



DIVORCE ACT CHANGES – IMPACT ON COURT RULES & FORMS

Monday, March 1, 2021

Family law lawyers and Nova Scotians going through a separation or divorce are reminded that changes to the federal *Divorce Act* go into effect today across the country.

These changes mostly relate to Section 16 on parenting, but also include changes to Section 18.1 on inter-jurisdictional support and official language requirements. The full list of legislative changes are summarized online [here](#).

In preparation for these changes, the Judges of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia recently approved amendments to the Civil Procedure Rules and court forms used in divorce proceedings in this province. These revised rules and forms will be available on the [Civil Procedure Rules page](#) of the Courts' website in early March.

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.

Questions about the filing of court documents can be emailed to Court Administration at the courthouse where you will be filing. Email addresses for all court locations are available online [here](#).

For information relating to the law, processes, and services that make up family law in Nova Scotia, visit the Family Law Nova Scotia website at <https://www.nsfamilylaw.ca/>.