

# DIVORCEmate News & Views

## For Users of DIVORCEmate Software

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## Forms+ 2004 Ships Next Month; Tools+ 2004 Update Shipped; B.C. Precedents+ on Target!

For over 16 years, our DIVORCEmate News & Views has been an important source of information for our 6,000+ software users - productivity hints, seminar schedules, update and new product announcements, Family Law and technology information, humour and more. Please ensure that it is circulated to all family law professional staff including support staff, law clerks, justices, judges, mediators, professors, accountants and lawyers.

### Ontario Forms+ 2004 Update Includes More, New, Amended Family Law Forms; Rule 69 Forms+ Discontinued

On July 1, 2004, the *Family Law Rules* and forms will apply across Ontario. This means that the *Rules of Civil Procedure* forms used in Family Law will no longer apply to family law cases.

The old *Rules of Civil Procedure* forms will be "grandfathered" and may be used until January 1, 2005 provided they contain "substantially" the same information as the forms required by the "new" Family Law Rules. After January 1, 2005, all forms must be in accordance with the new *Family Law Rules*.

In addition, a number of significant amendments have also been made to the *Family Law Rules*:

- Important transitional provisions will apply to all cases started in the Superior Court (non-Family Court) before July 1, 2004.
- Several new or amended Family Court forms will be introduced.
- A client information session will be mandatory for all parties – Toronto ONLY.
- The use and format of continuing records will be significantly changed. A continuing record may be separated into an Applicant's Record and a Respondent's Record.
- Provisions for "distinct records" in the following types of cases: child protection, status review, support enforcement and a motion to change a final order.

What does this mean for DIVORCEmate software users?

During the week of June 21<sup>st</sup> 2004, our Ontario Forms+ 2004 Annual Update will be automatically mailed to all registered Forms+ 2003 users. This Ontario Forms+ 2004 Update will also be posted on our website under "Downloads".

### What's New in Forms+ 2004?

- A number of new or amended forms for the July 2004 expanded application of the Ontario *Family Law Rules*,
- A number of Family Law court forms have been added to our Specialty Forms+ offering,
- A new transfer ability to move existing text and financial information from an old form 69 Financial Statement to a new form 13.1 Financial Statement,
- How to complete a Form 13.1 Financial Statement with "plain English" instructions for your client,
- The re-introduction of "dates" for Completed and In-Progress client files,
- New form header includes *Ontario*, and proper court name,
- Easy conversion of weekly and yearly numbers to monthly numbers in 13.1 Financial Statement,
- Configures the Continuing Record Cover Sheet for 19 new title headings,
- Optionally remove information that is not applicable in the form 6B Affidavit of Service,
- Optional children's budget to assist with shared custody, etc.

Ontario Forms+ 2004 software offering will now be made up of the following individual modules:

- Family Court (50+ forms)
- Specialty (50+ forms)
- ISO (15 forms)

Discontinued are the R69 and Toronto Case Management Forms+ modules.

### Ontario Forms+ 2004 Annual Update Pricing

Single User License	Must Re-register	Update Fee
Supreme All-In subscribers	no	Free
Family Court or R69 module purchased on or after 1/1/04	no	Free
Family Court module only	yes	\$190

Single User License	Must Re-register	Update Fee
Family Court and Specialty modules	yes	\$260
Discontinued Forms+ R69 → Family Court Forms+	yes	\$499
Older Lotus 123 R69 → Family Court Forms+	yes	\$699
New user, Family Court Forms+	yes	\$799

*All pricing subject to 10% Supreme discount + taxes; add 20% for each additional user license.*

Current Supreme All-In subscribers will automatically receive their Forms+ 2004 Update for *no charge and will not be required to register their Forms+ 2004 Update*; all other Forms+ users will be charged the update fees above for Forms+ 2004, and will be required to register their Forms+ 2004 Update... perhaps you should consider subscribing to Supreme All-In!

**NOTE: B.C. Forms+ 2004** Update will ship during the first week of July. We are adding a number of new features including the Provincial Court, Form 4, Financial Statement with “one-click” mathematical totals.

### Tools+ 2004 Shipped on Schedule

On March 16<sup>th</sup> 2004, we shipped our Tools+ 2004 Update software. This Update contains many new features, updated rates, expanded Help and more...

**FYI:** The Tools+ 2004 Update CD also holds the most current versions of all our other software products, Forms+ 2003 and Precedents+ 2003. *Although not official updates*, the software was put on the CD to make sure our users had convenient access to the most recent software releases just in case they needed to re-install.

In the future, we will continue to ship the most recent versions of all DIVORCEmate software modules on each Update CD. Therefore, you will only need to keep the most recent CD that you receive from us. Remember to record and keep your CD Key(s) for each product – Tools+ and Forms+/Precedents+.

### New Ontario Budget Means Further Tools+ 2004 Update

We will be providing a further Tools+ 2004 update as a result of the May 18<sup>th</sup> Ontario budget. The update will include the new Ontario Health Care Premium and changes to the Property Tax Credit for seniors.

This Tools+ 2004 v.2 update will be shipped on the July 1<sup>st</sup> Forms+ 2004 Update CD, and will be available on our website.

Registered Tools+ 2004 users may request a mailed CD after July 1st; please contact Michael Perlman at [mperlman@divorcemate.com](mailto:mperlman@divorcemate.com).

### Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan Financial Forms in MS Word and WordPerfect

DIVORCEmate has successfully launched our first software offering for **Nova Scotia** and **Saskatchewan**. We have created a Forms+ version of the Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia Financial forms for MS Word and WordPerfect, *including mathematical totalling!*

All forms are plain word-processing documents that run inside your word-processor! Straightforward to use and easy-to-learn, this software is a must for a busy, professional family law practice.

Nova Scotia Financial Forms	
Form 70.09A	Financial Statement
Form 70.09B	Property Statement
ISO forms A - O	15 ISO forms
Saskatchewan Financial Forms	
Form 609A	Financial Statement
Form 609B	Property Statement
Form 640D	Child Support Calculation
ISO forms A - O	15 ISO forms

These new Saskatchewan or Nova Scotia Forms+ financial forms *including the new ISO forms* sell for only \$99 + taxes.

### Precedents+ Separation Agreement On A Roll

Our successful Precedents+ 2003 has continued its momentum; over 500 Canadian law firms are now using this “standard form”, “plain English” Separation Agreement software.

***Although written specifically for Ontario, this software has general application with about 80% of the content and annotations applicable in most provinces.***

The Precedents+ 2003 software utilizes a checklist format to select clauses and create a customized and comprehensive “draft” separation agreement. The clauses are based on information originally contained in the Law Society’s CLE book Separation Agreement Annotated (Epstein, Grant, Sadvari).

The Precedents+ 2003 software enables family law professionals to create **better and more comprehensive separation agreement drafts in less time**. The draft agreement is then reviewed, completed and customized using the lawyer’s experience and skills.

Look for a Precedents+ 2004 Update (updated clauses, annotations and more excellent precedent documents) and a B.C.-specific Precedents+ version in the fall of 04. *How good is your Separation Agreement?*

## B.C. Precedents+ Coming in 2004

Trudi Brown and Eugene Raponi have been working with DIVORCEmate in order to modify the Precedents+ software content (clauses and commentary) in order to meet the specific needs of B.C. family law practitioners and their clientele.

### DIVORCEmate Software 2004 Update Schedule

It is our intention to update each of our software product offerings, at least once every 12 months.

Product	2004 Update
Tools+ 2003	March (completed)
Tools+ 2004 (Ontario budget)	week of June 21 <sup>st</sup>
Forms + 2003 Ontario	Week of June 21 <sup>st</sup>
Forms+ 2003 B.C.	Week of July 5 <sup>th</sup>
Precedents+ 2003 (includes B.C. version)	Fall 2004



### “DOCUdavit” Electronic Affidavit of Documents for Small Law Firms

Introducing **DOCUdavit**, a software product and a document scanning and indexing service that provides an **electronic “Affidavit of Documents”**, complete with index for quick retrieval.

Electronic legal documents are here and they won't go away! Get onboard early, and have the **ADVANTAGE!**

By using your DOCUdavit, you will impress your client with technological savvy; awe the other side with your preparation and presentation and impress the court with your organization and readiness.

“We want to bring the numerous benefits of e-Discovery to the small and medium sized law firms; ease-of-use, cost and time-to-learn are now within the reach of even the sole-practitioner”, says Mark Harris, President of DIVORCEmate Software Inc.

“Our target market is the smaller law firm that does not have the time or resources to purchase and learn the complicated and expensive products currently available on the market.”

There will no longer be a need to make more than one trip from the car to manage the multiple storage boxes or have assistance when transporting documents to examination or trial. All this information can be accessed from a laptop computer, anywhere, anytime, *even at the cottage!*

DOCUdavit provides a turnkey solution: electronic affidavit of documents and easy-to-use software to use at discovery.

No more cerlox-bound photocopies to search through... just a quick efficient retrieval of documents... truly, *information at your finger tips!*

If you would like to learn more about DOCUdavit - Electronic Affidavit of Documents, please contact DOCUdavit, Steven Leibtag at 416 520-5710 or Sid Soil at DIVORCEmate Software 416 718-3461 x420, [ssoil@divorcemate.com](mailto:ssoil@divorcemate.com).

### National Family Law Program Fairmont LeManoir Richelieu, Quebec



The National Family Law Program is a “must attend” for any serious family law practitioner in Canada (July 12-15/04). *I hear that we'll get our first look at the latest spousal support guidelines discussion paper!*

This year all attendees will get a DIVORCEmate canvas-carrying bag for their binders!

And the Fairmont Le Manoir Richelieu is stunning: great food, magnificent architecture, world-class golf, whale watching, tennis, and a casino on-site. It is located 90 minutes north of Quebec City. Register and make your hotel reservations NOW! If you miss this event, you will have missed something special.

Contact Heather Walker [familylawprogram@flsc.ca](mailto:familylawprogram@flsc.ca) or visit <http://www.flsc.ca/en/lawSocieties/familyLaw.asp>.

### Did You Know That ...



- “Revenue Canada” became the “Canada Customs & Revenue Agency” (CCRA), however the newest name is “**Canada Revenue Agency**” (CRA). FYI -legal documents should use the old CCRA until the name is made official by an act of Parliament.
- The **Hamilton Law Association, Family Law Subcommittee** presented a DIVORCEmate Q&A session on 1/22/04 at the Hamilton Courthouse. The session was packed with lawyers, court and support staff! Thank you Caroline Brown and Carm Runco.
- The **LAWPRO Technology Breakfast** on April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> was a complete sell-out. The room was packed both mornings with lawyers and support staff,

the topic, "50 Things You Never Knew About DIVORCEmate Software". Thanks to Susan Carter and Dan Pinnington of LawPRO.

- ☑ The Family Service Association of Toronto, **Families in Transition**, a non-profit, registered charity is now using DIVORCEmate's Tools+ software. Their director, Rhonda Freeman, was very appreciative of the donation. Good luck Rhonda!

### What They're Saying About Tools+...



*"The position of Mr. Guido, as ably argued by his counsel, is that based on the SUPPORTmate Maintenance Planner – 2003, spousal support ought to be reduced to between nil per month, and \$150.00 per month..."* **O'Neill J.**, *Guido v. Guido*, Ontario Superior Court of Justice, 10/9/03, A9361/01.

*"If I have correctly used my DIVORCEmate programme, the result of this payment would be that Mother would retain a net disposable monthly income of \$8,411.00, which ought to be more than sufficient to enable her to pay school fess..."* **Langdon J.**, Ontario Superior Court of Justice, *Mikan v. Mikan*, 2/24/04, Docket 25658/03

*"Because this latter calculation is very difficult without assistance of computer software such as DIVORCEmate, I indicated to counsel at the close of submissions that I would make findings with respect to current income and provide a DIVORCEmate calculation to them..."* **Aston J.**, Ontario Superior Court of Justice, *Snjaric v. Snjaric*, 11/30/03, Docket London FD793/98

*"Counsel have provided me with SUPPORTmate Maintenance Planner calculations based on the foregoing scenarios. Those calculations satisfy me that it is unrealistic for Shane to attend Brentwood so long as Mrs. Wilson is totally dependant on Dr. Wilson for financial support..."* **Lamperson J.**, British Columbia Supreme Court, *Wilson v. Wilson*, 1/22/2004, Docket Kamloops D33669

*"Taking into account the purposes of spousal support and the factors to be considered, as set out in the legislation and the jurisprudence, and considering the financial statements, budgets, affidavit evidence, submissions of counsel and SUPPORTmate calculations, it is my view that spousal support in the amount of \$1,200 per month is appropriate in this case..."* **Polowin J.**, Ontario Superior Court of Justice, *Pollen v. Pollen*, 2/4/2004, Docket 99-FL-1638A

### Simon Says...

**Q.** I'd like to e-mail a Tools+ calculation to a client or another lawyer. Is this possible, and how do I do it?

**A.** Yes, this is possible, here's how...

First the recipient must have Tools+ 2004 installed on his/her computer. Most family lawyers have Tools+, however clients do not.

Clients may download and install the Tools+ software from our website, [www.divorcemate.com](http://www.divorcemate.com), Downloads, Updates /Reinstalls using your firm's Tools+ CD key to install. (Yes, give the client your Tools+ CD key! Please remind your clients that they may use Tools+ for the 30-day trial period ONLY.)

To send a Tools+ file to a client, Open your Tools+ 2004, click Cancel, click File, Open (file list will appear).

Right click on client's file, select Send To, Mail Recipient, address the e-mail to client and send.

Once the client receives the Tools+ file attachment, the client simply opens the attachment in the normal way.

### Proven Technology Providers in Toronto

If you are looking for help with your computer systems – hardware, software, and support, we recommend these two companies:

**Animate Systems Inc.** is dedicated to providing computer systems and support to medium sized law firms. Services include network support, network upgrades, emergency on-site support and software training and consulting. Please contact Karim Jinnah, President at 416-535-2516 x202 / [info@animate.com](mailto:info@animate.com), or visit our website at [www.animate.com](http://www.animate.com).

**JSO Consulting** specializes in networks and helping smaller law firms get the most out of their computer networks. JSO is currently taking care of our technology needs at DIVORCEmate. Please contact Jeffrie Owen, 905 880-4576, [jeffrie@jsoconsulting.ca](mailto:jeffrie@jsoconsulting.ca).

### Humorous Words of Technology Wisdom

The software industry today is nothing more than a battle between technology striving to build bigger and better "idiot-proof" machines, and the Universe striving to build bigger and better idiots!

Enjoy this one too!

