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LITIGATION

ASK THE PROFESSIONAL





What impact does COVID-19 have on parenting children for separated parents?

This is a very important question given the health concerns surrounding COVID-19 and the concerns about what's most precious, your children. The courts have responded to a number of cases that have come before it on this very issue. The court has held that generally "there should be a presumption that existing parenting arrangements and schedules should continue", and that parents "should not

presume that the existence of the COVID-19 crisis will automatically result in a suspension of in-person parenting

time". Instead, case-specific facts must be brought forward to support a request to change circumstances relating

to children. Certainly, children are not to be exposed to unreasonable risk, but COVID-19 is not in and of itself a

basis for changing or denying a parent's time with his or her

child. The court has affirmed that, even in this unprecedented

time, "[t]he overriding principle of the child's best interests

remains". Most, if not all of these matters have come before the court on an urgent basis, particularly as the courts are

closed except to urgent or emergency matters. The courts

have provided us with guidance in terms of what constitutes

urgent in these special circumstances. If you think you have

a situation that needs to be addressed, please contact us for

a free consultation as we do a lot of family/divorce law. Our

offices remain open to help clients as lawyers have been

deemed an essential service, although we are conducting

business remotely, including video conferencing. Be



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ACTON'S FALL FAIR CANCELLED FOR 2020

BRYAN MYERS

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The Acton Agricultural Society announced on May 22 there will be no Acton Fall Fair in 2020.

"We start planning the fair the month after the previous one," said Jill Medland, secretary and treasurer of the Acton Agricultural Society (AAS). "We've had hundreds of volunteer hours already put in."

But with the uncertainty surrounding the CO-VID-19 pandemic, the directors of the fair had to make the difficult decision



A classic midway typically rounds out the attractions at the Acton Fall Fair. The Acton Agricultural Society has announced there will be no 2020 edition of the fair, which will return in 2021 instead.

to cancel the fair.

"We're not going to be able to accommodate physical distancing and sanitation protocols," Medland said. "It was time to make the call," she continued. "We're all really sad."

Medland said she believed it's the first time in the fair's history that it's been cancelled.

"Since 1913 we have overcome many obstacles," Dave Somerville, president of the AAS, wrote in a Facebook post on behalf of the fair's board of directors. "We will overcome this too."

The fall fair is expected to return in 2021.

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