**EMERGENCY ORDER: PERMITTING VIRTUAL WITNESSING OF WILLS AND POWERS OF ATTORNEY**

* *April 07, 2020*

Please note that the Lieutenant Governor in Council has made an order under s. 7.0.2(4) of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*, providing that for the duration of the emergency:

* a requirement under the *Succession Law Reform Act* that a testator or witness be present or in each other’s presence for the making or acknowledgment of a signature on a will or for the subscribing of a will; and,
* a requirement under the *Substitute Decisions Act*, that witnesses be present for the execution of a power of attorney,

may be satisfied by the means of audio-visual communication technology, provided that at least one person who is providing services as a witness is a Law Society of Ontario licensee at the time.

“audio-visual communication technology” means any electronic method of communication in which participants are able to see, hear and communicate with each other in real time.

You can find a copy of the Order attached [here](https://www.oba.org/CBAMediaLibrary/cba_on/pdf/Virtual-Witnessing-Emergency-Order-Filed.pdf).

The Order in Council will also be posted on this website: <https://www.ontario.ca/search/orders-in-council> and on e-Laws, as a regulation under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act at: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90e09?search=emergency+management>.