

**UPDATE - NOTICE TO THE PROFESSION AND THE PUBLIC**

**PROTOCOL FOR ALL FAMILY MATTERS  
ONTARIO COURT OF JUSTICE**

**491 STEELES AVENUE EAST, MILTON**

**May 7, 2021**

**Introduction**

1. This Notice and Local Practice Direction contains a brief update to the April 23, 2021 Milton OCJ Family Notice to the Profession and Public. The prior local practice directions dated August 24, 2020, September 25, 2020, and April 23, 2021, remain in effect except to the extent that any of them conflict with a subsequent local practice direction and notice.

**All Family In Person and Hybrid Appearances and Trials Suspended Until May 21, 2021**

2. In order to continue to reduce the number of people (including parties, counsel and court staff) who must leave their home to attend court proceedings, all in-person and hybrid family and *Child, Youth and Family Services Act* trials will continue to be adjourned from May 10, 2021 to May 21, 2021. Parties with a trial scheduled during these dates will be adjourned to the next audit date, assignment court or another date set by the court.
3. Virtual trials that do not involve parties, counsel, or witnesses attending court in-person, may proceed as of May 10, 2021. Virtual trials will be conducted using remote technology.
4. The Court continues to stress the importance of limiting in-person attendance at courthouses for all other matters other than trials. The Court is committed to facilitating the conduct of proceedings by remote technology wherever possible and urges all judicial officials, parties and counsel to use remote proceedings unless an in-person appearance is required to ensure meaningful access to justice.

**Other Notices that are in Effect and Should be Read in Conjunction with this Notice**

5. You can find the prior Milton OCJ Family Notices that remain in effect and general information about the scheduling of family matters in the Ontario Court of Justice, as follows:
  - a. The 2020 08 24 Notice issued by the Milton Family Court, Ontario Court of Justice, which can be found at <https://haltoncountylaw.ca/covid-19/>;

- b. The 2020 09 25 Notice issued by the Milton Family Court, Ontario Court of Justice, which can be found at <https://haltoncountylaw.ca/covid-19/>; and
- c. The 2021 04 23 Notice issued by the Milton Family Court, Ontario Court of Justice, which can be found at <https://haltoncountylaw.ca/covid-19/>;
- d. The latest COVID-19: Scheduling of Family Matters in the Ontario Court of Justice issued by the Office of the Chief Justice for the Ontario Court of Justice, found at <https://www.ontariocourts.ca/ocj/covid-19/covid-19-family-matters/> and <https://haltoncountylaw.ca/covid-19/>.

**Justice Victoria Starr**  
**Local Administrative Judge, Family**