



Groundbreaking News: B.C. Legal Aid now accepts DIVORCEmate as a legal disbursement – DIVORCEmate announces management change –

DIVORCEmate Software Inc. is pleased to announce it has recently been added to the B.C. Legal Services Society Disbursements Tariff as of April 1. This is an important step to providing quality legal services using state-of-the-art family law software to help people with low incomes. We also believe this will encourage more lawyers to take on Legal Aid files, especially in qualifying cases where spousal support is an issue.

As a DIVORCEmate user in B.C., what does this mean to me?

Pay-Per-Use Subscribers: As part of the arrangement with the B.C. L.S.S., DIVORCEmate has agreed to reduce the cost of “qualifying” (as per the criteria of the Tariff) Legal Aid files to \$50/file plus taxes (regular rate \$100/file). To get the reduced rate, you just have to include the Legal Aid certificate number when creating your qualifying Legal Aid files in DIVORCEmate. Print and send the disbursement to the B.C. Legal Services Society, and you’re done.

Annual Subscribers: If you are a current DIVORCEmate Annual subscriber, inclusion in the tariff has no effect on your DIVORCEmate account. As per the Tariff, only DIVORCEmate Pay-Per-Use Subscribers are eligible for a disbursement.

If you are NOT a DIVORCEmate Pay-Per-Use Subscriber and are interested in setting up an account or would like more information, please visit www.divorcemate.com or contact

Steve Krieger at skrieger@divorcemate.com or call 604-222-3582.

The section of the Tariff relating to DIVORCEmate is below:

Computer-assisted legal research

– No prior authorization required for search and online charges up to \$300. If requesting prior authorization to exceed this limit, provide cost estimates.

– \$300 authorization limit includes up to \$50 per client for DIVORCEmate if:

- spousal support is one of the primary issues identified on the family referral
- the opposing party’s income is greater than \$25,000
- the relationship lasted longer than two years

Bill this item only if you use DIVORCEmate on a pay-per-use basis, not if you hold an annual license.

You cannot bill your own or others’ research time under this item, only the actual cost of online time.

You can click on the below link to review this NEW April 2012 B.C. Legal Services Society Disbursements Tariff document. The section dealing with DIVORCEmate can be found on page 5, under the Computer-assisted legal research section.

http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/lawyers/tariffGuide/disbursements/disb_20120401.pdf

Happy 1st Anniversary **MySupportCalculator.ca!**

we've got your number

MySupportCalculator.ca recently celebrated its one year anniversary. After a fantastic first year of operation, we’re proud to announce that more than 75,000 calculations were done and more than 37,000 profiles were viewed across Canada! The website continues to gain momentum as more and more people visit the site. In fact, we anticipate more than 100,000 visitors in year two!

Where do we go from here? Onward and Upward!

Significant changes have been made to the website to further increase traffic and profile viewings. Now each listing’s profile page will have its own URL (similar to having your very own webpage) that can be linked to search engines like Google. This will bring more visitors to the website, and in particular to the profiles of those listed. It’s also a great way to develop an online marketing web presence, without the cost of building and managing your own website! If you already have a website, you can link your MySupportCalculator.ca profile directly to your existing

website (and vice versa) for even greater exposure.

Pricing Set

How do I sign up for MySupportCalculator.ca and what is the cost? There are two options for listing:

Monthly: \$29.95/month plus taxes or;

Annual: \$329.95/year plus taxes (pre-paying for year in advance gets you one free month!)

MySupportCalculator.ca welcomes new GM

MySupportCalculator Inc. is pleased to announce our new General Manager, Omar Ha-Redeye. Omar is a civil litigator with Fleet Street Law in Toronto and has an extensive background in web advertising and lead generation. If you have any questions about the site, would like to set up an account, or just want to touch base, contact Omar at Omar@MySupportCalculator.ca or 416-787-8515.



NEW DIVORCEmate Toolbar for Word 2007/2010 (ON, BC)

If you currently use Word 2007/2010, you will notice a redesign of the DIVORCEmate Toolbar.



The icons are now larger and easier to see, and we've included a visible description of each individual icon to help navigate the icon bar faster and easier.

The NEW DIVORCEmate Toolbar has also been moved and can now be found under the "DIVORCEmate" tab on your Word Toolbar, and no longer under the "add-ins" tab.

Tips and Tricks

One icon, many great uses: We present the "Configure" icon.

Click the "Configure" icon on your toolbar  or  when in the applicable document to:

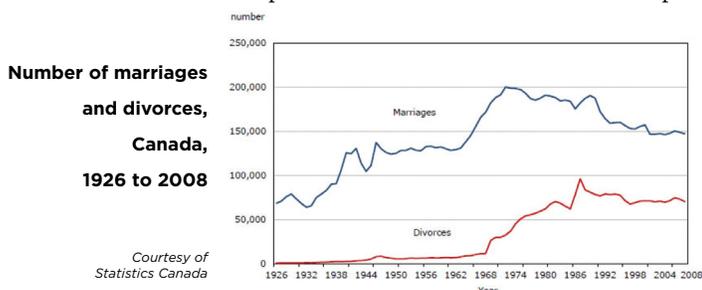
- Remove the Children's Budget, Schedule A and/or Schedule B from an Ontario 13.1 Financial Statement Form. The trees will thank you for it!
- Change the method of service while you are in an Ontario Form 6B Affidavit of Service. The days of exiting and re-entering to change the "type of service" in the Form 6B Affidavit of Service are over!
- Select the appropriate paragraphs to include in the BC Forms F37, F38, F51, F52 or F34.
- Add clauses "on the fly" to any Precedent document without having to leave the document (ON & BC).

StatsCan report reveals interesting facts on divorce

A recent report by Statistics Canada shows divorce rates in this country are down in recent years. But the numbers reflect a higher percentage of non-traditional relationships, such as common law unions. According to the report, in 2010/2011, there was a 2 per cent drop in divorces from the previous year, with nearly 54,000 new divorce cases in the seven reporting provinces and territories. All of these regions showed a decline in divorce cases except in B.C., where the number increased by 4 per cent.

This trend has been ongoing for several years. In the time between 2006/2007 and 2010/2011, the number of new divorce cases dropped by 8 per cent in the reporting provinces and territories, the study states.

Although non-traditional marriages contribute to this trend, there are still more married couples in Canada than common-law couples.



Important Notice to WordPerfect users: Effective immediately, DIVORCEmate will not be developing any future products or major software updates in WordPerfect. We will be providing software support for WordPerfect until June 30, 2013. This will affect DIVORCEmate Forms and Precedents users (Not Tools 2K) who have WordPerfect only. If this is you, please take the necessary steps to make sure you're office is prepared for this change.

NEWSWORTHY UPDATES

This year has probably been the busiest in terms of updates. Here is a quick rundown:

January 2012

Tools 2K (All Provinces)

- Implemented new Child Support Guideline Tables effective December 31, 2011
- Added ability to specify 2012, 2011 or 2010 calculation tax year rates
- Updated federal and provincial tax brackets per indexation schedule
- Reduced present value discount rates to reflect current market conditions

Forms One (Ontario)

- Added "Children's Lawyer Box" insert feature for most Ontario court forms (new toolbar icon)
- Added Form 00 Mandatory Information Program (MIP) Notices

February 2012

Tools 2K (BC/AB)

- Updated Government Benefits and Credits (BC and Alberta)

Forms One (Ontario)

- Added selected pension division forms pursuant to Pension Benefits Act

Precedents One (Ontario)

- Include amendments based on the pension reform in the Family Statute Law Amendment Act, 2009 (first introduced as Bill 133), effective January 1, 2012
- Added extensive clauses for the valuation and division of pensions governed by Pension Benefits Act

March 2012

Tools 2K (All Provinces)

- Added new option regarding RPP contributions in Tools 2K

April 2012

DIVORCEmate One - Pay Per Use (BC)

- Implemented discounted Pay Per Use licensing fee for BC LSS Files

May 2012

Forms One update (BC)

- Included amendments to Supreme Court Family Rules and Forms as per Order in Council No. 192

Forms One Update (BC/ON)

- Updated DIVORCEmate Toolbar in Word 2007/2010

Coming soon (Fall 2012)

- Retainer Agreement for Unbundled Services (On, BC)
- Collaborative Separation Agreement (ON, BC)

Change in Management

We would like to announce that Michael Perlman is now the interim President of DIVORCEmate Software Inc. Michael has been with DIVORCEmate since 1996 and has been involved in all aspects of the business from sales and marketing to business development, and everything in between. He will continue DIVORCEmate's 25-year tradition of innovation and excellence. "I look forward to the challenge of building on the principals and values that make DIVORCEmate exceptional while creating cutting edge software solutions for the family law community across Canada."



Mark Harris will now act as Chairman of DIVORCEmate and will continue to be involved in the direction and operations of the company.

DIVORCEmate welcomes NEW Court

We would like to welcome the Nunavut Court of Justice to the DIVORCEmate "family" of judicial users. We look forward to providing the high level of service and support to the Nunavut Court that we have been providing to our clients for more than 25 years. The list of Judicial Tools 2K users also includes the Ontario Court of Justice and Ontario Superior Court, B.C. Provincial and Supreme Court, and the Newfoundland and Labrador Supreme Court.

The Generous Family Law Judge

"Mr. Quinn, I have reviewed this case very carefully," the divorce court judge said. "And I've decided to give your wife \$775 a week."

"That's very generous and fair of you, your honor," the husband said. "And every now and then I'll try to send her a few bucks myself."

DIVORCEmate Helps...

DIVORCEmate has proudly donated a software subscription to Gillian's Place in St. Catharines, ON. As one of Ontario's first shelters for abused women and children, Gillian's Place has been providing safe refuge and non-residential programs that enable women and their children to break the cycle of violence for more than 30 years. More than 12,000 women and their children have found safe emergency shelter and essential support services since 1977.

Our family has grown!

Jennifer Beattie

Please welcome Jennifer Beattie, DIVORCEmate's newest team member, into the sales/marketing department. Jennifer has worked as a legal assistant for the past 14 years, five of which were spent at the Durham Children's Aid Society. She is married with three children, who are all very active with hockey and lacrosse.



Need an extra license? Need to set up an account? Have questions? Contact Jennifer, she'll be more than happy to help you out! She can be reached at jbeattie@divorcemate.com or by calling our main number and dialing x407.

National Family Law Conference this summer!

The 2012 National Family Law Program is just around the corner. This year's conference runs from July 16 to 19 in sunny Halifax.

Some areas of focus during the three-day affair are: Access to Justice in Family Law, Lawyers and Self-Reps, Kids and Cash, Child Protection and many other hot topics.

In keeping with the fun, various social events are planned during the conference. As is tradition at the NFLC, DIVORCEmate will be offering a tasty, gourmet kitchen addition giveaway. You'll have to attend the conference to find out what goodies DIVORCEmate has in store this year.

For more information about the conference, contact Heather Walker, program coordinator, at nationalfamilylawprogram@sympatico.ca.

Did you know?

DIVORCEmate training seminars can be applied towards the substantive hours of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) required by the Law Society in B.C and Ontario. Not only do these seminars help you attain your required CPD hours, but they are informative and packed with helpful tips and tricks. Visit our website this Fall for training in your area.

TECH NOTE:

Disappearing text in Word 2007/2010

Is your text disappearing as you type? Can you only see the bottom half of your text?

We have recently heard from our users that certain Word 2007/2010 documents (the form 17 series and form 14) have begun to exhibit the above issues in selected fields. This appears to be a problem with the "screen draw" function in Word 2007/2010.

We have contacted Microsoft about this problem and are awaiting their response. As we focus on finding a solution to this matter, we have some workarounds:

- 1) Adjust the zoom to 99 per cent: At the bottom right-hand corner of Word, there is a slide ruler for the zoom. Click on the zoom percentage and a dialog opens. Change the zoom to 99 per cent.
- 2) Draft View: These problems don't occur while working in draft view. Click on the "View" tab and select "Draft" before typing your text.

Pension Reform in Ontario Finally Implemented

As most of you are aware, new legislation was released in Ontario a few years ago - the Family Statute Law Amendment Act, 2009, S.O. 2009, c. 11 (first introduced as Bill 133) - which encompassed several changes effecting family law, including the much awaited pension reform. On January 1, the pension sections of this legislation finally came into force, as further fleshed out in the regulations, and a code has now been put into place for the valuation and division of Ontario provincial pensions governed by

the Pension Benefits Act (PBA). (A similar methodology is to be applied to non-PBA pensions.)

The regulations include a number of FSCO forms to be completed to effect the valuation and division of a PBA pension, which forms are now included in your Forms One Software.

As well, the Standard Form Separation Agreement, found in your Precedents One Software, has been updated to include clauses implementing the new PBA valuation and

division scheme. Given the relative newness of the legislation, it is strongly recommended that before any agreement respecting PBA pensions is finalized, you review the pension provisions of your agreement in advance with the Plan Administrator to address any issues beforehand.

DIVORCEmate would like to acknowledge and thank Wendela Napier and Bryan Smith for their time and assistance to the editors in interpreting and understanding the new regime.

New Option Added Regarding RPP Contributions

As you likely know, section 8.3.1 of the SSAG provides that mandatory RPP contributions are not to be deducted from the payor's Individual Net Disposable Income ("INDI") in determining spousal support under the "With Child Support" Formula of the SSAG. Accordingly, the software default leaves RPP contributions in the payor's income in calculating the payor's spousal support obligation.

It was recently brought to our attention by one of our users, John Syrtash, that in the case of *Dhala v Dhala* [2006] A.J. No. 985 (A.C.Q.B.) at p. 69, the Alberta Court Queen's Bench expressly rejected this provision of the SSAG and refused to deduct mandatory RPP contributions from the payor's income in determining the payor's spousal support obligation under the SSAG.

Given that the Ontario Court of Appeal in *Fisher v. Fisher*, [2008] O.J. No. 38 at pp. 96-98, held that "... the Guidelines do not impose a radically new approach ... if the Guidelines suggest a range that conflicts with applicable authorities, the authorities will prevail," we recently included an option in our Tools 2K software to allow you the flexibility to follow this new authority if you see fit. The option allows you to choose whether or not to deduct the RPP contributions from the payor's income in determining his/her spousal support obligation.

Regardless of which option you choose, RPP (and RRSP) contributions are still deducted from the payor's income in the Support Scenarios.

Tax Tips: Shared Custody and CRA - Did you know?

- According to Income Tax Interpretation Bulletin IT-495R3, both parents can claim the maximum child care deduction for a child in shared custody (see paragraph 18: www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pub/tp/it495r3/it495r3-e.html#P331_37972);
- According to the General Income Tax and Benefit Guide 2011, the parties can agree on which parent will claim the eligible dependant credit for the child in shared custody. If, however, the parties cannot agree, neither can claim the credit (see lines 305 and 367 commentary: www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pub/tg/5000-g/5000-g-04-11e.html#line367).

NEW BC Forms Update Now Available

DIVORCEmate has recently updated the B.C. Supreme Court forms pursuant to the recently released Order in Council 192, effective April 25. A significant change is that inapplicable paragraphs are deleted and will not appear on the final document.

Important Message: Chief Justice Bauman recently issued a new Direction to the Registry to extend the grace period to July 31, 2012, during which the Registry will accept old forms.

[Click here to see Direction.](#)

Einstein was No Genius at Love

It may come as some consolation that the man credited with the Theory of Relativity was clueless when it came to his own marriage. Deborah Arthurs of the *Mail Online* reports that after 11 years of marriage to his wife, Mileva Maric, Albert Einstein's relationship was on the rocks. Rather than try to reconcile or woo her back, Einstein proposed the following rules:

Conditions

- A. You will make sure:
 1. that my clothes and laundry are kept in good order;
 2. that I will receive my three meals regularly in my room;
 3. that my bedroom and study are to be kept neat, and especially that my desk is left for my use only.
- B. You will renounce all personal relations with me insofar as they are not completely necessary for social reasons. Specifically, you will forgo:
 1. my sitting at home with you;
 2. my going out or travelling with you.
- C. You will obey the following points in your relations with me:
 1. you will not expect any intimacy from me, nor will you reproach me in any way;
 2. you will stop talking to me if I request it;
 3. you will leave my bedroom or study immediately if I request it.
- D. You will undertake not to belittle me in front of our children, either through words or behaviour.

To add insult to injury, his wife was an educated woman, one of the first in Europe to study math and physics.

Not surprisingly, Maric left Einstein just months after she was presented with this list, and filed for a divorce five years later in 1919.