

PLA LIBRARY NOTICE

Dear Members,

Please see below an email from FOLA (Federation of Ontario Law Associations) regarding the Legal Aid Ontario bail coverage increase to address COVID challenges.

*Thank you,
Peel Law Association*

Legal Aid Ontario is about to announce - probably Tuesday of next week - another COVID emergency measure to increase LAO's coverage for bail hearings from two to four hours. The details are set out below. A key point for your members is that while it will apply to bail hearings on certificates issued on or after January 1, and counsel are encouraged to conduct bail hearings with those additional hours in mind, counsel should not bill on those matters to obtain the additional hours until we have made the necessary changes to our portal billing system. These changes will be in place by February 28, 2021. For further information, please contact LAO policy counsel Simone Bern at berns@lao.on.ca.

Key Details

- LAO to double compensation for bail hearings for block fee and tariff matters in recognition of longer bail hearings
- With the move to virtual hearings during COVID-19, Legal Aid Ontario recognizes bail hearings are taking significantly longer to prepare for and conduct.
- To account for this increase in time, LAO will double compensation for bail hearings for block fee and tariff matters on certificates issued on or after January 1, 2021.
- This temporary support is part of LAO's COVID-19 response and not intended as a permanent increase.
- The increase acknowledges counsel's important work and dedication to effective representation of LAO clients at bail, and highlights our commitment to vulnerable, Indigenous and racialized clients who are overrepresented in custody and on remand.
- LAO will make the necessary updates to their billing system to accommodate the change and they encourage counsel to take on bail matters at the new 4-hour rate. However, they ask that counsel not to bill the matters until February 28, 2021 to permit them the time to make the necessary changes to their billing system.

Katie W. Robinette
Executive Director

FOLA.ca

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Need answers to COVID-19 issues regarding the practice of law? [CLICK HERE](#).



Peel Law Association

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