

Additional COVID-19 Related Regulations passed to Facilitate Remote Execution of Documents by Lawyers

In addition to the recent amendments to *The Land Titles Regulations, 2001*, Regulations have been passed to authorize lawyers to commission or witness certain documents through the use of audio-visual technology. With the declaration of a public health emergency, it is impractical and potentially risky for persons swearing or signing documents to be in the same room during execution of the document. ***The Electronic Information and Documents (Public Emergencies) Regulations*** provide that, during a public health emergency, a lawyer may commission an affidavit or witness the signing of a document remotely using electronic means of communication if certain conditions are met.

[OC 130/2020 - The Electronic Information and Documents \(Public Emergencies\) Regulations \(Minister of Justice and Attorney General\)](#)

These Regulations will apply to all other Acts of general application, but will not apply to certain Acts that are excluded from the operation of *The Electronic Information and Documents Act, 2000*, such as *The Powers of Attorney Act, 2002*. ***The Powers of Attorney (Public Emergencies) Regulations*** will allow a lawyer to witness a power of attorney remotely using electronic means of communication, during a public health emergency, if certain conditions are met. Although both sets of regulations will only operate during a public emergency period, they may be extended by the minister for a further 30 days after the public emergency period ends.

[OC 129/2020 - The Powers of Attorney \(Public Emergencies\) Regulations \(Minister of Justice and Attorney General\)](#)