

# DIVORCEmate News & Views

## For Users of DIVORCEmate Software

Issue Number 36 – January 2000

www.divorcemate.com

Information - call (416) 718-3461 Extension 446

### **DIVORCEmate Ships November Update, Announces DM 2001 Recent Form Amendments Necessitate a Feb 2000 Update**

*For the past 12 years, our DIVORCEmate News & Views newsletter has been an important source of information for our 5,000+ software users. Our newsletter has something for everyone - productivity hints, new product and seminar announcements, Family Law and technology information, humour and more. Please ensure that it is circulated to all family law professional staff including secretaries, law clerks, justices, judges, mediators, professors, accountants and lawyers.*

#### **November Update Shipped With More Forms and Features**

As promised, during the first week of November, we shipped a FREE update to our very successful Ontario "New Family Law Court Forms+" software. This November Update added a number of new forms and features.

DIVORCEmate's New Family Law Court Forms+ software (v.11.5.99) produces 33 day-to day forms and includes a number of exclusive features and benefits.

With this November Update of the New Family Law Court Forms+ software, DIVORCEmate has continued its tradition of providing **ease-to-use court forms** that produce **outstanding printouts** in a single client court form file, backed by timely and knowledgeable customer service and technical support.

#### **Notice to the Profession, Amendments to the Family Law Rules**

Effective 11/26/99, amendments have been made to the Ontario's new Family Law Rules; these amendments appear as O.Reg. 544/99 and were published in the Ontario Gazette on December 11<sup>th</sup> 1999, and will soon be available at the [www.ontariocourts.on.ca](http://www.ontariocourts.on.ca) website.

Apparently, you will now have until April 19<sup>th</sup> 2000 to use old forms under the new Rules.

#### **DIVORCEmate Announces Early February Update To Ontario's New Family Law Court Forms+**

Due to the 11/26/99 amendments, DIVORCEmate will provide **another free update** to our successful New Family Law Court Forms+ software. The current v.11.5.99 version will be updated to reflect these recent amendments, plus we are considering a number of improvements:

- adding the Form 17C Case Conference Notice;
- modifying the Form 14C in order to provide one or two page options;
- fine-tuning the printing of replicated forms and older financial statements (v.9.15.99);

- adding additional pages to Form 26 Statement of Money Owed;
- a few minor formatting changes, printing, spelling and proof reading corrections.

All registered users of the DIVORCEmate Family Law Court Forms+ module **will receive this free update** automatically by mail in early February.

#### **Ontario Court of Justice Acceptance of Our Computer Generated Forms**

Although there is only one set of Forms under the New Family Law Rules, the Ontario Court of Justice has prepared a "modified" set of forms to be given out to unrepresented litigants. These OCJ "modified" forms have removed references to "divorce" and "net family property".

As a result of seeing these "modified" forms, a few OCJ courts were refusing our "unmodified" forms, however we recently received the following e-mail:

*"RE: OCJ Forms under the new Family Law Rules  
Further to our earlier e-mail exchange, I am advised by Courts Administration that both modified and unmodified forms are now being accepted throughout the Province. I trust that this will resolve the problem that you identified.  
Brian W. Lennox"*

We wish to thank the Chief Judge, Mr. Justice Brian Lennox and the staff of Courts Administration for their timely response to a potentially confusing situation.

#### **Customer Comments!**

*"Word Wrapper is so, **so simple**"; "Thank you, thank you, thank you"; "The NFP Worksheet is **a very useful form** for settlement conference and for trials" – a Justice in the Family Court; "... and such a **nice merge page** too! Bonus!"; "I'm impressed, **very user friendly**"; "This worked like a charm. **Amazing!**"; "Thanks for writing software that **I can actually use.**"; "My secretary likes it"; "Congratulations, **great software.**"; "The software installed easily and it's **easy to use.**"; "Another lawyer raved twice to me about **what a great job** you did. Please send them to me."; "Thanks for your help, and I forgot to tell you that the new programs and the forms are **great**"; "Just wanted to let you know that your software is great and a **pleasure to use!**"*

And, these from a long-time DIVORCEmate Software user:

"I have installed the (DIVORCEmate Family Law Court) forms, and it is one of your simplest and quickest updates. We are very impressed with the forms, and they are significantly better than the CBAO product. Thanks for the prompt response.

Please feel free to use any of my comments. I have always been very impressed with your products, and your service is excellent. As you are aware, we are very computerized, and I have hands on knowledge of the products we use. Very few other products work as well as yours, and I know of no other software computer which we are using which has comparable service. Thanks again"

Ronald F. B. Woynarski, PAVEY LAW, Cambridge, Ont.

### DIVORCEmate Announces DM 2001



Yes, the rumours are true, we are well into the development of our completely re-designed DIVORCEmate 2001.

Yes, we have been listening to our users over the past 12 years and DIVORCEmate 2001 will include many of the features and that you have requested including:

- ☑ more court forms;
- ☑ full featured word-processing, including paragraph numbering, line spacing, font formatting and more;
- ☑ unlimited expansion for answering questions... no more "see attached";
- ☑ the ability to modify the court form/text, as required;
- ☑ full integration with DIVORCEmate's GUIDELINE Tools;
- ☑ e-file, e-court, e-service and internet ready.

Of course, we will keep and improve the DIVORCEmate interface, look and feel, our outstanding printouts and ease of use.

Look for this all new **DIVORCEmate early in 2001!** We can hardly wait to show you our stuff!

### LSUC/CBAO Family Law Forms, Enhanced CD

Just a brief comment regarding the Law Society of Upper Canada, Canadian Bar Association – Ontario and Content Management Corporation joint effort to produce software for the new Family Law Court Forms.

DIVORCEmate Software Inc. welcomes any competition provided it is carried out in a responsible business-like manner on a level playing field.

#### Hamilton - Form 14C Confirmation

At least one Family Court (Hamilton) has requested a one-page Confirmation form instead of the 2-page Confirmation currently being produced by our software. However, the Court will **not** refuse our two-page Confirmation.

In an effort to help matters (*no pun intended!*), we will add a one-page confirmation option to our software in the February update.

Thanks to Risa Sheriff, Joan Hatch and Mr. Justice David Steinberg for their help in quickly resolving this matter.

### Family Law Court Forms+ Training Schedule

If you missed our first round of New Family Law Court Forms+ training sessions, **here's your opportunity to catch up, don't miss it!**

Lawyers, law clerks and secretaries must learn to be more productive with our New Family Law Court Forms+ software.

Training includes how to:

- ☞ complete the merge information form;
- ☞ use Word Wrapper, and "cut and paste" to and from your Word or WordPerfect software into Word Wrapper;
- ☞ complete the information requirements of the new Form 13 Financial Statement;
- ☞ transfer from the Form 13 Financial Statement to the 13BN Net Family Property Statement and on into DIVORCEmate's exclusive Net Family Property Worksheet;
- ☞ replicate any and all forms and adding a blank form;
- ☞ create extra pages;
- ☞ complete the complicated and lengthy children's expenses section;
- ☞ calculate simple interest on periodic and lump sum support amounts and court costs;
- ☞ use the simple lawyer's database;

Plus numerous tips and tricks will be explained, demonstrated and reviewed.

The cost of the training is \$79 pp + GST, no discounts, prepaid by cheque or VISA.

Location	Date	Time
Toronto ( <i>at our offices</i> )	February 17 <sup>th</sup>	1 - 3 pm
Toronto ( <i>at our offices</i> )	February 17 <sup>th</sup>	4 - 6 pm
Downtown Ottawa	February 24 <sup>th</sup>	1 - 3 pm
Downtown London	March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 - 3 pm
Sudbury	March 7 <sup>th</sup>	1 - 3 pm
Sault Ste. Marie	March 8 <sup>th</sup>	1 - 3 pm
North Bay	March 9 <sup>th</sup>	1 - 3 pm

## French Transcribed Family Court Forms+

The French Speaking Juristes' Association (AJEFO) has arranged for a "French" translation of DIVORCEmate's new Family Law Court Forms+ software. Updates will be available from DIVORCEmate Software Inc. for \$399.50, certain terms and conditions apply.

### Did You Know That ...

☑ At the present time, there are over **100 individual Judges and Justices using DIVORCEmate's GUIDELINE Tools** across the country. We have put forth a proposal to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice planning committee to provide training to Ontario's Justices regarding the use of our software and how to analyze the results when presented. We are hoping to provide the training at the next provincial Justices conference in the spring.

☑ DIVORCEmate has provided a **software donation** to the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic and the Halton Women's Place.

☑ You may download many new Family Law Court forms from the Ministry's website at <http://www.esc.net/attorney/>. Forms are in PDF, Word or WordPerfect 6.1 format. You may use these forms on the rare occasions when you need forms that DIVORCEmate does not produce.

☑ Booklet available: "What you should know about Family Law in Ontario", Publisher Ministry of the Attorney General, Aug 1999, ISBN 0-7778-8502-6, worth giving to clients!

☑ Plan on attending the **2000 National Family Law Program**, July 10 – 13, 2000 in St. John's, Nfld. Contact Heather Walker at 705 374-4083, h.walker.n.f.l.p@sympatico.com.

☑ **Post Judgement interest rates** are currently at 6%. Current rates may be found at the website: <http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/cad/interestrates.htm>.

☑ **Make your own:** The specification for the red Continuing Record Cover (on medium-weight cardboard) is as follows: Cover stock – Hammermill Papers, Brite-Hue Cover, Semi-Vellum, 8.5 x 11, 23.38 M – S65, red, part # 10137-8.

☑ DIVORCEmate recently introduced a series of three new printed advertisements: **Form Reform** targets new Family Court Forms+ buyers; **Simply Extraordinary** tells the DIVORCEmate "reason for being"; and **Simplify the Extraordinary** targets GUIDELINE Tools buyers! Watch for these new ads, everywhere!

☑ *Andrews v. Andrews*, (9/29/99) Doc.CA C29538, (Ont. C.A.), **SUPPORTmate** played a important role in



the calculation of net disposable income after the payment of support. But what's really interesting is the SOLmate calculation for this case...the Father's Household Income Ratio still exceeds Mom's, and therefore his standard of living as measured by Schedule II of the CSG is still higher, even though she has more than 60% of the Net Disposable Income! I don't see a problem... do you?

☑ *Frances v. Baker* (9/16/99), Doc. 26562, (S.C.C.), Ont. C.A. says "inappropriate" = "inadequate", S.C.C. says "inappropriate" = "not appropriate" = "unsuitable"; S.C.C. rules and Courts can both increase and decrease the amount of child support under the CSG but, this will probably rarely happen and only in ...*extraordinary* circumstances! Child expense budgets will only be required on a case-by-case basis, at the discretion of the trial judge. Ontario's new Family Law Rules direct the use of budgets when child support differs from Table amount.

### CSG Calculation Contest – Win a Cool Shirt



We have a **rugged, DIVORCEmate-logged, blue cotton denim, button-down shirt** for the first right answer to this Child Support Guideline riddle:

Father making \$38,000; Mother making \$23,000; one daughter, age 17 years old, attends university with tuition of \$3,000 and education amounts of \$1,600, both are eligible for transfer to Mother, the daughter also gives Mother \$3,000 towards her university tuition expenses.

What is the total Table plus Special Expenses amount?  
**Hint:** CSG 7(3) with a twist! E-mail your GUIDELINE Calculator answer to: mharris@divorcemate.com.

### Employment Opportunity With DIVORCEmate *DIVORCEmate is Looking for Someone Special!*

This special person must have **all** of the following:

An understanding of the day-to-day dealings in a **family law practise**; knowledge of DIVORCEmate Software products; superior in-person and on the telephone communication skills with a **clear and pleasant voice**; endless **empathy and patience** when dealing with clients.

And must have **some** of the following:

Knowledge of Lotus 123R5 or Excel; Windows 95/98/NT; peer-to-peer networks; MS Word 2000 or MS Word 97; Corel WordPerfect 8 or 2000; Perfectscript; VB/VBA; Access; Acrobat; HTML; an unfounded passion for technology, change and challenge.

**Salary is negotiable**, with excellent bonus opportunities; and we even have an excellent health plan!

If you know of any person who might be interested in joining our team; please have them contact me, Mark Harris directly by e-mail: [mharris@divorcemate.com](mailto:mharris@divorcemate.com).

### Simcoe County Family Law Lawyers' Association

On November 4<sup>th</sup> we presented a "show & tell" to the Barrie Family Law Bar. The evening began with dinner, and ended with a demonstration of DIVORCEmate's New Family Law Court Forms+ software. DIVORCEmate also donated a cheque to help establish **The Justice Peter Nasmith Award**. The award will be given to the winner of the annual youth and family law essay writing contest.

Justice Peter Nasmith passed away in 1995, yet throughout his career he was committed to improving the lives of young people who had the good fortune of appearing before him.



### Annual Computer Specifications

If you are in the market for a new PC, here is what to buy:

- ✓ Pentium III Processor at 450/500 MHz (higher is better)
- ✓ 64 MB SDRAM (more RAM is better)
- ✓ 6.4 GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- ✓ 15" monitor (17" or 19" is better)
- ✓ 8 MB graphics card      ✓ 48X CD-ROM
- ✓ V.90 56K PCI Modem      ✓ Quality speakers
- ✓ Soundblaster 64V Integrated sound
- ✓ Windows 98 (hold off on Windows 2000)
- ✓ Network card 3Com 3C905C-TXM 10/100 NIC
- ✓ Microsoft Office 2000 or Corel Office 2000
- ✓ McAfee Virus Scan or equal
- ✓ 3-year parts and labour warranty, 1 yr on-site nbd
- ✓ Dell [www.dell.com](http://www.dell.com) 1 800 265 6874 \$1699
- ✓ IPC [www.ipc.ca](http://www.ipc.ca) 1 888 446 4472 \$1499

### 13<sup>th</sup> Annual National Mediation Conference

DIVORCEmate Software was a presenter at the recent Family Mediation Canada and The Ontario Association of Family Mediation "**Mediation: Reaching Families and Beyond**" Conference '99 in Toronto, Ontario.

Our topic for presentation was "Computer Software for Use by Family Mediators" which featured a prototype "Mediator's Worksheet, Financial and Property Statement Comparison Worksheet" and our successful DIVORCEmate's GUIDELINE Calculator and SOLMATE Standards of Living Test software.

**Maralyn Facey**, President and Founder of Lapin Agile conducted a highly entertaining and special presentation of KIDMATE® Calendaring and Access software.

Lawrence F. King says in Mediation News, Winter 1999, "...KIDMATE produces reports that many mediators

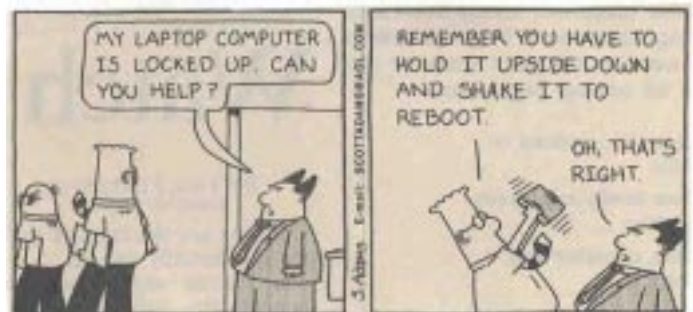
(especially those doing arbitration or serving as parenting coordinators / special advocates) will find uniquely helpful."

I attended several informative conference sessions which discussed many concepts including: best interests of the child definitions; Child Family Services Act amendments; parenting plans signed off by Mother and Father and co-ordinated with a professional; parenting coordinators; access enforcement; child centric family law; mandatory "parent education" for all separating/divorcing couples but no to "mandatory mediation" for all; both parents must be involved with the children even if sole custody; "shared parenting" - yes vs. "joint custody" - no.

You might also subscribe to "Resolve", Family Mediation Canada's magazine, call (519) 585 3118, or use e-mail: [fmc@fmc.ca](mailto:fmc@fmc.ca), or the website: [www.fmc.ca](http://www.fmc.ca). Also, try this site: [www.mediate.com](http://www.mediate.com).

Many thanks to Joan Sinclair and Jane Falconer for their help and support.

### Technology, Ya' Gotta Love it!



### And A Simple "Thanks"

For the past many years, we have all worked very hard. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your busy law practice; we appreciate the trust and confidence you have in us! All the best to you, your family and friends during the new year!

Mark, Sid, Simon, Michael, Fehima and Emile