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Notice to the Profession and the Public re: First Appearance Courts/First Court Date before a clerk will resume November 30, 2020 (Published September 18, 2020)

a) First Appearance Court/First Court Date Before a Clerk:

All First Appearance Court/First Court Date before a clerk will resume November 30, 2020.

First Appearance Court/First Court Date before a Clerk is waived from September 28, 2020 until November 27, 2020. During this time period, in those court locations where the first court date is before a clerk, your first appearance in court will be a remote appearance before a judge for an initial case conference.

From September 28, 2020 until November 27, 2020, all parties will be required to electronically submit a waiver form regarding the First Appearance Court/First Court Date before a clerk with the Confirmation forms (form 17F). The waiver form can be found here: [Ontario Court of Justice First Appearance Court Waiver](#). In addition to the waiver, all documents for the case conference must be served and filed, as required by the *Family Law Rules*.

Beginning November 30, 2020, all First Appearance Court/First Court Dates before a clerk will resume. Waiver forms will no longer be accepted as of November 30, 2020. The First Appearance Court/First Court Date before a clerk will be held remotely.

b) First Appearance Court/First Court Date Before a Judge:

To ensure that there are no further delays to hear Applications and Motions to Change, beginning September 28, 2020, all First Appearance Court/First Court Dates scheduled to proceed before a judge will resume. In those court locations where the first court date is before a judge, your first appearance in court will be held remotely.

Do not attend the courthouse if you are experiencing signs or symptoms of COVID-19 or have been advised by a public health official, a physician or the [Ontario Ministry of Health](#) website to self-isolate. Please contact your lawyer or, if you do not have a lawyer, please contact the courthouse by [email](#) or [telephone](#) to seek direction.

For more information on the scheduling of family matters at the Ontario Court of Justice, please see: [Scheduling of Family Matters in the Ontario Court of Justice](#).

