

DIVORCEmate News & Views

For Users of DIVORCEmate Software

Issue Number 38 – Fall 2000

www.divorcemate.com

Information - call (416) 718-3461 Extension 446

DIVORCEmate Word and WordPerfect Arrives, Reengineered 2001 Tools Announced!

For the past 13 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.

DIVORCEmate Word and DIVORCEmate WordPerfect “Toronto Case Conference Brief”

We are pleased to announce the immediate availability of our first word-processing based Forms+ products: **DIVORCEmate Word** and **DIVORCEmate WordPerfect** versions of our **NEW** Toronto Case Conference Brief.

This new 13 page court form is now **mandatory** for all case conferences at the Family Law Court at 393 University Avenue in Toronto.

We have incorporated a number of DIVORCEmate **EXCLUSIVE** enhancements and features into our Toronto Case Conference Brief including:

- ☑ reorganized fonts, spacing, alignments and input areas for easier use and more consistency;
- ☑ produces professional-looking documents every time;
- ☑ text input areas with unlimited expansion;
- ☑ quick “tabbing” from input area to input area;
- ☑ optional “**shading**” of input areas for easier reading (Word only);
- ☑ automatic and dynamically updated page numbers for “Issues in Dispute” means quick movement to specific sections in the printed document (Word only);
- ☑ “hyperlinks” for quick movement to “Issues of Dispute”;
- ☑ expanded Parenting, Plan Holidays and Religious Observances schedules;
- ☑ includes the Form 3 (Confirmation Form);
- ☑ no training or complicated user guides required; and
- ☑ e-mail ready in Acrobat .pdf format, or as a simple attachment.

We have enclosed a 2 page sample for your review.

The “Introductory Cost” of the new Toronto Case Conference Brief (including Form 3) is \$99 (*less your 15% SUPREME discount, if applicable*) + taxes and S&H.

NOTE: You must have Word 97 or Word 2000 or WordPerfect 9 (yes, WordPerfect 8 will also work).

You may order these new forms by using the enclosed order form or you may e-mail your order including VISA number and expiry date to sales@divorcemate.com, or you may visit our website www.divorcemate.com and order on line.

New and Reengineered 2001 GUIDELINE Tools, PENSIONmate and LIFEmate Coming

As an integral step towards DIVORCEmate Office 2001, we are **completely rewriting and redesigning** our popular DIVORCEmate GUIDELINE Calculator, SOLmate, SUPPORTmate, VARYmate, PENSIONmate and LIFEmate modules for 2001.

This redesign comes at an opportune time as the majority of provincial governments are changing the way in which they calculate provincial taxes. These provinces are moving away from a percentage of federal tax, to a tax on income (“TOI”) calculation.

The redesigning of these tools will include an easier-to-use and reorganized single input page and the automation of mid-year tax changes. Our printed output pages will remain basically the same, but we will add more functionality and simpler client financial analysis.



“We’re much better prepared for this upgrade than before. We’re giving users additional training, better manuals, and a morphine drip.”

This means that your new 2001 GUIDELINE Tools, including **PENSIONmate** and **LIFEmate**, will **not** run in Lotus 123; they will run stand-alone, and will launch with their own Icon from your Desktop!

Free Software is Worth What You Pay for It

Recently, we have noticed a number of poorly designed court forms being put on the market. This software is either FREE or costs very little. To the short-sighted, this software appears to be a "deal", however it usually ends up costing your firm a lot of money!

The time spent by frustrated support staff reformatting, aligning, deleting, moving, printing and reprinting in order to fix the documents is significant. (If you don't think I'm right, try watching someone complete one of these FREE forms!)

If you want your court form documents to look great, be easy to use, automatically merge repetitive information, and be built for the future... use DIVORCEmate forms. We are here for you and will continue to be here for you!

Thank you,
Mark Harris, President, DIVORCEmate Software Inc.

Fall Training Schedule and DIVORCEmate Tools & Forms+ Certification

This Fall, we will be offering training in both our GUIDELINE Tools "(A)" and our Forms+ software "(B)".

NEW Upon successful completion of a training seminar, each participant will receive a certificate stating that s/he is "**knowledgeable and competent**" in the use of our GUIDELINE Tools (The GUIDELINE Calculator, SOLmate and SUPPORTmate) and/or our DIVORCEmate Forms+ software. It is hoped that this certification will become a "valued and recognized" skill for lawyers, law clerks and interested support staff.

Location	Date	Time
Thunder Bay (A & B)	October 20	3:00 – 5:00
Ottawa (A)	October 24	12:30 – 2:30
Ottawa (B)	October 24	3:00 – 5:00
Toronto (our new office) (A)	October 26	9:30 – 11:30
Toronto (our new office) (B)	October 26	12:30 – 2:30
Toronto (our new office) (B)	November 2	9:30 – 11:30
Toronto (our new office) (A)	November 2	12:30 – 2:30
Hamilton (A)	November 7	12:30 – 2:30
Hamilton (B)	November 7	3:00 – 5:00
London (A)	November 9	12:30 – 2:30
London (B)	November 9	3:00 – 5:00
Vancouver (A & B)	November 22	12:30 – 2:30
Victoria (A & B)	November 23	12:30 – 2:30

Please complete the enclosed fax-back training order form or e-mail us: the cost is \$79/pp, per session or both sessions for \$129 + GST, prepaid, no discount.

If you are unable to travel to any of these locations, we are pleased to offer **training in your area, at your firm.**

We just need a group of 8 attendees! If you are interested in offering your firm as a training location, please contact us, we will make all the other arrangements.

B.C.'s Law Society Takes The Initiative

Keep your eyes and ears open for news about a new company called "**Juricert Services Inc.**" Juricert is owned by the Law Society of B.C. and will provide a "digital courier service which will guarantee confidentiality and security". It will further allow certification that the sender is a properly licensed lawyer, and it will track messages and verify receipt.

For more information about Juricert and FREE trial offers, visit www.juricert.ca. Interested law firms should send an e-mail to support@juricert.com for a registration form for the pilot project.

For family law lawyers, it may be a way to communicate very personal and sensitive confidential information, saving \$100's on courier costs. Apparently, the Law Societies are giving their approval to this service!

Feds Make Good On Promise

Remember in May of 1997, when the Feds promised to increase the dollars going to children and their families, in order to help offset the perceived "**tax grab**" of changing child support's tax treatment.

It looks like it actually worked... more government money and benefits going to lower income families; less money and benefits going to higher income families!

And remember, The National Child Tax Benefit (NCTB) is "non-taxable" income!

Family Income 1998-1999	New: NCTB\$ Per Child	% of Distribution	Old: Family Allowance & Tax Credits\$
Under \$26K	1,568	63	432
26 - 30K	1,057	6	432
30 - 40K	901	13	371
40 - 50K	677	9	371
50 - 60K	449	5	371
60 - 70K	324	2	350
70 - 80K	338	1	350
80 - 90K	226	<1	350
90 - 100K	288	<1	350
100K and over	278	<1	350
Average	\$1,041	100%	\$398

So True....

"An honest lawyer is one who shares the credit with the law clerk who did all the work."

-Anonymous

DIVORCEmate Software Moves



Yes, it's true... effective 9/26/00, DIVORCEmate Software Inc. has found a new home:

28 Eugene Street
Toronto, Ontario
M6B 3Z4

(south of Lawrence Avenue and
west of Caledonia Road)

Office: (416) 718-3461 (listen for directory)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Probable Ext.</u>	<u>E-mail Address</u>
Mark Harris	440	mharris@divorcemate.com
Sid Soil	420	ssoil@divorcemate.com
Simon Knowles	481	sknowles@divorcemate.com
Michael Perlman	446	mperlman@divorcemate.com
Randie Cartman	552	rcartman@divorcemate.com
Emile Constantenescu	419	

SUPREME Service Support and Discount Plan 1-800 number remains the same, and is available to current SUPREME subscribers.

NEW Fax: (416) 498-0059

Website: <http://www.divorcemate.com>

We expect to be busy packing our office on Monday September 25th, moving on the 26th, and reopening for business on the 27th. We look forward to serving you from our new location and hopefully the move will go (*or will have gone*) smoothly!

DIVORCEmate Word, DIVORCEmate WordPerfect DIVORCEmate Office 2001 News

(Nov 15th 2000): we will begin offering more New Family Law Court Forms for the *Ontario* Superior Court of Justice, Family Court and the Ontario Court of Justice. These new offerings will include approximately 10 forms for **child protection**, 14 forms for **adoption**, and 4 forms for **enforcement**. Cost will be less than \$10 per form, less SUPREME discount, if applicable. The new forms will be offered in Word 97/2000, WordPerfect 9 formats **ONLY**.

NOTE: You will be able to easily merge information into these new word-processing based forms from your *existing* DIVORCEmate Lotus 123 "Client Merge Screen" or use our *new* DIVORCEmate Client Information interface.

(Jan - Feb 2001): we will offer the aforementioned, all new and redesigned **2001 DIVORCEmate Tools Update**.

NOTE: All new purchasers of DIVORCEmate Tools software original licenses after October 1st 2000 will receive the equivalent 2001 updates at no charge!

(Mar - Apr 2001): we will offer for sale a ***NEW*** DIVORCEmate Word and a DIVORCEmate WordPerfect replacement solution for our existing **Lotus 123 based Selected Ontario Family Court Forms+**.

Read this carefully: With the introduction of our new DIVORCEmate Word and DIVORCEmate WordPerfect Forms+ Upgrades and the 2001 Tools Update, we will have moved away from our original 16-bit Lotus 123 based software and into an internet-ready, 32-bit environment.

Legal Grounds

Starbucks... Second Cup... Timothy's World News Café... Legal Grounds?!! Yes, Legal Grounds?... Meet **David Musselwhite**, a 63 year old lawyer in Dallas, Texas.



David is an innovator, he has turned the business of law into a "pleasurable experience". David has turned his law office into a coffee shop – **Legal Grounds Law & Coffee Shop**, complete with bookcases filled with law books, overstuffed chairs, wooden tables and the whooshing of cappuccino machines. The "Legal Grounds" alternative solves people's problems

in a non-threatening environment. "We manage to succeed as a café and a law firm", says David (telephone: (214) 953-2200).

We Want You Back...

BC and Ontario DOS User Promotion

OK, you win... you've worn us out. We want all of our DOS users to *finally* switch to our Windows version of DIVORCEmate Forms+ and GUIDeline Tools software.

So we have one final "DOS to Windows" upgrade promotion: ***Buy one module, get all other modules of equal or lesser value at 50% off!***

This offer expires October 31st, 2000.

Spousal Maintenance Guidelines from Arizona

Yes, it's simple; yes, it's easy to calculate, and according to backup research... it's accurate in 75% of Arizona spousal support case comparison calculations. *But would it work in Canada!?*

The Arizona guideline amount is based on two factors: the duration of the marriage and incomes of the spouses.

Here is how it works: the Guideline Amount equals the Payor's Income *less* the Recipient's Income multiplied by the "Duration Factor". The Duration Factor equals the

duration of the marriage multiplied by a factor of 0.015 and the Duration Factor maximum factor is 0.50.

Sample calculation:

Husband Income	\$90,000
Wife's Income	\$30,000
Married for	20 years
Duration Factor (20 x .015) =	.3

Therefore, Guideline Amount is:

$(\$90,000 - \$30,000) \times .3 = \$18,000$ or \$1,500/mon

Calculation of a range of the award's duration for a 20 year marriage is:

20 years x Duration Factor (.3) =	6 years
20 years x max Duration Factor (.5) =	10 years

Therefore, range of award's duration is 6 to 10 years.

Remember, of course, that property and child support awards may affect spousal support calculations!

Did You Know That ...

The following data comes to us from the **Child Support Team, DOJ**, 1999:

- Father's were payors of child support in 94% of reported cases, Mothers were payors in 6%; payor's median income \$34,725, recipient's \$21,093; least popular Special Expense was post-secondary education at 7% of reported cases.

The **Hon. Mme Justice Nancy Mossip**, Superior Court of Ontario extensively used our GUIDELINE Tools calculation printouts in her paper "Section 7 – Add-on's – Child Support Guidelines: When How, Effect, An Update" presented at the recent NFLC in St. John's NFLD and Superior Court Judges Education Seminar October 1999.

A recent ZDNet poll asked internet users the following question: "When will you put your first **e-signature** on something?" The results were as follows:

Never. I don't trust it	25%
5 years at least	38%
Next year, probably	23%
Geez, I've already signed that way. What are you guys waiting for	14%

Do you want to know more about mediation and family law? Contact Family Mediation Canada at www.fmc.com.

In shared custody situations, a parent in the higher income tax bracket may wish to consider paying the child care expenses directly, instead of incorporating the child care fees in the support payment's special expenses. In this way, the payor can obtain a **larger child care deduction** and keep more money in the "family" and away from the Rev Can!

Check out the following case if you have situation where interim spousal support is paid to the parent who is

paying interim child support - **Richter v. Vahamaki**, May 18 2000, Toronto 99-FP-249172FIS.

Check out these articles: "**Stressbusters – Sanity Savers – Practical Tips**" by Ron Profit, Patterson Palmer Hunt Murphy, Charlottetown, PEI. Contact Ron Profit at rprofit@pphm.com or "**Child Support Guidelines, Understanding Financial Statements and Income Tax Returns**" and "**Child Support Guidelines, Finding Hidden Income, Analysis of Self Employment Income**" by Blair Corkum CA, Crozier & Corkum, Charlottetown, PEI. Contact Blair at b.corkum@pei.aibn.com

DIVORCEmate New Product Announcements

Ontario - **NEW Toronto Case Conference Brief** (including Form 3 Confirmation Form), available now, intro pricing \$99 or less, please specify Word 97/2000 or WordPerfect 9.

B.C. - **Updated Form 89** (more space for court seal in upper left hand corner), available now, **FREE** to SUPREME subscribers; \$29 if not on SUPREME.

B.C., Ontario **DOS Promotion**: Buy one new Windows module, get the rest at 50% discount.

All provinces – **SUPREME Service Support and Discount Plan** – unlimited support calls, discounts on new software, updates and upgrades, free minor updates, replacement CD's, 1-800 number and more. From \$159 per year.

Please use the enclosed order form and return by fax to (416) 498-0059, or e-mail your order information to ssoil@divorcemate.com and include your firm name.

Simon Says...

Q. Sometimes, if I'm working with large numbers, I will see "stars" ***** instead of the desired number. What happened?

A. The number is simply too large for the space provided. Although you cannot see the number, it has been used in all of the related Totals. To fix, right click on the ***** and change the font size or remove the "bolding".

Q. I'm using the new Toronto Case Conference Brief in Word 2000, I like the shading when I view it on screen but I want to remove the shading on the printed document. Can this be done?

A. Yes, to remove the shading at any time and for any purpose, press **Alt S** *simultaneously*; to bring the shading back.... repeat the step, **Alt s** *simultaneously*.