



The Next Generation of DIVORCEmate

Your client's needs and demands are changing. The way you practise family law is changing. You need the proper tools to adapt your practice and not only meet, but exceed, your client's expectations. The next generation of DIVORCEmate will give you the freedom, flexibility and power to accomplish this!

What is DM CLOUD?

DIVORCEmate is moving from your desktop to the "Cloud". This simply means that both the software and DIVORCEmate client file data will reside on a secure web server in a state-of-the-art data centre. By logging into your account through a portal on the DIVORCEmate website, you will have access to your DIVORCEmate client files and suite of programs, and have the ability to manage your account online.

We know this sounds exciting, but Rome wasn't built in a day... this new web-based environment will be the most intricate and innovative development that we have ever released. Because of the immensity of the transformation and its sophistication, it will take time to develop. DM CLOUD will be released in stages beginning with TOOLS CLOUD *preview*.

We've got you covered! We will continue to maintain and support the desktop version as we develop DM CLOUD. We will keep you informed and provide you with more detailed information as we get further ahead in the process.

TOOLS CLOUD *preview* Now Available

As a first step in our cloud-based vision, we are very pleased to announce the release of TOOLS CLOUD *preview*. It's a "feature-limited, fully functional" version of our TOOLS 2K13 software for you to try online and in the Cloud. The look and feel is similar to our existing TOOLS 2K13 desktop version and includes many of the same options and features. It is available to all current Annual Subscribers and Pay Per Use users at no additional cost.

TOOLS CLOUD *preview* gives you the ability to run and review your child and spousal support calculations anytime and anywhere you have internet access. You can print your calculations (with limited formatting) and save calculations on your desktop and laptop computers by saving as a PDF via your "Print" options. Full-featured saving and printing capabilities will be available in the next release.

TOOLS CLOUD *preview* Now Available!

- Use it when you're out of the office and don't have access to your DIVORCEmate software; at court, at home, at your cottage or at a coffee shop.
- Use it on your PC, laptop, Mac, Tablet or Smartphone.
- Use it to do a quick calculation during an initial consultation or while on the phone with a prospective client (especially good for Pay Per Use users).

To access TOOLS CLOUD *preview*, click [HERE](#).

Most inputs and features found in our TOOLS 2K13 desktop version will be available to you including all sources of income, grossing up of non-taxable income, all special expenses, imputing income, tax deductions, tax credits, undue hardship, support scenarios and more!

As this is a *preview*, we encourage you to review, evaluate and provide feedback. Your input is important to us and will help us going forward as we continue to develop the program.

TOOLS CLOUD Coming Q1 2014

At this stage, you will be able to open, save and edit your TOOLS CLOUD calculations in your own private and personal account on DIVORCEmate's cloud server.

It will include all features/options currently available in the desktop software plus much more! You will have access to the search feature, lump sum, restructuring and life insurance calculations. See *The Benefits are Endless!*, page 2.





The Benefits of DM CLOUD are Endless!

Increased Accessibility: With an Internet connection you will be able to access and use DM CLOUD anywhere, anytime, using any device. Use it when you're at the office on your desktop computer, at home on your Mac, or on the road with your laptop, tablet or Smartphone. It will be available to you 24/7!

Collaboration with Clients: Not only will you and your staff be able to easily access DIVORCEmate, but at your discretion, you will be able to share financial statements, court forms, support calculations or any other DIVORCEmate document with your clients. For example, have your client input all of his/her basic personal information at the outset to ensure the accuracy of the information to be merged into various court forms (e.g. correct spelling, dates, etc.).

Or invite your client to prepare the first draft of the financial statement online, for your further review and revision. The ability to collaborate online will improve your communication with your client by facilitating the exchange of information in a timely manner and making clients feel more connected to you and to the process.

Collaboration will also increase the efficiency of your practice, so that your client's limited resources can be spent where they will be most beneficial – on your legal advice and skills. In this day and age where fewer and fewer people are able to afford legal services, your client will appreciate getting value for their dollar.

Collaboration with Others: DM CLOUD will open the door for online collaboration with not only your clients, but also with collaborative lawyers, opposing counsel, mediators, financial advisors and any other interested party you wish. Collaborate on financial statements, net family property statements, support calculations, etc. from your office or home.

Save IT Time and Money: The days of installing, updating and registering your DIVORCEmate are coming to an end! Got a new computer? Turn it on, log in to your DM CLOUD account and you're ready to go. No installation necessary! Software updates and maintenance will be done by us, behind the scenes on our cloud server. This means no interruption to your practice and no need to involve an IT Specialist! This will translate to lower costs, less downtime in your practice, plus you will always be using the most current version of the software, every time, all the time.

Security: We are dedicated to ensuring that your files will be safe and secure, backed-up and protected.

How much do you love your dog?

A landmark ruling by a state appeals court in New Jersey mandates that a couple who spent some \$40,000 battling over the custody of the pet pug they once cared for together, will now have to share joint custody of the dog, Dexter.

Eric Dare and Doreen Houseman were not married, but spent 13 years together before ending their relationship in 2006. Each has spent more than \$20,000 on legal bills pursuing custody of their pet pug who was like a son to them.

Salem County Superior Judge John Tomasello's final ruling was that Dexter will now live with each of his previous owners on a five-week rotating schedule. The verdict mirrors the belief that pets are not property, but Dare's attorney James Carter, doesn't quite agree. Carter said he might consider appealing the ruling because he doesn't think pet custody should be treated like child custody cases and that the ruling could set a precedent for courtroom chaos. It could also make divorce more expensive for all pet owners if animals are afforded the same rights as dependent children.

So far, Dexter the pug has not yet hired his own counsel in the case!

Amendments to BC Supreme Court Forms Now Available

We are pleased to say that we've received positive feedback from our B.C. users regarding the new FLA forms that were released on March 18, 2013. Our easy to use forms with one touch math and excellent merge functions, have made the transition to the new rules a smooth one!

We also want to let you know that we have changes to conform with. Order in Council No. 112, Approved and Ordered February 28, 2013 contains some amendments to the Supreme Court Family Rules and Forms which came into effect on July 1, 2013. The amended forms are available and can be downloaded within your DIVORCEmate program.

Forms that have been amended include:

- F33 Consent Order
- F34 Order Made Without Notice
- F38 Affidavit - Desk Order Divorce
- F51 Order Made After Application
- F52 Final Order
- F73 Petition to The Court

For an overview of the changes in the new Family Law Act, click [HERE](#).

For a list of the various amendments to the Court Rules and Forms, click [HERE](#) for the Supreme Court (Family) & click [HERE](#) for the Provincial Court (Family).



DIVORCEmate's Lunch On Us Contest!

CONGRATULATIONS to Shawn Richarz of Cayuga, Ontario! Shawn is the winner of DIVORCEmate's first ever **Lunch On Us Contest** (p.k.a. DIVORCEmate's Caption Contest), presented in the *WINTER 2013 DIVORCEmate e-News & e-Views* (see images below - left). His winning caption "you can't have one without the other" won him a lunch for two at his favourite local restaurant courtesy of DIVORCEmate.

You have another chance to WIN* a lunch for two by entering this issue's **Lunch On Us Contest!** Have a look at the picture below on the right and email your caption phrase to info@divorcemate.com by September 22, 2013. Your caption will be judged based on creativity and relativity. The selected winner will be notified by September 30, 2013. Good luck to those who participate!



Helping a Child Sparkle

For another year, DIVORCEmate sponsored Gilda's Club Greater Toronto's **CAMP SPARKLE**, a March Break Camp for children living with or touched by cancer. The week-long camp was action packed with games, arts and crafts, fun and laughter! It was a great success and we're happy to have been able to contribute to making March Break a special one for those who attended.

For more information about Gilda's Club Greater Toronto and the cancer support services they provide, visit:

www.gildasclubtoronto.org



DIVORCEmate's Online Library Has Been Updated!

Did you know that our website has a library of useful documents and articles? It's true!

We have recently added documents that you don't want to miss!

You can find the following items in our "Documents of Interest" section:

- Intake Form Info to Obtain From Your Client
- Documents to Obtain From Your Client



[Click HERE](#)
to visit our library

Relief for Recovery

In an effort to help our friends affected by the floods in Alberta and the explosion in Lac-Mégantic, DIVORCEmate has made generous donations to the *Alberta Flood Relief Fund* and the *Lac-Mégantic Support Fund*. You too can donate by visiting the [Canadian Red Cross](http://CanadianRedCross.org) online. We wish them all the best during this devastating time.



Welcome our Newest Team Member, Lindsay Doyle!

Lindsay Doyle joins us as our new Manager of Marketing and Special Projects. She comes to us with over 6 years of experience working in the Marketing and Advertising industry for tier-1 clients such as Telus Mobility, The Globe and Mail, Canadian Living, McCain Foods and Weston Bakeries. Her specialties include advertising strategy, promotions, communications, event coordination, and partnership initiation. Lindsay is involved in all aspects of marketing and communication for DIVORCEmate. She is also available to assist you with your profile on MySupportCalculator.ca. Lindsay leads a very active lifestyle. She is an avid cyclist and "yogi".



Join Us in the Future of Family Law

DIVORCEmate has always been a leader in the area of family law. Our initiative through My Support Calculator hopes to anticipate the challenges of the future, and we need your support to make it happen.

One of the greatest changes in family law is the rise in the rates of self-representation in the courts. A May 2013 study¹ on self-represented litigants (SRL's) found that approximately 40% of all litigants in provincial courts appearing on family law matters are self-represented (Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario). In Ontario in 2011/2012, 64% of individuals involved in either a family or divorce matter were self represented. The lack of accurate information for these litigants creates delays and frustration for the court system and the represented party on the other side.

An April 2013, Supreme Court of Canada report² highlights the role of technology. The recommendations include:

- Using the Internet and information technology to make family justice more affordable and accessible
- Making information accessible in plain language
- Responding to the needs of self represented litigants

These studies found that online resources can never meet the needs of litigants completely. People still want assistance from professionals directly. My Support Calculator is actively developing solutions to bridge this gap and to help connect the public to lawyers.

Information in development on My Support Calculator includes how-to guides and technical manuals to help the public through the complex maze of family law. But computers will never replace the help that a lawyer can provide.

Family law practitioners should be properly prepared to tackle these changes. DIVORCEmate and My Support Calculator are developing the technology to allow clients to take better ownership and responsibility. Empowering clients will lead to greater satisfaction and ensure continued relevance of legal professionals.

Join our project by subscribing to a PREMIUM listing on My Support Calculator for only **\$29.95/month** or **\$329.95/year**.

Visit MySupportCalculator.ca today to register today!

¹ Full study available at: <http://www.representing-yourself.com/doc/report.pdf>

² Final Report available at: <http://www.cfcj-fcjc.org/sites/default/files/docs/Report%20of%20the%20Family%20Law%20WG%20Meaningful%20Change%20April%202013.pdf>

QUICK TIP: The Matrimonial Home and Ontario's Form 13.1

In Ontario, the matrimonial home is treated differently than other assets, pursuant to Part II of the Family Law Act ("FLA"). In determining a party's net family property ("NFP"), a party who brings a matrimonial home into the marriage loses the ability to deduct the pre-marital value of that home (net of any associated debt). This is different than other pre-marital assets whose value at the date of marriage is deducted to reduce the party's NFP.

The line on Form 13.1 dedicated to the matrimonial home has a special formula built into it, such that if the matrimonial home has a pre-marital value, this value will not be deducted in determining the party's NFP (nor its associated debt).

Be aware that the parties can technically have more than one matrimonial home if there were several properties that they ordinarily occupied as their family residences at the time of separation (e.g. home; cottage up north; condo in Florida; etc.). In this case of more than one property, assuming that all properties had pre-marital values, one way to ensure that they are properly handled by the software is to put the aggregate value of all properties on the line dedicated to the matrimonial home, with a breakdown and explanation of each property individually in the description section. To view an example of this, click [HERE](#).

The same method of inputting would apply to Part 5 – Debts and Other Liabilities for any debts related to the multiple matrimonial homes. Keep in mind that the parties can choose to designate only one property as a matrimonial home to the exclusion of all others to get around this issue (FLA, s.20).

Did you know that you can include the child(ren)'s lawyer in most forms?



Here's how:

Click the "Children" button in your DIVORCEmate toolbar, select "Include Children's Lawyer Box" and click "OK". You should now have the child(ren)'s lawyer box in the style of cause.

If you have any questions or require further assistance, call our Technical Support team today!