

March 4, 2025

Malcolm Muthulingum, CEO LEAP

Via Email (Malcolm.Muthulingum@leaplegalsoftware.ca)

Dear Malcolm Muthulingum:

## Re: Crippling DivorceMate Increased Costs

We write to you as the Family Law Co-Chairs of the Federation of Ontario Law Associations (FOLA). FOLA represents Ontario's 46 county and district law associations, and through them, their members. Our association represents lawyers at the front-lines of legal services in communities in all parts of the province.

Our members have raised concerns relating to DivorceMate, specifically, the significant and crippling increase in cost, the payment/financing expectations and the requirement to sign a 3-year contract. We feel that these concerns need to be addressed because of the negative impact on the profession as well as access to justice.

In our experience, the cost per user of the DivorceMate product has increased by 1150% since 2022, from \$20 to \$250 per user per month. That is unprecedented. The current cost at \$250.00 per month per user is a significant concern. Family Law practitioners throughout Ontario are predominantly sole practitioners or smaller firms. This price increase has made the product unaffordable for many practitioners which has a direct impact on their ability to effectively represent clients. Moreover, the added requirement that practitioners now commit to a 3-year contract is onerous. While DivorceMate has no proprietary interest over the SSAGs, the precedents or the court forms, it has *de facto* exclusively packaged them for use by the profession for many years. As a profession, we have never previously objected to the *de facto* monopoly, however, the staggering increase in cost coupled with the predatory nature of the three year commitment and credit provisions must be addressed. As a result, FOLA has committed, on behalf of its members and partners, to address these concerns directly with you.

We welcome the opportunity to engage in a meaningful dialogue with you. We invite you to put a hold on your price increase and contractual requirements until we have had an opportunity to meet. Our members are encouraging us to act in unison to not only address your potential breach of antitrust laws but also to seek out and develop competition. We hope that by engaging in dialogue with you that a more amenable arrangement can be made.

"The Voice of the Practising Lawyer in Ontario"

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. Please do not hesitate to contact our Director of Policy & Advocacy, Ian Hu, at <a href="mailto:ian.hu@fola.ca">ian.hu@fola.ca</a> if you have any questions.

## Sincerely,



Laura Oliver Logan Rathbone FOLA Co-Chairs, Family Law Committee

CC.

Ontario Bar Association
Toronto Lawyers Association
The Advocates Society
County of Carleton Law Association
Senior Family Judge Stevenson
Senior Advisor Family Justice O'Connell
Attorney General of Ontario

