief Justice is actively supporting the DRO program and thus it may be expanding. Keep your ears open for more news;
 - Mediate393 has taken over the 47 Sheppard and 311 Jarvis FLIC and MIP;
 - Mediate393 is looking for more roster mediators. If you are a member of OAFM, please apply!
7. **Video about separation and divorce from a child’s perspective:** The link below is to a video. It is an excellent documentary and the video is available on demand. You can also order copies to give to your clients. Check it out by clicking this link: <http://www.hbo.com/documentaries/dont-divorce-me-kids-rules-for-parents-on-divorce/index.html>.
8. **Legal Aid Ontario releases final discretion guidelines:** Legal Aid Ontario (LAO) has [released guidelines](#) to clarify the [discretion request process](#). The approved guidelines are effective Oct. 15, 2012.
9. **Legal Aid’s New tariff initiatives:** The changes were to start on October 15, 2012 but LAO has agreed to extend the start date to allow FLA members and other family lawyers some time to review and comment on the its proposed [new initiatives](#) on matters related to the tariff. The initiatives include:
 - piloting a tariff pre-authorization in summary conviction trials and Child and Family Services Act (CFSA) status reviews;
 - implementing a case management program and budgets for costly, complex family and criminal law matters (non-Big Case Management); and
 - reviewing how the tariff has evolved in the legal system and how this impacts legal aid clients and service providers.
10. **Paralegal case update:** Click on this link if you would like to get an update on the paralegal case I told you about some time ago:
<http://www.canadianlawyermag.com/legalfeeds/1077/Dispute-over-paralegals-sitting-past-bar-before-court-today.html>
Here’s a snapshot of some upcoming events you may not know about:
 1. **November 5, 2012 open Bar Series Program:** This program is called “Making it ~~Write~~ Right – Avoiding Drafting Screw-Ups”. The program runs from 4:45 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. More details and the flyer is available at: <http://flao.org/news-and-events/>

2. **October 19 and 20, 2012: Fourth Annual AFCC Ontario AGM & Annual Conference:** AFCC Ontario has opened registration for our 2012 annual conference, *The GPS of Family Law ...The Road Not Taken*. The program will be held in downtown Toronto on Thursday October 18, 2012 (evening social event) and Friday October 19, 2012. Join lawyers, mental health professionals and judges from across Ontario as they examine child and family-related issues. Please see the attached for registration and other information. This program has been accredited by the Law Society for 2.25 Professionalism hours. This program is also eligible for up to 4.25 Substantive To find out more, click on this link: <http://www.cvent.com/events/afcc-o-4th-annual-conference/event-summary-b41ac03d983d476587de5078ccbe14dd.aspx?i=fd868fd9-6112-4a8d-a9ee-b471b230879d>

3. **November 8, 2012 New Child Protection Lawyers' - TCC Tips and Wine and Cheese!** The New Child Protection Lawyers Group invites new practitioners and other interested counsel to an informal seminar followed by a wine and cheese on November 8, 2012. The flyer is available at: <http://flao.org/news-and-events/>

Date: Thursday, November 8, 2012

Time: 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm – Seminar
5:00 pm to 6:30 pm – Wine and Cheese

Location: The Advocates' Society Education Centre
480 University Avenue, Suite 1700
Classroom 1 &2
Toronto, Ontario, M5G 1V2
RSVP to: stephanie@mccarthyco.ca

This event is FREE and can be submitted for one hour of credit for substantive CPD hours.

4. **November 27, 2012 Want to become a Mediator?:** Riverdale Mediation Ltd will be hosting a Family Mediator Information Night (Wine & Cheese) for those interested in becoming family mediators. It is going to be held on Nov. 27th from 4:30-7:30 p.m.. The cost is \$75. They do ask however that you let Heather Glen know if you would like to be put on the attendance list. For more details contact Heather Glen by e-mail to: www.riverdalemediation.com.

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