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<p>FAMILY LAW IN ONTARIO Michael G. Cochrane Release No. 2, May 2024</p>

What’s New in this Update:

This release features updates to Chapter 1 (Who Makes Family Law) and Chapter 2 (Managing the Family Law File).

Author Highlights

- As Family Law in Ontario for Lawyers and Law Clerks enters its 35th year of publication you will notice a few changes in the updates. My focus will still be on maintaining a practical common sense approach to this emotionally charged work and on office teamwork but we now need to deal with new challenges, many brought about in large part by COVID-19, such as advanced technology, remote work, home offices, the impending arrival of new service providers (paralegals) mental health concerns, the continuing rise of the self represented and more.
- In this release you will find the beginning of a significant re-write of several chapters starting with the Introduction. As I stress, basically everything has changed, and yet nothing has changed.
- I have scaled down Chapter 1 dealing with Who Makes Family Law and provided links to some valuable resources that will guide users through family court procedures.
- Chapter 2 Managing the Family Law File is brand new and provides a focus on seeing the file as the source of a narrative about the client’s situation and goals.

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- It is a new world for family law lawyers who will now have clients that we may never meet face to face. For example, client ID and verification is subject to new LSO requirements. Social media is more prevalent and needs to be managed carefully. Again valuable links have been provided to keep users up to date on new professional requirements.
- Management of client expectations has never been more important and I have provided a complete rewrite of the best ways for lawyers and staff to do so. Clients, feeling the financial pinch, have higher expectations for getting value for their money.
- This chapter is designed to help you have satisfied, if not happy, clients and keep you and your staff out of trouble, reduce stress through teamwork and less toxicity and yet still make a living.
- The next release will complete the rewrite of Chapter 2 and begin a similar and significant rewrite of Chapter 3, The Family Law Process.