

**NOTICE TO THE PROFESSION: UPDATE ON CIVIL PROCEDURE RULE  
AMENDMENTS & SUPREME COURT (FAMILY DIVISION) FORMS**

**Tuesday, March 9, 2021**

In February, the Judges of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia approved amendments to the *Civil Procedure Rules* and court forms used in divorce proceedings in this province.

Changes were made to Rule 59 and Rule 62, as well the court forms related to both those rules and the Family Division Practice Memorandum. The full summary of amendments is available online [here](#).

These amendments were made in preparation for changes to the federal *Divorce Act* that went into effect on March 1, 2021. Those changes mostly relate to Section 16 on parenting, but also include changes to Section 18.1 on inter-jurisdictional support. The full list of changes to the *Divorce Act* are summarized online [here](#).

The updated court forms are now available on the Courts of Nova Scotia website in Microsoft Word format. Interactive PDF versions will be available in the coming weeks.

Counsel is reminded that the Supreme Court is providing a transition period of four (4) months beginning March 1, 2021, where both sets of divorce forms will be accepted. This transition period will ensure lawyers, court staff, and members of the public have time to adapt to the new court forms and rules language.

Members of the Bar should also note that on Feb. 26, 2020, the Supreme Court released an updated official consolidated version of the *Civil Procedure Rules and Forms* that incorporates the amendments approved on Dec. 11, 2020. That is available online [here](#).

Please note that the version currently online does not include the most recent set of amendments related to divorce proceedings. Those changes will be incorporated in the coming weeks and a notice will go out to the Bar when the updated official consolidated version is available.

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